
Workshop Proposal

PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR SCIENTISTS

Make sure your research is remembered

Prepared for: Dr. Jannis Kuhlmann, SLATE Workshop, EAWAG @ Kastanienbaum, Switzerland

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PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR SCIENTISTS

(9h - 13h; 4 hrs)

Why

As scientists, we need our ideas to be convincing and memorable. In our writing and in our talks we need to keep fellow researchers, collaborators, funders and the public engaged, and make sure our ideas stick in their minds for hours, days, or even years after contact. Essentially, we need to be excellent communicators.

What

Objective

Helping participants deliver impactful talks.

What to bring

- a description of your research in 10 words maximum, without using technical terms
- the last presentation you gave, with slides, or a draft of a future presentation
- a laptop to edit figures and slides

Description

Facing an audience is stressful and engaging your public with data-heavy presentations is a challenge. During this interactive workshop we will address all the aspects of the scientific talk: structure, slides, delivery. We will do exercises together and participants will work with their own material. Every participant will receive feedback both from other participants and from the trainer.

The day will start with a focus on storytelling. We will explore the use of metaphors as a tool to explain complex ideas. There will be a brief review of design principles for the creation of appealing slides. The rest of the session will be dedicated to the delivery of a talk. We will provide a series of exercises to warm-up and use the voice and the body for an impactful body language. Participants will walk out of this workshop with concrete tools and methods to minimise their stress and maximise their impact.

Who

Dr Samuel Lagier is a multi-talented scientist and improviser. He teaches presentation skills to experts (SamSpeaksScience.com) and curates, coaches and hosts the TEDxLausanne conference since 2012. He manages the Geneva branch of the Catalyst theatre company which creates new media to communicate science (thecatalyst.ch). He performs and teaches improv to individuals and applied improv to corporate clients with the Renegade Saints (renegadesaints.ch). In his scientific career, Dr Lagier studied sensory perception in the normal and in the schizophrenic brain, in France, the United States and in Switzerland.
