



VIU
Graduate
Seminar
science
communication
TODAY: CHALLENGES
AND OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE SDGs era

**Science Communication Today:
Challenges and Opportunities in the SDGs Era**

September 12-16, 2022

**Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

VIU Graduate Seminar

Science Communication Today: Challenges and Opportunities in the SDGs Era

Venice International
University

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Scientific Coordinators:

Alessandra Fornetti and
Ilda Mannino
Venice International
University

This program is a VIU
Global Challenges
Initiative

Science communication is a key topic, as it also emerged during the COVID pandemic: it can engage different publics (e.g. citizens and decision makers) in science, sharing knowledge and understanding, and empowering them to face today society challenges related to sustainable development and the SDGs. However, Science Communication is a challenge itself, due to the existing gap between science and the wider public, as well as between science and communicators. In order to fill these gaps critical topics in science communication, such as science communication in the digitalization era, different media challenges and opportunities, the relation between scientists and professional communicators, quality and effectiveness in science communication need to be analysed.

The VIU Graduate Seminar on *Science Communication Today: Challenges and Opportunities in the SDGs Era* aims at exploring these topics from different perspectives and with a transdisciplinary approach.

This Graduate Seminar will be led by:

- Venice International University, Italy
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- University of Padua, Italy
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Faculty

Alessandra Fornetti, Venice International University (Coordinator)
Ilda Mannino, Venice International University (Coordinator)
Marina Joubert, Stellenbosch University
Federico Neresini, University of Padua
Paolo Giardullo, University of Padua
Bieke Zaman, KU Leuven
Karin Hannes, KU Leuven
Fabiana Zollo, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Methodology

The graduate seminar will combine theory and practice, with lectures, work groups and

discussion sessions. The students are also requested to present their own research.

Topics

This 5-day Graduate Seminar aims at contributing to the analysis, content, and practice of science communication by:

- Introducing science communication as a field of research, how it has evolved and matured over the last 15 – 20 years; and where it is now
- Exploring core theories and models in the science communication field
- Exploring and comparing the different media to communicate science, e.g. social media, journalism, art, public events
- Investigating opportunities and challenges for science communication professionalism
- Knowing the publics analyzing the media discourses about science and technology
- Exploring and understanding polarization and fake news phenomena
- Understanding how to pass from discipline to practice
- Understanding how to promote quality science communication among scientists and other stakeholders
- Investigating how science communication can contribute to sustainability and SDGs: challenges and opportunities
- Understanding the role of Science Communication in Ethics and RRI-Responsible Research and Innovation
- Citizen science as an opportunity for public communication of science and technology
- Learning how to critically evaluate science communication and how to translate scientific research to the public
- Exploring creative and interactive forms of science communication
- Involving the students in group work

Learning outcomes for participants

- To approach science communication in an interdisciplinary and multi-perspective way

- To expand their methodological skill through exposure to how differing disciplines approach science communication
- To learn to dialogue with scholars from different disciplines
- To gain new insights and perspectives to bring to their own research
- To deal with polarization and fake news in science communication
- To learn how contribute to the achievement of SDGs through science communication
- To gain confidence and skills in science communication research design and execution

Who can apply?

This Graduate Seminar is offered to advanced master students, PhD students and young researchers studying or interested in science communication from different fields, e.g. sociology, neuroscience, education science, media and communication studies, economics, humanities, as well as science and technology researchers who are keen to get involved in science communication research.

Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions; applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated.

Fees & Grant Support

Students from the VIU member institutions will pay no participation fees. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation. The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is €1.150 VAT included. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

Credits

Participation in the Graduate Seminar is considered equivalent to **2 ECTS**.

The program is available on the VIU website.

Applications

**December 1, 2021 – May 12, 2022
via the VIU website**

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, VIU will continue to monitor the situation, and in the event that it is not possible to confirm the program on the VIU campus as scheduled, other practicable solutions will be evaluated. Applicants and confirmed participants will be informed of any changes.

VIU Graduate Seminars

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines. They are suited to both Master's and PhD students and are open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions. The young researchers will receive support in defining their research proposal. Significant cooperation among departments in the member institutions is expected.

Venice International University is a consortium of 20 universities, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member institutions may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Location



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