



Venice International University International PhD Academy

Science communication in Museums, Exhibitions and Science Centres

Venice International University
April 12-16, 2027

Faculty

Francesca Di Rosa, National Research Council of Italy (CNR) – Scientific Coordinator
Caterina Boccato, National Institute of Astrophysics (INAF)
Elena Canadelli, University of Padua
Angela Cassidy, University of Exeter
Zheran Wang, Tsinghua University
Alessandra Fornetti, Venice International University (VIU)
Ilda Mannino, Venice International University (VIU)
Tinne Claes, KU Leuven
Fabrizio Lepore, architect, London
Massimiano Bucchi, University of Trento

Program

Monday, April 12, 2027

Fundamentals of science communication

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:30 | Registration and VIU Presentation
<i>(VIU Staff)</i> |
| 9:30-10:30 | Program overview, Participants' presentations and instructions for Participants' regarding the Course project
<i>(All faculty and students)</i> |
| 10:30-11:30 | Introduction to science communication: overview of the field and emergent topics
<i>(Massimiano Bucchi, University of Trento)</i> |

11:30-11:50 Coffee Break

- 11:50-12:50 **Introduction to science communication: researchers, communicators and audiences**
(Ilda Mannino, VIU)
- 12:50-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-16:00 **Lab: 'How to...' - PLAY Scicomm game: Who wants to communicate Science**
(under guidance of Alessandra Fornetti, VIU; Massimiano Bucchi, University of Trento; Ilda Mannino, VIU)



Tuesday, April 13, 2027

Provocative ideas in science communication

- 9:00-9:30 **Engaging the senses for science communication**
(Massimiano Bucchi, University of Trento)

Science museums: historical perspective

- 9:30-10:30 **Introduction to Western Science Museums: History, Purpose, and Contemporary Challenges**
(Elena Canadelli, University of Padua)
- 10:30-11:30 **Introduction to science museums in China**
(Zheran Wang, Tsinghua University)

11:30-11:50 *Coffee Break*

- 11:50-12:50 **Introduction to the site visit**

12:50-14:00 *Lunch*

- 14:00-17:30
Site visit to the Natural History Museum in Venice (tbc)

19:30 *Social dinner in Venice*

Wednesday, April 14, 2027

Opening science museums today

- 9:30-10:30 **Tsinghua University science museum** (Zheran Wang, Tsinghua University)
- 10:30-11:30 **Vesalius museum** (Tinne Claes, KU Leuven)
- 11:30-11:50 *Coffee Break*
- 11:50-12:50 **Engaged research: collaborating across disciplines, professions and with communities**
(Angela Cassidy, University of Exeter)
- 12:50-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-16:00 **Participants' project: planning engaging displays and activities (1)**
(under guidance by Francesca Di Rosa, Zheran Wang, Tinne Claes, Angela Cassidy)

Thursday, April 15, 2027

Science exhibitions

- 9:30-10:30 **The '5C' formula: using art and history to communicate immunology to a broad audience**
(Francesca Di Rosa, CNR)
- 10:30-11:30 **Behind the Scenes of Major Science Exhibitions: Hands-on Interactivity, Inclusivity by Design, and the '80s Arcade Experience**
(Caterina Boccato, INAF)

11:30-11:50 Coffee Break

- 11:50-12:50 **Presenting science through multiple perspectives: creative design for public engagement**
(Fabrizio Lepore, architect)

12:50-14:00 Lunch

- 14:00-16:00 **Participants' project: planning engaging displays and activities (2)**
(under guidance by Francesca Di Rosa, Caterina Boccato, Fabrizio Lepore, Elena Canadelli)

Friday, April 16, 2027

Legacy of science exhibitions

- 9:30-10:30 **Legacy-building in scientific exhibitions**
(Francesca Di Rosa, CNR)
- 10:30-11:30 **Evaluation of the impact**
(Caterina Boccato, INAF; Ilda Mannino & Alessandra Fornetti, VIU)

11:30-11:50 Coffee Break

- 11:50-12:50 **Creating displays for travelling exhibitions**
(Fabrizio Lepore, architect)

12:50-14:00 Lunch

- 14:00-16:30 **Participants' project presentations**
- 16:30 **Closing**





Francesca Di Rosa is Research Director at the Italian National Council of Research (CNR), Institute of Molecular Biology and Pathology, and Affiliated Researcher at the Francis Crick Institute in London. Her research focuses on understanding T-cell memory and its role in vaccination, autoimmunity, and cancer. Francesca also obtained a post-graduate master's degree in "Science communication and innovation" at the University of Trento and further specialized in "Event and museum curatorship" at the European Institute of Design in Rome. She is engaged

in science outreach activities at the crossroad of science, history and art. She is currently working on an exhibit on vaccination, as an enlarged project after the scientific exhibit she curated on the same topic at the Royal Society (London 2024).



Caterina Boccato graduated in Astronomy from the University of Padova in 1996 and has been a staff member at the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) since 1999. She currently serves as the National Head of Education and Outreach INAF, where she manages and coordinates all of the Institute's public engagement activities.

Throughout her career, she has been deeply engaged in the planning, implementation, and management of educational exhibitions and public events to disseminate and popularize astrophysics. Notably, she curated

the major astrophysics exhibition *Macchine del Tempo* (Time Machines). This large-scale exhibition premiered at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome (2023–2024), traveled to the OGR in Turin in 2025, and is now permanently hosted at the Sparkme Science Academy in Matera. On an international level, she served as the National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) for the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and is an Elected Member of the Organizing Committee for IAU Commission F3: Astrobiology. Additionally, she leads the Outreach, Media, and Corporate Identity Working Group for the European Astrobiology Institute (EAI).



Elena Canadelli is Associate Professor in History of Science at the University of Padova, where she is also the scientific director of the Botanical Museum. She is a Historian of Science interested in visual and material studies in science, museum studies, cultures of Italian natural history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Elena's current research project deals with the history of the botanical collections in Padua and the role of digitization in mobilizing herbaria, in connection

with her Department's project *Mobility&Humanities* and the digital infrastructure of the Italian National Biodiversity Future Center.



Angela Cassidy is an Associate Professor in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Exeter. Her research expertise spans across STS, environmental/agricultural history, and the history of science, technology and medicine. She is interested in science-policy relations, science communication and engagement, and interdisciplinarity, and investigates these themes through a topical focus on environments, conservation and agriculture; human-animal

relations; and questions of shared health. She researches how scientific knowledge is produced, communicated, interpreted and contested across the wider public sphere, particularly during public controversies. She has explored these processes through a series of case studies, including of 'One Health' advocacy; food chain risks and popular evolutionary psychology.



Wang Zheran is an associate professor in the Department of the History of Science at Tsinghua University. His research focuses on the history of exact sciences, scientific instruments, scientific material culture, and museum studies. His work explores how scientific knowledge was produced, transmitted, and transformed through instruments, material practices, and cross-cultural encounters in medieval and early modern societies, with particular attention to the

interactions between China and Europe. He is the chief curator of the main exhibition hall of the Tsinghua University Science Museum and has directed major reconstruction projects of historical scientific instruments, including Su Song's Astronomical Clock Tower.



Venice
International
University



Alessandra Fornetti is Executive Director of the TEN Program on Sustainability at Venice International University, where she also coordinates VIU Science Communication unit. She has been working for two decades on communication and sustainability, promoting research, capacity building and dissemination of research results. She is currently part of COALESCE project that builds the EU Competence Center for science communication, co/coordinating the designing of its Academy.



Ilda Mannino is the Scientific Coordinator of the Intensive Graduate Activities and of the TEN Program on Sustainability of the Venice International University. With a background in Environmental Science, her current research interests focuses on Sustainable Development and Science Communication. She has a long experience in research and education projects on these themes. Among these, she is currently involved in the

COALESCE Project, to develop the EU Competence Centre on Science communication and its Academy. In 2018-2021 she was the scientific coordinator of the Horizon 2020 QUEST Project on Quality science communication.



Tinne Claes is Research Professor at the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at KU Leuven, and Academic Director of the Vesalius Museum, a new museum on science, healthcare, and society initiated by KU Leuven and UZ Leuven. This dual role allows her to combine research, teaching, and public engagement. At the Vesalius Museum, she leads a research line on the historical, museal, and societal dimensions of science and healthcare. Her historical research spans the 19th and 20th centuries, and is closely connected to the collections and exhibitions of the museum. It covers a wide

range of topics related to medicine and healthcare, including medical collections, 'missed' (meaning scientifically neglected) diseases, women's health, and drug regulation. Museum activities are also integrated into broader research initiatives, creating synergies between academic work and public engagement.



Fabrizio Lepore is an ARB-registered architect based in London. After working in Naples, New York and Paris, he co-founded C+ Farinaro Lepore Architetti Associati in Milan in 1998, serving as Director until moving to London in 2011, where he founded his own architecture and interior design practice, Fabrizio Lepore Architect. Currently, he works on generating and developing creative hospitality concepts, residential projects as well as the design and curatorship of exhibitions. He is also a co-founder and partner

at Projects in Common, a group of architects with a shared design vision and offices in London, Milan, Paris and Turin. For many years, he taught master's courses at Domus Academy in Milan and lectured in Tokyo, Tehran, Moscow and Seoul. He also participated in the Visiting Teachers programme at the Architectural Association in London.



Massimiliano Bucchi is a full professor of *Science, Technology and Society* at the University of Trento, where he also directs the International Master in *Communication of Science and Innovation* (SCICOMM) and the interdisciplinary project *Science, Technology and Society – STST*. He has been visiting professor in Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania. He is the author of several books (published in more than 20 countries) and papers in journals such as *Nature*, *Science* and *PLOS*. Among his books in English: *Science and the Media* (Routledge, 1998); *Science in Society* (Routledge, 2004); *Beyond Technocracy* (Springer, 2009; published also in Chinese, 2016); *Newton's Chicken. Science in the Kitchen* (World Science, 2020); *Handbook of Public Communication of Science and Technology* (3rd ed. 2021, ed. with B. Trench, Routledge). From 2016 to 2019 he was editor-in-chief of the international journal *Public Understanding of Science*. He regularly contributes to newspapers (*Il Corriere della Sera*, *Il Foglio*) and TV programmes (*Superquark*, Rai1).



Venice
International
University