

Evidence-Based Society?! How Researchers Can Contribute to Fostering Democracy

A seminar series diving into the challenge of interdisciplinary research communication

In Short

What? Eight **interactive seminars** and one **skills session** with fascinating speakers that will make you think about your role as a researcher within our societal challenges today

When? Weekly (mostly) on **Tuesdays** between **5-7pm GMT/8-10pm EAT/9-11am PST**; **16th January – 12th March** – *we strongly encourage you to attend all sessions if possible*

Where? **Online** – join from wherever you are

Why? Because your research can better our societies. Let's think research communication further and shape the future of research!

Are you in? Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/DsjX2mGQFrFJxziU8>

The Details

There is a lot to do! Let's get started, fellow Early Career Researchers!

Climate crisis, social contract, sustainable economies, emerging diseases, poverty, ... - we are facing complex challenges that demand new solutions or the translation of existing solutions into practice. They challenge us to leave behind one-dimensional patterns of thinking and practices in science, politics, and society.

As early career researchers, we are the ones who want to shape change and be part of the solutions.

What part of the solution to our complex challenges should and can science be? How can we, as early career researchers, contribute to a solution-oriented discourse in society grounded in diverse and sometimes contradictory evidence to replace a polarising culture war and shift the societal perspective to the numerous opportunities of forward-looking change?

This seminar series will **equip early career researchers and other interested individuals with knowledge about scholarly communication at the intersections of science, politics, and society**. It will provide you with critical perspectives on the role of scientists in shaping our democracies through a series of distinguished speakers from various disciplines, countries, and organisations.

The organisers

This series is organised by a group of early career researchers from the [Student Network for Open Science](#), the Rhodes Scholars for Science Communication, Policy, and Engagement with Society, and the [Master of Public Policy](#) at the University of Oxford. Reach out [here](#) if you have ideas or feedback!

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The concept of democracy – and structural, epistemological, and historical challenges of communication

Caesar Atuire, *Ethics Lead for the MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine, philosopher and health ethicist, University of Oxford*

16.01.

25.01.

Scientists in society – exploring the concepts of “scientist”/“researcher”

Trish Greenhalgh, *Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences and Course Director for the MSc in Translational Health Sciences, University of Oxford*

Shahid Jameel, *Professor at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies*

The messiness of communicating in public spaces – a roadmap for scientists?

Neil Johnson, *Professor of Physics, The George Washington University*
Claire Wardle, *Professor of the Practice of Health Services, Policy and Practice, Brown University*

10.01.

06.02.

How will AI influence science communication?

Mirko Bischofberger, *Lecturer École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne*

Jeanette Hofmann, *Head of Research Group “Politics of Digitalization, WZB Berlin Social Science Center*

Public engagement – an indirect path: Can journalists cover science accurately?

Mia Malan, *Editor in Chief and Executive Director at Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism*

13.02.

20.02.

Public engagement – a direct path: Evidence-shaping citizens - democratising research.

Joana Bezerra, *Lecturer and engaged researcher at Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUCE) Division, PhD*

Theodore Duxbury, *Quality Assurance Pharmacist (Dphil) at Universal Healthcare*

Evidence-based policy?! – when researchers speak to politicians

Luis Alberto Rodriguez, *Former Director of the Direction of National Planning of Colombia*

Toby Wardman, *Head of Communications at SAPEA, the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission*

27.02.

05.03.

Skills Workshop – *Engaged Research, a practical session*

René Oosthuizen, *senior lecturer at the Community Engagement Division at Rhodes University, South Africa*

Are researchers the better politicians – closing the series and looking ahead

Participants, organisers, and lecturers, *get involved!*

12.03.