Communication Days

Storytelling, Self-Presentation and The Science Show

with Kathrin Keune & Thomas Müller from Artsbased Solutions

January 30th - February 1st, 2020
Place: Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching

Workshop 1 - Storytelling (Kathrin Keune)
Date: Thursday, January 30th, 10.00-17.30
Place: MPQ

This workshop offers an insight into the basics of storytelling with the focus on designing a scientific talk in an interesting, compelling way. The participants learn how to create a common thread through their story in order to manage the audience’s attention. Working with images and metaphors is key in this approach. In addition to the structural design, we will shed light on the delivery of a presentation in terms of body language and effective gesturing.

- Storyboard - turning your science project into a story
- TED Talk Elements: personal introduction and simplified contextual links to data and results
- Body Language and use of voice
- Practice of improvisation

Workshop 2 - (Self-) Presentation (Kathrin Keune)
Date: Friday, January 31st, 10.00-17.30
Place: MPQ

This workshop offers tools and skill practice to enable the participants to present themselves at conferences and in the science community. With the development of an elevator pitch, the participants learn how to communicate their professionalism to potential collaborators or future colleagues in an effective and enticing way. With the refinement of body language and the use of voice they shape their appearance and learn about the impact of physical effects.

- Elevator Pitch - presenting yourself and your work in a compelling short introduction
- Self-Presentation and appearance at conferences
- Making conversation
- Body language and voice training
- Practice of Improvisation

And.... The Science Show (Kathrin Keune and Thomas Müller for Directing)
Date: Saturday, February 1st, 10.00-17.30
(Team day and preparation: 10.00-16.00; Science show: 16.30-17.30)
Place: TBA

“Elevator pitch” presentations, “storyboard stories” of science projects and “improv games” with the whole group are being presented in an interesting science show format. The goal of the show is to use the learned skills and to perform them in a friendly and safe atmosphere. The benefit of bringing it all together in a final performance is that the learning of the tools and experiences is substantial and long-lasting.

The audience consists of all workshop participants and may be opened to close friends and colleagues if that is ok for the group.

- Practicing improvisation as a group
- Becoming more fluent in body language, use of voice and flexibility in presentation
- Practicing spontaneity, improv rules that are important for communication in general
- Preparation for the show - staging, dramaturgical set-up, order of elements