

# Workshop of SCIENTIFIC EVOLUTIONARY WRITING

Online

MARCH 1-4/2021



Sony CSL



Inserm



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

## **Aim and scope:**

All scientific research involves attempts to resolve a mystery, overcome an obstacle or solve a problem. Hence, research involves stories with narrative potential. But most scientific papers lack basic storytelling mechanisms. This workshop will explore storytelling and editing techniques and show how they can be used to improve scientific papers while maintaining the scientific rigour required for the world's top journals. Participants will be challenged to embark on an evolutionary process of continually improving their text with the goal of reaching a critical threshold of excellence.

Workshop slides:

[https://writeaboutscience.com/  
index.php/our-slides/](https://writeaboutscience.com/index.php/our-slides/)

Write  
About  
Science

**WAS**

## SEW instructors



Mark Buchanan is a physicist and science writer based in Europe. A former editor with the international science journal *Nature* and also *New Scientist*, he is the author of four books and numerous articles exploring the ideas of modern physics, with an emphasis on efforts to use novel concepts from physics to understand patterns and dynamics elsewhere, especially in biology or the social sciences. He writes for *Bloomberg Opinion* and has a monthly column in the journal *Nature Physics*.

Email: [mark.buchanan@writeaboutscience.com](mailto:mark.buchanan@writeaboutscience.com)



Justin Mullins is a consultant editor at *New Scientist* where he has covered topics ranging from Chernobyl to the emergence of artificial intelligence. He was *New Scientist's* San Francisco bureau chief during the dotcom boom and later its Boston Editor. He is the author of the *Physics arXiv Blog* (@arXivBlog) and a former teaching fellow at the University of California, Berkeley.

Email: [justin.mullins@writeaboutscience.com](mailto:justin.mullins@writeaboutscience.com)

## SEW Coordinators

Vittorio Loreto — Sony CSL Paris, Sapienza University of Rome and CSHV

Vittoria Colizza — INSERM

## SEW Collaborators

Martina Galletti — Sony CSL Paris

Pietro Gravino — Sony CSL Paris

Ruggiero Lo Sardo — Sony CSL Paris

Remi Van Trijp — Sony CSL Paris

Elisabetta Falivene — Sapienza University of Rome

# Workshop Programme

## Day I

09:00 Introduction

09:30 The editing platform

10:15 Coffee

10:45 Writing an initial draft

11:00 Participants write (and eat lunch...)

15:30 Topic sentences: telling a story

16:45 Wrap up and data presentation

## Day II

09:00 Sentences

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Editing as an evolutionary process

11:45 Abstracts

12:30 Some editing guidelines

13:00 Lunch

14:00 First edit

16:30 Wrap up and data presentation

# Workshop Programme

## Day III

09:00 The process of writing

09:30 Group editing

10:45 Coffee

11:00 Recoding

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Second edit

16:30 Wrap up and data presentation

## Day IV

09:00 Diary of a paper

09:45 The shapes of stories

10:45 Coffee

11:00 The billboard paragraph

11:45 Editing recap

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Final edit

15:15 Text annotation

16:30 Concluding remarks

## FURTHER READING

The Little, Brown Handbook  
J Aaron and H Fowler  
Pearson Longman  
ISBN 0321389514

The Visual Display of Quantitative Information  
Edward Tufte  
Graphics Press USA  
ISBN 9780961392147

The Golem: What You Should Know About Science  
Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch  
Cambridge University Press  
ISBN: 9780521645508

The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two: Some Limits on  
Our Capacity for Processing Information  
George Miller  
<http://www.musanim.com/miller1956/>

Scientific Communication As Sequential Art  
Bret Victor  
<http://worrydream.com/#!/ScientificCommunicationAsSequentialArt>

**Workshop slides:**  
<http://writeaboutscience.com/index.php/our-slides>