UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MATHEMATICAL
PHYSICAL AND
LIFE SCIENCES
DIVISION

RESEARCHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MPLS Division Trinity Term 2024

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Cover: The Trinity term '24 cover is inspired by Lauren Rudd's research into outbreaks of Canine Distemper Virus amongst the lion populations of Tanzania, and associated behavioural changes.

HOW TO BOOK

Click on the course titles in the online brochure which will take you to the course booking page or visit http://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training and click on 'Course Bookings', which is a list of all upcoming courses sorted by date. Booking details are contained in the individual course pages. Most of our courses are booked via the Cosy booking system, but some may require application forms and / or deposits.

Equality, diversity and inclusion courses are taking place online and bookable via the ED&I training programme: www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/ equality-diversity-and-inclusion-in-mpls/mpls-ed-i-training-programme

Our courses this term are a mixture of online and in person. Details will be available on the booking pages.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We also have a range of self-access online resources for DPhil students and research staff. These cover topics such as orientation to the University, Time Management, working with others, Career Development, and many more. You can access them on our website:

https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/resources-for-researcher-and-career-development

KEYS
RS: research staff, post-docs or early career researchers.
DPhil: DPhil students or post-graduate researchers.
All: All researchers.

In Person   *Online*

Disclaimer: some courses may be changed from their advertised setting due to unforeseen circumstances.

DPhil

SeedWISE

23rd & 30th April, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th May 2024

SeedWISE is tailored specifically for women DPhil students who are working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Women are being urged to pursue careers in STEM subjects, where they often excel, but face a huge disparity in achieving success and leadership roles. SeedWISE has been developed to help address this challenge, bringing together women DPhil students from different STEM disciplines at the University of Oxford to meet with women working in industry and commerce, who face similar challenges. We work closely with industry to build mutual relationships, which aims to benefit women both working and studying in STEM roles.

ALL

BEGINNERS' STATISTICS WITH R 🧍

23rd & 30th April, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th May, 4th & 11th June 2024
09.30-12.30

This course will provide an introduction to statistical inference and basic commands using R. This is most suitable for complete beginners or those requiring foundational statistics refresher. Topics covered include.

- Hypothesis testing
- Basic statistical testing procedures
- Linear regression
- Base R
- Introduction to the tidyverse suite of R packages

RS

OPTIMISE YOUR TIME AT OXFORD 🧍

24th April 2004 *12.00-14.00*

Congratulations, you have got a research post at Oxford. But, what next? How do you manage your time at Oxford? This session looks at what being a post-doc means, what the opportunities and constraints are. It outlines the support available to help you make the most of your time at the University. You will hear from the Careers Service, Research Services, the Oxford Research Staff Society, and about Public Engagement & Impact, Research Integrity and Enterprise.

GroWISE. CONFLICT RESOLUTION & PROBLEM-SOLVING FUNDAMENTALS WITH CREO 📺 Gro WISE

25th April 2024 *12.30-14.00*

Are you tired of letting conflicts simmer unresolved? Are you ready to navigate difficult conversations with confidence and grace?

Join us for our upcoming workshop, 'Conflict Resolution & Problem-Solving Fundamentals' and learn how to have difficult conversations and solve problems, as well as exploring strategies for managing and avoiding conflicts.

Designed specifically for researchers, this course provides micro-learning units and a live workshop to offer invaluable tools and techniques to effectively address conflicts head-on, fostering a more harmonious and productive work environment. Gain insights into proactive conflict resolution strategies, learn to communicate assertively yet empathetically, and acquire the skills needed to transform contentious situations into opportunities for growth and collaboration.

DPhil

THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT) TRAINING SESSION ⬤

26th April 2024 *14.00-16.00*

A 50,000 word thesis would take 7 hours to present; how about in just 3 minutes with the aid of a single slide?

The 3 Minute Thesis competition challenges doctoral candidates to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes to a non-specialist audience.

This course helps you prepare for the competition and ensure that you have the best chance possible to represent Oxford nationally.

ALL

INTERSECTIONAL ALLYSHIP ⬤

30th April 2024 *10.00-12.30*

We will look at what intersectionality is and how it plays out in our everyday lives and we will consider how many of us intersect and what that means for building an inclusive society. We will look at how power and privilege play their part and identify ways in which we can use both to support one another.

ALL

IDEAS TO ACTION. EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH ⬤

2nd May 2024 *09.30-12.30*

Ready to bring your engagement idea to life? This 3-hour session is tailored to those looking to explore evidence-based strategies for designing activities/events, apply for PER funding, or get practical tips for organising an activity.

ALL

SCIENTIFIC WRITING. CORE SKILLS ⬤

7th May 2024 *09.00-17.00*

This one-day course provides a sound grounding in the core skills needed to produce accurate and effective scientific writing. The course will include.

- Critique of readability in relevant papers.
- Use of tenses in academic papers.
- Writing with impact.
- Concise writing.
- Grammar and proofreading.
- Scientific table and chart technique.

ALL

INTRODUCTION TO PRESENTATION SKILLS 👤

8th May 2024 09.30-13.00

The course will cover the key principles of planning and delivering a successful talk, and help to build your confidence. Each subject area in the MPLS Division has its own specific requirements for research presentations. Please note that this course does not seek to address these.

GET THAT FELLOWSHIP 👤

9th May 2024 09.30-12.30

This session will help you to understand the do's and don'ts of fellowship application. It will guide you through the process and explain the support that is available. A holder of a research fellowship will discuss their application experience.

By the end of this session you will understand more about:

- What experience and characteristics you need to have to gain a fellowship.
- The application process.
- How to work with University's systems and procedures to optimise your application and its chance of success.
- You will also have an opportunity to practice interviewing/being interviewed for fellowship applications.
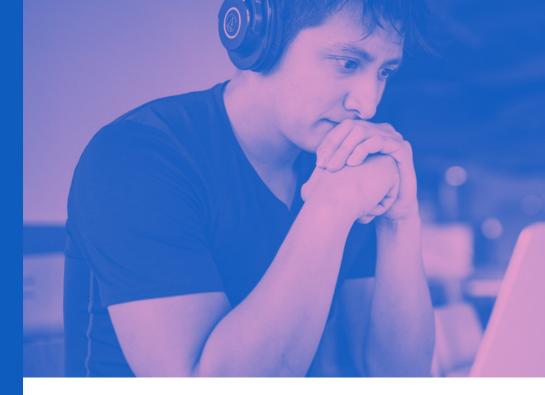
GETTING STARTED WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH 🖥

9th May 2024 13.00-14.00

Engagement describes the ways in which we can share our research and its value by interacting with wider public audiences, generating mutual benefit.

In this introductory session tailored to those new to engagement, we look at what public engagement is and some of the reasons why you might want to do it. We'll highlight the multitude of different approaches you can take, and provide tips on getting started and where to get support.

ALL

TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER. COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH THROUGH STORY

10th May 2024 *10.00-16.00*

Discover what elements of storytelling and narrative can be used to enhance a profession in the sciences. Craft compelling and moving stories from your experiences as a scientist using these key story elements.

• Character • Conflict • Structure • Description

Apply these storytelling and narrative skills to working in the science.

- Communicating research to a range of audiences (including publics, media and funding bodies).
- Enhancing presentation skills.
- Telling scientific stories across a range of media.

Robert Holtom is a professional storyteller and consultant who has worked with a range of organisations to help them refine and hone their stories for a variety of audiences.

SCIENTIFIC WRITING. GETTING YOUR PAPER PUBLISHED

14th May 2024 *09.00-17.00*

This course will look at the aspects you need to consider when constructing your paper, and show you what they really want. You will learn how to choose the best journal for your work, negotiate the peer review process and deal with reviewer comments.

The course will cover:

- Why publish and how that affects how you publish.
- The structure of a paper.
- What to include in the title and abstract.
- Open access.
- Impact metrics and citations.
- Ways to get published more quickly.
- Publicising your paper once it is published.

RS

INNOVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

14th May 2024 *10.00-13.00*
15th May 2024 *10.00-14.00*
17th May 2024 *10.00-13.00*
20th May 2024 *Left free for group meetings at a mutually agreed time*
22nd May 2024 *10.00-16.00*

This 5-module core course provides a blend of online materials, presentations and small group discussion sessions, and aims to give new lecturers, associate professors and senior independent research fellows enhanced skills and confidence in innovation leadership, managing stakeholders and teams, communication and more. Please note there will be some small group working in the period between the 2 blocks.

ALL

CULTIVATING RESILIENCE AND SELF-CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

15th May 2024 *10.30-11.30*

What does it mean to be resilient, what does self-care really mean and how can we best support ourselves and others?

ALL

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE THRIVING RESEARCH GROUP

15th May *14.00-15.00*

Join winners and nominators of MPLS' Outstanding Supervisor Awards to discuss the importance of understanding and supporting a mental health aware research group.

Chaired by Prof Jim Naismith, Head of MPLS Division, panellists will discuss how mental health is facilitated in their research groups before inviting audience participation about what works and what doesn't work, suggesting approaches and inviting questions from audience members.

ALL

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH CULTURE 🖥

20th May 2024 10.00-12.30

How to best create and sustain an inclusive research culture and identify practical steps to make this happen. How to create an environment where we can all feel supported and how we can best support others.

ALL

TIME MANAGEMENT 🖥

20th May 2024 10.30-12.00

An essential skill for researchers. Issues covered will include work-life balance, planning, prioritising, the need to differentiate between importance and urgency, and using a range of strategies and time-saving ideas.

ALL

BEING AN EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER 🖥

20th May 2024 10.30-12.00

What does it mean to be an effective bystander? How do we best challenge behaviours and practices which disadvantage staff and students, particularly those from minority and/or marginalised groups?

THESIS AND REPORT WRITING

21st May 2024 *09.30-13.30*

This course covers methods of managing and controlling the process of thesis and report writing, as well as meeting deadlines. It also discusses the principles and practice of high-quality scholarly writing.

ALL

LEADING COLLABORATION. BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY

21st May 2024 *10.30-15.30*

You have brilliant ideas for research collaboration that could have extraordinary outcomes. But how will you engage the people you are relying on?

Collaborations can be rewarding or draining, depending on how well people connect. In this course we look at what neuroscience has taught us about how to collaborate. You will make sense of why some of your collaborations have felt great to be part of, while others have been a drag. You will diagnose problems with collaborations you are part of and find practical solutions for improving them. Leave with a clear model for improving all collaborations you are involved in.

ALL

GroWISE CLIMATE CATALYSTS: INSIGHTS FROM POLICY, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

22nd May 2024 *12.30-14.00*

Join us for an engaging lunchtime discussion featuring three RisingWISE alumnae at the forefront of climate research, policy and impact.

Together, our panellists will share their career journeys into climate science and explore pressing questions surrounding climate change, renewable energy, and the path to a sustainable future. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with and gain valuable insights from researchers who have transitioned into climate change careers.

Booking link: https://forms.office.com/e/YAuseYB9CG

ALL

ADVANCED PRESENTATION SKILLS

23rd May 2024 *09.30-12.30*

You will learn how to read a group, deal with difficult situations, use humour, match your presentation to the audience, and make impact. You will learn how to get your message across, so it is remembered. You will learn about timing and when you should deliver key messages. You will develop your self-awareness and understand its role in presenting.

ALL

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

23rd May 2024 *13.00-16.00*

Dive into the world of experiential learning with our immersive course, 'Hands-On Science.' This programme is designed to equip you with the practical skills and insights needed to effectively communicate your research through engaging desktop activities.

Uncover the art of facilitating interactive science demonstrations that captivate and educate. Learn the pivotal elements of event design and planning specifically tailored for public engagement activities.
By the end of this course, you'll not only have a repertoire of engaging activities at your disposal, but you'll also possess the skills to thoughtfully design, execute, and adapt events that leave lasting impressions.

GET THAT FELLOWSHIP 🧗

28th May 2024 09.30-12.30

This session will help you to understand the do's and don'ts of fellowship application. It will guide you through the process and explain the support that is available. A holder of a research fellowship will discuss their application experience.

By the end of this session you will understand more about:

• What experience and characteristics you need to have to gain a fellowship.

• The application process.

• How to work with University's systems and procedures to optimise your application and its chance of success.

• You will also have an opportunity to practice interviewing/being interviewed for fellowship applications.

ALL

PUTTING STORIES TO WORK 📖

30th May 2024 10.00-13.00

This session builds on the introductory workshop (Telling Stories that Matter, p.13) and introduces new elements of great storytelling including metaphor, clarity and message. This highly interactive workshop will be based around an example of writing an explainer or news article for the wider, non-specialist public website.

It is highly recommended that you will have already attended the introductory workshop, or equivalent introductory workshops on storytelling. Brief reading material will be provided to ensure you are up to date with the fundamentals of storytelling that are the basis of this workshop.

ALL

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

30th May 2024 12.30-14.00

Research data is often at the heart of scientific projects, it's what you spend hours in the lab generating or in the field collecting. It forms the basis of your analysis and underpins your arguments in papers and theses. But how often do you consider how you're managing this vital resource? Is your data secure and backed up? How can you demonstrate its integrity if challenged? Could your research make a greater impact by sharing data? What happens to your hard-won data when your project ends? Research Data Management (RDM) considers these questions and more. In this session we introduce RDM and the practical skill of developing Data Management Plans to manage your own data successfully.

PGRs

COMPLETING YOUR DPHIL

4th June 2024 09.30-12.30

The session will cover:

- What makes a good DPhil.
- Planning to write up your DPhil. structure, content and what makes good writing.
- What the viva will explore.
- What the examiners are asked to consider.
- Time Management, FAQs and Q&A.

ALL

NETWORKING. A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

5th June 2024 09.30-12.30

Being at Oxford provides you with an amazing opportunity to meet a wide range of extraordinary people who could help you and who you could help. This session will enable you to develop this important skill, which will. help you make contacts; discover opportunities; open doors; and speak to the right people. It will also enable you to devise a strategic approach to networking which can have lifetime benefits for you.

PODCAST YOUR SCIENCE 👥

6th June 2024 *09.30-16.30*

From inception to publication; this practical session delivered by Emily Elias, journalist and producer of the Oxford Sparks podcast series, is a whirlwind tour through the basics of how to share your research in an engaging manner through podcasting. The session will introduce approaches to podcasting, present inspiration from a range of different podcast styles, and take you step-by-step through the basic technical skills of recording, editing and publishing audio files; you'll have the chance to develop an idea and have a go recording it with support and feedback during the day.

You may also be interested in 'Interviewing for podcasts' on page 19.

ALL

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT STAFF 🖥

6th June 2024 *10.00-12.30*

We will consider the whole neurodivergent umbrella and identify some practical ways in which we can better support our staff who fall under this umbrella. This session will be led by and informed by people with lived experience.

RS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT. THE ESSENTIALS 👥

12th June 2024 *09.30-16.00*

The focus of the day will be to provide a practical 'project management toolbox' that you can use in your daily work. During the course you will have the opportunity to manage a project. You will be able to apply the techniques you learn to a project that you bring along. Topics covered. project initiation, managing stakeholders and risk, time estimation, planning.

GroWISE. IDEATION MASTERCLASS. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES IN ACADEMIA & ENTERPRISE WITH CREO 🖥

11th June 2024 *12.30-14.00*

Embark on a journey of discovery with the GroWISE Ideation Masterclass led by Dr. Martine Abboud. Learn to spot opportunities in academia and enterprise through this interactive session. Explore essential skills like idea generation, pattern recognition, and opportunity evaluation. Dive into diverse methods including design thinking, case studies, and ideation frameworks.

Uncover innovative brainstorming techniques and the role of technology in driving innovation. Join us to unlock your potential in recognizing and seizing opportunities for growth in the research ecosystem.

Expressions of interest: mpls.enterprise@mpls.ox.ac.uk (note that booking page not yet available)

ALL

INTERVIEWING FOR PODCASTS 🖥

13th June 2024 *09.30-12.30*

You are behind the mic, ready to record your first podcast ... but wait! What do you ask? This hands-on training session helps you navigate the world of podcast interviews. The session will cover preparing for interviews, creating a question line, finding your authentic voice and active listening.

Participants will be paired up and asked to conduct short interviews with a fellow participant which will be recorded over Zoom. As a group we'll listen back to them and workshop the interviews for constructive feedback.

This course is aimed at anyone looking at working on interviewing skills as a presenter but is also useful to those asked to be a guest on a podcast.

RS

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION 🧍

19th, 20th & 21st June 2024 *09.00-17.00*

Leadership in Action provides the opportunity for you to explore what leadership is, look at some leadership theory, and identify and develop your own leadership style. You will also be able to meet and work with people from other departments and divisions. The course takes a very practical and experiential approach; this means there will be presentations on leadership theory, but for the most part you will actively participate in sessions and activities.

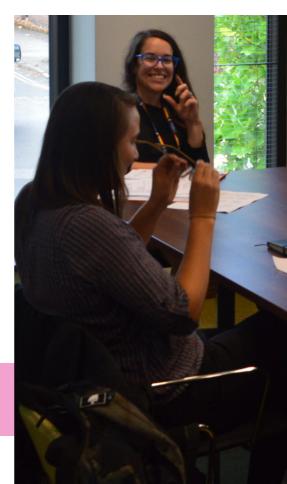This year the course will end with a celebratory dinner on the evening of the last day.

ALL

VIRTUAL PODCASTING HELP-DESK 🖥

27th June 2024

Bookable sessions in morning only.

Book a half hour session of individual coaching and feedback on your podcasting work, from technical tips to journalistic insight in to editing and identifying stories. Contact training@mpls.ox.ac.uk to book your slot.

Scan the QR for the latest on all courses

MPLS TRINITY TERM TRAINING TIMETABLE

EVENT	TIME	DATE
SeedWISE 1	14.00-17.00	23/4
Beginners' Statistics with R	9.30-12.30	23/4
Optimise your time at Oxford	12.00-14.00	24/4
GroWISE: Conflict Resolution & Problem-Solving Fundamentals with Creo	12.30-14.00	25/4
Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Training Session	14.00-16.00	26/4
Intersectional allyship	10.00-12.30	30/4
SeedWISE 2	16.00-17.30	30/4
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.30-12.30	30/4
Networking: A systematic approach	09.30-12.30	6/5
SeedWISE 3	16.00-17.30	7/5
Telling stories that matter: communicating your research through story	10:00-16:00	10/5
Innovation Leadership Programme 1	10.00-13.00	14/5
Scientific Writing: Getting your Paper Published	09.00-17.00	14/5
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.30-12.30	14/5
SeedWISE 4	16.00-17.30	14/5
Time Management	09.30-12.00	15/5
Innovation Leadership Programme 2	10.00-14.00	15/5
Cultivating resilience and self-care for ourselves and others	10.30-11.30	15/5
Mental Health and the Thriving Research Group	14.00-15.00	15/5
Innovation Leadership Programme 3	10.00-13.00	17/5
Innovation Leadership Programme 4	ALL DAY	20/5
Creating an inclusive research culture	10.00-12.30	20/5
Being an effective bystander	10.30-12.00	20/5
SeedWISE 5	16.00-17.30	21/5
Leading Collaboration: bringing people together to achieve the extraordinary	10.30-15.30	21/5
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.30-12.30	21/5
Thesis and Report Writing	09.30-13.30	21/5
Innovation Leadership Programme 5	10.00-16.00	22/5
GroWISE Climate Catalysts: Insights from policy, research and innovation	12.30-14.00	22/5
Advanced Presentation Skills	09.30-12.30	23/5
Hands-on Science	13.00-16.00	23/5
Get that fellowship	09.30-12.30	28/5
SeedWISE 6	14.00-17.00	28/5
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.30-12.30	28/5
Putting Stories to Work	10:00-13:00	30/5
Research Data Management	12.30-14.00	30/5
Podcast your science	09:30-16:30	6/6
Supporting neurodivergent staff	10.00-12.30	6/6
GroWISE: Ideation Masterclass: Identifying Opportunities in Academia & Enterprise with Creo	12.30-14.00	11/6
Project Management: the essentials	09.30-16.00	12/6
Interviewing for podcasts	09:30-12:30	13/6
Leadership in Action	09.30-17.00	19/6
Leadership in Action	09.30-17.00	20/6
Leadership in Action	09.30-17.00	21/6
Virtual Podcasting Help-desk	By appointment	27/6
Beginners Statistics With R	09.30-12.30	4/7