
Professional Development Programme

Workshop

Politics, society, science: Make an impact

Dr. Philipp Gramlich

<https://naturalscience.careers>

10 March 2023

09.00 – 17.00 hrs.

Objectives

In this workshop, we'll work on how you, as a scientist, can make an impact on society and the public debate.

Scientists know a lot about their research topics, which are often of high societal relevance. Yet the public debates are often dominated by people with little understanding of science- or even contempt for the scientific approach altogether. Our voices are heard only very softly, partly due to scientific objectivity, a high value we absolutely need to retain. Does this mean that we can't state an opinion at all? Are we not allowed to extrapolate our findings into statements about the pros and cons of specific policies? How can you be heard by people outside of the ivory tower? How can they understand? How can you make your message relevant to them?

Topics

Clear communication

- Big picture and details: how to put both together in different settings?
- How to find a storyline that's relevant to your audience
- Argumentation strategies adapted to the setting

The public debate

- Phases of a public debate and how this influences your communication style
- Analyse the interests of various stakeholders in a public debate
- Effectively publicising your topic

The PhD stereotype

- Why no one listens to you if you sound too much like a scientist
- Does scientific objectivity allow you to make clear statements?

Recruiting help

- How to build a network of mutual support
- How can you reach out to high-level people?

Target Group for the workshop

MARUM members

Professional Development Programme

The trainer

Dr. Philipp Gramlich has studied and researched chemistry (>3000 citations, Google Scholar 2022) at five universities in Germany, Australia and Scotland. He gained experience in industry, first at baseclick, a biotechnology start-up and later at Eurofins Genomics as Teamleader R&D, QC and Analytics, being responsible for up to 22 staff. Since 2016, he has been fully focusing on his work as co-founder of NaturalScience.Careers.

Together with Dr. Karin Bodewits, Philipp set up the NGO turfrij (<https://turfrij.nl/>), with which they try to show that science communication can make a real-life impact. *Turfrij* is fighting against the use of the fossil material peat in horticulture. They publicised the topic in newspapers, radio and tv, thereby triggering a successful motion in the Dutch parliament. This motion urges the agricultural minister to investigate a peat reduction strategy for the Netherlands, making it the 6th country worldwide with such a policy. Currently, *turfrij* is the only NGO on the negotiation table working out the official reduction plan with various industry stakeholders.

Venue

MARUM, University of Bremen, Leobener Str. 8, 28359 Bremen, Germany
MARUM I (main) building, room 2060

Registration

<https://www.marum.de/en/education-career/professional-development/2023/2023-03-10.html>

Please note that your registration will be binding.

The registration deadline for this course is **15 February 2022**.

Any enquiries regarding this event can be addressed to early-career@marum.de.