CICASP Seminar in Science Communication: Summary & Outline

Wednesday 6th June, 2018
Summary: CICASP Seminar #79

Science Communication Speed Dating Part II
When describing concepts, methods and results, it is essential to adapt your speech according to the knowledge of the listener: your target audience.

In an interactive activity, 5 participants explained 5 scientific concepts in 2 minutes to five other participants who represented a scientific audience (or educated people), in speed-dating format (i.e each participant repeated the same speech 5 times). Then, the listeners took the role as experts, and explained the same concepts to the other 5 participants, but the speech was directed to children. After the activity, the participants identified jargons in the explanations, and discussed the bad and good points about the style of the speeches, and the choice of words. In the end, the participants voted for the best explanation in each category (scientists or children). With this workshop, the participants learned how to identify jargons, and they practiced strategies to make the target audience understand their concepts.

Wednesday 20th June, 2018
Outline: CICASP Seminars #80 and #81

Fields of Jargon

In the next block of workshops (June 20, 27), we will continue with the idea of explaining scientific phenomena or scientific research fields but in a much more personalized way. Through these workshops, the participants will come to grips with the jargon in their own line of research - i.e. the technical terms that they often use when discussing their fields - and work out ways to explain these technical words. Then, they will explain the fields of research in which they are working. The expected outcome is to be able to explain your research topic or research field to a general audience, and understand which terms might cause difficulty in audience understanding.

In the first workshop (June 20), students must bring a list of 5 'jargon' words (technical terms) commonly used in their area of research. In fact, these words should be critical to any description of their area of research. Please send your list of 5 words to <rafaela.takeshita.3n@kyoto-u.ac.jp> along with a title for your research field. Here is an example:

Network Science
graph theory
nodes and edges
centrality
scale-free
percolation

*From this list of words, I should be able to explain Network Science, or at least, I should be able to include these 5 words in my explanation of Network Science.

**During the workshop, we will run an activity with each student's word list, so please do not forget to send one in prior to the workshop (deadline: Wednesday, June 20, 14:00)!

In the second workshop (June 27), each participant who provided a word list will be expected to explain their chosen research area (in the above example, Network Science), using the jargon they supplied (and other jargon can also be used as necessary, but be sure to include at these the list of 5 words selected). The goal will be to have a very clear understanding of what the terms mean, so that you can explain them as you go along explaining your research area (as many of you did in our previous workshops on explaining scientific phenomena). These 'presentations' (no slides) will be to the class, so each student will have an opportunity to explain their field of research in general terms, including but also explaining the jargon that they use. We can also invite questions from the audience as necessary.

Reminder: Preparation Required

Before June 20th: Email research field and list of 5 words to rafaela.takeshita.3n@kyoto-u.ac.jp. Deadline: June 20th 14:00

Before June 27th: Think of how to explain your research field using the list of 5 words (and others as needed) in approximately 2-3 minutes (no hard time limit). Come prepared to deliver your explanation to the class.