



## SMC Newsletter Sept-Oct 2023

### Exploring SciComm: Science Journalist Roundtable

7-8th Sept 2023, SMC hosted 12 science journalists to explore the evolving roles of science journalists, skill gaps, sustainability and EDI issues in the field. This event was organised as part of the [British Council Going Global Partnership](#) funded project with our University and Industry partners: [Springer Nature](#), [Science Journalist Association of India \(SJAI\)](#), [Association of British Science Writers \(ABSW\)](#) and [UWE, Bristol](#). Please check [project website](#) to check the details.

A group of veteran and mid-career science journalists working in diverse media formats contributed to the roundtable. [MS Santhanam](#) (Dean IRO) inaugurated the roundtable. [Shalini Sharma](#) (SMC/HSS, IISER Pune), [Andy Ridgway](#) (UWE, Bristol) and [Sahana Ghosh](#) (Nature India/SJAI) moderated different thematic sessions. The live illustrations were done by Tanmay Jena, Yatish Juneja and Devika Khizhakoot- all of whom are IISER Pune students.

We had a delightful lunch where Prof [Sunil S Bhagawat](#) (Director, IISER Pune) interacted with the group. Journalists also enjoyed exposure visits to the Param Brahma supercomputing facility and the Science Activity Centre during their stay on campus.



## Lab and Life video

The research communication video based on [Arun Venkatnathan's lab](#) is now public and can be watched [here](#). It gives a quick glimpse into the work done by the lab in the area of battery electrolytes. This video, scripted by Rahul Iyer has graphics by Arun Kundu and was videographed by Imayavan Pattabiraman. Do reach out to us if you are interested in communicating the research story of your lab.



## Who do we trust online?

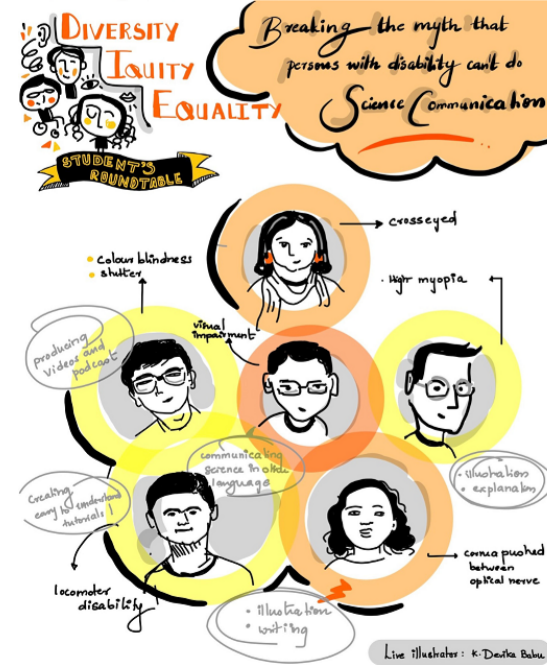
On 4th Sept, Andy Ridgway ([Science Communication Unit of the University of West England, Bristol](#)) gave a talk on scicomm, trust and social change. The talk titled, 'Who do people really trust online: insights from research into parents' social media use and implications for food waste reduction campaigns' is available to [watch here](#).



## Exploring Barriers to Science Communication:

on 9th Sept 2023, SMC organized a discussion on the barriers to science communication faced by differently abled students at IISER Pune. The discussion was moderated by Shalini Sharma. A range of scenarios related to speech, visual and mobility related impairments were highlighted by participating students.

We invite you to work with us in building the inclusive scicomm project further. How? For e.g. Is your lab accessible to a blind student? Are you a student with speech impairment who wants to tell science stories? Any other stories that can inspire and recognize role/challenges of differently abled in scicomm. **Do submit the form towards ['Making SciComm Inclusive.'](#)**



## Student Engagement Programme (SEP 2023-24)

A workshop on 'Visual designs for science communication' was conducted by [Prachi Joshi](#) on 6th and 8th of Sept. It was attended by 17 students. It covered areas around: visualizing key words for story telling, articulating our ideas about science, how to approach your subject as a science communicator, things that get left out while communicating and constructing visually appealing tales.



**SMC footprints in international events**

Anisha Karnail attended the [British council India UK higher education conference](#) in Delhi on 18th Sept. She presented the poster on inclusive scicomm project and interacted with fellow participants from different universities and British council officials.



on 10th Oct, Shalini Sharma joined online the [early career science writer training with ABSW](#) at Royal Society, London to share key insights from scicomm workshops in India under the British Council funded Exploring SciComm project. [Emma Weitkamp](#) and Andy Ridgway moderated the session.



## NPTEL course update

The editing of the regular module for [Siddhesh Kamat's](#) NPTEL course on 'Enzyme biochemistry' is completed. The team has now started recording supportive lectures which include the question practice sessions, simulation tutorials and lab demonstrations. Neha Kanase is the teaching associate for this course.



## iRISE documentation

During Sept- Oct both Rahul and Swanand travelled with the iRISE team for the photo-video documentation of the cascade workshops at Palghar(Sept 11-15) and Uttarakhand(Oct 24-31) respectively. They also recorded interview bites from the teacher-participants who shared the ways in which they have inculcated STEM-based pedagogy taught during the workshops, in their schools. During his Uttarakhad trip, Rahul also visited a school in Suryagaon along with the team.



Picture credits: Shraddha Bhurkunde



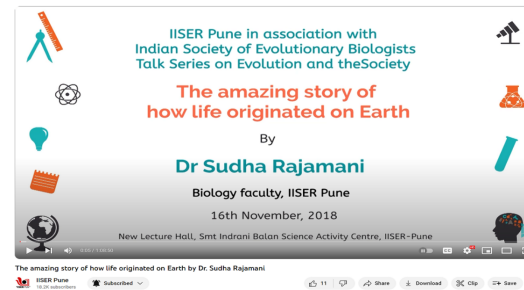
Picture credits: Shraddha Bhurkunde



Picture credits: Sanket Raut

## Sci-Talk@SMC updates

A previous lecture and interview of [Sudha Rajamani](#) was edited by Imayavan Pattabiraman for an episode of the Sci-Talk@ SMC series and is available to [Watch here](#). The lecture titled 'The amazing story of how life originated on Earth' recorded as a part of the Science Activity Centre lecture series is available [here](#)



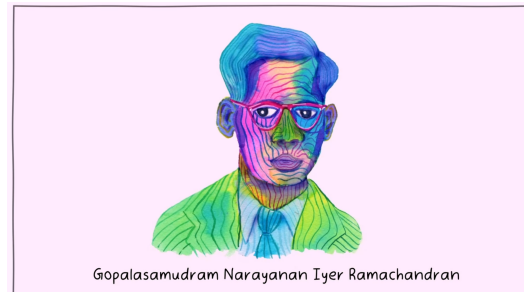
## Call for Volunteers/ Interns:

### 1. GNR Project

[GNR Digital Museum](#) is now public. It is a living museum that will evolve over time with inputs and insights from those who engage with it in different ways. For example, Aditya Shukla, Yashraj are developing 2D/3D interactive, immersive assets for the museum as part of [SMC \(British Council project\) Fellowship 2023](#).

We are also currently developing plans for teacher-centered initiatives. Your leads and links are welcome!

[Google form](#)



Gopalamudram Narayanan Iyer Ramachandran

## 2. Films on Indian Scientists

At SMC, we are working on three films based on life and works of Physicists Bibha Chowdhury and CV Raman, and ecologist Madhav Gadgil. These are pioneering scientists with indelible impact on science and society. If you wish to contribute, don't hesitate to reach us via this [Google form](#)

We welcome any ideas/suggestions and collaborations towards innovative projects under the 'Science & Society' SciComm theme. Do [email](#) Neha Kanase.

## Institute events covered by SMC in Sept-October'23

1. Video and edit for [Purbayan Chatterjee's](#) Spicmacay concert on Sept 2
2. Video and edit of the i-Hub [Friquant lecture series](#) on Sept 15
3. Photo for Hindi solo songs competition on Sept 29 as part of Hindi Fortnight Celebration-2023
4. Video and edit for the public talk titled, '[What was India's freedom struggle about](#)' given by [P Sainath](#) on Oct 4
5. Photo, video, social media reels and edits of the event video report for the [4th Indian Cancer Genome Atlas conference at IISER Pune](#) from Oct 6-8
6. Photo for the [National Organic Chemistry Symposium Trust](#) conf from Oct 10-12
7. Photo for the tree plantation event by students on Oct 13
8. Video and edit for the [Centre for Water Research talk](#) titled [From wisdom to lost waters: a journey of traditional water systems in India](#) by [Abhijit Ghorpade](#) on Oct 16
9. Photo for the introductory Analytical instrumentation workshop alongside [MUHS Nasik](#) from Oct 3-12
10. Photo and video for the 'Preventive Vigilance' talk on Oct 18
11. Photo for the 'Integrity pledge' on Oct 30 under the 'Vigilance awareness week'

## SMC Services

### Media Centre Services

- Photography
- Videography & Editing
- Recording Studio
- Scripting for media

### Multimedia & Digital Services

- Graphic Designs
- Science Illustrations
- Animation (2D, 3D)
- Cover art for Journals
- Science Blogs & Articles

## Meet the Team!

**Dr. Shalini Sharma**  
(Faculty Coordinator)

**Mr. Vivek Kannadi**  
(Senior Technical Officer)

**Mr. Rahul Iyer**  
(Technical Officer- Science Communication)

**Mr. Imayavan Pattabiraman**  
(Technical Assistant- Cinematography)

**Ms. Neha Kanase**  
(Technical Assistant- Science Communication)

**Ms. Anisha Karnail**  
(Project Associate- Science Communication)

**Mr. Swanand Athalye**  
(Technical Assistant- Videography and editing)

**Mr. Sabareesh SS**

Website



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