



The Role of Scientists as Communicators: Exploring the evolution of contributions and participation in a jointly-run AGU and EGU science communication session

Heidi Roop (1,2), Sam Illingworth (3), and Rhian Salmon (2)

(1) University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group, United States (hroop@uw.edu), (2) Victoria University of Wellington, Science in Society, New Zealand, (3) Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

With the aim to deepen the conversation around the role of scientists as communicators, a team of researchers from the Science in Society Research Group at Victoria University of Wellington started chairing a session in 2013 at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting entitled, “The Role of Scientists as Communicators: From the Classroom to the Pub”. This later evolved into the “The Role of Scientists as Communicators: Practice, Research and Reflection”, and has been run every year at AGU since. Starting in 2015, in collaboration with colleagues from Europe, a similar session is now run at the European Geophysical Union (EGU) General Assembly.

Here we explore the evolution of the contributions in these sessions over time, framed within the larger context of the evolving landscape and dialogue around science communication at these large international geoscience gatherings. An intended goal of these sessions was to provide a space and platform for both science communication researchers and practitioners to share, learn and reflect. Participation has grown in tandem with a notable maturation in the content and evaluation being conducted and shared in these sessions.

As AGU and EGU continue to expand their investment in, and creation of, science communications tools, trainings and outlets for researchers to engage in and improve upon their science communication skills, we see this session as an important resource for building our community of practice and, importantly, for creating a bridge between the study of science communication and improving the modes and methods employed by the growing number of ‘scientist communicators’.