

# BIG Event

13-15 July 2022

W5, Belfast

#BIGEvent22



The skills-sharing event for people involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths

# Welcome from BIG's Chair

## Welcome to the BIG Event 2022

After 2 years of virtual meetings and on-screen sci-comm it really is great to see you in 3D.

This is only BIG's second visit to the beautiful and historic city of Belfast and I do hope you will get a chance to see beyond the famous cranes and explore a little whilst you are here. You will, I'm sure, take the opportunity to spend time getting to know the venue for this year's Event – W5. Do talk to staff about the centre and its programmes and explore the galleries.

You will need to plan your time carefully to do this though, as our packed programme will keep you busy. Once again, our Members have been at the heart of the Event – suggesting topics, curating events and inviting speakers to share their skills and experience in STEM communication. My huge thanks to all of those who have helped to produce the inspiring, intriguing and informative sessions. Make sure you catch the regular events such as the famous Best Demo competition and of course the all-important AGM.

BIG is the skills sharing network for STEM communicators, and the chance to meet and share stories with other members is what makes us so special. Do take advantage of the BIG mingle and the lunch



and coffee breaks to meet new people, ask questions and keep this community of professionals buzzing. If you are new to BIG or this is your first Event, I do hope you find us open and friendly; if you get lost or need help, track down a member of the Executive Committee who will be happy to help. If you are a BIG veteran, I don't need to remind you that meeting those new folks is always rewarding and I encourage you to make new connections. I look forward to speaking to as many of you as possible over the next few days.

I should draw your attention to the BIG code of conduct on page 16 which sets out the behaviour we expect from delegates and reminds us that even in the heat of debate we should always be kind and respectful.

BIG is an organisation run by its Members for its Members and that is never more true than when we come together for the BIG Event. This unique conference is what you make it and I'm sure you will make it one to remember.

**James Piercy, BIG Chair 2021/2022**

## A BIG Thank You to our hosts

It's great for BIG to be back in Northern Ireland and W5 has been a wonderful venue to get to know and to work with. Since BIG was last here back in 2016, a lot has changed at W5. After 20 years as one of Northern Ireland's favourite family destinations, a £4.5million investment has enabled the team to completely re-imagine W5. Make sure you save some time to have a look around. The W5 team will also

be showcasing some of their content and offerings, so look out for them on pages 9, 14 and 15.

Special thanks go to Kelly Kinsley Smith and Victoria Denoon who have been our amazing go-to people. And many thanks to W5's Head of Education and Public Engagement Judith Harvey and her team for hosting the BIG Event 2022 at W5.

# About BIG

BIG is a not-for-profit membership organisation – its ideas and activities are driven, developed and usually delivered by its 350 members. 300 people also belong to BIG-Chat, BIG's e-mail list – an active line of communication to exchange examples of good practice, air views, publicise events and news items and circulate job adverts in the field of STEM engagement.

The organisation's administration is carried out by a small band of tireless, dedicated and fabulous members who have volunteered to set up and run regional events. Finally, BIG charges two paid contractors to look after the members, organise larger events, support volunteers and promote BIG.

Look out for them around the Event – ask them what the Executive Committee does and how this work could benefit you.



James Piercy  
Chair



Kirsty Hayward  
Vice Chair



Helen Obee Reardon  
Treasurer



Claudia Antolini  
Secretary



Claire Price  
General Officer



Sam Ridgeway  
General Officer



Helen Nightingale  
Membership Services Manager



Ashley Kent  
Event Organiser

## Your BIG Membership

**Now you are a member of BIG you'll enjoy lots of lovely benefits, which include:**

- regular UK-wide events and training courses.
- free entry to participating science centres and museums with your membership card.
- a quarterly e-newsletter featuring the latest news and articles, written by and for BIG members.
- access to extra information and resources in the Members' Area of our website.
- inclusion in our online directory of contractors, science centres, members, and their interests.



**A:** Nothing formal has been arranged for Wednesday night. However, may we suggest checking out the Slack group for recommendations and even some discounts on great places to meet, eat and drink. See page 16 for more details.

**A:** You don't need a ticket, but you do need to be on the guest list. You can find this on the notice board at the Reception Desk. If you can't see your name on the list and think it should be, please come chat to Ashley or Helen. The dinner takes place at W5 and begins with a complimentary drinks reception from 6.45pm. For more details, see page 11.

**A:** The Best Demo Competition will take place following afternoon refreshments on Thursday 14th July, beginning at 5pm in the W5 Theatre Space. Competitors are lined up in advance, but if there is availability, there will be a notice at the Registration Desk. You will be required to provide a Risk Assessment for your demo.

**A:** Yes, please share them on Twitter using the hashtag **#BIGEvent22** or share to our Facebook page.

**A:** Everyone attending the Event is now a member of BIG and your card is in your delegate folder. If you have any questions about membership, please see Helen at the Registration Desk.

**A:** At Registration you were asked to confirm if you wanted to be on the Delegate List. If you ticked “No, don’t add me to the Delegate List,” we didn’t add you. However, all members of BIG are able to access the Members’ Area on [www.big.uk.com](http://www.big.uk.com) and search the BIG Membership Directory. If you want people to be able to find and contact you, make sure your BIG profile is up-to-date.

**A:** BIG makes every effort to choose venues that are accessible for everyone, but sometime this is not always possible. See page 16 for specific venue accessibility details.



DISCOVER **W3**

At any time during the conference, you can call Ashley Kent with your questions on 07 929 789 727.





## Wednesday 13 July

	Theatre Space	Seminar Room 1&2	Seminar Room 3&4	Lab	The Point
10.00 - 12.00	<b>W5 open – all welcome</b>				
12.15 - 1.00	<b>REGISTRATION and COFFEE/TEA/TRAYBAKES</b>				
1.00 - 1.45	<b>Welcome (Theatre Space)</b>				
1.45 - 2.00	followed by... <b>The BIG Event Mingle</b>				
2.00 - 2.30					
2.30 - 3.00					
3.00 - 3.30	<b>COFFEE/TEA/BISCUITS (Level 5 concourse)</b>				
3.30 - 4.00	<b>Shakespeare and STEMcomm</b>	<b>Cross Dis EY &amp; Primary</b>	<b>Zine making</b>	<b>PWS superheroes</b>	<b>Researchers Creativity</b>
4.00 - 4.30					
4.30 - 5.00					
5.00 - 5.30					
6.30 onwards	<b>Informal Social – check the Slack group #big</b>				

## Shakespeare and STEMComm

**Theatre Space • 3.30pm - 5.00pm**

Shakespeare's plays have been entertaining and engaging audiences for hundreds of years. And for good reason! What tips and techniques can we learn from Shakespeare to help make our STEM shows entertaining and engaging too? We'll investigate the use of pause, suspense, surprise, audience as expert, word-play, emotional content, anticipation, atmosphere and the use of scale. There'll be Shakespearean quotes, plenty of action and loads of sharing the elements that make our work... work! Feel free to bring your tips, questions and quotes (from your shows or Shakespeare's). Open to all with no restrictions and no knowledge of the bard's works is required.

*David Hall, David Hall Workshops and Shows*

## Cross Disciplinary approaches with Primary & Early years

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 3.30pm - 5.30pm**

We wish to share four interactive workshops that we offer to Primary and Early years students and their parents and carers. We aim to engage participants by using cross disciplinary approaches to connect science to arts and literature. In this workshop we will show how we embed science into local libraries through storytelling workshops and how we embed astronomy research through the creation of artwork and found poetry.

*Sadie Jones, University of Southampton  
Nuala O'Flynn University of Hertfordshire  
Dr Olivia Keenan, South East Physics Network (SEPnet)  
Dr Claudia Antolini, Royal Holloway University of London*

## Zine Making for Science Communication

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 3.30pm - 5.00pm**

Zines are small self-published magazines or pamphlets which are usually produced in small numbers and given away for free or sold for a small fee. Both finished zines and zine making activities can be used within science communication and engagement. Find out more about the possibilities of zine making, share your own experiences and make your own simple zine in this informal session.

*Hana Ayooob, Digital Event Producer*

## Prader Willi Superheroes Exhibition – the hands-on session!

**Lab • 3.30pm - 4.30pm**

With a little help from a comic book artist and model maker, scientists at the Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology have worked with Prader Willi syndrome families to co-develop an exhibition all about their super-power strengths and their everyday challenges in life, and in research. We are delighted to share that exhibition with you as part of the BIG event. In this workshop session you will learn about the making of the exhibition and get hands on designing a sci-com superhero to star in your own comic strips and 3D models.

*Sarah-Jane Judge, Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology/University of Edinburgh  
Neil Bratchpeice, Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology/University of Edinburgh  
Maria Fanourgiaki, Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology/University of Edinburgh*

## Encouraging creativity in Research

**The Point Boardroom • 3.30pm - 5.00pm**

In Sci Comm creativity is all over the place: demo shows; musicals; huge inflatable bottoms; presenters willing to think outside the box. However, in the research world, this level of creative thinking can be trickier to find.

This is a workshop for folk who work with researchers or are researchers themselves, and want to spark more creative communication ideas for their Sci Comm.

We'll look at issues involved with creative expression within academia, explore how to improve creative practice in researchers and play around with new or novel ideas because play is one of the best ways to find new ideas!

*Duncan Yellowlees, DY Training*

# Thursday 14 July

	Theatre Space	Seminar Room 1&2	Seminar Room 3&4	Lab	The Point	
9.00 - 9.30	REGISTRATION					
9.30 - 10.00	Stay online	Logic Models	STEM careers for Primary	Neurodivergent	Sci Eng outside	
10.00 - 10.30						
15 min						
10.45 - 11.30	Welcome Session (Theatre Space)					
11.30 - 12.00	COFFEE/TEA/BISCUITS (Level 5 Concourse)					
12.00 - 12.30	Adults	Outreach Rebooted	W5 Dragon from Lagan		Mentoring	
12.30 - 1.00						
1.00 - 1.30	LUNCH and Community Lunch tables (Level 5 Mezzanine)					
1.30 - 2.00						BIG AGM 1.30pm
2.00 - 2.30						
2.30 - 3.00						
3.00 - 3.30	Best Demo Comp Set-up (closed session)	Voice and body	Empowering educators		Incoming/outgoing Exec	
3.30 - 4.00						
4.00 - 4.30	COFFEE/TEA/BISCUITS (Level 5 Concourse)					
5.00 - 5.30	BEST DEMO COMPETITION					
5.30 - 6.00						
6.45 - 7.30	Drinks reception and Voting followed by Dinner approx 7.30pm					
7.30 - 10ish						

## How to stay online?

### Theatre Space • 9.30am - 10.30am

The world of online scicomm events is here to stay, but what do we need to make them sustainable, accessible and inclusive? Join this discussion to explore what tools and training we need to maintain and to keep improving online spaces that provide high quality engaging experiences for audiences.

*Sam Langford, Presenter, Trainer & Producer*  
*Hana Ayoob, Digital Event Producer*

## Evaluating impact using logic models

### Seminar Room 1&2 • 9.30am - 10.30am

Do you find it hard to plan new projects? Do you need to evaluate the impact of your projects but

don't know where to get started? Do you want to improve your funding bids?

We will talk you through a Theory of Change/Logic Model process that can help you improve your project planning and we will describe how this is being used by Northumbria University's Impact Team with researchers and by NUSTEM for evaluating the impact of their public engagement activities in schools. Bring along your project ideas and we'll help set you in the right direction with post-it notes galore!

*Lucy Moorcraft, Northumbria University*  
*Carol Davenport, Northumbria University*

## **"When I grow up I want to be a" ... STEM careers sessions for Primary School**

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 9.30am - 10.30am**

SEPnet has an extensive offer for secondary schools but is less targeted at primary school students. Over lockdown we have developed a double intervention programme focused around science careers, aimed at year 3 primary pupils (age 7-8), which was piloted in spring 2022. The aims of the programme are that children have a broader awareness of STEM careers, that they are more likely to see themselves as scientists, and that teachers feel more confident embedding STEM careers into their lessons. We will discuss the programme, the results of the pilot evaluation and the lessons we have learnt to take forward.

*Olivia Keenan, SEPnet*

*Nuala O'Flynn, University of Hertfordshire*

*Sam Weston, University of Surrey*

## **Sci Comm as a Neurodivergent in a Digital World**

**Lab • 9.30am - 10.30am**

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the landscape of science communication and informal education has shifted towards a focus on digital communication. This has been especially challenging to individuals with neurodivergent conditions such as autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). This session is aimed at science communicators who work with or would like to be more aware of neurodivergent experiences working in the field. We'll hear first hand accounts from neurodivergent individuals working in science communication and will brainstorm positive policies to enable neurodivergent individuals equal opportunities to work in an environment which better suits their mental and physical wellbeing.

*Tony Thompson, Thompson STEM Engagement*

*Dr. Rosie Cane, Thompson STEM Engagement*

## **Taking science engagement outside**

**The Point Boardroom • 9.30am - 10.30am**

As urban areas expand, being able to engage with nature and science outdoors is ever more valuable. We will share the learning and experiences from "Nature Lab", a new science club for families, which utilises the grounds and outdoor spaces surrounding the Science Oxford Centre. From exploring biodiversity of ponds, to bringing technology to the woodlands, we will share a range of ideas and look at what has

worked and what we'd recommend avoiding. This will be a chance to share ideas and experiences of science engagement in outdoor settings, including both small and large, wild or artificial green spaces.

*Alice Draper, Science Oxford*

*Emily Fisk, Science Oxford*

## **Josh Award 2022**

The Josh Award is an award established to recognise and support up-and-coming talent in science communication. The Award is inspired and named in memory of Josh Phillips who was the first Science Communication Officer at the Museum of Science and Industry, and Chair of BIG at the time of his passing.

The Award recognises a defining moment in the career of a science communicator; a person who is a practicing scientist or someone who has chosen science communication as their profession.



The 2022 winner, Eva Ernstzen, will receive her award at the BIG Welcome. Find out how you can apply for the Josh Award in 2024 here:

[www.big.uk.com/josh](http://www.big.uk.com/josh)

## **Social Sci-comm for Adults**

**Theatre Space • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Science communication takes many forms – including, in some cases, adult social events that take place in the evening or during times and in venues usually reserved more for entertainment and socialising than learning about science. We'll gather stories of some events which have taken on this audience, including MathsJam – a monthly pub social for mathematicians – as well as comedy shows, theatre events and science centre 'Lates', like those which take place at our host venue W5. We'll discuss the benefits and challenges of these kinds of events, as well as how it sits within the broader world of sci-comm.

*Katie Steckles, MathsJam*

*Hana Ayooob, Science Communicator & Events Producer*

*Matt Craig, The Odyssey Trust*



## Outreach rebooted – how has Covid changed the way we do outreach?

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Imagine approaching a school in January 2020 and proposing a remote Zoom session or assembly using a webcam... but have the possibilities for outreach actually improved?

Join us for an open discussion sharing the experience of several organisations, some working online already, all learning new approaches to doing things better including: combining streaming sessions with object handling; analysis of schools access needs and development of guidance; and using a blended approach of digital content with remote sessions.

Join us to share what worked, what didn't, with any practical tips, tricks and kit ideas in this hybrid session!

*Paul Henderson, Lanchester Interactive Archive  
Jenny Shufflebotham, Thinktank*

*Josh Doyle, I'm A Scientist*

*Jonathan Sanderson, NUSTEM*

## The Dragon from the Lagan

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Following an extensive Co-Design process funded by the Community Foundation NI, W5 identified Early Years as the target group and Sure Start as a partner organization to work with on a social intervention aimed at disadvantaged families.

As a result, a book entitled "The Dragon from the Lagan" was created in partnership with a local artist and the book was used as a literacy and STEM intervention. This session is a deep dive into the processes around co-creation and embedding of STEM.

*Elaine Steele, W5*

## A BIG Mentoring Scheme

**The Point Boardroom • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

BIG ran a pilot Mentoring Scheme in 2021. Seven mentors participated and mentored 36 mentees. Some of the participants will share their thoughts on the programme and we'll chat about what we learned, what we'd change and discuss if BIG should implement a more permanent mentoring scheme for its Members (that's you!).

*Ashley Kent, BIG Event Coordinator*

*Lucy Moorcraft, Northumbria University*

## COMMunity: An Introduction

**Level 5 mezzanine • 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

COMMunity is a researcher network with the goal of supporting you in your Comm's journey.

Many communication skills, such as presenting or blogging, take time to learn; with repetition and practice being core to improvement. A one off workshop may provide ideas or inspiration, but the real work happens as you put things into practice.

This is where COMMunity comes in. A peer to peer learning space for anyone interested in communicating research to anyone else. We have an online forum space with challenges, tips, and plans to help you become a better and more confident communicator. Come along to learn more about us.

*Duncan Yellowlees, COMMunity  
Mathew Kemp, Geologise theatre*

## PET network

**Level 5 mezzanine • 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

The Science Communication and Public Engagement Trainers Network is a pilot project hosted by BIG and NCCPE. The network has been formed by a group of people involved in training others to develop skills in science communication and public engagement and is open to those who deliver, design and commission training, including new and experienced practitioners, people working for training organisations, people whose roles have a broad remit that includes training, and freelancers.

The network aims to facilitate sharing, learning and practice, address problems with the changing landscape in PE, produce guidance for commissioners, develop an evidence base for training and build legitimacy for PE training through lobbying.

*Katie Steckles, MathsJam  
Helen Featherstone, Bath University*

## BIG AGM

**Theatre Space • 1.30pm - 2.30pm**

BIG STEM Communicators Network operates as a not-for-profit organisation of members – a club, effectively; everything it does is to support the development of its Members and the science communication profession in the UK and beyond.

BIG's Annual General Meeting is held annually and gives Members the opportunity to contribute; to understand what the Executive Committee has done for the Membership over the last year; to help shape the future of BIG.

This is also when the Executive Committee election results are announced and we'll congratulate this year's Beetlestone Award Winner, Karen Davies of The Science Museum Group.

Everyone is welcome.

## Beetlestone Award

**Theatre Space • after the AGM**

Professor John Beetlestone (1932-2017) was the founding director of Techniquist, the UK's first purpose-built science discovery centre. Set up in his honour, the Beetlestone Award\* recognises "leadership and legacy in the field of informal science learning" and carries a personal cash prize of £500; an additional bursary to facilitate dissemination of the holder's vision and legacy and free registration for the next BIG conference.

The 2022 winner of this prestigious award is Karen Davies of The Science Museum Group.

\*This Award has been made possible through the generosity of The Beetlestone family and John's former colleagues and friends. Keep an eye on the BIG website and your inboxes to find out how to apply in 2023.



## Best Demo Prep

**Theatre Space • 2.30pm - 4.00pm**

This is a closed session, just for Best Demo competitors to set up and for helpers to help. Strictly no peeking in here, please. If you're competing, you need to drop in even if you don't need any set up time.

*Sam Langford, Presenter, Trainer & Producer*

## Voice and Body for STEMCommers

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 2.30pm - 4.00pm**

How can we prepare our voices and bodies for work, so that we can use them safely and get the most from them – not just using our full expressive range, but also developing resilience and

endurance, so that we don't lose our voices or hurt our throats?

Learn and practice tips and exercises from the theatre world to help you physically and mentally prepare for your work, to monitor your body and voice, to avoid injuries, and craft your performances with greater expressive range.

Feel free to bring questions or tricky bits from your shows to practice. Open to all abilities.

*David Hall, David Hall Workshops and Shows*

## Empowering Educators: The Glasgow Science Centre Approach

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

In the uncertainty of the pandemic, Glasgow Science Centre's Learning Lab was born. The programme engaged 670 teachers and 17,265 pupils in the 2021/2022 academic year, and continues to expand.

Learners explore hands-on activities, meet inspirational professionals and develop scientific thinking skills. Crucially for educators, it's a programme of activities supporting curriculum outcomes, while inspiring confidence in their own abilities to deliver STEM in the classroom.

Take a look behind-the-scenes at the philosophy, techniques and resources we incorporate to empower teachers. Learn what works, what doesn't, and our winning formula for generating excitement around STEM learning.

*Amy Childs, Glasgow Science Centre*

*Abi Jeorrett, Glasgow Science Centre*

## Meeting for the Incoming and Outgoing Executive Committee

**The Point Boardroom • 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

This is a session for the newly elected Executive Committee and the outgoing Exec. It's a mini-handover and only required for the Exec members.

## Thursday evening festivities

### The Best Demo Competition

**Theatre Space • 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

**BIG members line up to compete for one of the least valuable and yet most highly prized honours in UK science communication.**

The Best Demo Competition presents a light-hearted look at some of the demos you think are worth sharing with your peers. There's no money to win, it's not an Oscar, it's not a Nobel Prize. But within BIG we think it's worth winning.

Each competitor has no more than three minutes (and a warm and welcoming audience) to demonstrate the maths, science, engineering and so on that really lights their fire and they just can't help showing off to their peers. The audience decides. If you're in the audience, don't take it too seriously. If you're competing, take it seriously, but not too seriously.

### Previous Best Demo winners...

1997	Wendy Sadler
1998	Derek Fish
1999	Chris Norton
2000	Gillian Pearson
2001	Gillian Pearson
2002	James Piercy
2003	Suse Brumpton
2004	Rob Copeland & Izi Mohammed
2005	Ben Craven
2006	Marcus Weber
2007	Ben Craven
2008	Diane Gray
2009	Ian Simmons
2010	Farrah Nazir
2011	Brian Macken
2012	Karl Byrne
2013	Marcin Chydzinski & Błażej Dawidson
2014	Stephen Williams
2015	Matt Pritchard
2016	Tobias Happe
2017	Brian Mackenwells
2018	Matthias Salewski
2019	Jemma Nauman
2020	
2021	Phil Bell-Young

### Best Demo Voting and Drinks Reception

**W5 Climbit Atrium • 6.45pm - 7.30pm**

A chance to enjoy a drink in the Exhibition. Skip it to freshen up before dinner if you like, but make sure you are back at W5 before 7.30pm so you can cast your vote for the Best Demo winner.

### Dinner (and the Best Demo winner announcement!)

**W5 In Our Nature Gallery • 7.30 - 11.00pm**

Enjoy dinner in one of the new zones created as part of the Inspiring Science Project. Do you have a ticket to dinner? See page 4.

# Friday 15 July

	Theatre Space	Seminar Room 1&2	Seminar Room 3&4	Lab	The Point			
9.00 - 9.30	REGISTRATION							
9.30 - 10.00	Informal learning spaces	Reading Sparks	Gamification STEM	Words we love to hate	Inclusive Sci Eng			
10.00 - 10.30								
15 min								
10.45 - 11.00	Welcome Session and Keynote (Theatre Space)							
11.00 - 11.30								
11.30 - 12.00	COFFEE/TEA/BISCUITS (Level 5 concourse)							
12.00 - 12.30	Anti-racism	TikTok	Communicating failure		Interview Q			
12.30 - 1.00								
1.00 - 1.30	LUNCH (Level 5 mezzanine)							
1.30 - 2.00								
2.00 - 2.30	CAREERS	Science and sorcery		W5 Geo Dome (exhb space)	#IAR			
2.30 - 3.00								
3.00 - 3.30								
3.30 - 4.00	COFFEE/TEA/BISCUITS (Level 5 concourse)							
4.00 - 4.30	Queering Sci Comm	FUNDING			W5 Game Changers			
4.30 - 5.00								
5.00 - 5.30	ISTATOY & Plenary							
5.30 - 6.00								
6.00pm onwards	The designated pub for lingerers is posted at the Registration Desk & Slack							

## Bringing scientists (and their research) into informal learning spaces

### Theatre Space • 9.30am - 10.30am

Public engagement is an ever-increasing responsibility for researchers, particularly those with public funding, but what can we do to support researcher access to informal learning spaces and the audiences they engage with? Join us to hear about the “Live Lab” project, which has brought local scientists into the Science Oxford Centre to facilitate practical activity and discussion – what have been the biggest hurdles

and successes so far? We will also share the opportunity for researchers, public engagement individuals and those who manage informal learning spaces to share their own experiences and perspectives.

*Emily Fisk, Science Oxford*  
*Alice Draper, Science Oxford*

## Reading Sparks – building science confidence through creative reading

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 9.30am - 10.30am**

With funding from Arts Council England and Science and Technology Facilities Council, The Reading Agency is working in partnership with 11 library authorities to test out ways in which creative reading and STEM can come together to engage families in communities living with deprivation. In this session we will explore how we have worked with libraries to co-create our range of resources which include reading and science boxes for loan, STEM reading lists and events, and tools to engage youth groups. We will also look into the value of working in partnership with libraries to target audience reach.

*Liz Jeavans, The Reading Agency*

*Sarah Mears, Libraries Connected*

*Carol Davenport, NUSTEM*

*Patricia Garrett, Portsmouth Library and Archives*

## Gamification of STEM

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 9.30am - 10.30am**

Learning through games has been standard practice in education for a long time now and we have all likely participated, or even delivered, some form of game, designed to teach or raise awareness in STEM. However, the effectiveness of gamification can sometimes be hit and miss, with some games being a bit dull, drawn-out, or convoluted, whilst others are exciting but struggle to convey information. We will discuss methods of gamification in STEM and shed light on a best practice for gaming up in science, and share plenty of successes and failures, and get hands-on with some examples.

*Phil Bell-Young, University of Hull*

*Kelly Stanford, University of Hull*

## The words we love to hate

**Lab • 9.30am - 10.30am**

After two years longing to share a space with others in safety and to get people excited about science, this session offers a chance to reflect on the power of language, deconstruct the words we take for granted, and inform our future practice. We will create found poetry ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Found\\_poetry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Found_poetry)) out of science communication texts (grant proposals, research papers, news articles etc) and maybe even share our poetry and reflections. Feel free to bring your own text! We will collate the poetry

results to remind ourselves of the words we want to keep carrying with us in the future.

*Claudia Antolini, Royal Holloway University of London*

## Inclusive Science Engagement Swapshop

**The Point Boardroom • 9.30am - 10.30am**

Earlier this year several Members of BIG received micro-grants to help them develop their inclusive science engagement. Come to this session to find out what they did and what they'll do next. If you have any great suggestions, bring them along to this session and we'll compile them into a short document to share with other BIG members. Thank you to the British Science Association for their funding and support.

*Helen Featherstone, University of Bath*

*Jessica Moon, Centre of the Cell, Queen Mary*

*University of London*

*Sarah Cosgriff, Freelance*

*Leonie Briggs, Amazelab*

## Dr Maria Augusta Arruda – Diversity and Inclusion keynote

**Theatre Space • 10.45am - 11.30am**

Dr Maria Arruda is the Head of Researcher Development at the University of Nottingham. Originally from Brazil, Dr Arruda gained her PhD in pharmacology in 2002 and has been at the University of Nottingham since 2011. In addition to her work as a scientist, she is also the Chair of the University's BAME Staff Network, an advisor to Black Women in Science Network and an advisor to For Women in Science. Dr Arruda joins BIG to share her thoughts on how we, as science communicators, can be actively anti-racist and what we can do to increase the diversity and inclusion in our sector.

*Dr Maria Augusta Arruda, University of Nottingham*

## Anti-Racism in STEM – what can we do?

**Theatre Space • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Movements like Black Lives Matter have highlighted the institutional racism in our society and in our education systems. It is not enough to not be racist, we need to be actively anti-racist. We will host this discussion session to share ideas and best practice for implementing anti-racism in STEM engagement. We aren't experts in this area, but we are passionate about working together to change the current structures.

*Olivia Keenan, SEPnet*

*Claudia Antolini, Royal Holloway University of London*

*Dr Maria Augusta Arruda, University of Nottingham*



## TikTok to TV: science presenting on screen

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

This discussion session will focus on how to adapt your presenting style from live and in-person to working with a camera. Amongst other things, we'll talk about keeping your eyes on the lens, knowing your shots, using a teleprompter, and science on screen.

We're still learning, and we really want to hear about your thoughts and experiences, too!

Please note: we know a lot of scicomms wear multiple hats, and that often means the people in front of the camera are behind it, too. We'll be focusing on presenting, but are happy for discussion to venture into production.

*Hannah-Rose Ford, Science and Industry Museum*  
*Sarah Cosgriff, Freelance*

## Communicating failure

**Seminar Room 3&4 • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

When things break it is surprisingly hard to communicate what broke and how, let alone communicate what would be the most useful information for the person who is going to fix it. This can cause aggravation on all sides. Join us to discuss this problem and possibly ways of easing it. We'll also have some practical exercises, too.

*Dave Ansell, Sciansell*  
*Ian Russell, Interactive Science Ltd*

## What makes the perfect interview question and other recruitment dilemmas

**The Point Boardroom • 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

It feels fantastic when you secure funding to add a new member to your scicomm team, or maybe sad when a beloved team member decides to move on. But what happens next when you've got a new vacancy and it is your task to fill it?

During this session, we will share tips and tricks on writing job descriptions, figuring out job grading and what makes a great interview question. We will also explore and discuss inclusive practice throughout the recruitment process.

*Kirsty Hayward, Success4All*

## Careers: How did we end up here?

**Theatre Space • 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

A friend in sci-comm once said that "careers are things that happen in retrospect". Come along to this session to find out how a bunch of BIG folk got to where they are now and what on earth it is they actually do. Our panel will share stories, skills and maybe even secrets and answer your questions on careers in STEM communication and public engagement.

*Naomi Foster, North Pennines AONB Partnership*  
*Katie Steckles, MathsJam*  
*Dave Ansell, Sciansell*  
*James Piercy, John Innes Centre/Freelance*

## Science, Sorcery and Role Playing Games

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

It's time to roll the dice and dive into the world of Dungeons and Dragons and SciComm. In this session, you will have the chance to take part in a quickfire one shot game, hosted by a Dungeon Master from our team. Discover the joy of role playing games and see how you can learn a little bit about science along the way.

This session is split into two 45 minute chunks, and will be first come first served participation.

Can't be there in-person? Join in online with a 1 hour livestreamed game happening at the same time! This is also first come first served, sign up at the following link <https://forms.gle/ZCyyHFLPpTrfYJg7>

*Sam Langford, Presenter, Trainer & Producer*  
*Dagmar der Weduwen, Science and Sorcery*  
*Emily Bates, RPGeeks*  
*Ali Jennings, RPGeeks*

## Geodesic Dome building

**Exhibition floor • 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Fancy a change of pace? How about a construction challenge? Take some time out from your day with some new friends to build a 4m geodesic dome out of plastic tubes and rings. Take the competition seriously and race against the other team or chill from inside the dome and enjoy the view as you chat about the wonderful things you have learned during the BIG Event.

*The Learning and Engagement Team from W5*

## #IamRemarkable Workshop

**The Point Boardroom • 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

Do you suffer from Imposter Syndrome? Do you find it difficult (even awkward) to talk about yourself?

#IamRemarkable is a Google initiative empowering women and underrepresented groups to speak openly about their accomplishments in the workplace and beyond, thereby breaking modesty norms and glass ceilings.

This workshop will also help “people of majority” become more aware of the gender and cultural norms that keep certain kinds of people from progressing and having their voices heard.

Come to this workshop to feel more confident in yourself and learn how to better advocate for others.

*Ashley Kent, #IamRemarkable facilitator*

## Queering Science Communication – The Follow Up

**Theatre Space • 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

In 2021 we hosted a session exploring the importance of queering science communication, the power of building community, and what inclusive practice, events and spaces look like. At a time when the LGBTQIA+ community is under attack, and with STEM weaponised in this attack, how do we as science communicators create safe places, tell stories to celebrate this community and help shape the future of society? A BIG question, for the BIG Event.

As we make our way back into physical and hybrid spaces, we want to continue this conversation and bring together our community to discuss ideas and actions to employ in their own practice.

*Sarah Cosgriff, Freelance Science Communicator*

*Sam Langford, Presenter, Trainer & Producer*

## Funding 101

**Seminar Room 1&2 • 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Daunted by the prospect of getting grant funding for your project? Boggled by outputs, outcomes and impact?

In this session, we will explore how to begin planning a funding application. What should you look out for when choosing a funder? And what are funders looking for in your application?

Bring your questions and stories to share with us and we will discuss it together. Hopefully, you will leave this session more confident and packed with ideas ready for your next application.

*Kirsty Hayward, Success4All*

## W5 Game Changers

**The Point Boardroom • 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Discover the joy and simplicity of MakeCode Arcade, a browser-based coding platform, as you are led through a Key Stage 2 workshop designed to support game creation. Kitronik ARCADE handsets will be on-hand to test the fabulous game you create.

*Matty Davidson, W5*

## I Saw This and Thought of You

**Theatre Space • 5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Back for the 10th year running, the session to end all sessions (because it's the last session): I Saw This And Thought Of You.

BIG's equivalent of an open mic slot, this is where all the little things can be raised. Found a Thing you think everyone should know? Tell us here. Want to share your love of all things plier-related? You could do that. Have a pithy insight? Want to raise a question?

Newcomer or old hand, there's an up-to-2-minute slot with your name on it. Sign up throughout the Event.

*Duncan Yellowlees, DY Training*

### BIG Code of conduct

We want the BIG Event to be a welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, ethnicity or religion. BIG does not tolerate harassment of any form (e.g. violent behaviour, display of inappropriate content, discrimination, unwelcome physical contact and so forth).

Everyone involved with BIG's activities is subject to the Code of Conduct. Failing to comply with this Code of Conduct could result in the immediate exclusion from any of the programmed events without a refund.

We do not intend formal procedures to replace the discussion between BIG members. If you would prefer to discuss someone's behaviour aimed at you or someone else directly with them, please do. Alternatively, please approach a member of the Executive Committee to discuss your concerns or report an incident.

Please take a minute to read the full version of the Code of Conduct and reporting procedures, which can be found here:

[www.big.uk.com/Code-of-Conduct](http://www.big.uk.com/Code-of-Conduct)

Physical copies are available at the Reception Desk.

### Accessibility

**W5, The Odyssey, 2 Queens Quay, Belfast BT3 9QQ**

W5 is fully wheelchair accessible. W5 also has disabled parking spaces, low level counters at the ticket desk and gift shop, accessible toilets and lifts and an induction loop in the Theatre Space as well as at the ticket desk. There is also a Quiet Room and assistance dogs are welcome. If you have any questions, see

<https://w5online.co.uk/plan-your-visit/accessibility> or email at [info@w5online.co.uk](mailto:info@w5online.co.uk).

### Scicommchat Slack, #big

[bit.ly/scicommslack](https://bit.ly/scicommslack)

scicommchat is a Slack for people who work in STEM communication and like to have a chat. There is a huge crossover of people from the industry here chatting and sharing ideas and resources. There is a channel for almost everything (including #demo-chat, #code, #cpdandprofevents) and BIG's channel is #big. This is where lots of chat about the programme and social events will take place. It's not essential to join, but it will be very useful.

As a 2022 BIG Event delegate, you have been sent an invitation to join scicommchat. Once you are in, join #big and you're all set! If you have yet to join, visit [bit.ly/scicommslack](https://bit.ly/scicommslack) and enter your email address to get an invite.

### Did you know that BIG programmes Skills Days and Online Socials throughout the year?

The BIG Event is our biggest event of the year, but it's only one of a handful we organise for BIG members. There is also the Little Event, a one-day training session for people who are new to STEM communication, which is usually held in January. But we also programme Skills Days throughout the year. These one-day sessions vary in topic and location, so there is something for everyone. BIG is always looking for new speakers, ideas and venues. See more at <https://www.big.uk.com/whatwedo> or get in touch with Ashley Kent [event@big.uk.com](mailto:event@big.uk.com) if you have an idea for a Skills Day or BIG Event venue.

#### The Next Online Social

**Thursday, 28th July • 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

BIG's Sci Comm Socials are a semi-regular social gathering of people who work in, or are interested in, science communication, outreach or public engagement in STEM. The sessions happen on Zoom, run approximately every few months and each session is hosted by a different group/person/organisation. These are primarily social in nature, but it's also a chance to share news, ideas, upcoming events and thoughts on STEM communication.

To sign up for the Zoom link, visit <https://www.big.uk.com/Socials/>