

# PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024

Communicating Science across Cultures: Approaches, Perspectives and Challenges

17-19<sup>th</sup>, October, 2024

Suzhou, China



## About the Symposium

The world is a global community that shares a common destiny for humanity. However, growing polarization and antagonism in today's world pose significant challenges to science communication. To address challenges such as artificial intelligence, misinformation, technological controversies, environment and health, and cultural variation, we invite you to exchange thoughts and effective practices on local or international science communication. We aim to explore and expand communication methods, broaden perspectives, and strengthen our sense of responsibility. In this way, we expect to bridge differences, alleviate confrontation, and rebuild spaces and platforms for fruitful dialogue among all parties involved in science communication.

Suzhou, a city mingling innovation and classics, is ready for the refreshing and sparkling conversation to renew our science communication community from October 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This time is also the most beautiful season in Suzhou Gardens.

The PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024 is organized by Soochow University (SU, Suzhou), jointly organized by the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC, Hefei). The Symposium has received support from the Chinese Society for Science and Technology Journalism, the Suzhou Association of Science and Technology, the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) at the Australian National University, journals of *Public Understanding of Science*, *Science Communication* and *Journal of Science Communication*.



## Call for Submissions (Deadline: February 29<sup>th</sup> 2024)

The Symposium will be held in English. We warmly encourage diverse forms of participation, such as research articles, practical case studies, and popular science performances. If you are interested in contributing, we welcome proposals within the listed themes of 'Communicating Science across Cultures' in under 500 words. Contributions will be reviewed and the selected ones will be scheduled for onsite presentation. Some of the participants in the plenary roundtables will be selected based on the quality of the abstracts received.

### 1. Plenary Special Roundtable

**Culture of PCST:** insight dialogue about the past and future in promoting global science communication [Chair: Jennifer Metcalfe]

### 2. Plenary Roundtable A & Parallel Session 1

**Building science into creative cultures** (including science culture, festivals, art, fiction, performance, etc) [Chair: Massimiano Bucchi]

### 3. Plenary Roundtable B & Parallel Session 2

**Communicating science for cohesive cultures** (AI, big data, misinformation, environmental and health communication) [Chair: Hepeng Jia]

### 4. Plenary Roundtable C & Parallel Session 3

**Supporting science communicators for professional cultures** (training, education, journalism, museum, etc) [Chair: Marina Joubert]

### 5. Other Parallel Sessions [Chair: Anne Dijkstra]

Other contributions related to the theme of "communicating science across cultures are welcome as well. The specific topics for other parallel forums will be decided based on the submitted contributions.

6. **Academic Publishing Workshop** [co-organized by *Public Understanding of Science* and *Science Communication*]

The workshop, which Hans Peter Peters and Janet Yang will host, focuses on how the top journals select the manuscripts that they publish. We will provide valuable and targeted advice to participants. To apply for the workshop, interested individuals are required to submit their abstract for screening. Then a full paper is required one month before the workshop. Following on-site presentations, participants will receive valuable feedback and comments from both the journal editors.

7. **Science performance\*** (possibly arranged in Suzhou gardens)

For the proposer of **science performance**, please communicate directly with Prof. Guoyan Wang ([gywang@suda.edu.cn](mailto:gywang@suda.edu.cn))

## Time table

<b>Call for proposal webpage release</b>	<b>December, 2023</b>
<b>Proposal submission deadline</b>	<b>February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>Notify submission results</b>	<b>March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>Early Bird deadline</b>	<b>April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>Rolling Registration deadline</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</b>

## Highlights

● **Social event: Science in Gardens**

(Reading concert in one of the classical Chinese gardens in Suzhou)

Person in Charge: Massimiano Bucchi and Guoyan Wang

● **Insight Roundtable**

**Culture of PCST: the Past and Future in Promoting Global Science Communication**

Person in Charge: Jennifer Metcalfe

● **Academic Publishing Workshop**

Person in Charge: Hans Peter Peters from *Public Understanding of Science* and Janet Yang from *Science Communication*

## Registration

To attend the Symposium, please visit the website <http://pcstsuzhou.org/>

Then register and submit a contribution here:

<http://pcstsuzhou.org/registration.html#REGISTRATION>

If co-authors are involved in the submission, please provide their information in the attached Word file.

The Symposium has a limited capacity for participants.

## Venue

To be confirmed (A four-star level hotel in Suzhou)

## Fees

### **Early Bird: until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

PCST members and students: 1200 RMB or 180 US Dollars, incl. VAT

Non-members: 1800 RMB or 260 US Dollars, including VAT

### **Rolling Registration: until May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

PCST members and students: 1800 RMB or 260 US Dollars, incl. VAT

Non-members: 2400 RMB or 340 US incl. VAT

The fees will cover tuition, symposium materials, lunches in the cafeteria and social events. Participants will be responsible for covering their travel, accommodation and local transportation.

## Organising Committee

**Anne M. Dijkstra**, University of Twente, Co-Chair of PCST External Relations Committee, PCST life member

**Guoyan Wang**, PCST Scientific Committee Member, Director of the Science Communication Center at Soochow University, local organizer

**Hepeng Jia**, Deputy Director of the Science Communication Center at Soochow University, local organizer

**Jennifer Metcalfe**, Guest Professor at Soochow University; Visiting Fellow at Australian National University; life member and former president of PCST

**Marina Joubert**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, PCST life member

**Marlit Hayslett**, Hayslett Consulting, Co-Chair of PCST External Relations  
Committee

**Massimiano Bucchi**, University of Trento, PCST life member

**Rongting Zhou**, Dean of the Department of Science Communication at  
University of Science and Technology of China

**Xuan Liu**, National Academy of Innovation Strategy of China

## Contact us

**Email:** [PCST2024@163.com](mailto:PCST2024@163.com)

**Facebook:** Science Communication Research Team at Soochow University

## About Soochow University

Soochow University is located in the historical and cultural city of Suzhou, often called a "heaven on earth". Suzhou enjoys convenient transportation, with only a half-hour high-speed train ride from Shanghai. Recognized as one of mainland China's top 20 universities, the university has been included into several state funding programs aiming to build the world leaders in higher education and S&T innovation. The Science Communication Center at Soochow University is composed of a team of 12 dedicated full-time faculty members and has harvested an amazing amount of top journal papers, research grants and prestigious awards. Professor Guoyan Wang and Professor Hepeng Jia are the founding leaders of the center.

