Workshop: Presenting at a Conference

Along with academic journals, conferences are one of the main ways through which researchers share ideas and new developments. They also provide a useful platform for clarifying ideas and understanding related concepts. Often conference participants are faced with the challenge of how to translate a research topic from the written to the oral medium, i.e. how to compress a substantial research paper into a short talk. While written material can be reread, oral material cannot be re-heard. Therefore it is important that both the delivery and volume of material are appropriate to the given setting and that the language used communicates well orally. The main aim of this practical workshop is to address such challenges and to promote an understanding of how persuasive presentations are delivered. During the workshop participants will have the opportunity to give a 5-minute presentation on their own research topic, which will subsequently be refined using both peer and instructor feedback. Presentation skills covered include structuring a presentation, signposting, handling questions, rhetorical techniques, as well as improving one’s overall fluency. Participants will benefit from intensive interaction with other participants and on the instructor’s own experience presenting at conferences.

Aims:
- to identify and avoid traditional pitfalls in oral presentations
- to implement appropriate tools for the oral medium, while carefully aligning structure, design and information content
- to improve accuracy, sophistication and clarity
- to understand the strengths (and potential weaknesses) of one’s personal presentation style

Topics:
- Stage presence
- Signposting/transitional language
- Intonation and pitch
- Non-verbal communication
- Handling difficult situations e.g. during Q & A sessions

Target audience: PhD Students and Postdocs

• Date: Friday, September 29th 2017, 10:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.
• Where: University of Rostock - further information after registration
• Trainer: Lorraine Mannion
• Language: English
• Participants: 12
• Participation fee: 67€