

Astrobiology and Science Communication: The Search for Life beyond Earth

Overview

This course is designed to bring together students and researchers in the fields of Earth Sciences, Biology, Physics and the Space Sciences to raise awareness of new directions in the field of Astrobiology in India, combined with a practical course in science communication skills. The training in science communication does not require expertise or research interests in Astrobiology.

The lectures in Astrobiology will discuss not only the latest discoveries at the cutting edge of this fast-moving field of research, but also the key methodologies and analytical techniques employed.

This practical training is designed to empower the participants to disseminate the importance of science beyond the academic community and to stimulate public engagement with the science in India.

The course will deliver training on clear and effective science communication, which is a key transferable skill, and enormously beneficial to the careers of the individuals involved. Improved structuring, language and writing skills are valuable for improving the construction of research papers and other academic output, as well as persuasive research proposals with a much higher chance of being successfully awarded funding. Engaging and confident public speaking is also vital for delivering national and international conference presentations and seminars.

Modules	Astrobiology and Science Communication : July 22 – July 26
You Should Attend If...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You are a student or researcher in the fields of Earth Sciences, Biology, Physics or the Space Sciences interested in learning about new directions in the field of Astrobiology in India. Scientists, researchers and teachers from colleges, research institutes and universities across India as well as undergraduate and graduate students are welcome.▪ You are interested in honing your science communication skills so that you are able to disseminate the importance of your research beyond the academic community and to stimulate public engagement with science. This training in science communication does not require expertise or research interests in Astrobiology.
Fees	The participation fees for taking the course is as follows: Student participants: INR 1,000/- (refundable caution money) Academics, Researchers and Teachers : INR 5,000/- The above fee includes all instructional materials for tutorials and assignments. The participants will be provided with accommodation on payment basis.

The Faculty



Prof. Lewis Dartnell

(www.lewisdartnell.com) is an internationally-recognised Astrobiology researcher and science communicator and Professor at the University of Westminster, UK. Prof. Dartnell's research focuses on how hardy microbial life, and signs of its existence, might survive the intense cosmic radiation on the surface of Mars. His work is deeply connected to the European Space Agency's next-generation Mars rover, ExoMars, which will launch in 2020 specifically to look for signs of past or present microbial life in the Martian surface. Prof. Dartnell is a prolific science communicator, writing numerous science articles in newspapers and magazines (including The Guardian, New York Times, and New Scientist), and is regularly interviewed on radio and TV news about science and technology. He provides consultation for many TV documentaries and film producers and has appeared in BBC shows, National Geographic, Discovery and History channels. He has published several successful popular science books, including 'The Knowledge: How to Rebuild our World from Scratch' (www.the-knowledge.org), an international best-seller.



Dr. Sujata Ray is an Associate

Professor of Earth Sciences at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata. Her research focuses on human exposure to xenobiotic chemicals and epidemiology.



Dr. Punyasloke Bhadury

is a Professor and SwarnaJayanti Fellow in the Biological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science Education

and Research Kolkata and is currently Head of the newly established interdisciplinary centre of IISER Kolkata, Centre for Climate and Environmental Studies. His research interests are in the area of biogeochemical cycling of carbon, nitrogen and arsenic including from extreme environments such as deep-sea and subsurface aquifers.

Course Co-ordinator

Dr Sujata Ray

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