

# JAPAN SCICOM FORUM 2023

At **OIST** (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology),  
Okinawa, Japan

Tue., 21<sup>st</sup> November ▶ Wed., 22<sup>nd</sup>



#jsf23 [www.japansci.com](http://www.japansci.com)

Japan SciCom Forum (JSF) is an organisation for individuals involved in science communication and outreach from Japan, with a global focus. Its aim is to establish a professional network and identity, exchange information, and enhance the international and English-language initiatives of Japanese research and higher education institutions.

JSF hosts an annual conference, bimonthly online meetup called 'Socials', internships, and maintains a mailing list with over 300 members. Four annual conferences were held and attended by press officers, researchers and students from across Japan, with some international participants from the region. The fifth edition of the conference is organised by a team of seven members and supported by volunteers and OIST staff.

**Discuss on Twitter: [#jsf23](https://twitter.com/jsf23)**

**Join the JSF mailing list on [Google Groups](#)**

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## NOTICE

Please note that the proceedings of the conference will be documented through both video recording and photography. The captured media may subsequently be made available on various platforms, including YouTube, social media channels, and the official website of the Japan SciCom Forum.

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding this, we kindly request that you reach out to the event organisers.

We also wish to emphasise the importance of respecting the privacy and rights of our speakers and participants. As such, we ask that you refrain from capturing screenshots or sharing images publicly without obtaining explicit permission from the individuals concerned. Your understanding and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE (All times Japan Standard Time: JST, UTC+09)

DAY 1 (NOV 21) P3~P7	
14:30-18:30 ( <a href="#">Find your local start time</a> )	
14:30 - 14:45	<b>Welcome and housekeeping</b>
14:45 - 15:15	<b>Keynote</b>  The story of science: valuing specialist communications in a technical world - by Ali Bailey, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, The Francis Crick Institute, London.
15:15 - 15:30	<b>Keynote Q&amp;A</b>  (Group photo will be taken before the coffee break)
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 - 16:05	<b>Workshop preparation</b>
16:05 - 17:05	<b>Workshops (2 in parallel)</b>  <b>Workshop 1</b> Global to Local Science Communication - by Kelly Blumenthal, Deputy Director, IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach  <b>Workshop 2</b> The Art and Science of Communicating Research through Podcasting - by Andrew MacIntosh, Associate Professor, Kyoto University
17:05 - 17:10	<b>Flash talk preparation</b>
17:10 - 17:55	<b>Flash talks</b>  1. <b>Amanda Mathieson</b> , Education and Public Engagement Manager, University College Dublin - <b>Designing STEM Escape Rooms for Public Engagement</b>  2. <b>Dania Alkhatib</b> , PhD Student, Kyushu University - <b>Collaborative Approaches for Cancer Control: Bridging the Gap Between Science and Society</b>  3. <b>Aileen Cooney</b> , PhD Student, Tokyo Institute of Technology / Imperial College London - <b>SciCom and Society: The Role of Creative Writing</b>  4. <b>Euan McKay</b> , Project Associate Professor, Kobe University - <b>Building community with the Japan SciCom Forum socials</b>  5. <b>Jonas Fischer</b> , Coordinator for Visiting Programs, OIST - <b>Visiting Programs: Sparking Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Outreach</b>  6. <b>Charlotte Valk</b> , JFS Intern/Graduate Student, Utrecht University - <b>Comparative Analysis in Science Communication - The wants and the needs of the Japan SciCom community</b>
17:55 - 18:00	<b>Concluding remarks</b>
18:30 - 21:00	<b>Networking dinner</b>

DAY 2 (NOV 22) P7~P16	
09:00-12:00 ( <a href="#">Find your local start time</a> )	
09:00 - 09:10	<b>Welcome and housekeeping</b>
09:10 - 10:00	<b>Panel discussion</b>
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:30 - 10:35	<b>Workshop preparation</b>
10:35 - 11:35	<b>Workshops (2 in parallel)</b>  <b>Workshop 3</b> Beyond the Translation, Beyond the Norm: Unravelling the Essence of International PR - by Rina Matsuki and Grace Kalii, Osaka Metropolitan University  <b>Workshop 4</b> Illustrate to Educate: Simplifying Science through Art and Storytelling - by Nikitaa Sivaakumar, Founder-Director, Wonder Yonder Research and Design Pvt Ltd.
11:35 - 11:40	<b>Leeway time</b>
11:40 - 11:50	<b>Concluding remarks</b>
11:50 - 12:00	<b>Bus preparations</b>
13:00 - 13:45	<b>OIST Campus Tour (For the registrants only. Registration deadline is Nov.11 <a href="#">Registration Form</a>)</b>

## OPENING REMARKS

**Nicholas Luscombe**, Dean of Research and Head of the Genomics and Regulatory Systems Unit, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST)

Following a degree in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University (1993-1996), Nick studied for a PhD in structural biology with Janet Thornton at University College London on the basis for specificity of DNA-binding proteins (1996-2000). He moved to Yale University as an Anna Fuller Postdoctoral Fellow with Mark Gerstein, where he shifted research focus to genomics with a particular emphasis on gene regulation in yeast (2000-2004). He started his first independent research group at the EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute (2005-2012), continuing the study of genomics and gene regulation. He returned to London in 2012 as Chair in Computational Biology at University College London and Winton Senior Group Leader at the Francis Crick Institute. Nick joined OIST as Professor of the Genomics & Gene Regulation Unit in 2021, and was appointed Dean of Research in 2022. He has taken the opportunity of the move to OIST to study the genomics of marine plankton.



## DAY 1 - 21 Nov

### Keynote (Day 1 - 21 Nov) 14:45 - 15:15

#### The story of science: valuing specialist communications in a technical world

Stories matter in science. They are often thought of in relation to mainstream media telling the public about important advances being made in laboratories. However, they also matter to science itself – and increasingly so now that interdisciplinarity is so critical at the frontiers of new knowledge. Communicating science is a critical craft that requires practise and training over many years. Professional communicators in science organisations are critical to both the success of their employers and the wider engagement of the public in science and its issues. But how is the relationship between science and the media evolving and what does this mean for science story-telling and the potential of multimedia content production in communications teams?

#### Keynote speaker: Ali Bailey,

Director of Communications and Public Engagement, The Francis Crick Institute, London.

Ali Bailey is director of communications and public engagement at the Francis Crick Institute in London, the largest biomedical research laboratory under a single roof in Europe. Ali leads a team of 32 people working to involve and engage a wide variety of audiences in the Crick's mission to discover how life works. Before joining the Crick in April 2022, Ali was director of communications and public engagement at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. This was the culmination of a 16-year career in healthcare where she led a number of teams as director of communications in university hospitals in the UK.

Ali's early career training was in science communications and after graduating she worked as a science producer at the BBC. She created features and returning series about science and medicine for BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service. Ali studied Biological Sciences and the History and Philosophy of Science at Jesus College, Oxford, and has recently completed a part-time masters degree in social innovation at the Judge Business School in Cambridge.



## Workshops (Day 1 - 21 Nov) 16:05 - 17:05

### 1. Global to Local Science Communication

In this workshop, Kelly will present a brief overview of public engagement with science from the perspectives of the International Astronomical Union's National Outreach Coordinator Network, managed by the Office for Astronomy Outreach. This network represents more than 120 countries, with over 300 members worldwide. In learning about their experiences, we will discuss how to incorporate lessons from the global stage into local science communications practices and how to tailor events for your audience.

**Facilitator: Kelly Blumenthal**, Deputy Director, IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach

Kelly Blumenthal holds both a PhD in astrophysics from the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and an EdM in education policy and management from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. In the past, Kelly has worked on projects focused on developing inclusive and equitable programs to engage a large sample of the population, and now, as the Acting Director of the International Astronomical Union Office for Astronomy Outreach (IAU OAO) at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Kelly has the opportunity to continue this work on the international stage.



### 2. The Art and Science of Communicating Research through Podcasting

For younger generations, social media services (SNS) are not only a means of communication but an essential tool for information gathering. Although the importance of media literacy education has constantly been increasing, the related curriculum does not reflect the dynamics brought by social media and online environments. This workshop introduces *To Share or Not to Share*, a social media service simulator designed for use in formal education settings. This tool helps educators bring a new approach to raising awareness and stimulating discussions about social media into the classroom. It also provides students with a playful learning experience and an opportunity to think, reflect on, and improve their online behavior. Workshop participants will have the chance to try out and experience the tool.

Podcasting has broken through into the mainstream world of digital entertainment, and has become one of the most exciting areas of growth for science communication. From more traditional radio-turned-podcast giants like *"Science Friday"*, through NASA's aptly titled *"Houston we have a Podcast"*, to regional science community podcast start-ups like *"The Skeptic's Guide to the Universe"*, science podcasts are increasingly infiltrating the ears of listeners worldwide. In this workshop, we explore how to add our own science messages to the podosphere by examining the ins and outs of podcasting as a medium for communicating scientific research. The workshop will walk you through podcast conceptualization, production, and growth, and covers the why's and how-to's of science podcasting, which format to use and how to reach and maintain your audience, as well as the nitty-gritty's of what gear, tech and software to use. You'll even get some hands-on experience conceptualizing a podcast and scripting and producing an *"introcast"* to share with other workshop participants using the [Buzzsprout](#) hosting platform. Your tour guide will be Andrew MacIntosh, Kyoto University scientist and host of [The PrimateCast](#) - a science-themed podcast showcasing interviews with renowned primatologists and wildlife scientists. Join us at JSF2023 and kickstart your podcasting career! #podcastingislife

**Facilitator: Andrew MacIntosh**, Associate Professor, Kyoto University

Andrew MacIntosh studies and teaches behavioral ecology, conservation and wildlife health and welfare at Kyoto University. With humble beginnings on the prairies of North America, he was always drawn to exotic places teaming with charismatic species. His work has taken him to far-off places in Central America, West Africa, East and Southeast Asia, and even Antarctica. He has studied primates, seabirds (especially penguins!) and a few other animals over the years, most recently the iconic raccoon dogs (tanuki) of Japan. His lab at Kyoto University's Wildlife Research Center combines field and laboratory work to enrich discovery, and tries to address both theoretical and practical issues in wildlife science. The PrimateCast is his effort to bring that knowledge and those experiences to a wide audience and provide a novel educational resource by interviewing friends and colleagues in the primatology and wildlife science space. The PrimateCast is sponsored by the Center for the International Collaboration and Advanced Studies in Primatology at Kyoto University's Center for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior.



## FLASH TALKS (DAY 1, 21 NOV) 17:10 - 17:55

### 1. Designing STEM Escape Rooms for Public Engagement

Escape rooms are a form of entertainment that have exploded in popularity in the last decade. Players enter a room and must solve puzzles in order to escape within a time limit. As such, this format lends itself very well to public engagement with science. Escape rooms create fun, immersive environments where members of the public are motivated to understand even complex science in order to beat the clock. I have spent the last 6 years designing and running escape rooms in both Malta and Ireland, evaluating their potential and impact. In this talk, I will focus on the benefits and challenges of STEM escape rooms, as well as my tips for how to design them well.

**Amanda Mathieson**, University College Dublin

Amanda is a passionate advocate of combining the arts and sciences for impactful engagement with broad audiences. Her speciality is the design of STEM escape rooms but her interests also lie in other science games, theatre, comedy, storytelling and festivals. She has managed several EU projects focused on combining the arts with STEM, including STEAM Summer School, an intensive course that trains researchers and scicomm professionals to communicate STEM through the Arts. She continues to run STEAM Summer school annually in Malta and also leads the Generation Glas programme, an SFI Discover funded project to develop underprivileged youth into sustainable champions. Amanda has worked as a public engagement professional for 7 years across various institutions in Europe, including University of Malta, Imperial College London and the University of Manchester. She is currently the Public Engagement Manager of BiOrbic Research Centre at University College Dublin.



### 2. Collaborative Approaches for Cancer Control: Bridging the Gap Between Science and Society

As a dentist specialising in oral pathology, I have been privileged to collaborate with associations and professionals from diverse backgrounds to raise awareness about cancer. I will discuss my experiences in raising awareness of cancer and share insights from my participation in university events, workshops, and media interviews aimed at promoting cancer awareness. This presentation aims to illustrate how professionals from diverse disciplines can unite to offer vital support to cancer patients. Additionally, it will showcase effective methods of conveying our expertise to medical professionals and the general public and how science communication can take different forms while still delivering the same message.

**Dania Alkhatib**, Kyushu University

Dania Alkhatib is a dentist who completed her master's degree in dentistry at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). She is presently pursuing her Ph.D. in dentistry with a specialisation in oral pathology at Kyushu University in Japan. Her professional journey includes serving as a dentist at different clinics and a lecturer at the Institute of Dentistry, Al-Quds University in Palestine. She also has a background in teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers from different backgrounds. Additionally, she previously held the role of media spokesperson at the Al-Hayat Association for Cancer Control in Palestine. Currently, she serves as the vice president of the Fukuoka Overseas Student Association (FOSA) in Japan.



### 3. SciCom and Society: The Role of Creative Writing

I hope to take everyone on a brief tour through the use of creative writing in SciCom, and historical examples of effective stories in the popularisation of scientific concepts. I will also explore how scientists and non-scientists alike can take advantage of creative writing as a driver for scientific progress.

**Aileen Cooney**, Tokyo Institute of Technology / Imperial College London

Aileen Cooney (she/her) is a PhD researcher primarily based in the UK, currently undertaking a 1-year JSPS Fellowship at the Earth-Life Science Institute in Tokyo. Her research focuses on engineering artificial cells with novel functionalities. She is currently working on designing artificial cells with tunable mechanochemical properties. She believes creativity is important in research, and that science communication can play a key role in discussing science with non-scientists and generating new ideas from atypical sources. Her PIs are Tomoaki Matsuura (ELSI, Tokyo), Yuval Elani (Imperial College London) and Lorenzo di Michele (Cambridge University).



### 4. Building community with the Japan SciCom Forum socials

The JSF socials mini events started in person but moved online during the pandemic. This allowed us to reach a broader audience, and we have worked to create an inclusive and informative space for our members and grow our community. This talk will outline the objectives and principles guiding the JSF socials, the challenges we have faced, feedback from our community, and our future plans.

**Euan McKay**, Project Associate Professor, Kobe University

Euan McKay is Project Associate Professor at Kobe University where he manages strategic public relations for the university. He also runs the JSF Socials meetings with other JSF members. Before Kobe, he worked on international and research communications at the University of Tokyo for 11 years. His current research focus is on the challenges faced by sexual minority students at Japanese universities and women's participation in STEM fields.



### 5. Visiting Programs: Sparking Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Outreach

The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) was founded twelve years ago with the aim to "be the destination of choice to work, learn, and collaborate, linking science to education and leading to innovation and entrepreneurship". Being in a different environment often leads to new perspectives and ideas, which are crucial for scientific breakthroughs. OIST's Visiting Programs aim to bring outstanding researchers from all scientific fields to Okinawa, intensify collaborations, contribute to OIST's interdisciplinary atmosphere and research output, as well as provide general-audience lectures, courses for students, and contribute to OIST's outreach activities in the local communities.

**Jonas Fischer**, Coordinator for Visiting Programs, OIST

Jonas Fischer received a PhD in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Augsburg in Germany in 2018. As a postdoc at the University of Tokyo, he focused on magnetoelectric multiferroics – materials which might power the next generation of energy-efficient IT devices. With this topic he participated at the Falling Walls Lab, a 3-minute research pitch competition, and was selected as Top 10 Winner at the 2020 international Grand Finals in Berlin. From 2020 he worked as a Specially Appointed Assistant Professor at Tohoku University's International Visitor Research Center (TFC). Since 2022 he is responsible for establishing and managing OIST's Visiting Programs. In this role, he has introduced outreach activities such as general-audience lectures and school visits as integral components of the program.



## 6. Comparative Analysis in Science Communication - The wants and the needs of the Japan SciCom community

Science communication organisations are actively making efforts to drive discussions on best practices and trends to ensure engagement and transparency with the public. However, it is also essential to maintain two-way communication within such communities and discuss what topics should be addressed. This talk presents a comparative feedback analysis of Japan SciCom Forum activities and community interest from 2018-2023. Surveys contained quantitative information and quantified open questions about personal opinions on the attended event and future events.

**Charlotte Valk**, Utrecht University

Charlotte Valk (she/her) is a Master's student in Neuroscience and Cognition at Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She was the first intern at Japan SciCom Forum, aiming to gain more real-life experience in science communication alongside her research-focused Master's program. During her internship, she wrote articles for the JSF website, and performed an analysis to compare whether the topics that JSF has discussed over the years align with what their community would like to see and made recommendations for future events. Charlotte's research interests include stem cell-based therapies, the development of more sustainable and animal-friendly research methods related to the brain, and science journalism.



### Networking dinner (Day 1 - 21 Nov) 18:30 - 21:00

This session will take place at the conference venue, the Auditorium at OIST.

## DAY 2 - 21 Nov

### Panel Discussion (Day 2 - 21 Nov) 09:10 - 10:00

#### Many Worlds of Science Communicators

The importance of science communicators has long been recognized, as science is done for the benefit of society and must be developed with the understanding and support of society. The reason why communicators are necessary is that professional communicators can convey information more effectively and efficiently than scientists themselves can communicate to the general public by mediating between the two.

On the other hand, understanding of the work is not as widespread, and it can be said that professionals themselves do not have a complete picture of what kind of people do what kind of work and what kind of organisations they can develop their careers in.

The participants (registrants) for this forum include not only science communication practitioners, but also a number of doctoral students and early career scientists. This panel discussion demonstrates the possibilities for these people to continue to be involved in science communication, and to create an atmosphere in which everyone can work together to improve the status of science communicators.

In the discussion, the speakers share their own career paths, daily tasks (past and current), challenges, future goals, and advice for those passionate about science communication.

Expected outcomes:

- Participants will understand the many possibilities of science communication in different environments and gain perspective on their own future careers.
- Participants will confirm the importance of science communicators and work together to enforce SciCom industry.

## Moderator:

### Heather Young,

Vice President Communication and Public Relations, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST)

Heather Young is a seasoned and purpose-driven communications professional. With 15 years of experience in the field, her expertise spans corporate communications, public relations (PR), media relations, marketing, public affairs, community relations, corporate social responsibility (CSR), crisis communications, internal engagement, and events. Prior to arriving at OIST, she drove innovation by advancing communications for academic-industry collaborations across Canada and with international partners. Before that, she held leadership positions at a Canadian health and safety agency and at the Special Olympics. Creating and implementing best-in-class communications requires a strong team working in alignment toward this goal. This principle is the foundation of Heather's work, as evidenced by her professional career and supported with international recognition. But excellence does not "just happen." Successful teams must connect strategy and operations with purpose and integrity. In pursuit of these aims, Heather's teams have been recognized with awards and accolades from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), PR News, and the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS). Now at OIST, Heather leads an international and dynamic team who ensure the story of this pioneering graduate university—a catalyst for world-class research, education, and innovation located on the island of Okinawa—is known locally, nationally, and around the globe.



## Panelists:

### Chibuamam Ilechukwu, Founder, Hypertension Africa

Chibuamam is a pharmacist and has a Masters Degree in Pharmacognosy, from the University of Ibadan. Armed with over a decade of work experience in the clinical, community practice and research fields of pharmacy, she more recently ventured into health technology and coaching. She founded Hypertension Africa in the last three years, a leading health coaching company that leverages lifestyle based medicine and technology methods, to help hypertensive patients achieve and maintain normalised blood pressures. Her work has impacted several hundreds of lives across Nigeria and Africa.

Hypertension Africa impact studies was presented at the Hypertension Canada World Congress 2021 and has since continued to increase reach and impact. Chibuamam is an author, speaker, YouTuber and has over 8,000 followers across various social media platforms. She continues to find practical ways of communicating scientific research findings to the "common man", thereby preventing "him" from becoming part of the statistics of the world's number one killer disease, hypertension, which claims at least 10 million lives every year.



### Charmaine Caparas, Communications Manager, Stockholm Environment Institute/ Chulalongkorn University

Charmaine brings a wealth of experience in science and development communication to the forefront. With a sharp focus on the Asia-Pacific region, Charmaine has honed her skills in crafting communication strategies and tools that empower multi-stakeholder initiatives, nurturing capacity building and institutional strengthening, all while emphasizing the importance of science and development.

She is currently the communications manager for the Stockholm Environment Institute Asia Centre, where she leads efforts in science-to-policy communication in the region and beyond. Previously, Charmaine has also led global communications at the World Vegetable Centre and has consulted for various humanitarian and development organizations, including the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, and International Organization for Migration. In these pivotal roles, she tackled pressing issues such as regional environmental concerns, governance, capacity development, and the cultivation of impactful development partnerships.



**Naoki Namba**, Director of Public Relations & Communications Division at Hokkaido University/  
Director/Professor, Hokkaido University.

Naoki Namba has been an active science communicator and public relations specialist for nearly 20 years. After acquiring his Master's degree in life sciences, he started his career at a medical publisher in Tokyo, worked with the national research institution RIKEN as a science coordinator, and currently leads the Public Relations & Communications Division at Hokkaido University. He is interested in sharing scientific insights, conducting strategic PR, and steering crisis communication.



## Workshops (Day 2 - 22 Nov) 15:00-16:00

### 3. Beyond the Translation: Unraveling the Emotional Side of International PR

As science communicators, we play a vital role in showcasing the impactful research of our institutions. However, oftentimes our responsibilities extend beyond storytelling as members of international public relations teams. During this workshop, we will focus our attention on how to effectively communicate emotions on various kinds of news articles such as award winning announcements, obituaries, emergency notices, etc. Participants will work together to study and craft news articles based on the major differences between western and Japanese ways of communication.

**Facilitators: Rina Matsuki and Grace Kalii**, Osaka Metropolitan University

**Rina Matsuki** - Manager, PR Division and Head of the International PR Office, Osaka Metropolitan University

Rina first joined Osaka City University (OCU) in 2014 as a PR staff member, where the concept of international research PR did not yet exist. Fortunately, at JACST meetings in 2015, she met some PR professionals from other universities, who motivated and helped her to establish an international PR team. Due to the university merger, her workplace changed its name into Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU) in 2022, and she currently serves as both the manager of the Public Relations Division and the Head of the International Public Relations Office. Prior to her current position, she worked in the PR department of one of Japan's leading consumer electronics companies. She has also worked in primary and secondary education and translation and localization in the United States for about 10 years.



**Grace Kalii** - Coordinator, International PR Office, Osaka Metropolitan University

Grace is a communications professional with experience in international organizations and the private sector. Her current position at Osaka Metropolitan University has introduced her to the exciting new world of science communication. Previously, she worked in the fast-paced world of advertising in Nairobi and later at the UNDP in New York as part of an internal communications team. With a Master's degree in Peace Studies and Human Rights and a Bachelor's degree in journalism, Grace combines practical expertise with research and data analysis skills, making her a valuable asset for cross-cultural communication and project management.



## 4. Illustrate to Educate: Simplifying Science through Art and Storytelling

This workshop will focus on creating a Wonder Yonder style narrative illustration to explain a chosen scientific phenomenon/ concept to a general audience. We will focus on creating a series of vibrant drawings consisting of a foreground object and a background pattern coupled with a one/two-line explainer sentence. We will also look into creating whimsical compositions using text and drawings in every panel/page for sustaining the interest and effectiveness of science communication. We will demonstrate techniques to create simple GIFs and animations to convey an idea. For example: [Visualise our world in 4D](#) and [String theory explained \(click to view\)](#).

**Facilitator: Nikitaa Sivaakumar**, Founder - Director Wonder Yonder Research and Design Pvt Ltd.

Nikitaa has a background in engineering and the arts. She has a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from NIT Trichy, India and an MFA in Design from University of California Davis, USA. She is also the recipient of prestigious awards and scholarships such as DAAD (Germany), OPJEMS (India), Blum Grant (USA), Big Ideas Grant (USA), Innovator in Residence Fellowship, and SELCO Foundation (India).

Nikita has over 6 years of experience working with children across ages 3-18 years and has created STEM workshop content, learning aids, curriculum content, interactive STEM exhibits, STEM based toys, games and storybooks. Her goal is to make learning engaging and fun for children and adults alike. She has a penchant for science and aims at making it accessible to everyone through visual narratives and storytelling.



## JSF 2023 Organizers

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Ayumi Koso**, NIG · [@iyoumek](#)

Ayumi Koso, director of the National BioResource Project (NBRP) Public Relations Office, at the National Institute of Genetics, is thrilled to see the English-language scicomm community grow in Japan and hopes that JSF23 will help boost the visibility of science in Japan.



**Thilina Heenatigala**, ELSI · [@ThilinaH](#)

Thilina is an Assistant Professor in Scicomm and Society and Director of Communications at ELSI. He is excited that the JSF conference has become the key annual activity for English-language scicomm in Japan.



**Tomomi Okubo, OIST · [@imomofolio](#)**

Tomomi Okubo enjoys connecting OIST scientists with journalists, from which something unexpected emerges. Media relations in science is a really fulfilling job. Tomomi is looking forward to meeting kindred spirits and discussing the excitement of this metier.



**Danielle Ellenby, Kyushu University · [@DaniEllenby](#)**

Dani Ellenby is a Science Communicator at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, with a background in Biology. After a couple of years online, she is excited to meet the participants in person at JSF23 and learn new tricks of the scicomm trade.



**Merle Naidoo, OIST · [@merle\\_naidoo](#)**

Merle Naidoo is a science communicator at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) with a PhD in sustainability science from the University of Tokyo and a research background in environment and development studies. She is eager to explore fresh ideas, sharpen her skills, and expand her circle of science communication professionals at JSF 2023.



**Euan McKay, Kobe University · [@euanmckay](#)**

Euan McKay is Project Associate Professor at Kobe University where he manages strategic public relations for the university. He also runs the JSF Socials meetings with other JSF members.



**Adrian Skov, OIST · [@SkovAdrian](#)**

Adrian Skov is a science communicator at OIST. Holding an MA in rhetoric from the University of Copenhagen, and with a background in health communication, he is excited to explore the intersection of expert science and effective communication.



## VOLUNTEER TEAM

### **Negar Khalili**, Kyushu University (Japan) · [@NegKhalili](#)

Negar is a research student at Kyushu University, majoring in cognitive neuroscience. She sometimes writes pieces for Persian local media. She is excited to explore science communication and meet fellow enthusiasts.



### **Dania Alkhatib**, Kyushu University (Japan) · [@DaniaAlkhatib5](#)

A Palestinian dentist, who completed her Master's degree at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), Dania is presently pursuing her Ph.D. in dentistry with a specialization in oral pathology at Kyushu University in Japan. Her professional journey includes serving as a dentist at different clinics and a lecturer at the Institute of Dentistry, Al-Quds University in Palestine. She also has a background in teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers from different backgrounds. Additionally, she previously held the role of media spokesperson at the Al-Hayat Association for Cancer Control in Palestine. Currently, she serves as the vice president of the Fukuoka Overseas Student Association (FOSA).



### **Sujata Saini**, Tokyo Metropolitan University (Japan) · [@aisujata](#)

Sujata is an Indian pursuing her PhD at Tokyo Metropolitan University in Tokyo, Japan. She has been awarded the MEXT scholarship for her PhD studies. Her major is Data Science and Machine Learning. She has led the Google Developer Student Club from her university from 2021-2022. Currently, she is serving as the Microsoft Student Learn Ambassador and Women Techmakers Ambassador in Japan. Moreover, she is a member of the Flexible Design Scientist Interfaculty Program (FDSIP) in her university and active member of several tech and scientific communities.



### **Charlotte Valk**, Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

Charlotte is a Dutch Master's student specializing in Neuroscience and Cognition. One of her hobbies is studying Japanese, and she has always wanted to come to Japan to experience the nature and culture. She was able to combine it with an internship at JSF, to gain more experience in Science Communication and is looking forward to being a volunteer at JSF 2023!



### **Neville Magielse**, Utrecht University (The Netherlands) · [@nevillemagielse](#)

Neville is a second-year neuroscience PhD student in the Otto Hahn Cognitive Neurogenetics group at Forschungszentrum Jülich with Dr. Sofie Valk. There he studies the role of the cerebellum in human brain function, by looking at evolution, development, and functional imaging. He has been interested in Science Communication for a long time and always tries to be involved when there is a chance to communicate (our) science to a broader audience. A recent example is teaching 3rd graders about the brain (a lot of fun!). He will be at OIST attending JSF 2023 through a funny coincidence - a trip to Japan he has wanted to make for years just happened to take place right as JSF did. He looks forward to meeting JSF participants!



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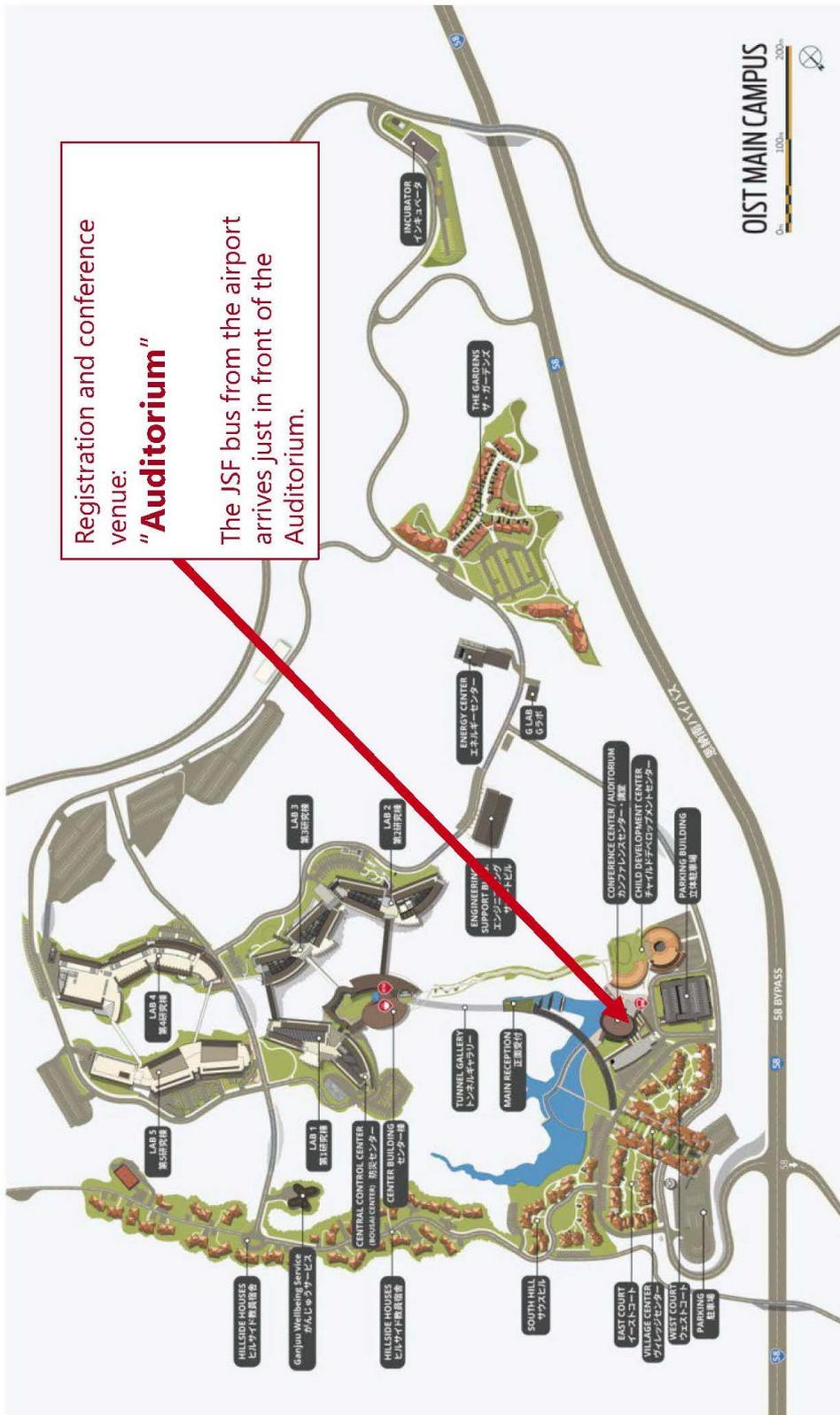
Collaboration with · [www.elsi.jp](http://www.elsi.jp)



# Welcome to OIST

A guide for JSF participants

## Conference venues



# For rent-a-car users: PARKING

We prepared a special parking for the JSF participants who come with their rent-a-cars. Please use the **“Conference Center Parking,”**

Which is next to the JSF conference venue.

<https://www.oist.jp/campus/parking>



# Visit OIST Campus

## OIST CAMPUS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No reservation is required. Please sign your name at the reception desk at the main entrance and pick up your pass.

### OPEN HOURS:

- Monday - Sunday (including national holidays) 9:00 - 17:00
- OIST will be closed for tours Dec. 29 - Jan. 3.

### AREA OPEN FOR PUBLIC:

- Center Court and the surrounding outdoor area
- Skywalk

## SPECIAL GUIDED TOUR FOR JSF PARTICIPANTS (RESERVATION REQUIRED)



If you would like to join our guided tour, please book from the link below. This is a special campus tour for the JSF participants only. \*Please book before November 15.

### Reservation:

<https://forms.gle/9png89bKc4Qbvx5F7>

**Date: November 22**

**Time: 13:00-13:45**

**Starting point: Entrance**