



# SIDDHARTH KANKARIA

Communications & Program Coordinator, NCBS Bangalore | Founder, SciCommSci Club

 [siddharth.kankaria@gmail.com](mailto:siddharth.kankaria@gmail.com) | [siddharthk@ncbs.res.in](mailto:siddharthk@ncbs.res.in)

    [@SiddhrthKankaria](https://www.instagram.com/SiddhrthKankaria)

---

I'm a maverick working at the intersection of science communication research, practice and teaching in India. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Research) in Biology from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and then a Master's in Science Communication & Public Engagement from the University of Edinburgh, UK.

I currently work as the Communications & Program Coordinator for NCBS Bangalore, and in 2019, founded the SciCommSci Club as a flagship initiative for engaging with the science of science communication and promoting evidence-based science engagement practices. Over the last 7 years, I have accumulated a rich diversity of work experiences in India and the UK, including working as a Content Editor for Research Matters (Gubbi Labs) in India, and as a Science Communicator for organisations like Edinburgh International Science Festival, Pint of Science, Proteus, and EuroStemCell in the UK.

My academic interests focus on understanding the intersectional challenges of engaging Indian publics with science, exploring the research-practice-teaching continuum within science communication, and developing community-centric science engagement practices for the Global South. I also spend a lot of time advocating for more inclusive, decolonised and multicultural forms of science engagement, contributing to training, mentorship and capacity-building efforts, as well as building policy, infrastructure and communities of practice around science-society interfaces in India.

## Science Communication PRACTICE

---

### AUG 2020 – PRESENT *Communications & Program Coordinator, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, INDIA*

Engaged in a diversity of science communication initiatives, including teaching two graduate-level courses in science communication, conducting interdisciplinary research in science engagement in collaboration with international colleagues, and implementing a comprehensive public relations, communications and outreach strategy for NCBS.

### AUG 2018 – JUL 2020 *Science Communication & Outreach Manager, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, INDIA*

Responsible for developing a communication portfolio for the [Simons Centre](#) at [NCBS](#), coordinating programs, courses & seminars, managing internal & external communications, writing content for different media outlets, commissioning multimedia science content, website & social media management, as well as capacity-building activities within science communication.

### AUG 2019 – PRESENT *Founder & Curator, SCICOMMSCI CLUB, INDIA*

Founded the [SciCommSci Club](#) as a forum for engaging practitioners with the *science of science communication*. As part of the Club, I have organized several science communication research talks, developed numerous teaching, training and mentorship efforts, created a database of science communicators across India, contributed to policymaking efforts aimed at strengthening the Indian science communication ecosystem and advocated for more inclusive, decolonised and multicultural forms of science engagement practice, research and teaching globally.

### MAR 2018 – APR 2018 *Science Communicator, EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL, UK*

Responsible for facilitating the 'Mini-Mechanics' workshop at [EISF 2018](#) aimed at explaining the Carnot cycle to 8-16 year-olds using deconstruction-based activities.

### NOV 2017 – MAY 2018 *Event Manager, CREATIVE REACTIONS, PINT OF SCIENCE, UK*

Responsible for organizing the inaugural event for [Pint of Science 2018 - Edinburgh](#) called 'Creative Reactions', which comprised of pop-up exhibits, group activities, and a panel discussion exploring the interface of art and science.

### FEB 2018 – MAR 2018 *Placement Intern, CIRCUITS! PROJECT, PROTEUS, UK*

Developed a public engagement activity for explaining a biomedical engineering application to 8-16 year-olds at the 'Celebration of STEM 2018' event and British Science Week 2018 held at the Glasgow Science Centre, Scotland.

OCT 2017 – NOV 2017 *Placement Intern*, EUROSTEMCELL, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK

Assisted with several outreach & engagement activities at [EuroStemCell](#), including creating a science videography guide, fact-checking the EuroStemCell website, social media management, assembling a science engagement kit, and organizing the launch of a film on stem cell & diabetes.

SEP 2016 – APR 2018 *Content Editor*, RESEARCH MATTERS, GUBBI LABS, INDIA

Responsible for writing science journalistic pieces, corresponding with researchers and scientists, social media management, and developing multimedia content like podcasts, infographics, illustrations, photographs, and videos for supplementing all science stories published by [Research Matters](#).

## Science Communication RESEARCH

---

DEC 2022 – PRESENT *Scientific Temper: Unpacking an Indian view of scientific attitudes for a global audience*

Ongoing research collaboration with Anwesha Chakraborty for understanding the history, philosophy and policy framing of scientific temper as a socio-scientific concept in India.

AUG 2022 – PRESENT *Understanding the quality of scientific information available in regional languages*

Ongoing research collaboration with Ayelet Baram-Tsabari and other international collaborators for conducting a global comparative analysis of the quality of online scientific information available in various regional languages from across the world.

OCT 2021 – JUN 2022 *Making knowledge visible: Artisans, craftsmen, printmakers and the knowledge sharing practices of 19th-century Bengal*

Book chapter co-authored with Anwesha Chakraborty and Arghya Manna for *Race and Socio-cultural Inclusion in Science Communication: Global Scenarios of Innovation, Decolonisation and Transformation*, edited by Elizabeth Rasekoala and being published as part of Bristol University Press (BUP)'s book series on [Contemporary Issues in Science Communication](#) in mid-2023.

JAN 2020 – MAY 2020 *Visible but not Yet Celebrities – The Case of Indian Scientists During COVID-19*

Qualitative research project exploring the roles and experiences of Indian scientists engaged in public health communication activities in and around COVID19 from 2020-21. Findings of this research project were presented as part of the PCST 2020+1 conference.

MAY 2018 – JUL 2018 *Stem Cell Outreach: Exploration of Stem Cell Informational Needs of Interested Non-Specialist Publics*

Dissertation Project for MSc. Science Communication and Public Engagement with Dr Elizabeth Stevenson (Programme Director) at Edinburgh Medical School: Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh.

## Science Communication TEACHING

---

APR 2023 – MAY 2023 APPROACHES IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, *Graduate-level course, 2 Credits, BLiSC India*

This advanced course focusses on developing skills and competencies for mastering specific formats and approaches in science communication including writing, illustrations, podcasts, filmmaking, comics and public engagement.

AUG 2022 – OCT 2022 FUNDAMENTALS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, *Graduate-level course, 2 Credits, BLiSC India*

This introductory [course](#) equips early careers researchers to efficiently design, implement and evaluate their science communication efforts, and covers a range of topics including strategy, research, models, history, and ethics of science communication.

JUL 2022 INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, *Graduate-level course, 1 Credit, IIT Gandhinagar*

This short course focussed on imparting the fundamentals of science communication to help students kickstart their science communication projects and careers (delivered at IIT-Gandhinagar as a guest lecturer).

MAY 2019 THE CRAFT OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION: NARRATIVES & STORYTELLING, *Workshop, BLiSC India*

This 5-day workshop on [The Craft of Science Communication](#) imparted essential science communication skills to graduate students and researchers, and my module specifically focussed on *narratives and storytelling tools*.

## Science Communication CONFERENCES & WEBINARS

---

- APR 10-14, 2021 PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, ROTTERDAM, 2023  
Participating in two roundtables: “*Is it time for an International Centre for Science Communication?*” and “*Emerging careers in science communication: Challenges and opportunities*”, chairing a workshop: “*Fact finding mission: how to make scicomm practices with audiences more inclusive*”, and facilitating a pre-conference workshop: “*Introduction to inclusive science engagement*” as part of the upcoming [PCST 2023 conference](#) at Rotterdam.
- SEP 14, 2022 *Teaching as a Means for Integrating SciComm Research and Practice*, PCST NETWORK WEBINAR, 2022  
Developed and moderated a [PCST Network webinar](#) with Alice Fleerackers (as part of the PCST Teaching Forum), and with Clare Wilkinson, Edith Escalón, Erik Stengler and Tobias Kreutzer as panellists, to explore how teaching interventions can help co-create knowledge at the intersection of science communication research, practice and teaching.
- OCT 26, 2021 *An Inclusive History of Science Communication*, PCST NETWORK WEBINAR, 2021  
Panellist at a [PCST Network webinar](#) along with Bruce Lewenstein, Marina Joubert, Paige Jarreau & Arghya Manna that reflected on the history of science communication from a more global, inclusive and multicultural lens.
- OCT 14, 2021 *Towards an Inclusive History of Science Communication*, INCLUSIVE SCICOMM SYMPOSIUM 2021  
Moderated a [panel discussion](#) at [ISCS 2021](#) with Elizabeth Rasekoala, Amelia Bonea, Paige Jarreau & Arghya Manna as panelists, for collectively acknowledging, embracing and celebrating a global history of science communication.
- MAY 26-28, 2021 PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, VIRTUAL, 2021  
Delivered an individual talk: [Visible but not Yet Celebrities – The Case of Indian Scientists During COVID-19](#) and participated in a roundtable: [Mentors, Mentees & Public Engagement](#) as part of the [PCST 2020+1 conference](#) held virtually.
- JUL 10-12, 2019 *Engaging India with Science*, SCIENCE IN PUBLIC 2019  
Delivered a [conference talk](#) describing the context and challenges of doing science engagement in a country like India and highlighting learnings from local science engagement initiatives, as part of the [SiP 2019](#) conference organised by Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford & University of Manchester in the UK.

## Select WRITING OUTPUTS

---

- SEP 03, 2021  
[Flashcard Course] [An Inclusive History of Science Communication](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria, with illustrations by Arghya Manna, LifeOmic Lifeology LLC
- SEP 01, 2021  
[Conference Paper] [Mentors, Mentees, and Public Engagement](#)  
Edward Duca, Annette Klinkert, Heather Rea, Clayton Cutajar, Siddharth Kankaria, PCST 2020+1 Conference
- SEP 01, 2021  
[Conference Paper] [‘Visible’ but not yet ‘Celebrities’ – The Case of Indian Scientists during COVID-19](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria, PCST 2020+1 Conference
- NOV 30, 2020  
[Blog post] [SciCommSci Club: Facilitating Dialogue Between Science Communication Research & Practice in India](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria, The PCST Network website
- SEP 04, 2020  
[Feature article] [Building Biomolecules, One Step At A Time: Understanding How Eukaryotic Cells Synthesize Glycans](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria, with illustrations by Dhanya Bharath, Simons Centre at NCBS
- AUG 24, 2020  
[Policy document] [Policy Recommendations for Strengthening Indian Science Communication](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria, Vanshika Singh, Suchitha Champak, Chagun Basha *et al.*, SciCommSci Club & SPF India
- APR 17, 2020  
[Opinion Piece] [Want to Help as a Communicator to Beat COVID-19? Get Risk Right](#)  
Siddharth Kankaria and Shruti Muralidhar, The Wire Science

## Select TALKS & WORKSHOPS

---

- NOV 17, 2022 *Towards an Inclusive History of Science Communication*, DIVERSCI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE, 2022  
Invited speaker at the [DiverSci Community of Practice](#) session, which deliberated on the need for decolonising our understanding of science communication, and engaging with a wider diversity of knowledge sharing practices from across the globe.
- DEC 15, 2021 *Increasing Impact Through a Community of Practice for SciComm*, INDIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2021  
Panellist at the [SciComm Huddle](#) at [India Science Festival 2021](#), which discussed the need for building communities of practice within the country, by acknowledging the wide diversity of people, approaches and trajectories in the Indian science communication ecosystem.
- SEP 15, 2021 *Unreserved about the Underserved*, FALLING WALLS ENGAGEX BENGALURU, 2021  
Developed and moderated a [panel discussion](#) for reflecting on issues at the intersection of caste, gender and religion within Indian science and developing systemic solutions, in association with the [Falling Walls Foundation](#) and NCBS Bangalore.
- SEP 10, 2020 *Science Communication as Storytelling*, PRAVEGA PARADIGMS, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, 2020  
Delivered an [online workshop](#) for training researchers to employ storytelling approaches in communicating science more effectively, as part of [Pravega 2021](#), the annual Science, Technology & Cultural Fest of IISc Bangalore.
- JUL 20-21, 2020 *Towards a Policy Framework for Indian Science Communication*, SCICOMMSCI CLUB & SPF INDIA  
Organized four national-level [stakeholder consultations](#) for generating comprehensive [policy recommendations](#) for strengthening Indian science communication, in association with [SciCommSci Club](#) & [Science Policy Forum](#).
- JUL 8, 2020 *Across the Table – Science Communication*, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION POLICY 2020  
Moderated a [panel discussion](#) as part of the policy consultations for the [Science, Technology & Innovation Policy \(STIP\) 2020](#), being developed by the Department of Science & Technology and the [Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor](#) to the Government of India.
- FEB 21, 2020 *Common Science – The Uncommon Practice of Communicating Science*, CITY SCRIPTS 2020  
Panellist at a [roundtable discussion](#) for brainstorming ways to make science more accessible and bridging the knowledge/experiential gaps between different publics, as part of IISc Bangalore's annual fest, [City Scripts 2020](#).

## Awards & FELLOWSHIPS

---

- APR 2023 ROTTERDAM FELLOWSHIP, KAVLI FOUNDATION  
Awarded the Rotterdam Fellowship by the Kavli Foundation, in order to cover the cost of travel fares, accommodation, visas and registration fees for the PCST 2023 Conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- JUL 2019 SCIENCE IN PUBLIC 2019 – CONFERENCE BURSARY AWARD  
Awarded the Science in Public 2019 – Conference Bursary Award to help cover the cost of travel fares, accommodation, and conference registration fees for the Science in Public 2019 Conference in Manchester, United Kingdom.
- 2017-2018 INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP, THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK  
Awarded an International Master's Scholarship worth £3000 for pursuing the Master's program in Science Communication and Public Engagement by the University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2012-2016 KISHORE VIAGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA SB FELLOWSHIP, DEPT. OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, INDIA  
Awarded the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana SB Fellowship worth INR 80,000/year for the entire duration of my 4-year Bachelor of Science (Research) at the Institute of Science, by the Department Of Science & Technology, Government Of India.

## Education

|           |                                    |   |             |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 2017-2018 | THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK    | <i>M.Sc. Sci. Comm. &amp; Public Engagement</i> | Merit       |
| 2012-2016 | INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, INDIA | <i>B.S. (Research) in Biology (4 years)</i>     | First Class |

## Languages

ENGLISH (*Native / Bilingual*)

HINDI (*Native / Bilingual*)

BENGALI (*Intermediate*)

## Skills & COMPETENCIES

- Multicultural & intersectional science engagement practice
- Strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement & community-building
- Knowledge transfer, evaluation & impact measurement
- Pedagogy & course development
- Engaging in policymaking processes
- Social science research methods
- Mentorship, skill-transfer & capacity-building
- Project management & leadership
- Ability to work independently as well as within collaborative teams
- Public speaking & moderation
- Popular & technical writing/editing
- Graphic designing
- Podcast & video editing
- Social media management
- DEIA, LGBTQIA+ & Mental Health advocacy

