



SCAN YOU HELP US?

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), together with the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) are undertaking research supporting the national science communication and engagement programme. The gathering of shared experience and insights from science communicators – across many sectors of the economy - will enable the development of a deeper understanding of the contemporary and future skills-needs among South Africans who communicate science.

The research study aims to gather insights from a number of South Africans who communicate science. These are more than “scientists”. This group may include science policy makers and custodians, educators, journalists / broadcasters, academics, civil service employees, members of science associations, science councils, engineers, medical staff as well as professional science communicators ¹and citizen scientists². These individuals usually communicate scientific information to a non-technical audience, at times including members of the general public but may include legislators, community leaders, special interest groups, business sector interests, government representatives and members of political parties or local wards.

THE SURVEY

The [survey is hosted online](#) and is accessible to any South African-based science communicator. A **science communicator** includes any person who, in the execution of their daily activities collates information, present it in logical manner often to create greater awareness among a non-scientific audience(s).

South Africa has seen various government-supported and private sector initiatives aimed at developing science communication practice in South Africa. Moreover, the role of science communication at universities and science councils has been strengthened through the enhancement of science policy, with particular reference to public science communication and engagement activities.

¹ At museums, science centres of related science attractions

² *citizen scientist*: "One who voluntarily contributes his or her time and resources toward scientific research"



The survey aims to collect a response from various staff categories within higher and tertiary education, the science councils, and the private sector. Within your particular organisational setting – this request may therefore apply to a wide-range of possible respondents.

The questions in the survey do not request any personally identifying information and only basic demographic data is requested. All questions are voluntary, and the survey is not mandatory on any person due to employment, affiliation or experience. The survey has been reviewed and approved by the HSRC Research Ethics Committee (REC Reference number 6/23/02/22)

The survey would take approximately 15 minutes to complete and asks questions on the experiences of people who communicate science in South Africa. These include items linked to experience participating in science engagement / communication activities, teaching and learning opportunities, tools and resources available as well as issues related to social norms related to engagement focused on non-scientific / non-technical audiences.

OUR REQUEST

Our request to your organisation would be to **assist us in sharing the survey information via your internal communication channels** to bring the survey information to the attention of employees who communicate science. These may be a broad cross-section of individuals within your organisation.

These may be researchers, educators, members of your professional association, employees in your organisation or STEM professionals³ however, science communicators may be more broadly applicable across your senior and junior categories. The research team would happily engage with your communications team to identify who should receive this request for participation.

We have developed materials that may be directly copied from this document by your communications teams and pasted into the appropriate media type via your distribution networks.

The survey link is accessible via any mobile or desktop device / operating system. These include mobile platforms like tablets and cellular phones (Android and iOS). Should you require any further information or additional materials – please do not hesitate to contact the research team.

³ These may be professions in roles as Engineers, doctors, data analysts, nurses, researchers, academics and may further include post-graduate students.







science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAASTA
South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Announcement for inclusion in internal communications (part of other communications)

2 versions:

Please click on the link to complete the below survey being conducted by the HSRC.

www.hsrc.ac.za/scicomskills



Are you involved in
scientific, technical or data activities?

Are you a **researcher**,
lecturer, **journalist**,
educator, **engineer**,
medical or other
professional?

Do you communicate
scientific information?

We want to hear from you!

The DSI, SAASTA and the HSRC wants to learn about the experience and training needs of people involved in science communication activities. If you share your scientific or technical work with the public or other non-technical audiences, we would like to know about your experiences and how to enhance training and learning opportunities in South Africa.

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science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAASTA

South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement



HSRC

Human Sciences
Research Council



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Social Media Post: Instagram – 2 versions

Are you involved in scientific, technical or data activities? Are you a researcher, lecturer, scientist, journalist, educator, engineering, medical or other professional? Do you communicate scientific information? We want to hear from you. Please click on the link to complete the below survey being conducted by the HSRC. www.hsrc.ac.za/scicomskills.



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Do you communicate scientific information? We want to hear about your experiences & skill needs. Please click www.hsrc.ac.za/scicomskills to participate in the survey.



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Social Media Post: WhatsApp – 2 versions

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A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a black t-shirt and large hoop earrings, is smiling and pointing her right index finger towards a list of professions. She is holding a small orange object in her left hand. The background is a solid blue color.

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lecturer, **journalist**,
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Timeline for Distribution

The timeline for data collection will run until **5 June 2022**.

Our request is to enable sharing of the information and formatted posts in this document to your electronic channels (where possible). These may include, internal staff or association membership, via internal Intranet pages, and where available (and applicable) via social media and mobile chat groups⁴.

Our research support team will be happy to work with you network / communications administrators to assist where possible to distribute the material.

To download the high resolution images from the document use this below link any time before 5 June 2022: [MATERIALS DOWNLOAD LINK](#)

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by any of the below means:

Dr Saahier Parker HSRC Impact Centre sparker@hsrc.ac.za Cell: +27 (0) 82 928 7473

⁴ *WhatsApp* and similar chat facilities frequently used to connect staff membership groups.

