Standing up for Science Workshop Agenda

Friday 9th December 2022

Lorentz Center, Leiden University

9:30 Registration Opens

10:00-10:10 Welcoming and Opening

10:10-11:25 Science and the media
A panel of researchers will share their experiences of engaging with the media and the public. They will discuss why researchers should care about how evidence is used and reported on and share their advice and top tips for helping researchers to work with the media and engage with the public. On our panel will be: Prof Ionica Smeets (Professor of Science Communication at Leiden University), Dr Sara Polak (Lecturer for Arts in Society at Leiden University), and Dr Cristina del Real (Assistant Professor in Cyber Crisis at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) at Leiden University).

11:25-11:45 Break and group work

11:45-13:00 What journalists are looking for
A panel of journalists will explain how they approach stories, balance the need for news and entertainment with reporting science and evidence, and deal with accusations of polarising debates and misrepresenting the facts. The journalists are joined by an institutional press officer to explain how they support early career researchers to stand up for science. On our panel will be: Marieke Epping (Press Officer at Leiden University), Julia Belluz (Senior Health Correspondent at Vox) and Ans Hekkenberg (Print Journalist at New Scientist).

13:00-13:55 Lunch break and group work

14:00-15:15 What policymakers are looking for
A panel of policymakers and academics involved in policy will explain how evidence is used in policy, how they balance facts and values, and how they deal with a lack of good evidence, trade-offs, polarised debates and accusations of non-evidence-based policy. On our panel will be: Dr Laia Delgado Callico (EU Parliament Policy Specialist at the University of Cambridge), Dr Inna Moller (Environmental Policy Researcher at Wageningen University and Research) and Juergen Rienks (Director at Neth-ER (Netherlands House for Education and Research).

15:15-15:30 Break

15:30-16:45 Your responsibility
We believe researchers should take responsibility for the public discussion of science and evidence from the beginning of their careers. Sense about Science has been working with researchers to communicate some of the most difficult issues for over a decade. With the support of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), we’ve distilled this approach into a practical guide for researchers. This session will use those lessons and tools to empower researchers to stand up for science and engage the public in real and meaningful ways.

16:45-17:00 Closing and feedback