

# Dr Andy Ridgway

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An experienced academic leader with a strong track record in managing and developing academic staff, driving student recruitment and achieving excellent student feedback. Demonstrated success in securing research and knowledge exchange funding, while fostering a vibrant research and knowledge exchange culture.

## Recent Employment

### **May 2022 onwards – Associate Director, School of Applied Sciences, UWE**

Leading academic staff who teach and conduct research in the fields of environmental science, conservation science and science communication. Also ensuring that our partners, Bristol Zoological Society (BZS), who co-deliver some of our conservation courses, provide an excellent student experience.

#### Achievements:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes consistently achieve high satisfaction ratings in student surveys (NSS and PTES). Eg. 24/25 'teaching on my course' ratings, BSc Environmental Science 99%, BSc Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science 88%, FdSc Integrated Wildlife Conservation 98%.
- Established Next Steps placement scheme in February 2023, which provides conservation science students short-term placements with employers in the region, to address poor Graduate Outcomes survey data.
- Initiated a training programme for module leaders at UWE and BZS (annually since August 2022) to ensure high standards of delivery and consistent approaches.
- Managed the implementation of changes to the BSc Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science course within decolonizing the curriculum project.

#### Other responsibilities:

May 2020- May 2024 – Representative of the Health and Applied Sciences Faculty on the University-wide Postgraduate Working Group. This committee develops postgraduate marketing and recruitment strategies and oversees their implementation.

### **2018-May 2022 Programme Leader, MSc in Science Communication, UWE**

Managing the teaching team and curriculum to provide world-leading science communication course which is practice focused and informed by research and knowledge exchange. The course consistently achieved a PTES 'overall satisfaction' score of over 90% during my time as programme leader.

### **11/08/14 to present Senior Lecturer in Science Communication, UWE**

Teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Leading research and knowledge exchange activities.

### **27/08/13 to 08/08/14 Editor, Science Uncovered, Future Publishing**

Managing an editorial team to launch a popular science magazine.

### **14/09/09 to 23/08/13 Deputy Editor, BBC Focus magazine**

Managing an editorial team to produce the BBC's monthly science magazine and editing the magazine's iPad app.

Earlier employment history is available on request.

## Externally Funded Projects

### Knowledge Exchange Grants

16 Oct 2024-15 Oct 2028 – PI and Project Manager of Science for Environment Policy, an environmental science news service for policymakers across Europe run on behalf of Directorate General of the Environment (DG ENV), European Commission. Total budget: €797,886

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2027 – PI on UWE's involvement in COALESCE, developing a European Science Communication Competence Centre, funded by the European Commission (with UWE's funding coming from the Horizon Europe UKRI Underwrite Scheme). Total funding: €3.1M, UWE allocated: €385,626.

### Research Grants

December 2022 – December 2023 – Co-I on Science Communication, Going Global, India Partnership project, funded by the British Council exploring changes in science journalism working practices due to digitization. £56,394.

1 January 2019 to 1 January 2022 - PI on UWE Bristol's involvement in RETHINK science communication research project. European Commission, H2020 (Swafs-19-2018-2019). Total funding allocated €1.198M, UWE allocated €157,968.

### Externally Funded Continuing Professional Development

November 2019 onwards – convenor of annual Science Communication Masterclass run by the Science Communication Unit, UWE. High-level course attended by 25 science communication professionals from across the UK, Europe and beyond.

September 2015 – present – other science communication training either as PI or CO-I. Clients including the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist's Group, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), University of Bath, NIHR School for Primary Care Research, University of Oxford. Total income: £22,928

## External Roles/Responsibilities

April 2022 onwards - Executive Board member, Association of British Science Writers (ABSW).

March 2022 onwards – member of the Teaching Forum of the Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) Network, participating in research and knowledge exchange activities.

February 2022 onwards – External Examiner at Imperial College, London, for undergraduate Science Communication, Public Engagement and Science, Policy and Power modules. Also May 2023, an External Examiner Mentor at Imperial.

May 2020 – Evaluator for the European Commission Horizon 2020 Science With and For Society (SWAFS-2020-1) funding call. This involved evaluating five science communication research projects, each requesting approximately €1.3million.

2018 to 2022 and 2025 – Judge of Medical Research Council (MRC) Max Perutz Science Writing Award.

## **International Teaching Experience**

May 2021 to present – Teaching and marking on Science Communication module at The University of Hong Kong (invited).

April 2021 – Teaching on Communicating Scientific Research course for PhD Students at Umea University (invited).

2016-2019 – Running the Writing Science in English module that formed part of the Masters in Communication of Science “Franco Prattico” at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste, Italy.

## **Education and affiliations**

December 2024 onwards – Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).

April 2016 -July 2023 – PhD (completed) – title: Exploring the Interaction Between Online Practices and Offline Domestic Food Practices in Family Homes: Implications for Food Waste Reduction Campaigns.

2014-2015 - Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education  
*University of the West of England, Bristol, England*

2015-2024 - Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA)

1994-1995 - Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Studies (distinction)  
*Scottish Centre for Journalism Studies, Glasgow, Scotland*

1991-1994: - Joint Honours Degree in Economics and Biology (class 2i)  
*Keele University, Staffordshire, England*

## **Invited presentations**

June 2025 – Webinar for Vetenskap & Allmänhet (Public and Science Sweden) for 25 science communication practitioners. Title: Will We Ever Overcome the Misinformation Crisis in Science Communication?

November 2024 – Online presentation on effective science communication postgraduate teaching for Forum for Science Communication in Sweden open to participants from Nordic countries and organised by Vetenskap & Allmänhet.

May 2023 – Online presentation on food waste reduction campaigns by social media for 20 food waste reduction campaigners in New Zealand and members of the New Zealand Government’s Ministry for the Environment.

April 2022 – Online invited keynote talk for Marine Biological Association’s postgraduate conference on research conducted within the EU-funded RETHINK project looking at the roles adopted by science communicators to reach underserved audiences.

March 2022 – Science journalism as a career path presentation for doctoral students involved with FONTE, WON, REAL-NET and MOCCA projects. Organised by Aston University, Birmingham.

May 2021 – Invited speaker at Imperial College London’s Engagement Week.

Panelist in a session attended by 68 academics, professional services staff and engagement practitioners from across the university in a session entitled *In Conversation: Communicating Science During the Pandemic*.

September 2019 – Presentation entitled Environmental Communication in the Online Era – Lessons from 20 Years in Journalism at Climate Impact Research Centre (CIRC) Symposium, Abisko, Sweden, attended by climate scientists and students (approx. 100 attendees).

September 2019 – Workshop on Communicating Your Science Effectively to the Public, Climate Impact Research Centre (CIRC) Symposium, Abisko, Sweden. (approx. 15 attendees)

## **Conference and knowledge exchange presentations**

June 2025 – Member of organizing committee of ABSW Summer School at King's College London and organizer of session Misinformation – How to Spot It and How to Counter It that included representatives from Google, Science Media Centre and King's College London.

May 2025 – PCST Conference 2025. Co-organiser of PCST Teaching Forum pre-conference workshop attended by 20 academics entitled: AI and Science Communication Teaching. Individual presentation: Can Science Journalists Continue to Thrive? Inspiration from Two Continents. Organiser of panel on behalf of COALESCE: Will We Ever Overcome the Misinformation Crisis in Science Communication?

October 2024 onwards – Member of the organising committee for the UK Conference of Science Journalists at The Francis Crick Institute, London. on 15 October 2024. Organiser of session entitled: AI - Effective Tools for Science Journalists or a Source of Fear for the Future? Also a panel session: The Future of Science Journalism – How to Adapt and Thrive that featured a panel of Catherine de Lange, Editor of New Scientist, Katy Evans, Managing Editor, IFL Science and Richard Webb, Chief Magazine Editor, Nature Magazine.

July 2024 – Presentation at Science in Public conference at the University of Birmingham entitled: Shifting Roles of Science Journalists – New Insights from the UK and India.

June 2024: EuroScience Open Forum, International Congress Centre, Katowice, Poland. Organiser of debate on behalf of COALESCE: From Pandemics to Antibiotic Resistance: Can Science Communication Really Save the Day in the Face of Existential Threats? Also individual presentation: Rethinking Domestic Food Waste Campaigns and Empowering Policymakers for Change.

May 2024 – Co-organised and chaired a webinar on behalf of the PCST Teaching Forum, entitled: Transforming Science Communication Pedagogy in the Age of AI.

September 2023– presentation at Food and Communication Conference at Örebro University, Sweden entitled: Negotiation of Good Family Food on Social Media: How Conceptions of Proper Food are Reinforced and Challenged Online.

June 2023 – Member of organizing committee of ABSW Summer School at Kings College London and organizer of two sessions: Developing a Brilliant Story Idea and the 'Pitchathon' providing an introduction to story pitching.

April 2023 – PCST Conference 2023. Organiser or a problem-solving workshop for practitioners: How Can We Rethink Science Communication to Create Common Ground? A

session based on research from RETHINK. Individual presentation: Trust and Expertise Online – New Insights for Practice and Research.

October 2022 – Conference presentation at Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2022 at Leibniz University, Hannover, on Overcoming Misinformation and Reaching Underserved Audiences (Insights from RETHINK Research).

October 2022 – Conference presentation at ECREA 9<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference, Aarhus University, Denmark entitled: Forums, Facebook and Food – How Insights into Digital Interpersonal Communication Can Transform Food Waste Reduction Campaigns.

October 2022 – Online presentation at Science Journalism Forum 2022 (with Emma Weitkamp and Birte Fährnich) entitled: Exploring Quality Indicators for Science Journalism in a Wired World.

September 2022 – Organised two sessions at the ABSW's UK Conference of Science Journalists at The Francis Crick Institute, London. One was a panel of scientists and journalists on their experiences during the pandemic and another a workshop for journalists on insights from RETHINK into people's sensemaking practices.

September 2021 – Online presentation at Food and Communication Conference 2021 entitled: Who do we Trust to Give Us Information about Food Online?

May 2021 – PCST2020+1 Conference (online)– Workshop for other science communication academics entitled: Educating Science Communicators During and After the COVID Era. Workshop run with Marina Joubert, Stellenbosch University, South-Africa and Frans van Dam, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Individual presentation: How an Online Parenting Website Will Help Us Fix the Fake News Crisis.

September 2020 - Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) presentation about the research within RETHINK into people's 'sensemaking practices' in relation to coronavirus.

July 2019 – Science in Public Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University – Presentation entitled: The Practitioner Perspective, presenting the knowledge exchange aspects of the RETHINK project. (approx. 20 attendees)

April 2019 – Public Awareness of Research Infrastructure Conference (PARI), Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire, conference presentation entitled Mumsnet and Fake News, looking at online trust.

April 2019 – Presentation at Science Communication South West 2019 Conference entitled: Community Conversations and Food Waste.

December 2018 - Science in Public conference, Cardiff University, presentation entitled: The Shifting Nature of Expertise Online: A Case Study of Food Waste.

July 2017 - Science in Public conference, University of Sheffield. Presentation entitled: Can Mumsnet Fix the Food Crisis?

## Honors and awards

2011 and 2012 - Editor of BBC Focus magazine's interactive iPad app, named specialist publication of the year for two years at the Digital Magazine Awards, UK

2011 - Shortlisted for Writer of the Year, PPA Awards, UK

2010 - Editorial Person of the Year, BBC Magazines Awards for Excellence

## Science journalism work

Since becoming an academic, I have undertaken freelance science journalism work (in my own time) and have written for *BBC Science Focus*, International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO), *New Scientist*, *The Economist* and *Men's Health*.

## Research publications

**Ridgway, A.**, Spotswood, F., Weitkamp, E., Tapp, A., Ling, K., Meredith, L. (2025) Navigating 'Proper Food' and 'Good Mothering' on Social Media. *Food, Culture and Society*. Forthcoming.

Weitkamp, E., **Ridgway, A.**, Massarani, L., Neves, L., Sharma, S., Bezerra, C. (2025) The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Work of Science Journalists and Perceptions of its Use : Comparative Study of Brazil, India and the UK, *Convergence*. Forthcoming.

Baxter, I., **Ridgway, A.**, Doran, H., Briscoe, R., McAlister, J & Barnard, D. (2025) Can Science Comics Aid Lay Audiences' Comprehension of Forensic Science? *Journal of Science Communication*. 24(1). Article A01. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.22323/2.24010201> [Accessed on 22 August 2025]

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Weitkamp, E., Milani, E., **Ridgway, A.**, & Wilkinson, C. (2021). Exploring the Digital Media Ecology: Insights from a Study of Healthy Diets and Climate Change Communication on Digital and Social Media. *JCOM: Journal of Science Communication*, 20(3), 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.22323/2.20030202>. Available from <https://uwe-repository.worktribe.com/output/7259817>

Milani, E., **Ridgway, A.**, Weitkamp, E., Wilkinson, C. (2021) Reaching Underserved Audiences: How Science Communicators Are Making New Connections Using Innovative Techniques. European Commission deliverable report. Available online at: [https://www.rethinkscicomm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RETHINK\\_Derivable\\_D1.4\\_V11\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://www.rethinkscicomm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RETHINK_Derivable_D1.4_V11_FINAL-1.pdf) [Accessed on 7 May 2021]

**Ridgway, A.**, Milani, E., Weitkamp, E., Wilkinson, C. (2020) Report on the Barriers and Opportunities for Opening Up Sensemaking Practices. European Commission deliverable report. Available online at: [https://www.rethinkscicomm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/D2.3-RETHINK\\_Derivable.pdf](https://www.rethinkscicomm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/D2.3-RETHINK_Derivable.pdf) [Accessed on 7 May 2021]

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Available on request.