
ARUNITA BANERJEE, PHD

SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR | RESEARCHER | EVENTS CURATOR & ORGANIZER

PROFILE

I recently graduated with a PhD in Behavioural Sciences. I am currently a Science Communicator at Cactus Global. Additionally, I research and curate experiential travel programmes with Blue Swan Events. As a freelancer, I have 4+ years of experience in science communication, including writing, editing, multimedia productions and organising public engagement events.

EXPERIENCE

SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR, CACTUS GLOBAL JULY 2022 - PRESENT

Writing news articles, technical summaries, plain language summaries from academic research publications and corporate whitepapers, alongside design ideation for sci-illustrations / graphical abstracts and storyboarding / script writing for video summaries.

FREELANCE RESEARCHER & CURATOR, BLUE SWAN EVENTS MAY 2022 - PRESENT

Researching & communicating with potential facilitators & presenters for a range of cultural & experiential travel programmes to be staged in India in 2023. Management of company's social media suite.

CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF EDITOR, COGITO137, IISER KOLKATA NOV 2019 - APR 2022

Voluntary position involving content creation, execution and supervision roles.

Job responsibilities included laying the foundational work-pipeline of the science communication platform, conducting recruitments, proofreading and copy-editing of all publications, regulating publicity efforts, establishing collaborative ties with similar initiatives, event design and conduction, navigating the general stand of the platform, and coordination and conduction of electronic interviews for #WIISER (a pan-India 'women in science' interview series)

CONSULTANT SCIENCE WRITER, THE WEATHER CHANNEL, INDIA JUN 2021 - JUL 2021

Composing weather updates from meteorological data, Cloning wire news, writing original articles on environment, clean energy, space sciences, climate change, COVID-19 and other associated science & society topics, publication of all content through IBM's content management system.

FREELANCE SCIENCE WRITER, NOV 2018 - PRESENT

Research Matters, IndiaBioscience, TheLifeOfScience.com, LiveWire, Mongabay India

Reporting latest scientific research through news articles, writing features and opinion pieces covering science & society perspectives, book reviews, concept explainers and conducting interviews.

RESEARCH FELLOW, BEHAVIOUR & ECOLOGY GROUP, IISER KOLKATA JUL 2016 - OCT 2021

Pattern analysis in the general behavioural repertoire of Indian free-ranging dogs, with emphasis on the natural history and evolution of the animal. Exploring its close association with human beings and comparing statistical parallels between the communication systems of the two species - behavioural displays of animals and human languages. Understanding cognitive impacts of these parallels and using the information for theoretical design of behavioural predictor algorithms.

EDUCATION

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IISER KOLKATA),
MS (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES), 2017 & PHD (BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES), 2021

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, BS (LIFE SCIENCES), 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Banerjee, A. and Bhadra, A., 2021. Time-activity budget of urban-adapted free-ranging dogs. *acta ethologica*, pp.1-10.

Banerjee, A., Das, N., Dey, R., Majumder, S., Shit, P., Banerjee, A., Ghosh, N. and Bhadra, A., 2021. Power-laws in dog behavior may pave the way to predictive models: A pattern analysis study. *Heliyon*, p.e07243.

Banerjee, A. and Bhadra, A., 2019. The more the merrier: dogs can assess quantities in food-choice tasks. *Current Science*, 113891 (117), p.6.

Bhattacharjee, D., Dev, N., Gupta, S., Sau, S., Sarkar, R., Biswas, A., Banerjee, A., Babu, D., Mehta, D. and Bhadra, A., 2017. Free-ranging dogs show age related plasticity in their ability to follow human pointing. *PLoS one*, 12(7), p.e0180643.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & SCHOOLS [ATTENDANCE]

Science Journalism Forum
2021 (virtual conference),
International Board of SJF

Scicomm 2020, University of
Nebraska-Lincoln (virtual
conference)

Science Communication
Conclave 2020, IIT,
Kharagpur

Frontiers in Modern Biology
2015 & 2018, IISER Kolkata

Student Conference on
Conservation Science 2017 ,
IISc Bengaluru

Science Journalism
Workshop for Women (Level
I & II), 2018-2019, IISER Pune
and British Council

9th Annual Science
Journalism Workshop, 2019,
NCBS Bangalore

Crocodylian Biology &
Conservation, GIAN [Global
Initiative of Academic
Networks] programme,
Jiwaji University Gwalior,
2017

Evolutionary Biology, SERB
[Science and Engineering
Board, India] School,
JNCASR Bengaluru, 2019

EVENTS [ORGANIZATION]

4TH NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM,
2021

[National Centre for Biological Sciences,
Bengaluru and Cogito137, IISER Kolkata]

Logistical organization , Opening address,
Panel moderation - "Transitioning to a career in
science communication" , Session conduction -
"Elevator Pitch", with Dr. Shannon Olsson, NCBS,
Bangalore

SCICOMM FOR SCIENTISTS, 2021

[Department of Science and technology, Govt. of
India and Cogito137, IISER Kolkata]

Networking with science media personas for
logistical organization (lead), Designing hands-on
sessions conducted as a part of the workshop,
Conduction of sessions on editing and the
logistics of running a scicomm platform,
Panelist: 'Dejargonizing Science'

BIOLOGY WEEK IISER KOLKATA, CHAPTER 2021

[A Royal Society of Biology Showcase Event, Cogito137, IISER Kolkata]

Ideation, Logistical organisation, Team coordination and delegation of duties, Curation and session design (lead), Supervision and execution of the event

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOUR CONFERENCE, 2019

[Science and Engineering Research Board, Govt. of India and Behaviour and Ecology Group, IISER Kolkata]

Logistical organization (lead), Team coordination and delegation of duties, Introduction of all speakers, announcements and Q&A moderation, Supervision of communication and registration procedures, Feedback report compilation

PHRONESIS, 2014

[Department of Zoological Sciences, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi]

Logistical organization, Supervision of communication and registration procedures , Organising head of quiz competition

LEADERSHIP FOR ACADEMICIANS PROGRAM (LEAP) 2020

[IISER Kolkata]

Logistical organisation, Session moderation, Presentation: The science communication platform of IISER Kolkata

AMBASSADORS OF EVOLUTION, 2019

[European Society of Evolutionary Biology and Behaviour and Ecology Group, IISER Kolkata]

Logistical organization (lead), Designing and conduction of hands-on sessions , Teaching concepts of evolution to middle school students

VIJYOSHI - NATIONAL SCIENCE CAMP 2015, 2016, 2019

[IISER Kolkata]

Logistical organisation, Session moderation, Announcements and introductions

CONVOCATIONS OF IISER KOLKATA, 2017, 2018, 2019

Bilingual (English and Hindi) announcements and MC for 6th (2018) and 7th (2019) Convocation of IISER Kolkata , Logistical assistance to institute staff in 5th (2017), 6th and 7th Convocation of IISER Kolkata

AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Documentary of the journey of the Department of Physical Sciences, IISER Kolkata, and ongoing research

Documentary tracing the path to education and wholesome living among children born in Asia's largest red-light district

Thesis in three-minutes, Saransh 2021 (INYAS)

Psychological impact of the COVID-19 induced lockdowns [in English and Hindi]

Bonkers scavengers : How the lockdown may induce behavioural changes in scavengers - a citizen science project by the Dog Lab, IISER Kolkata

Ten-minute thesis, Talk Your Thesis, India Science Festival 2021

Understanding the language of dog behaviour [Lightning Talk, Scicomm 2020]

Baby steps to a scicomm network [Invited short talk, Scicomm 2020, University of Nebraska Lincoln, USA (virtual conference)]

Compilation of personal experiences in the journey: Ten years of Dog Lab, IISER Kolkata

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

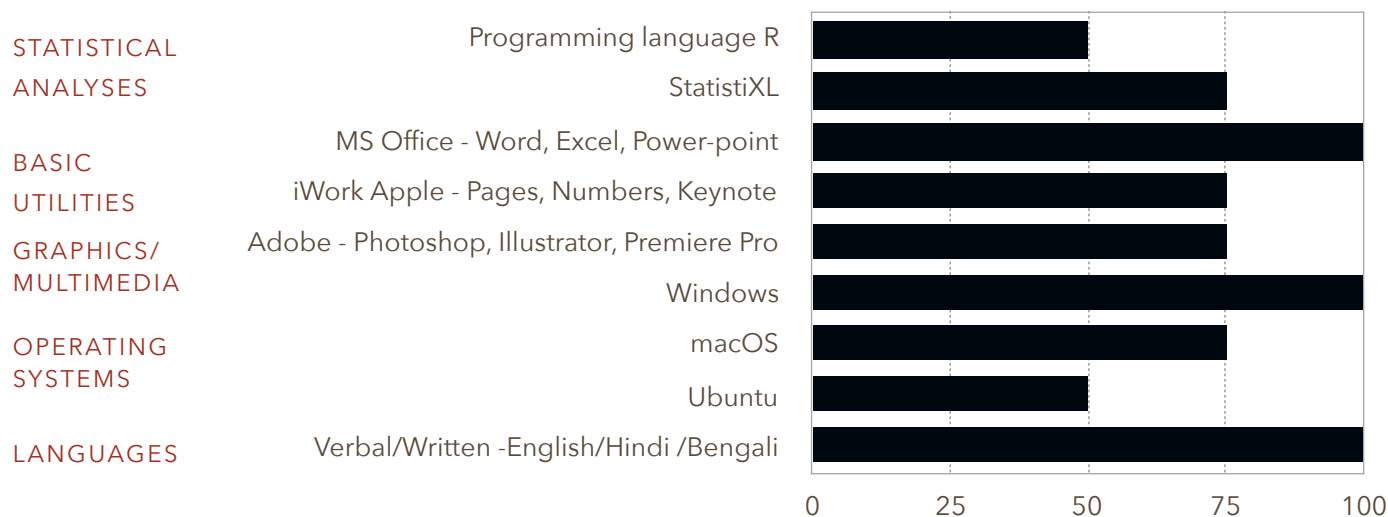
TALK YOUR THESIS - 3RD POSITION (NATIONAL), INDIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2021

SCIENCE JOURNALISM FORUM 2021 FELLOWSHIP (GLOBAL)

ORAL PRESENTATION - 2ND POSITION (GLOBAL), SCICOMM 2020

IDEATHON: VISION 2020, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION POLICY, GOVT. OF INDIA,
TOP TEN (NATIONWIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION)

TECHNICAL SKILLS



REFERENCES

Dr. Anindita Bhadra
Associate Professor, Department of
Biological Sciences, Dog Lab, IISER Kolkata

Spoorthy Raman
Journalism Fellow, Hakai Magazine
British Columbia, Canada

Professor Subhajit Bandyopadhyay
Professor, Department of Chemical Sciences
Light Lab, IISER Kolkata

Raymond Hawkins
Director, Blue Swan Events/ Sound Tracks travel,
New South Wales, Australia