



# Environment, Science and Risk Communication (ESR) WG

Newsletter- December 2023

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## IAMCR Christchurch 2024— call for papers

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The Environment, Science & Risk Communication (ESR) Working Group of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) invites the submission of proposals for single papers and panel sessions for IAMCR 2024, to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from 30 June – 4 July, 2024. The deadline for submission is **7 February 2024**, at **23h59 UTC**.

The central conference theme is:

***Whiria te tāngata / Weaving people together:  
Communicative projects of decolonising, engaging, and listening.***

Whiria te tāngata, weaving people together in English, is a Māori proverb (whakataukī) about the strength that comes through common purpose. The whakataukī highlights multiple issues that our conference hosts invite participants to explore:

1. It invites analysis of commonality in mediated communication, given the weaker power of place-based mass

media, the rise of algorithmic culture, the challenges of engaging with difference in multicultural contexts and the crises facing neoliberal globalisation.

2. The use of a Māori proverb also invites particular attention to analysis of indigenous communication and other attempts to challenge or rework colonial structures.

3. More broadly, the theme invites reflection on the terms and models appropriate to describe contemporary communication, including the political and moral goals embedded in them. It therefore also points to alternative ways of theorising or evaluating communication alongside dominant imaginaries such as the public, and of the colonial and gendered histories that are part of those imaginaries.

4. Weaving emphasises the agency of the communicator and directs attention to the valuing of communication as a project or skill, whether that is focused on social change, community or economic gain.

5. Weaving also reminds us of the goal of a conference to build common purpose amongst participants.

### **The Environment, Science and Risk Communication**

**Working Group** welcomes the opportunity to consider the impacts of colonisation on our scholarship and disciplines and to prioritise and amplify the global experiences of Indigenous peoples and communities.

We look forward to meaningful and respectful discussion with colleagues from all over the world, listening to each other and the ways we have, and could better, decolonise our work. Whether abstracts directly address the central conference theme or not, we ask all our members to consider their own historical, cultural and political context and how colonial hegemony has impacted their projects, work and experiences.

How could we, together, work to decolonise environment, science and risk communication, as a discipline and a practice?

While we welcome papers on the main theme and subthemes for IAMCR Lyon 2023, papers from the full range of Environment, Science, and Risk Communication topics and perspectives are of course also welcomed and considered. Key conference themes for ESR WG in 2024 will include:

- Science, media and society in the era of (neo)globalisation
- Science, the environment, and climate change in popular culture

- Media, advocacy, and local/global environmental change
- Environmental and science activism and new media
- Feminist and postcolonial political ecology
- Smart technologies and everyday life
- Science, media, and society
- Public/political engagement in science and environment communication
- Social and political uses/constructions of science, nature, and the environment
- Science/environmental journalism
- Visual environmental communication
- Science and health-related media panics
- Scientific controversies/environmental crises, spin, and news management
- Media-communication roles in environmental crises and disasters
- Media and public understanding of science/environment issues
- Indigenous and First Nations environmental communication research
- More-than-human/interspecies communication

For more details see [this](#). IAMCR [call for papers for 2024](#).

Submissions for IAMCR 2024 will open on **3rd December 2023**.

## ESR Business Meeting- 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

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The Environment, Science and Risk Communication working group will hold an online business meeting on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. All members are invited. Please confirm your presence by [registering for this business meeting](#)

Alternatively, please **register** using this:



Please register before **8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. We look forward to seeing you there! Any questions on registering can be directed to [Maitreyee Mishra](#).

## Call for papers- Global Media Journal (Indian Edition)

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The Global Media Journal (Indian Edition) calls for papers for a special issue on *Environmental Journalism*. The deadline for submissions of full papers of around 6000 words is **12th December 2023**. Papers should be submitted to [media.research@manipal.edu](mailto:media.research@manipal.edu). Any questions can be directed to Maitreyee Mishra ([maitreyee.mishra@manipal.edu](mailto:maitreyee.mishra@manipal.edu)).

See the [Global Media Journal website for more details](#).



Thank you!

***ESR Leadership:***

**Kerrie Foxwell-Norton | Maitreyee Mishra** – Co-Chairs, ESR

**Joana Pont-Diaz | Pieter Maesele** – Vice-Chairs, ESR