



Effective Communication as a Rewarding Strategy

A Graduate School Intensive Course in Geography, in collaboration with the Graduate School for North and Latin American Studies

University of Helsinki, September 13–15, 2007

Featuring

Professor **DAVID H. KAPLAN** (Kent State University, USA)
Professor **DONALD E. WORSTER** (University of Kansas, USA)

and

Professor **JOUNI HÄKLI** (University of Tampere)
Professor **MARKKU HENRIKSSON** (University of Helsinki)
Professor **MARKKU LÖYTÖNEN** (University of Helsinki)
Professor **PAULIINA RAENTO** (University of Helsinki)
Professor **MARKKU TYKKYLÄINEN** (University of Joensuu)

Contents of the Course

Effective presentation of research findings requires good communication skills. Carefully structured, fluent, and innovatively illustrated presentations attract audience, aid in networking, and provide a solid foundation for successful publishing. Strategic and linguistic competence, in addition to topical knowledge, is needed for good writing. Clear, focused argumentation provides invaluable support for convincing research proposals and funding applications. Together these constituents of academic communication form a holistic, mutually supporting communication strategy, which guarantees positive results. These observations apply irrespective of research specialty or language.

A comprehensive, carefully planned approach to academic communication can, and should, be taught to ambitious young scholars early on to promote their independent career development. This statement guides the themes addressed in the Intensive Course:

- (1) Writing an attractive research proposal/funding application
- (2) Presenting and networking in an international conference
- (3) Achieving clarity of focus, structure, and style

- (4) Effective visualization of information
- (5) Choosing the format, channel, and language of publication
- (6) Publishing in an international, interdisciplinary journal
- (7) Communicating in a foreign language
- (8) Benefiting from peer reviews and criticism

Format and Deadlines

Participating students will attend a series of lectures by experienced academic writers and science editors who publish in multiple languages and formats on both topical and regional themes. Workshops address the students' individual dilemmas and needs, encouraging the participants to learn from each other's experiences. **The workshops will be structured around the students' pre-submitted contributions – for example, research proposals, funding applications, conference presentation drafts, or article manuscripts, in Finnish, Swedish, English, or Spanish.** The collaborating instructors will provide each student with a written peer review statement and oral feedback for a brief presentation. **The lectures and discussion will be open to all** Geography and American Studies majors in order to maximize the benefits of an interactive and interdisciplinary learning environment.

Those wishing to participate in a workshop should contact Professor Pauliina Raento at <pauliina.raento@helsinki.fi> in August and submit their work-in-progress to her e-mail address BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. Graduate school will subvent the travel and accommodation costs of the students in the limits of the budget.

Tentative Schedule

Day One (Thursday, September 13)

Welcome & Introduction
Presentations and Discussion
Lunch
Presentations and Discussion

Day Two (Friday, September 14)

Keynote by Professor David H. Kaplan
Lunch
Workshops
Voluntary Evening Entertainment

Day Three (Saturday, September 15)

Keynote by Professor Donald E. Worster
Lunch
Workshops
Conclusion