Why Are Presentation Skills Valuable?

With information flowing across the world, presentations are an increasingly important part of a researcher’s life. A presentation is sometimes a way to announce your wonderful new research findings to the world.

But presentations are also a very important part of the research process. By presenting you can “road test” your research, getting invaluable feedback from audiences with different backgrounds and methods that will improve your research, help you write better articles, and so on.

Presenting is also a way for you to meet researchers, expanding your horizons and opportunities. It may also be an important, effective method to persuade people or organizations to fund your project.

Finally, preparing a presentation helps you organize your research project, your ideas and data. There’s no better way to ensure the clarity and soundness of your project than presenting it to others.

Whatever your field—sciences, humanities, anything—we can help you present successfully.
Some Benefits of Taking a Presentations Course with Us

- Overcome nervousness & gain confidence in presenting
- Learn to communicate your research persuasively
- Be able to present an idea with clear, logical support
- Understand key techniques for designing effective slides
- Acquire techniques for handling the Q&A part of presentations
- Receive individual support & guidance as you prepare presentations
- Receive detailed feedback on your presentation structure and performance
- Improve ability to interact in English in academic environments
- Interact with students from other faculties
- Begin to ENJOY presenting your research

We’ve expanded and now we have 3 native English-speaking presentations teachers, Associate Professors Kyle Nuske, David Toohey and Mark Weeks.

Here’s some brief background from each of us...
About David Toohey’s Presentations Experience

Doing academic presentations have been an important way for me not just to do presentations, but also to get feedback from academics from slightly different areas. These tips have helped me learn about the strengths and limitations of my writing. Presenting has also given me a chance to explore what sort of research is most interesting to me.

I first presented in my second semester of doctoral studies. Since then, I have presented almost once a year at international conferences. Most of these conferences have been large conferences. Even within my topical specialties—political science and cultural studies about immigration and media—the audiences come from a wide range of fields, i.e. quantitative researchers, or people from different theoretical and methodological backgrounds.

I have met many academics that I would not have otherwise. Presentations have helped me prepare papers that have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

David’s Background

 Education: PhD (Political Science) from The University of Hawaii at Manoa
 Research Areas: immigrant identity and ecology; film and media about immigration
 Current Research: Mexican Americans and ecological land conflict in the U.S. Southwest with a JSPS grant [科研費]), 2016-2018.

Recent International Presentations


Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications

About Kyle Nuske's Presentations Experience

Presentations have played a crucial role in my process of being socialized into the community of academic professions. I attended and presented at my first conference when I had scarcely completed my first semester of doctoral studies. Although my talk consisted of little more than a literature review, I found that the opportunity to interact with audience members following the presentation was immensely helpful in clarifying my research agenda and figuring what was most important to me as a researcher and teacher moving forward.

Since then, I have been fortunate to have opportunities to present my own research at international conferences in the fields of Applied Linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and Composition. The feedback, encouragement, and criticism I received in response to my talks played a formative role in my later success with developing presentations into articles and book chapters.

As one of my mentors once put it, the process of engaging in dialogues with other experts about your work is in many ways the highest form of learning. Accordingly, I believe that giving presentations and responding to others' talks are crucial experiences for all graduate students, regardless of their particular field.

Kyle’s Background

- Education: PhD (English: Composition, TESOL) from Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Research Areas: Language teacher training; critical pedagogy; ideologies of English in Japan
- Current Research: Critical discourse analysis of advertisements for corporate eikaiwa chains

Recent International Presentations


Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications

About Mark Weeks’s Presentations Experience

I presented my first academic paper internationally in California in 1994. I was shaking so much with nervousness I could barely speak! But that was just the beginning, and in recent years I’ve been doing one or two international presentations on my research each year. So academic presentations are not just a theoretical thing for me; they are part of my life, as they are for all researchers today. I need them and believe it’s possible for us to enjoy them.

Of course, I read about presentations and listen to other people talk about them, but the greatest learning experience for me comes from doing my own presentations and watching others. Learning what works, and what doesn’t, and how that may change according to the audience, is a fascinating process. So I’m still learning (sometimes from my own mistakes) and I will always be learning because my presentation is never perfect and trends change.

Mark’s Background

- Education: PhD (English) from the University of Western Australia
- Research Areas: cultural and cross-cultural studies, philosophy
- Current Research: The social and psychological functions of laughter, solitude

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Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications

To see syllabi click on the “Course Information Spring 2019” button on the Mei Writing website or go here: http://meiwriting.ilas.nagoya-u.ac.jp/courses.html

Presentations courses are on pages 6-9.

“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”

-Leonardo da Vinci