

Translated blog from *Speaking of Science*, January 29, 2013. Blog creator and author is Mathieu Rouault.

About his research: advice from three academics from the University of Tennessee

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Last September was held in Nancy, the third edition of the [Journées Hubert Curien](#), international meeting of scientific, technical and industrial. These events brought together all actors more interesting than others, which Haigneré or [Bernard Schiele](#).

A workshop was devoted to the training of researchers in scientific communication. He met Beatrice KORC (University of Lyon) and three teachers straight from the University of Knoxville (Tennessee).

In France, as the mediation of science seems to progress, both scientific communication does not seem to affect the institutions of higher education and research. So many scholars and researchers, they have not been trained, are ill at ease with the ways - and sometimes even the need - to communicate their research to the general public.

This is a big question whether the communication is inherently public mission of the research or not. Some feel they have neither the time nor the skills and it is the work of mediators and journalists, and others believe that the scientific mediation is not enough and that any researcher should in principle be able to present in clear and understandable to all and all the nature of the work.

You guessed it, this is the second opinion prevailing in the United States. It is in this sense that [Mark Littmann](#), [Robert Legg](#) and [Russel Hirst](#), all three came from the [University of Knoxville](#) and specialists in scientific communication, defended in front of a crowded room, a few simple ideas regarding how to communicate research when one is a teacher-researcher or PhD (e).

At the end of the workshop, I asked each of the three speakers this simple question: *"If you were to give one piece of advice to young researchers / her wish to communicate their research to a wider circle than their peers, what would that advice? "*

Here, in order, the response of Mark Littman, Robert Legg and Russel Hirst:

So, what?

"Tell a story"

It is the expression fetish Mark Littman: *"We must tell a story. If he wants to go to the public and be understood by him, a young researcher to talk about his work simply remaining human, by telling himself discovering the mysteries and wonders of the world. "*

"Look at the audience"

"Know who you ask" what is the board of Robert Legg, drawn from his knowledge of production audiovisuelle - Bob has created an audiovisual company before returning to the University as a teacher. "It seems obvious, but scientists often forget: it is only after an idea assez precise audience I address that I could begin to think that I'm going to say and how to say it. It is not intended for students in the same way that speaks to log 20 hours. "

"Have confidence in your own voice"

"Have confidence in yourself! "For Russel Hirst, how YOU plan your own research, your personal perspective on their challenges and objectives will always be the most interesting to talk about." Do not worry watchdogs academic ("gatekeepers") that you constantly want to impose a uniform way of talking about science. Do not let anyone tell you how you should talk about your research. '

I find their point of view quite refreshing. And you?

If you want to know more, you can download the call yourself Mark Littman, ["Educating students to communicate science on science written and oral"](#) and Russel Hirst, entitled ["Improving Your Voice scientific "](#) .