

Centre for Culture, Media & Governance

Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi



CCMG Invited Lecture on

Electric Monks and Pathology Biscuits: What is Science Communication and why does it matter?

By

Charlotte Sleigh

University of Kent, Canterbury

Chaired by

Prof. Talat Ahmad

Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Abstract

Who makes scientific knowledge? This lecture argues that it is not just scientists who do so, but that successful scientists always have a public to confirm their findings as valid and important. Historically speaking, this audience can be anyone from a Medici prince (in the sixteenth century) to a Kickstarter community today. Some surprising examples from previous centuries (including the electric monks) are given. Moving onto the present day, we explore current audiences for science, and the successful and unsuccessful ways in which scientists interact with them.

About Speaker: Dr. Charlotte Sleigh is Lecturer in the School of History at the University of Kent at Canterbury. She studied at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. Charlotte's teaching at Kent includes science and literature, Victorian science and society, the history of animals, and the history of the body in the twentieth century. She is co-director of the MSc in Science, Communication and Society, run jointly with Biosciences. This unique degree combines practical training in science communication with insights from the humanities on the history, sociology and ethics of science.



Charlotte has been known as 'the ant woman' for some time now on account of her research into the history of myrmecology, the science of ants. She has researched how social and cultural perspectives have shaped the ways in which scientists have looked at ants, resulting in two books (*Ant*, Reaktion, 2003, and *Six Legs Better*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007) and a number of articles. Her research interests encompass the life sciences over the past 150 years. She has given public lectures and appeared on a number of radio and TV programmes, speaking with varying degrees of authoritativeness on a number of history of science-related topics.

Event Details

Venue: Tagore Hall

Entrance Gate # 13

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Time: 11:00 -01:00 PM

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