

Best Practices on Research Dissemination and Communications

November 9, 2021

Moderator



Eseroghene Oruma, Communications Specialist, USAID's Innovation, Technology, and Research (ITR) Hub

My name is Eseroghene Oruma, but I go by my half name - Essee. My preferred pronouns are she/her/hers. I joined the ITR/R team in 2019 as the Communications Specialist. As the Communications Specialist for ITR/R, I help to build a positive perception of the work that ITR/R does, as well as manage and implement the overall communications approach. I also communicate ITR/R's work to both internal and external audiences - translating complex international development concepts into relatable and compelling terms, develop and execute communications strategies, create content for various communication tools, manage press and media outreach, maintain ITR/R's websites, and serve as a liaison to communicators for the Lab and the Agency. I

joined USAID with previous experience in international development and communications from working at the World Health Organization in Geneva, global health NGOs, UNDP Geneva, and as an intern at UNCDF in New York.

Presenters



Nigel Gibbs, RTAC Communications Manager, Population Reference Bureau

Nigel Gibbs is a communications manager in International Programs, working with the Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC). He joined PRB in 2020 and has more than eight years of global communications experience. Prior to joining PRB, he worked with Voice of America (VOA) as a public relations specialist, managing its website, writing articles and press releases, and supervising VOA's studio tour program, which saw more than 1,500 visitors annually. His experience spans both public and private sectors, and he has lived and worked abroad in both Jamaica and Brazil. He holds a master's degree in strategic communication from American University and a bachelor's degree in history with a concentration in Asia and the Middle East from the University of Hartford.



Liselle Yorke, Senior Public Relations Manager, Population Reference Bureau

As PRB's senior public relations manager, Liselle Yorke spearheads public relations initiatives across the organization. She joined PRB in 2019 after serving in senior communications roles in international development and public policy organizations. Most recently, she worked at Grameen Foundation, where she led communications outreach supporting financial inclusion initiatives in Asia, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. Yorke holds a master's degree in communications from Howard University and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of the West Indies.

Discussants



Dolors Armenteras, Professor of Landscape Ecology, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Dr. Dolors Armenteras is a Catalan biologist who holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Forestry from the University of Wales and a Ph.D. in Geography from King's College London, UK. She focuses her research on sustainability and biodiversity conservation of tropical forests. Her research in fire ecology, spatial analysis, and modelling on landscapes has helped understand ecological processes across multiple organizational levels in Latin America since her expertise encompasses both fauna and flora, and includes ecosystem structure, modelling, and landscape processes. She also has over two decades of experience in the science policy interface needed to help advance towards more sustainable eco-friendly practices. Since 2015 she has been contributing

her expertise in several deliverables for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-IPBES. Currently, she serves as Vice-President of International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE) and is an active member of the Science Panel for the Amazon



Flordeliza Bassiag, University Researcher, Isabela State University

Ms. Flordeliza Bassiag is a researcher in childhood and adolescent tuberculosis (CATB). Her domestic practice includes development work in very remote areas, research management in health and environment, development research for agricultural-related concerns, local medicinal herbs, and health research projects. Her research interests include management of CATB, communication and education campaigns, and policy advocacy for CATB.

In collaboration with the University of Virginia (UVA), her current work focuses on the epidemiologic study of assessing household contact screening for children and adolescents at risk of tuberculosis in northern Philippines. She also serves as co-author on a national scale modeling project on the cost effectiveness of tuberculosis preventive therapy (TPT) in collaboration with UVA, Philippine National TB Program, and USAID Philippines. Her team also received supplemental funding for the PEER project's Research-to-Action Plan continuous implementation. Recently, she started establishing the "CATB Family Partner," a non-profit entity for marginal families affected by tuberculosis.

The university president also tapped her to work on COVID-19 research projects specific to ivermectin and herbal supplements and she has her own proposed research on COVID-19 vaccination uptake in non-urban and urbanizing communities for institutional funding.



Camila C. Ribas, Senior Scientist, Professor and Curator at the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA), Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovations

Dr. Camila Ribas is a senior scientist, professor, and curator at the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA) in Manaus, Brazil, and a Research Associate at the Department of Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. She has a doctorate in Genetics and Evolutionary Biology from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Her research focuses on Amazonian biogeography and conservation, investigating the relationships between biological diversification and the current and past landscapes. Her recent research has targeted the most threatened regions and ecosystems within Amazonia, generating knowledge

that can be readily applied in impact assessment and conservation, as well as in understanding the origins and maintenance of Amazonian mega diversity.

She has led a PEER-USAID funded project in collaboration with Dr. Joel Cracraft, curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History to assess the impacts of hydroelectric dams on floodplain forest bird communities in Amazonia. Combining knowledge from different research fields, including evolutionary biology, ecology, and geology, the

project collaborated to increase our knowledge about seasonally flooded environments and their associated fauna, as well as provided specific recommendations about how to better evaluate the combined impacts of damming large Amazonian rivers. Dr. Ribas has further applied this knowledge recently by being part of the United Nations Amazonian Science Panel, a comprehensive report that aims at summarizing state of the art information on the combined impacts that currently affect Amazonia and their possible future outcomes in face of climate change. She has also been working with local indigenous and traditional communities directly affected by the dams in jointly developing methods to better understand and quantify the impacts on their modes of life and their use of natural resources.