



**IMPRS on Cognitive NeuroImaging  
Module 5: Softskills Courses**

**Scientific Writing Workshop: Style, Process, Narrative**

28–29 August 2025, each 09:00–17:00

**Workshop description**

This workshop focuses on style, process, and narrative in scientific writing. *Style* refers to writing techniques that allow readers to understand ideas in an efficient and painless way. *Process* concerns strategies to make everyday research and writing as productive and enjoyable as possible. And *narrative* is about drawing readers in and sustaining their interest throughout a text.

The workshop has the following three strengths: 1) Participants will learn writing and research skills through methodical, replicable steps. 2) The slides and handouts draw heavily on sample texts by well-known scholars in the participants' fields (in this case, neuroscience). 3) The workshop uses guided peer workshopping, allowing participants to apply the principles learned through giving and receiving feedback on their current writing.

The workshop combines brief lectures, group discussions, writing and editing exercises, and text-workshopping sessions—during which the instructor can also give a bit of individual feedback. Participants will also receive handouts, suggested readings, and additional advice on resources to further improve their writing on their own.

Finally, the instructor will offer two virtual “office hours” the week after the workshop, in which participants can discuss their own texts or outstanding questions with the instructor.

**Learning objectives**

In this workshop, you will learn to ...

**Writing Style**

- Write sentences that help your reader understand quickly and effortlessly
- Stick sentences together in a way that gets your reader into a flow
- Cut needless words
- Employ field jargon in a way that every reader can still follow

**Research & Writing Process**

- Use writing as a tool for thinking, organization, and creativity
- Break through writer's block to make every workday fulfilling
- Use writing to read more quickly and remember the content
- Apply digital tools in a helpful yet ethical way (e.g., ChatGPT)
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**Narrative in Writing**

- Tell your whole story in a few hundred words (abstracts)
- Pull the reader in to care about your work the way you do (introductions)
- Take a clear stance in a scholarly conversation (literature reviews)
- Breathe life into your text through storytelling and literary techniques

**Facilitator**

[Jeremiah Hendren](#)

**Venue**

Dorothea Erxleben Room (C004), Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig

**Credit points**

0.5 ECTS credit points will be granted if both workshop days are attended completely

