

# Soft skills for Geoscientists – How to (better) communicate your Science (30 May 2023)

## Live Webinar

30 May 2023 (08:00 – 15:00)

Registration closes 24 May 2023

## Costs

Registration costs R1000 for Members, R1500 for non-members, R500 for students/retired. A number of free student places are available on application.

One of the many skills necessary for the modern geoscientist is knowing how to communicate effectively. We gather technical/scientific information and findings, and then struggle to present them to our audiences in a way that is engaging and easy to understand. Be it to our colleagues, bosses, as well as to non-technical specialists, investors, bankers and even, on occasion, to the general public. Without being understood, we cannot make the impact we desire.

08:30 – 08:45	Registration/Welcome	Dr Tania R Marshall	GSSA
08:45 – 09:45	Readability and Textual Choice	Prof Elda du Toit Mr Jaco Delpont	University of Pretoria
10:00 – 11:45	Visual Communication Skills	Dr Jernej Zupanc	Seyens Ltd
12:00 – 14:00	Building a better CPR	Mr Tim Roland	Pvt
14:00 – 15:00	Panel discussion / Q&A	Mr Ken Lomborg (Pivot Mining) Mr Rob Ingram (JSE Readers Panel) Ms Maria Antoniadis (Minxcon) Prof Steven Rupprecht (University of Johannesburg)	

## Readability and Textual Choice

Stakeholders need transparent, unbiased reports to understand the documents mining operations and companies present. Readability and textual choice can be used consciously to manipulate perceptions, or it can be done unconsciously.

Our research investigated the readability and textual choice of supplementary Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves Reports of companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The results indicate that narrative manipulation occurs in these reports through word choices that make the reports difficult to read, as well as specific narrative selections that reduce the informational value of the reports.

This presentation will provide you with insight into ways to make your reporting and communication clearer so that it has more informational value to a broader range of stakeholder. This will be accomplished by showing you what unnecessarily complex language look like and what a biased narrative looks like. There will also be some focus on practical examples about how to write in plain language.



**Elda Du Toit** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Financial Management at the University of Pretoria. She is a coordinator of the master's program for financial management sciences. Her research interest is disclosure, specifically the various corporate reports companies present to stakeholders.

**Jaco Delpport** started his career in mining. Thereafter he embarked on a career in exploration geology and now has his own consulting business. He is passionate about research and is in that capacity involved with the Department of Geology of the University of Pretoria as a laboratory manager of the Stoneman laboratory.



# Effective Visual Communication for Geoscientists

## The SEYENS METHOD™

### Crash Course by Dr. Jernej Zupanc, Seyens.com

**Why:** One of the most efficient and effective ways of communicating is with well-designed images. Geoscience is a field of practice that lends itself to visual elements such as maps, charts and other types of diagrams. These elements can enhance our documents, making it easier for our readers to grasp complex models. But, used incorrectly, they can detract from its message, or even serve to further confuse the reader.

**Aim:** You will learn to visually communicate your complex ideas and results so your messages are effortlessly understood by any specific audience (scientists or non-scientists). We will not focus on aesthetics but on how knowledge on human visual perception can help you create effective scientific images and other kinds of visual communication.

1. **Theory:** simple useful frameworks, principles, and strategies that you can apply in your own communication.
2. **Personalized feedback:** you will have the opportunity to submit your own images (maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, etc.) and we will look at a selection to learn on materials most relevant to you.
3. **Q&A:** we will take the time to go over the most pertinent struggles you encounter in your professional communication.

**Trainer:** **Dr. Jernej Zupanc**, Founder of Seyens Ltd.  
My goal is to help scientists effectively communicate your ideas and findings and make an impact with your research. Teaching and communication are my professional passions. I read and study eclectically and am always looking for approaches from different fields that can be easily applied by scientists. I distil the principles and practices into easy to understand and fun learning experiences. Time is our most valuable resource and I want the time spent in my training to be the best long-term investment a scientist can make. I've worked with close to 5000 researchers from 150 excellent research institutions and hope to work with you too.



## Building a Better CPR

Drawing on personal experience and industry trends, this CPR workshop will highlight minimum standards and leading practices, as well as outlining the key challenges to navigate and the major problems and pitfalls to avoid. Predominantly focused on CPR's associated with the SAMCODES and JSE listed companies, the linkages to other reporting Codes and Guidance impacting the disclosure of information under multiple jurisdictions and joint venture settings will also be referenced.

The relationship between CPR's and broader Integrated Annual Reporting and associated Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Supplements issued by many companies will also be covered, highlighting the respective purpose and intent of the various formats to meet the needs of the end users of the information.

Emphasis will be on the meaningful integration of the technical, financial and ESG content of the CPR, specifically highlighting the importance of integrating information across the full reporting value chain and ensuring the golden thread that wires company strategy, business /operational planning and the MRMR statements together is intact.

The common themes and issues raised routinely every year by the JSE Readers Panel will also be covered, along with opportunities for incorporating ongoing enhancements to leverage improved materiality, transparency and competency underpinning CPR's.



**Tim Rowland** has been working in the mining industry for 38 years, formerly with Anglo American and AngloGold Ashanti and then with Gold Fields for the last 20 years before retiring at the end of 2021. Tim held various senior leadership positions with Gold Fields, including Group Mineral Resources Manager, VP and Head of Technical Services for the SA Region, EVP and Head of Group Technical Services and EVP and Head of South African Operations prior to the sale of assets to Sibanye. Tim was the Group Competent Person for Gold Fields for some 15 years, in parallel with holding numerous executive and technical leadership positions, including Group VP for Geosciences and Business Planning. He is FSAIMM, FGSSA and SACNASP accredited and tertiary qualifications include BSc. Hons Geology, University of Nottingham, MSc. Mining Geology and Exploration, University of Leicester, GDE (Mining), University of the Witwatersrand and EDP University of Stellenbosch. Driving industry leading Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve (MRMR) reporting to meet the intent of all relevant prevailing reporting Codes and regulatory guidance, remains a passion of Tim's.