



LERU Doctoral Summer School, 9-14 July 2017, University of Zurich

13 December 2016

Citizen science – nexus between research and public engagement

Theme

Citizen science – the involvement of non-professional scientists in research – is generating broad attention across and beyond the scientific community. Activities range from small-scale local projects, largely with layperson participation, to large-scale international projects, which may involve professional scientists and research institutions. Though laypersons have been actively assisting in scientific discovery to varying degrees for centuries, in our current digital age, citizen science is experiencing a boom thanks to rapidly developing technologies made available to a wider public. For example, Galaxy Zoo, an online tool that allows volunteers to classify galaxies, and Zooniverse, a citizen science portal, use technology and citizens' interest to conduct research. Citizen science thrives in an open and transparent environment, and it is widely seen as a cornerstone of a broader open science movement. Citizen science is a phenomenon that is multilayered and comes in many hues. However, many questions remain unanswered, such as legal, ethical, commercial and privacy issues.

The LERU Summer School “Citizen science – nexus between research and public engagement” addresses these and other related issues concerning citizen science and deals with the resulting implications for research and science in general. To this aim, participants will be able to directly experiment with informal learning and scientific creativity.

Participant requirements:

The summer school is for intermediate to advanced doctoral candidates from LERU universities. Participants should be interested in developments in science in general and in science with and for society questions in particular, and be willing to actively work on a project which deals with new ways to interact with non-academic citizens. Programming skills are beneficial but not essential. We strive for a diverse group of participants with different disciplinary backgrounds. All sessions will be conducted in English, and therefore fluency in both spoken and written English is essential.

Take-aways:

What ethical, legal and commercial aspects are to be considered when engaging in citizen science projects? Are there any guidelines? Will citizen science transform science and its communication? What skills are useful to manage a citizen science project? To achieve a deeper understanding, participants will have sufficient time to exchange ideas, and to visit and learn about local existing citizen science projects. Participants will also engage hands-on in a citizen science hack day and present their projects to a jury. The summer school will include short training workshops on project management and science communication.



Doctoral candidates will leave the summer school with a better understanding of citizen science, including opportunities and challenges. Furthermore, we strive to prepare participants to act as emissaries with regard to conducting high-class citizen science projects.

Content and activities:

Inputs: Introduction to citizen science; historical contextualization; ethical, legal and commercial questions; principles and recommendations; getting to know existing citizen science projects and their tools.

Project development: skill identification; pitching session for hack day; citizen science hack day; presentation and nomination of winners; participating at the Graduate Campus Annual Ceremony with presentation of best projects.

Skills: workshops on project management and science communication.

Social events: evening walking tour of the city of Zurich; excursion to Uetliberg (Zurich's local mountain) with a traditional fondue dinner; reception and networking.

Organizing team:

Graduate Campus, University of Zurich, www.grc.uzh.ch:

Dr. Claudine Leysinger, General Manager

Dr. Birte Lembke-Ibold, Events and Communication

Eric Alms, MA, Transferable Skills Courses

Participation costs:

There is fee of a 500€ per participant. This covers course materials, accommodation in Zurich for five nights from 9 to 14 July 2017 (Sunday night to Friday morning), meals and transportation within Zurich. Participants will have to cover travel to and from Zurich, as well as any additional social activities undertaken.

Program: Citizen Science – nexus between research and public engagement

Session times	Sunday, 9 July	Monday, 10 July	Tuesday, 11 July	Wednesday, 12 July	Thursday, 13 July	Friday, 14 July
9.00-10.30am		Skill identification	Workshops (different workshops on project management, voice training, science communication)	Pitching session for hack day	Working on presentations, coffee and croissants	Citizen Science Trail (excursion to a citizen science project)
10.30-11.00am		Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Starting at 10.30am	Coffee
11.00-12.30am	Participants arrive individually	Introduction / Historical contextualization (plenary) – Bruno Strasser, University of Geneva	Workshops (different workshops on project management, voice training, science communication)	Citizen Science Hack Day	Presentation of hacks (plenary)	
12.30-2.00pm		Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break: jury nominates winning teams	Lunch break
2.00-3.30pm	Check-in at hotel starting at 2pm	Ethical / legal / commercial questions; scientific quality (plenary) – Effy Vayena, University of Zurich	Workshops (different workshops on project management, voice training, science communication)	Citizen Science Hack Day	2.00-2.30 pm Presentation of winners Feedback (all) and preparation Annual Ceremony (winners)	Feedback (plenary)
3.30-4.00pm	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Finish by 3.30pm
4.00-5.30pm	Informal get-together: Getting to know the participants.	Presentation of some citizen science tools (excursion or tools, Citizen Science Center)	Project identification	Citizen Science Hack Day	Preparation Annual Ceremony (winners) / preparation of questions for panel	
6.00-8.00pm	Dinner	<i>Evening Walking</i> tour of Zurich, followed by a BBQ (vegetarian option included)	Excursion to Uetliberg with Fondue dinner on Uetliberg	Citizen Science Hack Day	5pm: Annual Ceremony of the Graduate Campus with presentation of best projects, followed by networking and apéro riche	

Draft, 10 January 2017