



International Max Planck
Research School
on the Life Course

IMPRS • LIFE • Lentzeallee 94 • 14195 Berlin

To Whom It May Concern

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Academic Presentation Training, taught by Frank Steven Weir

Frank Steven Weir has taught this course at the International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course (LIFE) since Spring 2009. Thanks to him, academic presentation training has become an integral part of the LIFE program in Berlin.

Frank Steven Weir runs the course twice a year. Immediately before a LIFE Academy, the fellows meet in small groups with Mr. Weir. During these sessions, he introduces the main criteria for successful academic presentations and highlights common pitfalls. Participants then review and analyse past presentations using filmed material and evaluation criteria. The aim is to encourage self-reflection, receive feedback from the group and set new performance goals. During the LIFE academy, the fellows' talks are videotaped. At a second meeting immediately after the academy, the video material is discussed to provide feedback and measure progress.

The Academic Presentation Training format has proven itself very effective in practice. The LIFE fellows have consistently given enthusiastic feedback about this training component. Recently, two of our fellows received awards for excellent presentations at international conferences, and both explicitly thanked Mr. Weir for his excellent training.

We have therefore extended this training course to all staff at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, where it has also been very well received. The consistently positive feedback and improvement in presentation skills confirm the value of this format. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Mr. Weir and recommend him without reservation as a highly competent and effective presentation coach.

Imke Kruse

LIFE Co-Speakers
Ulman Lindenberger,
MPI Berlin
Clemens Tesch-Römer,
(Associate Co-Speaker)
Freie Universität Berlin
Toni C. Antonucci,
UMichigan
Jacqui Smith,
(Associate Co-Speaker)
UMichigan
Steven M. Boker,
UVirginia
Angeline Lillard (Associate Co-Speaker)
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