

Scientific Writing

(Fall Term, 2024)

Common lectures for the School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

2024 Fall Term

Time:

Thursday 16:30-18:00 (5th slot) and / or

Wednesday, 10:45-12:15 (2nd slot)

NOTE: all lectures will be made ONLINE

- **Each professor will send you their own Zoom/Webex/Teams link**

Lecturers:

Mr. John Zepernick (ThinkScience)

Prof. Megumi Kaneko (Department of Informatics)

Assoc. Prof. Stephen Wu (Department of Statistical Science)

Schedule:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Place: ONLINE</u>
1.	10/16 (W)	Robust Writing 1	Kaneko	
2T.	10/23 (W)	Technical Writing T1	Zepernick	
2N.	10/24 (Th)	Technical Writing N1	Zepernick	
3T.	10/30 (W)	Technical Writing T2	Zepernick	
3N.	10/31 (Th)	Technical Writing N2	Zepernick	
4.	11/06 (W)	Reading 1	Wu	
5T.	11/13 (W)	Technical Writing T3	Zepernick	
5N.	11/14 (Th)	Technical Writing N3	Zepernick	
6.	11/21 (Th)	Reading 2	Kaneko	
7T.	11/27 (W)	Technical Writing T4	Zepernick	
7N.	11/28 (Th)	Technical Writing N4	Zepernick	
8T.	12/04 (W)	Technical Writing T5	Zepernick	
8N.	12/05 (Th)	Technical Writing N5	Zepernick	
9.	12/11 (W)	Robust Writing 2	Zepernick	
10.	12/18 (W)	Reading 3	Zepernick	
11.	12/25 (W)	No lectures		
12.	1/08 (W)	Robust Writing 3	Wu	
13T.	1/15 (W)	Technical Writing T6	Zepernick	
13N.	1/16 (Th)	Technical Writing N6	Zepernick	
14T .	1/22 (W)	Technical Writing T7	Zepernick	
14N.	1/23 (Th)	Technical Writing N7	Zepernick	
15T	1/29 (W)	Technical Writing T8	Zepernick	
15N.	1/30 (Th)	Technical Writing N8	Zepernick	

(Note: T=Tachikawa, N=NII but now they're just Group 1 and Group 2 since all classes are online)

Lecture Details:

(I) Technical Writing (10 lectures by Mr. Zepernick):

We focus on how to write effective research papers. We examine in detail: the roles and responsibilities of authors and other actors in the scholarly publishing industry; communicating effectively with the different actors; recent changes in scholarly publishing and the implications for authors; good practices that underpin effective science writing (from conception of the research through writing, submission, and peer review to publication and beyond); avoiding and resolving common issues (plagiarism and text recycling, authorship, copyright, predatory journals and conferences, etc.); establishing structure and logical flow; strategies and practical tips for writing clearly, accurately, concisely, and authoritatively; and self-editing and proofing.

All classes are interactive, involving practical exercises and encouraging problem-solving. Students complete a short writing assignment as part of this course.

(II) Robust Writing Strategies (2 lectures by Prof. Kaneko and Prof. Wu):

Strategies for scientific writing will be examined with regard to reducing the impact of writing errors on reader comprehension. The students will be asked to read the titles, abstracts and introductions of several real research papers of varying quality, and to critique them in light of organizational principles. Students will be encouraged to supply samples of their own technical writing for analysis by the class.

(III) Reading (2 lectures by Prof. Kaneko, Prof. Wu):

We will read English articles, for example, from *Nature* or *Science*.

Each student will be asked to read aloud a paragraph or two in turn, to summarize, and to answer questions related to it. This will be followed by discussions related to the article.