

WRITE AWAY!
SUBSTANCE, STYLE, & SOURCES
IN ACADEMIC WRITING

Professor: **Filip SAVATIC**
Session: **July 2024**
Language of instruction: **English**
Number of hours: **8h**



Objective of the workshop

This workshop will introduce participants to the central components of academic writing in English, including its purpose, content, style, and structure. Participants will reflect collectively on the information that academic writing aims to convey given the varied outputs of scholarly research, on the specifics of proper writing in an academic context, and on the referencing of existing works. After the workshop, participants should understand what academic writing aims to achieve, the way it differs from other forms of expression, the appropriate style to deploy when writing for an academic audience, as well as common citation formats. Participants will learn actively through personal writing and by engaging in a dialogue with each other regarding their own work.



Summary

Academic writing poses unique challenges for authors and requires reflections about a writer's audience, purpose, and language as well as substance, organization, and mechanics. Academic research leads to various types of outputs (articles, books, chapters, literature reviews, reports, etc.), each of which has its own particular structure. Regardless of the output, academic writing calls for the use of a distinct style and language that differ markedly from other forms of writing. Precision, formality, and clarity are all important to convey information to both specialized and lay audiences. In addition, bibliographic references and citations are critical features of academic writing and take different forms.

This workshop will offer participants a chance to learn collectively and actively about the key aspects of academic writing and its unique features. Discussions will center on what academic research is about, the different forms that it takes, what it aims to achieve, and who engages with it. Sessions will center around four different themes:

(1) The first session will focus on the purpose and different forms of scholarly research that academic writing presents and disseminates. Given the existence of many types of research methods and outputs, participants will reflect on the various ways to present scholarly findings. (2) The second session will shift focus towards the style deployed in academic writing, regardless of the type of output in question. A key focus will be on the differences between academic and other forms of writing, delving specifically into the words that are used and their meanings. (3) The third session will focus on the structure of academic writing, the organization of typical outputs, and the key information presented across standard formats. (4) The fourth session will focus on bibliographies, with a practical review of citation styles and a reflection on the issue of plagiarism.

For the workshop, participants will be asked to share a personal piece of academic writing with their peers. The active exercises during the workshop will offer an opportunity for participants to improve their writing. In the final session, participants will offer feedback to each other on their work in light of our discussions.



Organization of the workshop

Part 1: Introduction and Content

- What is academic research and what is its purpose?
- What are the different types of written outputs that result from research?
- What is the content/substance conveyed by academic writing?

Part 2: Style

- How does academic writing differ from other forms of writing (journalism, creative writing, blogs, emails, etc.)?
- What are the key stylistic aspects of academic writing?
- What type of language should be included and excluded from academic writing?

Part 3: Structure

- What are the key components of an academic work?
- What are the different forms of academic research and how are they presented?
- How is academic writing organized?

Part 4: Citations/References

- What is plagiarism?
- Why are bibliographies essential to academic writing?
- What are the primary bibliographic citation styles?

Part 5: Collective Reading and Discussion

- What have you written and how has it improved?
- What is your feedback for your peers?



Requirements for validation

Validation for the Summer School workshops is based on participation.

A student who attends all four sessions and actively participates in the activities will be awarded 1 ECTS credit.



Professor's Biography



Filip Savatic is a Postdoctoral researcher for the Migration Governance and Asylum Crises (MAGYC) project at the Center for International Studies (Centre de recherches internationales) of Sciences Po Paris. He specializes in the study of international migration and European integration. His work for the MAGYC project focuses on the externalization of migration control by European states and the impact of public policies on migratory flows. More broadly, his research examines the role of regional integration in the evolution of public policies targeting irregular migrants in Europe and the effects of migration on the political systems of migrant-receiving states. In addition to his research, he has taught English at the University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis. He obtained his PhD in Government from Georgetown University (Washington, DC, USA) in December 2021.