

What's at stake in science popularisation?

On the basis of the ProustTime programme, which was presented at ESOF Manchester in 2016, this session will explore the challenges involved in “sharing knowledge”, challenges which are social and political as well as scientific. ProustTime brings together a dozen or so researchers from a variety of research fields – physics, biogeochemistry, neuroscience, history, linguistics, economics, plastic arts etc. – around an interdisciplinary investigation of time with reference to Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. The 2018 session, which will be conducted by researchers and doctoral students from the ProustTime team, aims to explore and question the boundary between research as such and research communication. It will start with a lively interactive presentation of the ProustTime programme and achievements (in the form of short presentations in the style of “my thesis in 180 seconds”), leading to a reflective consideration of the aims pursued by such activities (events and publications), in other words trying to answer the question formulated in the theme “Sharing knowledge”: Is the goal to train capable scientists, or informed citizens? Our activities being directed at researchers – confirmed or in the making – as well as the general public, sometimes at both types of audience at the same time, we are of necessity toing and froing between the roles of research scientist and science communicator. Our twofold objective is to examine how interdisciplinary approaches may be able to enrich basic research (including mono-disciplinary research), as well as to consider how sharing such transversal research with a larger audience may contribute to promoting informed and active citizenship: in these times of *post-truth* and *alternative facts*, it seems essential to develop forms of knowledge sharing with wide audiences which are strongly rooted in scientific *accuracy*. This exigency is at the heart of the ProustTime programme: while taking images from literature as its starting point, the ProustTime programme has as its aim to propose scientific tools and methods, whatever the field considered. Indeed, it is in our view a central role of the social sciences and humanities to promote a rigorous reflection on the articulation of science and society.