

## Skills overview

### Mr Toss Gascoigne Curriculum vitae

Toss Gascoigne is a science communication specialist. His skills are based on his experience in:

- Running training workshops
- Managing organisations and events for science communicators
- Conceiving, managing and editing a major book project
- Writing: book chapters, papers, reports, media releases, websites
- Designing workshops for scientists: writing, speaking, media,
- Working with sponsors to provide value
- Chairing meetings and discussions
- Designing events to impact on public policy

## Employment history

2011 – current Consultant, Toss Gascoigne and Associates  
2009-2011 Executive Director, Australian Science Innovations  
2008 Advisor to Vice-Chancellor, The University of Canberra  
2003-2008 Founding Executive Director, Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
1995-2003 Executive Director, the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS). Now re-named Science and Technology Australia.  
1990-1995 Communication Manager, Centre for Environmental Mechanics, CSIRO Canberra  
1970-1990 Teaching in United Kingdom and Tasmania

## Education

1971 Teachers Certificate, University of Tasmania  
1967 Bachelor of Arts (Politics, History, English), Australian National University

## Experience

Toss is a consultant specialising in science communication. He has run hundreds of training workshops in Australia, working internationally through the Pacific and in 20 other countries including Germany, Kenya, Columbia, India, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. These workshops have focussed on science communication, how to reach different audiences and explain complex concepts; and have been run with Jenni Metcalfe.

In 2022 he organised a four-day meeting at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre at Lake Como. The meeting allowed 22 leading international science communicators to discuss the ways the field could take the next step as it matures.

Toss served as Executive Director for three national organisations for the 15 years period from 1995: the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS); the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS); and Australian Science Innovations (ASI). These positions required the management of events, drafting policy documents to influence government, working with a Board and sponsor groups, and writing and editing reports.

In these roles he worked with politicians, bureaucrats and senior figures in the research community. Toss designed and organised *Science meets Parliament*, a major event in the national science calendar which brings 160 scientists to Canberra for one-on-one meetings with members of Parliament. The event began in 1999 and was so successful it has been copied by other organisations and by researcher groups in Canada and across Europe. They continue today.

He has organised a dozen addresses at the National Press Club in Canberra. These have featured well-known speakers including Government ministers, the Chief Scientist, winners of the Australian of the Year Award, and prominent figures from film, television and cultural institutions.

In 2020 the book *Communicating Science. A Global Perspective* was published by ANU Press, with Toss serving as designer, manager and chief editor. The book is an international account of the way science communication has developed in 39 countries and includes contributions from 107 authors. It is the most popular science book the Press has ever published and has set new records for downloads (50,000 to date) and altmetrics. He continues to publish papers and book chapters.

### **Professional associations**

The Network for the Public Communication of Science and Technology: inaugural president, member of the Scientific Committee (1996-present) and Life Member  
Australian Science Communicators: co-founder, Life Member and (former) President

### **Publications (selected)**

Toss Gascoigne et al. *The Ladder of Power: science communication and citizen science* Lusophone Journal of Cultural Studies (LJCS) <https://rlec.pt> Portugal (in press)

Jennifer Metcalfe, Toss Gascoigne *Participatory science communication for transformation*. Journal of Science Communication Vol 21 2022 issue 02

Bernard Schiele, Toss Gascoigne, Alexandre Schiele. *Communicating science: herterogeneous, multiform and polysemic*. In Schiele, B., Liu, X., Bauer, M. W., (2021), *Science Cultures in a Diverse World*, Springer.

Gascoigne, Toss et al (editor). *Communicating Science. A Global Perspective* ANU Press 2020

Toss Gascoigne and Jenni Metcalfe *Training scientists to communicate in a changing world* in *Theory and Best Practices in Science Communication Training*, Todd P. Newman (editor), Routledge 2020

Germana Barata, Graca Caldas and Toss Gascoigne *Brazilian science communication research: national and international contributions*. *Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências (Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences)* Brazil 2017

Gascoigne, Toss *Issues in science communication*. Roundtable Annual Conference, Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST), Beijing 2017

Gascoigne, T.H. *How much science does an ordinary citizen need to know?* SCANZ Conference, Dunedin 2016

Gascoigne, T.H. et al *Is science communication its own field?* Journal of Science Communication (JCom) 9 (3) September. Italy 2010