

Dr Gill Brown

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Profile

I am a former geophysicist, now working as a freelance graphic designer and illustrator, specialising in scientific visual communication. I work closely with scientists, helping them to create effective and adaptable conceptual figures. I also run workshops tailored to scientists, focusing on good graphic design practice and providing hands-on training in the creation of scientific figures.

I am conducting on-going research into the use of graphic design practice in scientific work (in collaboration with the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences at King's College London, www.neuroscience-graphicdesign.com). This is part of my investigation into using graphic design practice as a research method and I present this work to graphic designers and scientists alike.

Education

PhD, University of the Arts London (London College of Communication).

October 2015 - September 2019

PhD thesis *Visual Elements & Visual Paradigms: Re-thinking scientific conceptual figures through graphic design*.

MA Graphic Design (part-time), Distinction, London College of Communication, UAL.

January 2012 - December 2014

BA Graphic Design Communication, 2(i), Chelsea College of Art and Design, UAL.

October 2005 - July 2008

Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies, Distinction, Chelsea College of Art and Design, UAL.

September 2004 - June 2005

BSc Geology, 2(ii), Hull University.

October 1983 - July 1986

Professional Experience

Freelance Graphic Designer / Illustrator and Graphic Design Researcher

From October 2018

Specialising in the field of scientific visual communication.

Funded PhD Research Student, University of the Arts London.

October 2015 - September 2018

Geophysical Consultant, KRASKA Ltd

November 2005 - March 2015

Director of my own company, providing technical support and training (both formal and on-the-job) to seismic data processing contractors.

Exploration Geophysicist, WesternGeco (formerly Western Geophysical)

March 1988 - July 2004

Working in seismic data processing, within a multi-national oilfield services company. Rose to the position of area geophysicist, covering Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and spent two years managing a specialised processing group in Cairo, Egypt.

Publications / Conference Presentations

Nordio, G., Brown, G., Jilka, S. et al. Can visual illustrations transform the patient information sheet for PET/MR neuroimaging studies into an engaging and interesting reading? *Clinical and Translational Imaging* (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40336-021-00465-6>

PhD thesis. *Visual Elements & Visual Paradigms: Re-thinking scientific conceptual figures through graphic design*. Awarded September 2019.

Creating scientific conceptual figures: using graphic design practice-based research in a collaboration with neuroscientists. Living Research: The Urgency of the Arts. NAFAE Research Student Conference, Royal College of Art. 15 March 2019.

Visual Elements & Visual Paradigms: using graphic design practice to research the visual languages of science. Arts re Search. CARU Annual Conference 2018, Oxford Brookes University. 25 November 2018.

Neuroscience & Graphic Design. Poster presentation at the opening of the Centre for Medical Engineering, St Thomas' Hospital. 14 December 2017.

The Paradigmatic Evolution of Scientific Graphic Design. HARTS & Minds, Issue 8, 2016. Full text available from www.harts-minds.co.uk/science-so

Exhibitions

Unfolding Narratives. Exhibition of work by UAL PhD students based at London College of Communication. 4 - 12 March 2020.

Grants / Awards

Public Engagement Grant of £1,000 to create modular and illustrated Patient Information Sheets. Awarded by the Wellcome EPSRC Centre for Medical Engineering Public Engagement Grant Scheme, July 2020.

Grant of £3,600 to create and run *Graphic Design for Scientific Figures* workshops for research students of King's College London Health Faculties. Awarded by the Health Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (HSDTC) Research Theme Activities Funding Scheme, April 2019.

Related Activities

While undertaking my PhD, I completed the Developing Academic Practice Unit in the MA Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication at UAL. I worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at London College of Communication, conducting sessions for students from the Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate in Design for Visual Communication course, and the MA Data Visualisation course.

On completing my PhD, I continue to teach sessions as a visiting lecturer, highlighting the importance of practice within graphic design research.

I was a PhD student representative for London College of Communication during the 2016-17 academic year. I gave presentations about my research, and my research experience, to prospective PhD students at PhD Open Evenings and at UAL Research Fortnight.