

Dr Gill Brown

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Profile

Dr Gill Brown is a former geophysicist, now graphic designer and illustrator, based in London and working in the field of scientific visual communication. In 2019, Gill was awarded a PhD from University of the Arts London, investigating scientific conceptual figures through graphic design practice. She is now using her research in the following ways:

- **Graphic design workshops** - created specifically to help scientists improve their visual communication. The workshops cover the basics of good graphic design practice and provide hands-on experience of creating editable, adaptable figures.
- **Freelance graphic design and illustration** - helping scientists to create beautiful and effective figures and graphical abstracts, that can then be adapted for use in papers, presentations and more.
- **Ongoing research** - writing and presenting about practice-based research in the arts and the graphic design of scientific visual communication.

In 2017, as part of her PhD research, Gill began a collaboration with members of the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences, at King's College London. That collaboration is ongoing and is documented in full on a dedicated website: www.neuroscience-graphicdesign.com.

Education

- **Oct 2015 - Sep 2019: PhD**, University of the Arts London. PhD thesis *Visual Elements & Visual Paradigms: Re-thinking scientific conceptual figures through graphic design*.
- **Jan 2012 - Dec 2014: MA Graphic Design** (part-time), Distinction, London College of Communication, University of the Arts London.
- **Oct 2005 - Jul 2008: BA Graphic Design Communication**, 2(i), Chelsea College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London.
- **Sep 2004 - Jun 2005: Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies**, Distinction, Chelsea College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London.
- **Oct 1983 - Jul 1986: BSc Geology**, Hull University.

Professional Experience

- **From Oct 2018: Freelance Graphic Designer / Illustrator**. Specialising in the field of scientific visual communication.
- **Oct 2015 - Sep 2018: Funded PhD Research Student**, University of the Arts London.
- **Nov 2005 - Mar 2015: Geophysical Consultant**. Self-employed company director, providing technical support and training (both formal and on-the-job) to seismic data processing contractors in the UK and Europe.
- **Aug 2004 - Aug 2005: One-year sabbatical** (to complete Art & Design Foundation studies).
- **Mar 1988 - Jul 2004: Exploration Geophysicist**, Western Geophysical / WesternGeco. 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.
- **Apr 1997 - Feb 1988: Tissue Culture Technician**, National Institute for Biological Standards & Control, UK.

Graphic Design Workshops

- Online workshops for research students of the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Jun 2022.
- Online workshops for research staff and students of King's College London Health Faculties, Nov-Dec 2021 / May-Jun 2021 / Dec 2020.
- Online workshops for research students of the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Oct 2021.
- In-person workshops with research staff and students of King's College London Health Faculties, Jan-Feb 2020.

Presentations / Seminars

- **The Role of Practice in Design Research.** Online seminar with MA Graphic Design students at London College of Communication, Feb 2022.
- **Introduction to Design-based PhDs.** Online discussion, organised by the International Society of Typographic Designers (ISTD), Dec 2021.
- **The Interface Between Practice and Theory in PhD Research.** Online seminar with research staff and students of the Screen School, London College of Communication, Dec 2021.
- **Graphic Design Practice in Research.** Online presentation to PG Diploma & PG Certificate Design for Visual Communication students at London College of Communication, Dec 2020 and Nov 2019.
- **Graphic Design Practice as a Research Method.** Workshop with MA Data Visualisation students of London College of Communication, Nov 2018
- **Graphic Design Practice in Research.** Online presentation to PG Diploma & PG Certificate Design for Visual Communication students at London College of Communication, Nov 2018.

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.
- Brown, G. (2016) The Paradigmatic Evolution of Scientific Graphic Design. *HARTS & Minds*, Issue 8, 2016. Full text available from <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gill-Brown>.

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.