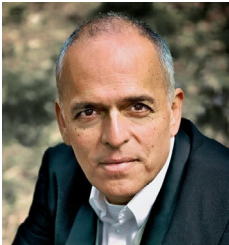


The Q & A Session: Getting Prepared for an Audience Discussion

Trainer



Ric Oquita
Impulsplus, Köln

- Specialized in interpersonal communication skills
- B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Theatre Arts, University of Southern California and Cornell University
- Several administrative positions as a project leader, associate producer and education director



Description

For many researchers, the most difficult part of a presentation begins when the audience starts asking questions.

- How do you stay calm under pressure?
- How do you respond to difficult, critical, or unexpected questions without losing your structure or key message?
- How do you think on your feet while remaining clear, professional, and convincing?

This interactive workshop helps you develop practical strategies for handling live audience discussions in conferences, defenses, colloquia, and research presentations. Through exercises, role-play, and realistic Q&A simulations, you will practice responding to both specialist and non-specialist questions, managing challenging interactions professionally, and using the discussion to reinforce the value and relevance of your work.

You will receive individual feedback on your communication style, clarity, structure, and presence while practicing in a supportive but demanding environment.

Topics include:

- Handling difficult or critical questions
- Thinking on your feet under pressure
- Structuring concise and convincing answers
- Managing nervousness and staying composed
- Using professional and audience-focused language
- Staying oriented and keeping the “red thread” visible



Methodology

- Interactive exercises and role-play
- Improvisation and quick-thinking drills
- Partner and group work
- Voice and body techniques
- Individual coaching and feedback



Conditions

Participants will be required to prepare a 3-minute overview of their topic as a basis for the audience discussion.

Organizational Information

Language / Format	English / On campus
Target group	Doctoral Candidates at all stages and from all faculties
Date	Monday, 15 February 2027, 9:00 – 17:00
Registration	For registration click here