



Friday 21st September 2018
3.30-4.30 pm
113 McBryde Hall



***A STRANGE PHENOMENON HAPPENED:
LOOKING INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING***

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Abstract

To be efficient in graduate school, scientists and engineers not only need technical expertise, but also the ability to effectively use rhetorical skills to adapt to different communication situations. As they become experts in science and engineering, graduate students are required to communicate in a variety of contexts such as dissertations, theses, qualifying exams, conference presentations/posters, journal articles, technical reports, etc. Recently, concerns regarding this ability to communicate the students' expertise have become more prominent. Three levels of communicative competence skills are identified to be important in science and engineering: a combination of an understanding of the communicative context (i.e. audience, purpose, etc.), the ability to create and support logical arguments, and the ability to refine articulation clearly, cohesively, and concisely, at any given communication situation. This seminar provides the MSE graduate students an overview of tools that they can use to improve their technical and professional communication skills in science and engineering.

Bio-sketch

Christine Bala Burgoyne is currently the Program Director for the Engineering Communications Program (ECP) in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) and Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics (BEAM) at Virginia Tech. She has been with program since 2005 and has worked in several areas on pedagogy including Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), engineering communications, technical writing, professional communications, cross cultural communications, critical discourse analysis, and applied linguistics.