Graphical Abstracts - Visualize your research

This workshop deals with the visualization of scientific ideas and projects. Just like the traditional abstract as a written summary of a journal article, especially in life sciences the graphical abstract has made its way into scientific publications as a visual summary. Beyond that specific purpose it actually can be widely used: be it in a thesis defense, a conference talk or a poster; a graphical abstract captures the viewer’s attention, explains the science and will be remembered. However, visualizing complex scientific ideas can be tricky. Where do I start? How do I organize the content? What is important, what can be left out? How can abstract terms be visualized?

This course leads you through the different steps of creating a graphical abstract and includes an introduction into vector graphics.

After the course, you will:

• know a systematic approach how to generate a graphical abstract,
• be able to visually structure your project,
• know resources and approaches to visualize abstract terms,
• be able to digitally create custom vector graphics and icons,
• understand the concept of vector graphics (which is transferable to any professional software),
• know graphic design basics like the intentional use of color, line thickness, typography etc.,
• know about different graphic styles and settle on your own style, and
• have created a graphical abstract for your project.

Requirements

Please plan approximately four hours for individual work between the two days of the course.
Software: we will work with Affinity Designer, a professional vector graphic app. Please do not install anything yet, but wait for instructions you will receive after successful registration approx 1 week before the workshop.

To participate in the online course, you need a PC/laptop with a current browser (recommended: Chrome or Firefox), zoom, as well as a headset (or speakers and a microphone), a webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

Please note:

This workshop cannot be credited as qualification measures at the Department of Mechanical Engineering. However, you are welcome to participate.

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