

# Perception of Science Communication Culture by Communication Scholars in a Periphery Nation

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## **Abstract**

The gap in science communication culture between the world's centre and peripheral nations is large. Rofals *et al.* (2016) notion of peripheries informs the study's recognition of Nigeria as a geographic periphery, science communication research as a cognitive periphery, and communication scholar research as a social periphery. Little or nothing is known about the perception of science communication culture among communication scholars in Nigeria but the European Commission (2012) spells out key parameters for gauging science culture in society. Based on these parameters, this study interrogates the perception of science communication studies and research, science content in the Nigerian media, political attention accorded science communication, stakeholder/actor diversity, means of disseminating science matters, and public interest in science issues among Nigerians. Predicating the discourse on world's systems and perception theories, the study uses the survey design to gather data from the Nigeria Chapter of the African Council for Communication Education in its 2017 National Conference held in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. Of the 350 members in attendance at the 2017 Conference, 120 voluntarily accepted to participate in the survey. The results of the study show that 49% of the respondents reported that the science content in the media was inadequate, 65% reported a meagre/political attention to science communication, and 63% reported a low diversity of actors/stakeholders in science communication among others. Based on these findings, it is recommended among others that government, the

industry, politicians, indeed all stakeholders should strive to invest heavily in primary, secondary, and tertiary science education, science communication, science communication legislation, and budgeting to increase the diversity of science communication stake holding, improve science journalism in Nigeria, and promote science communication research.

**Keywords:** Survey Research, Peripheral Science, World Systems Theory, Fragile Science Communication Culture, Nigeria.