



Tweets
2,962

Following
446

Followers
492

Likes
414

Following

Jen Roberts

@the_JenRoberts Follows you

Researcher in the interdisciplinary realms of env. and social risk assessment, perception & communication for geo-energy technologies.

Univ. Strathclyde, Glasgow

Joined March 2013

Tweet to

Message

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media



Jen Roberts @the_JenRoberts · Aug 22

I've been getting tiny bit irked recently while reading/attending some marvellous & inspiring literary articles or spoke word etc. Its a little twinge that occurs when the author implies that #STEM subjects are *not* creative. Ahem. They can be, and often are. #creativescience

4 3



Jen Roberts @the_JenRoberts · Aug 21

So, who remembers these? With each magazine came a bit of a glow in the dark t-Rex. The 3D picture was the coolest part of the mag. #nostalgia #dinosaurs #everyone lovesgeology

Who to follow · Refresh · View all



Alistair McCay @AlistairM...

Follow



Hazel Gibson @iamhazelgi...

Follow



Lucy Campbell @LucyAtFa...

Follow



Twitter: Just how useful is it?

Twitter is a community.
People make Twitter.
You make Twitter

I joined Twitter when I started my postdoc at the University of Strathclyde in 2013.

These are some reflections.

Twitter

- The community is diverse.
- You can participate how you want to, in a way that suits you.
- Use it to your advantage.



Twitter: Just how useful is it?

Twitter is for finding information

- Journals/researchers tweet new papers
- Research projects tweet about their activity / opportunities
- Reports are posted immediately after their release
- You can ask the Twitter community to help find information, data and diagrams

For example:

When I was following the fracking enquiries, live developments were reported on Twitter, well before other sources.

For example:

For a life cycle analysis project I needed to find the approx. axle loading of a fully loaded biomass truck. This sort of information is hard to find if you aren't connected in the transport/biomass industry. But the Twittersphere may know, or know people who know. When you know who knows, you can then approach these people more formally to seek a citeable source. It worked for me!



Twitter: Just how useful is it?

Twitter is for sharing information

“You really have to give and receive, and also mix it up.

If your only purpose for using Twitter is to ask the hive mind for XX or YY, then you are not engaging in a two-way process.

You won’t gain a rich profile.”

- Share research published by academics you respect
- Post about good research you are reading
- Muse on things/think out loud.
- Join the debate



Personal & Professional Benefits

- Twitter can get your name known
- You can track your research impact, see who is referring to your work or where your publications get mentioned
- You can get to know other scholars which could lead to real life collaborations
- Twitter can be an international support network for ECRs
- Twitter gives female or minority group scientists more of a voice – **Did you know female scientists are represented more on Twitter than male scientists?**



My actual experiences...

I have met people who 'know' me through Twitter. One example was John Gale, head of IEAGHG, who, when I met him, said "Ahhh, youuu are THE Jen Roberts!" (my Twitter handle is @the_JenRoberts...). We already followed each other on Twitter and so knew some of my research activities and shared connections.

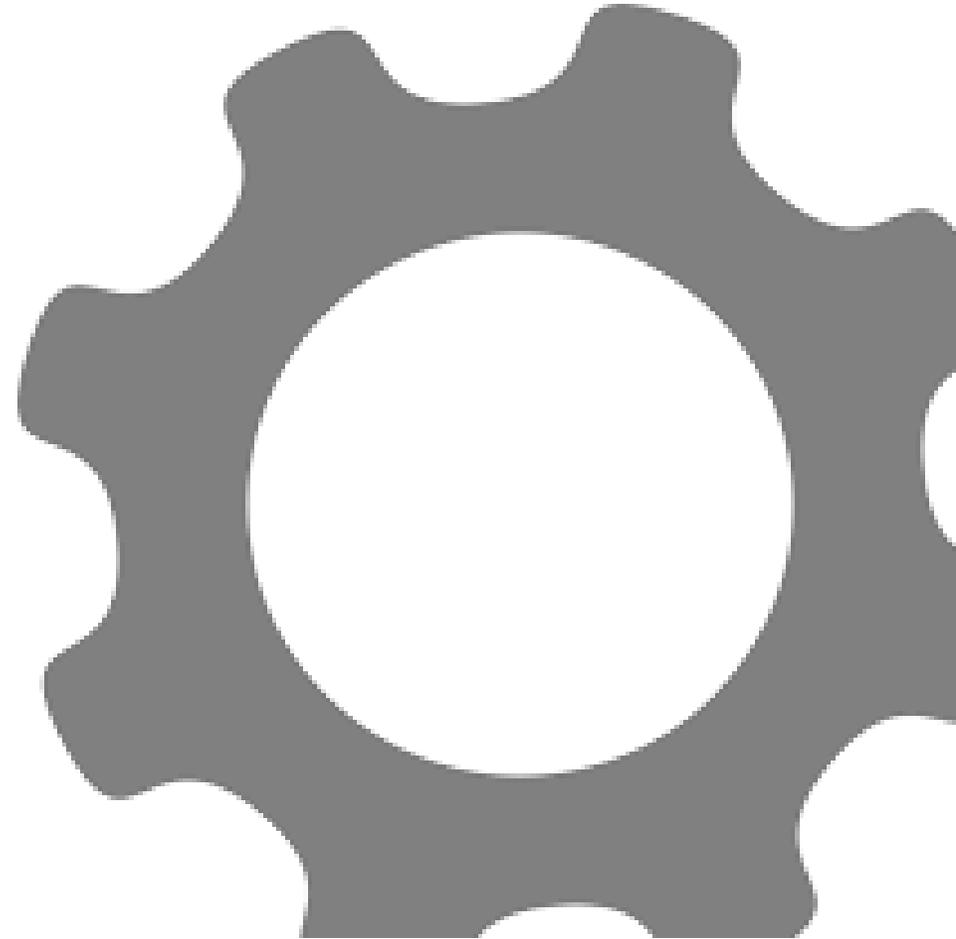
I have been 'head hunted' via Twitter. Like, for real. Not bots. Folk who know of me from Twitter have got in touch because they thought I might be interested in some upcoming opportunities.

Some of my most popular tweets have been from my reflections on "failure". For example, for every proposal that gets funded, there are many, many that didn't make it; either they never made it to completion (sometimes cats just cannot be herded!), or they were excellent, but not quite excellent enough. But failed proposals are rarely mentioned. Rejected papers are rarely mentioned. A string of unsuccessful proposals, papers, whatever, is dispiriting, and can feel isolating, and yet most academics have been there. I'd like to normalise this "failure". The amount of support for my tweets on this topic shows that others would too.



Top Tips

- **Learn how it works!** How to mention people, share, like and tag – there's lots of how-to videos/resources
- **Be aware of what activity your followers can see** (e.g. if you like a post your followers will see that)
- **You do not need to spend long on Twitter** or worry about posting every day. Be aware of how you spend your time.
- **Follow people you admire** to see how they use Twitter
- You have to Tweet stuff to get followers that aren't just bots
- **Engage.** Like/retweet/reply to people and they are more likely to see/like/reply to you or follow you.
- A lot of Twitter can be pants – always **fact and source check**
- Beware bots/trolls, and unfollow & report any Twitter misuse or inappropriate comments





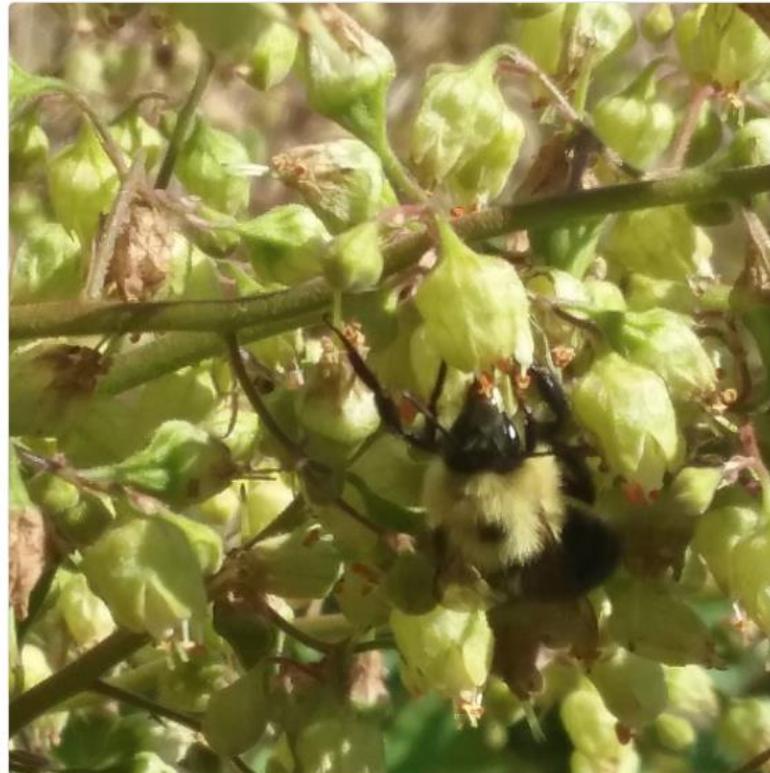
Proper success stories from Twitter



Dr. Chris Martine
@MartineBotany

Follow

Bombus on Heuchera americana. Shikellamy Bluffs, PA. #phenology #pollinators #flowers



12:13 PM - 9 Jun 2017

A tweet was the key reference in a paper reporting on a discovery that a rare wild variety of the gardener's favourite - Heuchera, thought to be limited to a few rocky outcrops in Virginia - is actually abundantly present 100km away.



Dr. Chris Martine
@MartineBotany

#PlantsAreCoolToo! host. Burpee Prof & undergrad mentor @BucknellU.
#iamabotanist #scicomm #Evol2018 #firstgen

Lewisburg, PA

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<https://qz.com/1258508/botany-twitter-just-helped-discover-a-rare-plant-clinging-to-a-cliff-in-pennsylvania/>



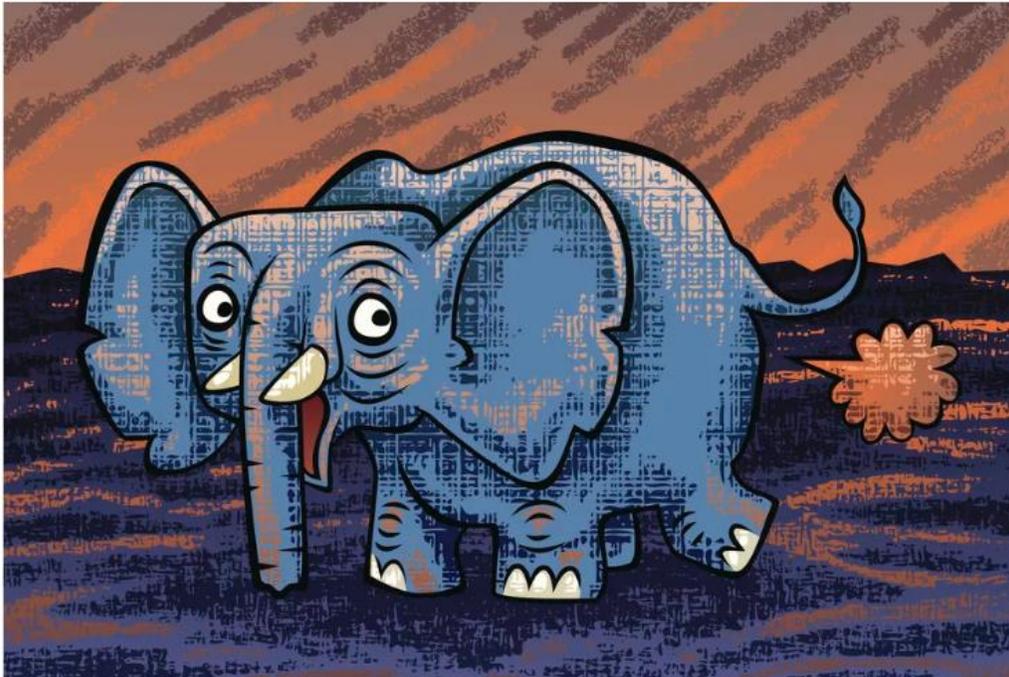
Proper success stories from Twitter

Farts: which animals do, which don't, and why

Farting across the animal kingdom is wonderfully diverse, a new book explains.

By Brian Resnick | @B_resnick | brian@vox.com | Apr 3, 2018, 9:20am EDT

f   SHARE



People fart. Elephants too. Sloths don't. Some fish fart to communicate. | Getty Images

This book was written by two zoologists who hadn't met, they met via Twitter after one of them tweeted "do snakes fart"?

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2018/4/3/17188186/does-it-fart-book-animal-farts-dinosaur-farts>



Interesting reading...

1. Emily Darling (2013) 'It's time for scientists to tweet:' The Conversation <http://theconversation.com/its-time-for-scientists-to-tweet-14658>
2. Beryl Benderly (2014) 'To tweet or not to tweet?' Science Mag: <http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2014/10/tweet-or-not-tweet>
3. Sarah McQuate (2017) 'What all those scientists on Twitter are really doing' Nature News: <https://www.nature.com/news/what-all-those-scientists-on-twitter-are-really-doing-1.21873>