



Notre Dame Institute *for*
ADVANCED STUDY

The NDIAS Talk: Overview

To help the NDIAS come together as an interdisciplinary research community, we set ambitious goals for how we communicate, with an eye toward making our seminars productive, lively, and fun experiences that promote conversations that carry on long after the weekly meetings and reveal ways that other disciplines can expand and enliven our own questions. To that end, we ask everyone to reflect on some of their well-entrenched assumptions about what makes a great research talk and to experiment in the Fall with what we call “The NDIAS Talk.”

The NDIAS Talk is about 35-40 minutes long and is the centerpiece of each of our Fall seminars. The talk has three goals:

1. To persuade your colleagues at the Institute of the importance of one of your research questions, the live options for answering the questions, and the controversy around deciding those options;
2. To teach us about the method(s) you are using to answer that question in ways we can understand;
3. To offer us opportunities to engage and shape the further direction of your work.

What’s special about these talks is that in both their content and their manner of presentation, they are highly **empathetic** (they predict what your audience will need, love, be frustrated by, want to debate, etc) and highly **generative** (the whole point of the talk is to make something happen afterward—namely a lot of post-talk engagement). There will also be norms and goals for audience members in the seminar.

There will be three phases to the NDIAS talk over the course of the year:

1. Fall Retreat: Work with a professional communications consultant to plan more engaging ways of presenting the narratives of our research, give us opportunities to practice our delivery skills, and give us advice on leading more empathetic and generative talks.
2. Fall Seminars: Deliver a talk in this format to our research community. We’ll primarily focus on discussing your project, but we’ll also over the course of the semester discuss ways to make our talks more effective along these dimensions.
3. Spring Conference: Participate in the public-facing conference hosted by the NDIAS where you will have the opportunity to debut NDIAS talk to a much broader academic and public audience.