

Personal information

Surname(s) / First name(s)

Address(es)

Telephone(s)

Email(s)

Nationality(-ies)

Date of birth

Gender

el-Showk, Sedeer

BP 4472-12100
Ain El Aouda, Morocco

+358 (50) 596-7775

sedeer@elshowk.com

Finnish, Lebanese

May 8, 1980

Male



Writing & Editing

Articles in/for

Nature Middle East, Nature Asia Pacific, Science, Nautilus, Smithsonian.com, BBC Focus, SciDev.net, and elsewhere

Editing

Academic manuscripts and dissertations for non-native English speakers.

Blog

[Inspiring Science](#) (Jan 2012 – present)

Group Blog

[Social Evolution Forum](#) (Nov 2015 – present)

Column

[Wonders of the Natural World](#), Beacon (Feb 2014 – Jan 2015)

Blog

[Accumulating Glitches](#) (May 2013 – Jan 2016)

I was invited to write about evolution for Nature Education's Scitable network.

Professional Experience

Freelance writer

2013 – present.

Freelance editor

Proof-reading biology manuscripts, [TopEdit](#), Nov 2015 – present.

Blog manager

Scitable network, Nature Education, Jan 2014 – Nov 2015.

Internship

BBC Focus magazine, October 2013

Manager & Researcher

[The Farm](#), Morocco, 2001 – 2005

Daily management of a farm with a tissue culture lab, & nursery.

Academic Qualifications

PhD

2008 – 2016, Faculty of Biosciences, University of Helsinki.

Thesis: *Auxin and cytokinin interactions regulate primary vascular patterning during root development in Arabidopsis thaliana*

MSc

2005 – 2008, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; University of Helsinki.

Thesis: *Ontogeny of nestmate recognition in the black ant, Formica fusca*

Grade: *Magna cum laude approbatur (5/7)*

BSc

1997 – 2001, Genetics and Plant Biology; University of California, Berkeley.

Languages

Mother tongue(s)

English

*Self-assessment
European level^(*)*

Arabic

French

Finnish

German

| Understanding | | Speaking | | Writing | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Listening | Reading | Spoken interaction | Spoken production | | |
| C2 Proficient user | B2 Independent user | C1 Proficient user | B2 Independent user | A2 Basic user | |
| C1 Proficient user | C1 Proficient user | B2 Independent user | B2 Independent user | B2 Independent user | |
| B2 Independent user | B2 Independent user | B1 Independent user | B1 Independent user | B1 Independent user | |
| A2 Basic user | A2 Basic user | A1 Basic user | A2 Basic user | A2 Basic user | |

^(*) Common European Framework of Reference (CEF) level

Grants and Awards

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Invited panelist | World Conference of Science Journalists. Panel: "Global Science, Different Audiences". (June 2015) |
| Invited participant | 6 th Erice International School of Science Journalism course. Topic: "The Science of Light". (May 2015) |
| Invited participant | 2 nd Nordita workshop for science writers. Topic: Quantum Theory. (August 2014) |
| ScienceSeeker Editors' Pick | The Bone-house Wasp. (2014) http://scienceseeker.org/post/399795 |
| ScienceSeeker Editors' Pick | The give-and-take between mothers and their offspring. (2014) http://scienceseeker.org/post/380787 |
| ScienceSeeker Editors' Pick | Hsp90: translating environmental stress into evolutionary change. (2012) http://scienceseeker.org/post/184185 |
| EMBO Short-term Fellowship | Competitive grant to visit another lab for collaborative research. (2010) |
| FGSPB PhD Fellowship | Fellowship in a national graduate school; competitively awarded. (2009) |
| Best Poster Award | Annual Spring Symposium at the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki, 2007 |
| Debating semi-finalist | 2007 Leiden Open: ranked 2/49 as a team and 4/98 individually. |

Membership

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|--------------|--|
| 2014–present | International Science Writers' Association (Vice president, 2017–present); Secretary, 2015–2016) |
| 2009–2010 | Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society |
| 2007–2009 | University of Helsinki Debating Society (Board member) |
| 2005–2009 | Tsemppi (UH foreign students' organization, Board member) |

Additional Skills & Experience

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Computing | Linux, Windows, MS Office, Wordpress, Photoshop/GIMP, Inkscape, \LaTeX , Web design (HTML/CSS), basic programming |
| Teaching | Plant genomics laboratory course (University of Helsinki; 2007) Advanced Computer Methods (University of Helsinki; 2008–2012) |
| Organizing Committees | 3 rd Intl. Plant Vascular Biology Conference, 2013 (apx. 180 participants) SPPS PhD Student conference, 2011 (apx. 100 participants) |

Scientific Publications

- [1] Nathan Mellor, Milad Adibi, Sedeer El-Showk, Bert De Rybel, John King, Ari Pekka Mähönen, Dolf Weijers, and Anthony Bishopp. Theoretical approaches to understanding root vascular patterning: a consensus between recent models. *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 2016.
- [2] Sedeer el Showk, Hanna Help-Rinta-Rahko, Tiina Blomster, Riccardo Siligato, Athanasius FM Marée, AP Mähönen, and Verônica A Grieneisen. Parsimonious model of vascular patterning links transverse hormone fluxes to lateral root initiation: Auxin leads the way, while cytokinin levels out. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 11(10):e1004450, 2015.
- [3] Sedeer El-Showk, Mallorie Taylor-Teeples, Yrjo Helariutta, and Siobhan M. Brady. Gene regulatory networks during *Arabidopsis* root vascular development. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, pages 1090–1097, July 2013.
- [4] Sedeer El-Showk, Raili Ruonala, and Ykä Helariutta. Crossing paths: Cytokinin signalling and crosstalk. *Development*, 140(7):1373–1383, March 2013.
- [5] Anthony Bishopp, Sedeer El-Showk, and Ykä Helariutta. Vascular development in *Arabidopsis* roots. In *Plant Roots: The Hidden Half*. CRC Press, 4th edition, 2013.
- [6] Anthony Bishopp, Satu Lehesranta, Anne Vatén, Hanna Help, Sedeer El-Showk, Ben Scheres, Kerttuli Helariutta, Ari Pekka Mähönen, Hitoshi Sakakibara, and Ykä Helariutta. Phloem-transported cytokinin regulates polar auxin transport and maintains vascular pattern in the root meristem. *Current Biology*, 21(11):927–932, June 2011.
- [7] Anthony Bishopp, Hanna Help, Sedeer El-Showk, Dolf Weijers, Ben Scheres, Jiří Friml, Eva Benková, Ari Pekka Mähönen, and Ykä Helariutta. A mutually inhibitory interaction between auxin and cytokinin specifies vascular pattern in roots. *Current Biology*, 21(11):917–26, June 2011.
- [8] Sedeer El-Showk, Jelle S. van Zweden, Patrizia d’Ettorre, and Lotta Sundström. Are you my mother? Kin recognition in the ant *Formica fusca*. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 23(2):397–406, February 2010.