

## Personal information

Name / Surname

Address

Telephone

Personal Email

Nationality

Date of birth

## Writing & Editing

Articles in/for

Video scripts

Blog

Column

Blog

## Professional Experience

Freelance writer

Communications specialist

Freelance editor

Freelance editor

Blog manager

Internship

Manager & Researcher

## Academic Qualifications

PhD

MSc

BSc

## Languages

Mother tongue

*Self-assessment  
European level<sup>(\*)</sup>*

**Arabic**

**French**

**Finnish**

**Swedish**

**German**

**Russian**

## el-Showk, Sedeer

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00940 Helsinki, Finland

+358 (50) 596-7775

[sedeer@elshowk.com](mailto:sedeer@elshowk.com)

Finnish, Lebanese

May 8, 1980



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

Scripts and production support for short science explainers and researcher profiles  
[Inspiring Science](#) (Jan 2012 – April 2017)

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

[Accumulating Glitches](#) (May 2013 – Jan 2016), invited to write about evolution for Nature Education's Scitable network.

2013 – present

Aalto University, 2021 – 2024

Nature Research Custom Media (Springer Nature), 2020 – present

Editing biology manuscripts by non-native speakers, [TopEdit](#), Nov 2015 – Aug 2018  
Scitable network, Nature Education, Jan 2014 – Nov 2015

BBC Focus magazine, October 2013

[The Farm](#), Morocco, 2001 – 2005, running a farm with a tissue culture lab & nursery

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

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

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)*

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

## English

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

<sup>(\*)</sup> Common European Framework of Reference (CEF) level

## Positions of trust

2024 – present	Board member, Helsinki Left
2024 – present	Board member, Sumud – The Finnish Palestine Network
2017 – 2019	Program committee, World Conference of Science Journalists 2019
2016 – 2017	Program committee, World Conference of Science Journalists 2017
2014 – 2021	Board member, International Science Writers Association (President 2018 – 2021, Vice President 2017 – 2018, Secretary 2015 – 2016)
2007 – 2009	Board member, University of Helsinki Debating Society
2005 – 2009	Board member, Tsemppi (UH foreign students' organization)

## Memberships

2017 – present	Finnish Association of Science Editors and Journalists
2015 – 2018	Editorial Freelancers Association
2009 – 2010	Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society

## Grants and Awards

Invited panelist	World Conference of Science Journalists. Panel: "Global Science, Different Audiences". (June 2015)
Invited participant	6 <sup>th</sup> Erice International School of Science Journalism course. Topic: "The Science of Light". (May 2015)
Invited participant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nordita workshop for science writers. Topic: Quantum Theory. (August 2014)
ScienceSeeker editors' pick	The Bone-house Wasp. (2014) <a href="http://scienceseeker.org/post/399795">http://scienceseeker.org/post/399795</a>
ScienceSeeker editors' pick	The give-and-take between mothers and their offspring. (2014) <a href="http://scienceseeker.org/post/380787">http://scienceseeker.org/post/380787</a>
ScienceSeeker editors' pick	Hsp90: translating environmental stress into evolutionary change. (2012) <a href="http://scienceseeker.org/post/184185">http://scienceseeker.org/post/184185</a>
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.

## Additional Skills & Experience

Computing	Linux, basic system administration, basic programming (python, C, javascript, perl), Web design (HTML/CSS)
Software	Wordpress, GIMP/Photoshop, Blender, Inkscape, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, MS Office
Teaching	Plant genomics laboratory course (University of Helsinki; 2007) Advanced Computer Methods (University of Helsinki; 2008 – 2012)
Organizing Committees	3 <sup>rd</sup> Intl. Plant Vascular Biology Conference, 2013 (apx. 180 participants) SPPS PhD Student conference, 2011 (apx. 100 participants)

- [1] Dawei Yan, Shri Ram Yadav, Andrea Paterlini, William J. Nicolas, Jules D. Petit, Lysiane Brocard, Ilya Belevich, Magali S. Grison, Anne Vaten, Leila Karami, Sedeer el Showk, Jung-Youn Lee, Gosia M. Murawska, Jenny Mortimer, Michael Knoblauch, Eija Jokitalo, Jonathan E. Markham, Emmanuelle M. Bayer, and Ykä Helariutta. Sphingolipid biosynthesis modulates plasmodesmal ultrastructure and phloem unloading. *Nature Plants*, 5(6):604–615, 2019.
- [2] Sedeer el Showk and Ari Pekka Mähönen. A cellular passage to the root interior. *Nature*, 555(7697):454–455, 2018.
- [3] Kamil Růžička, Mi Zhang, Ana Campilho, Zsuzsanna Bodi, Muhammad Kashif, Mária Saleh, Dominique Eeckhout, Sedeer El-Showk, Hongying Li, Silin Zhong, Geert De Jaeger, Nigel P. Mongan, Jan Hejátko, Ykä Helariutta, and Rupert G. Fray. Identification of factors required for m<sup>6</sup>a mRNA methylation in *Arabidopsis* reveals a role for the conserved E3 ubiquitin ligase HAKAI. *New Phytologist*, 215(1):157–172, 2017.
- [4] 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.
- [5] 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.
- [6] Sedeer El-Showk, Mallorie Taylor-Teeple, Yrjo Helariutta, and Siobhan M. Brady. Gene regulatory networks during *Arabidopsis* root vascular development. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, pages 1090–1097, July 2013.
- [7] Sedeer El-Showk, Raili Ruonala, and Ykä Helariutta. Crossing paths: Cytokinin signalling and crosstalk. *Development*, 140(7):1373–1383, March 2013.
- [8] Anthony Bishopp, Sedeer El-Showk, and Ykä Helariutta. Vascular development in *Arabidopsis* roots. In *Plant Roots: The Hidden Half*. CRC Press, 4th edition, 2013.
- [9] 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.
- [10] 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.
- [11] 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.