Director of Scientific Quality and QA Team

- Role description for Director of scientific quality
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Role description for Director of scientific quality

Director of Scientific Quality (DSQ)

Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)

Private Codex Definition — Board & Executive Use

Role Purpose

The Director of Scientific Quality (DSQ) serves as the principal steward of scholarly rigor, epistemic coherence, and disciplinary legitimacy across the Immersive Learning Research Network. The role exists to cultivate, safeguard, and advance the scientific credibility of immersive learning as a field, while respecting its inherently interdisciplinary and practice-embedded nature.

This role should be understood less as a “quality controller” and more as a field architect—someone who shapes shared standards, vocabularies, and evaluative sensibilities across heterogeneous communities of inquiry.

Strategic Mandate

The DSQ is responsible for defining and evolving what scientific quality means in immersive learning, across research, design-based inquiry, evaluation, and scholarly practice. This includes:

- Establishing criteria for rigor that are pluralistic, not monolithic
- Ensuring coherence across computer science, learning sciences, HCI/UX, psychology, design research, cultural heritage, and applied domains
- Supporting the network’s transition from “conference organizer” to recognized epistemic authority in immersive learning

The DSQ operates at the intersection of scholarship, governance, and field formation, not day-to-day editorial logistics.

Core Responsibilities

1. Definition of Scientific Quality (Field-Level)

- Articulate and maintain iLRN's working definitions of scientific quality, including:
  - Methodological rigor across qualitative, quantitative, mixed, and design-based research
  - Validity and trustworthiness in immersive and experiential research contexts
  - Appropriate evidence standards for exploratory, emergent, and translational work
- Develop and periodically revise quality criteria frameworks aligned with immersive learning's epistemic diversity.

2. Stewardship of Interdisciplinary Integrity

- Ensure that interdisciplinary work within iLRN:
  - Avoids methodological dilution or "category drift"
  - Makes disciplinary assumptions explicit
  - Respects domain-specific standards while enabling synthesis
- Advise leadership on tensions between:
  - Innovation vs. rigor
  - Practice-based insight vs. generalizable knowledge
  - Technical novelty vs. learning relevance

The DSQ should actively normalize productive disagreement about rigor rather than enforcing premature consensus.

3. Advisory Oversight of Scholarly Processes

- Provide high-level guidance to:
  - Publications and proceedings leadership
  - Program Chairs and track leads
  - Scientific Quality Assurance Officers and review teams
- Review and advise on:
  - Peer review guidelines and reviewer calibration
  - Acceptance thresholds and revision standards
  - Ethical and methodological edge cases
- Serve as an escalation point for scientific integrity concerns, not as an adjudicator of routine disputes.

4. Capacity Building & Prestige Cultivation

- Mentor emerging scholars, reviewers, and track chairs in:
  - Evaluative judgment
  - Scholarly writing and argumentation
  - Field-appropriate rigor

- Help position iLRN outputs (proceedings, reports, repositories) as:
  - Credible
  - Citable
  - Influential beyond the immediate community

- Contribute to shaping iLRN's reputation with:
  - Universities
  - Research councils
  - Standards bodies
  - Allied scholarly societies

5. Codex & Knowledge Infrastructure Contribution

- Guide the development of Codex-hosted scientific standards, including:
  - Quality rubrics
  - Review heuristics
  - Pattern-level insights about immersive research

- Ensure that scientific quality criteria are:
  - Transparent internally
  - Appropriately abstracted for public-facing use
  - Evolvable over time

Scope of Authority

The DSQ:

- Defines standards, not outcomes
- Advises decision-makers, rather than replacing them
- Shapes culture, rather than managing workflows

The role does not:

- Directly manage publication pipelines
- Conduct individual paper reviews
- Enforce compliance through punitive mechanisms

Required Expertise & Standing

- Recognized scholarly credibility in one or more immersive-learning-adjacent disciplines
- Demonstrated experience with interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research

- Strong grounding in:
  - Research methodology
  - Epistemology of applied and design-based research
  - Scholarly ethics
- Ability to operate comfortably in ambiguity and contested terrain

Intellectual humility and field-level perspective matter more here than disciplinary dominance.

Relationship to Other Roles

- Works closely with:
  - Scientific Quality Assurance Officer(s)
  - Director of Publications
  - Program Chairs and Track Leads
- Advises:
  - Executive Committee
  - Board of Directors
- Serves as a connective figure between:
  - Scholars
  - Practitioner-researchers
  - Emerging research communities

Measures of Success (Private)

- Increased coherence and clarity in how iLRN defines rigor
- Improved reviewer confidence and consistency
- Stronger external perception of iLRN as a serious scholarly body
- Productive scholarly debate that strengthens, rather than fragments, the field

Role Ethos

The Director of Scientific Quality is a custodian of standards without dogma, a champion of rigor without exclusion, and a builder of a field still coming into focus.

Next Steps

- A public-facing, distilled version of this role
- A RACI overlay mapping DSQ authority relative to Publications and Program Chairs
- A first-year agenda for operationalizing scientific quality through the Codex

Volunteer Position Posting (Draft) DSQ Assistant

Volunteer Position: iLRN Scientific Quality Assistant

Location: Remote

Commitment: (flexible/varied) Minimum 10 hours/week, Meetings once per week

About iLRN

iLRN is a dynamic non-profit organization serving the immersive learning professional community through innovative programming, networking opportunities, and events. As we grow from a conference organizer into a recognized scholarly voice for immersive learning, we need dedicated volunteers to help strengthen the quality and credibility of the field's research.

Position Overview

The iLRN Scientific Quality Assistant supports the Director of Scientific Quality (DSQ) in defining, documenting, and communicating what scientific quality means across iLRN's research, design-based inquiry, evaluation, and scholarly practice. The Assistant turns the Director's field-level guidance into usable standards, rubrics, and reviewer resources in the iLRN Codex, and keeps the people who apply them connected.

Key Responsibilities

- Draft and maintain the scientific quality standards hosted in the iLRN Codex, including quality rubrics, review heuristics, and the Knowledge Tree Quality Standards Framework, under the Director's guidance.
- Help adapt quality criteria to immersive learning's foundational disciplines (Computer Science, Game Design and Interactive Systems, UX/HCI, Learning Sciences) and its

applied domains, so work is reviewed against criteria that fit its approach.
- Prepare reviewer guidance and calibration materials, such as discipline-aware review prompts and reviewer matching rubrics, for Program Chairs, Track Leads, and review teams.
- Develop and run a feedback process that regularly gathers reviewer and author experience, and summarize findings for the annual review of quality standards.
- Document scientific integrity concerns and ethical or methodological edge cases referred to the Director, and track them through to resolution.
- Coordinate with the Scientific Quality Assurance Officer(s), Director of Publications, Program Chairs, and Track Leads, scheduling meetings and keeping notes and action items.
- Draft public-facing versions of internal quality standards for authors, reviewers, and the wider iLRN community.
- Support mentoring and onboarding for emerging scholars, new reviewers, and track chairs.
- Report regularly on activities, documenting the processes developed to perform the work and sharing them with the Director and the scientific quality team.
- Collaborate on scholarly works about research quality, peer review, and interdisciplinary rigor in immersive learning.

What's in it for you?

- Work directly with iLRN's scientific leadership to shape how quality is defined in an emerging interdisciplinary field.
- Gain hands-on experience with peer review design, research standards, and scholarly governance.
- Training in the iLRN Codex and the tools used to manage iLRN's review and publication processes.
- Collaborate with others as a contributing author on peer-reviewed publications.
- Build your personal network and portfolio of interdisciplinary research and analysis.
- iLRN Volunteer Certificate detailing the role and services provided.
- Possibility for iLRN Volunteer Awards and nominations to future iLRN roles.

Qualifications

- Analytical thinking skills
- Organizational skills and attention to detail
- Facility with research methods (qualitative, quantitative, mixed, or design-based) and familiarity with immersive learning literature
- Clear writing, with the ability to turn complex standards into usable guidance
- Familiarity with peer review and scholarly publication ethics is a plus
- Ability to communicate with diverse groups of scholars, designers, and educators

How to Apply

Interested candidates are requested to send a brief introduction and links to any portfolio/body of work to volunteers@immersivelrn.org. Please use the subject line: "iLRN Scientific Quality Assistant Volunteer Application – Your Name" and visit our volunteer website to learn more.

Please note: While this is a volunteer position, iLRN is deeply committed to recognizing and valuing the time and expertise of all team members. We welcome you to join our team and look forward to working with you!

Thank you for considering volunteering with iLRN!