



THE Darwinian



History and Philosophy of Science

From climate change compensation to 18th century Indigenous knowledge – how Darwinians are making this inherently interdisciplinary subject their own.

Also inside:



As Dr Mike Rands steps down as Master, he shares his perspective on a very special six years.



Munby Fellow Dr Grace Exley gives 19th century women scientists the credit they deserve.



Professor Simon Schaffer on how machines are changing our behaviour.

A Message from the Master

Dr Mike Rands



It is with a mix of pride and pleasure that I sit in the delightful Master's Office overlooking our magnificent College gardens, listening to kingfishers calling as they fly along the river Cam while I write my last introduction to the *Darwinian*. I'm very proud of the many accomplishments of the College during my tenure as Master, pleased to remain a member of this extraordinary community, and delighted to be handing over the Mastership to such a distinguished and accomplished successor, Professor Nigel Peake.

I joined Darwin as Master in the middle of the pandemic, when welcome dinners and drinks were replaced by Zoom calls with every College household who would speak to me - over 66 in total as I recall. It was a tough time for everyone, but I was, and remain, deeply impressed at how the College supported our community of over 700 students. We emerged from lockdowns having learned lessons and with new ideas. Through a participatory process engaging Fellows, students, staff and alumni, we created a 10-year College Strategic Plan which highlights the vision, values and distinctive characteristics of Darwin College and articulates key areas for action.

Over the last six years, we have made great progress towards addressing those priorities.

The Governing Body has consolidated and strengthened our Fellowship. Disciplinary gaps have been filled by the election of 15 new Official Fellows -

"I think the achievements since its founding in 1964 mark Darwin out as an ambitious, forward-thinking, internationally minded and very special postgraduate focused community."

ten women and five men, including seven nationalities not previously represented among the Fellowship. We have also elected 11 Honorary Fellows, including two Nobel Laureates, and 35 Research Fellows.

Our students have excelled academically (almost 600 graduating with PhDs, and nearly 2000 being awarded Master's degrees), as well as twice reaching the semi-finals of the BBC's University Challenge, with another team appearing in the programme this summer! Equally impressively, students contribute so much to the governance and operations of the College, serving on most College Committees, supporting student welfare, and running numerous clubs and societies – as well as the best bar in Cambridge.

Our staff have led the ambitious plans to decarbonise the College by 2032, including the creation of a Pump House on the edge of the river to accommodate a water-source heat pump – I can hear the contractors working on the foundations as I write. Plans for a new Garden Room under the Dining Hall have also been developed and approved, and work on that will follow the completion of the Pump House and a major insulation programme for most of the College estate. The Garden Room will provide a much-needed additional space for collaborative research, social gatherings and informal work.

To identify solutions to global challenges our students, Fellows, staff and alumni have embarked on two major initiatives. The Small Grants for Big Ideas Programme awarded its first round of three grants to: (1) create affordable chronic wound dressings, (2) monitor declining insect populations using weather surveillance radar, and (3) measure soil fertility to support food security. And the first Darwin Dialogue will take

place in September on the subject of *Peace and the Unsustainable*.

To deliver elements of the Strategic Plan, the College launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to secure £60 million with a special focus on supporting studentships, enhancing our estate and its sustainability, and contributing solutions to global challenges. Many alumni, Fellows, students and friends of the College have provided generous support for this campaign. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has become involved.

It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to serve as Master of Darwin. While there will always be things a College can do better or more of, I think the achievements since its founding in 1964 mark Darwin out as an ambitious, forward-thinking, internationally minded and very special postgraduate focused community. Thank you all for your part in making Darwin so remarkable and for your numerous contributions.

For me, this edition of the *Darwinian* epitomises so much of what Darwin College is all about: interdisciplinarity – especially at the interface of science, history and philosophy; international scholarship, the (often) unsung role of women in science; and the wide range of contributions Darwinians make to solving medical, social and environmental challenges – not to mention demonstrating the importance of high-quality coffee and chocolate! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Professor Nigel Peake elected as Master of Darwin College



We are delighted to announce that **Professor Nigel Peake** has been elected as the next Master of Darwin College. Nigel will succeed the current Master, Dr Mike Rands, on 1st October this year.

A Professor of Applied Mathematics, and Professorial Fellow at Emmanuel College, Nigel is currently Head of the School of the Physical Sciences at the University of Cambridge. He previously led the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications. His research explores wave motion, particularly as applied to acoustics and aerodynamics.

Nigel said:

"I feel hugely honoured and immensely excited to have been elected as the next Master of Darwin. The College is a remarkable and very special place, and I am so looking forward to working with the whole community of Fellows, staff, students and alumni over the coming years."

Originally from Lancashire, Nigel completed his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Mathematics at Cambridge, before being appointed as a Fellow at Emmanuel in 1990. He is married to Sarah, and they have five children.

Nigel's election is the result of an extensive recruitment process spanning the entire College community. We are grateful for the interest shown in Darwin by a fascinating diversity of highly able candidates, and for their willingness to engage with students, staff and Fellows in developing their understanding of the role.

"It's been wonderfully affirming to see the College community – Fellows, staff and students – fully engaged in the process of meeting the candidates and offering their views on the role and responsibilities of the new Master," said Professor John Nilsson-Wright, who led the selection committee alongside his co-Vice-Master Professor Angela Wood.

"We are delighted with the final choice and looking forward immensely to welcoming Nigel to Darwin as our next head of house."

Professor Angela Wood said:

"It has been rewarding to be involved in a process that has drawn on the views and perspectives from across the Darwin community. We are delighted to have elected someone who brings such a strong combination of skills and experience, and who impressed us throughout the process with his thoughtful approach and clear commitment to the College. We very much look forward to the next phase of Darwin's future under Nigel's leadership."

Damehood for Professor Carol Brayne



Darwin Emeritus **Professor Carol Brayne** has been appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to medicine, medical research and public health in the King's Birthday Honours.

A Fellow of Darwin since 1995, Carol held the Cambridge University professorship in public health medicine from 2001 to 2024 and is Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry. She was Director of the Institute of Public Health, then co-director of the Cambridge Public Health Interdisciplinary Research Centre until her retirement. Her studies of ageing populations have provided pioneering understanding of how dementia, frailty, and healthy ageing are experienced in communities.

College Visitor Baroness Carr receives Honorary Doctorate



Darwin is delighted to be able to offer its congratulations to the College Visitor, **Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill**, who received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of Cambridge this summer – the highest accolade the University can bestow.

Baroness Carr is Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the first woman to serve as Head of the Judiciary and President of the Courts in England and Wales. She is an alumna and Honorary Fellow of Trinity College.

Dr Mark Dyer appointed as Sir George Darwin Fellow Benefactor

We were delighted to be able to celebrate the appointment of **Dr Mark Dyer** as a Sir George Darwin Fellow Benefactor on Friday 1st May, ahead of the Darwin Dinner.

An alumnus of the College, Dr Dyer joined Darwin in 1984 to pursue his PhD in Molecular Biology. Following its completion he worked as a researcher at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, before holding senior positions at biotech firms Sandoz, Novartis and Cytos Biotechnology.



Now based in Truro, Cornwall, Dr Dyer is a loyal and generous supporter of the College and, in 2023, took the hugely appreciated step of declaring Darwin College a major beneficiary of his Will. This is both a powerful endorsement of the College's aims and ambitions, and a substantial support to our future, and we are pleased to be able to honour its impact.

Sir George Darwin Fellow Benefactors were created as a new category of membership approved by Governing Body last year to recognise the generosity of significant donors to Darwin.

Building bridges

It was a pleasure to welcome **Mrs Julia Fleming** to Darwin in April, to formally thank her for the generous support which has enabled the restoration of the bridge.

Mrs Fleming is the widow of the late Dr Hugh Fleming (1923-2006), a global authority on heart disease, and the first cardiologist to be appointed in East Anglia. Dr Fleming, who grew up in New Zealand, combined a career establishing and overseeing cardiology at the Papworth Hospital with a Fellowship at Darwin, to which he was elected in 1969. His wife recalls that "he often said that joining Darwin was the best thing he'd ever done".



Dr and Mrs Fleming made the gift of a new bridge to the College in 2003. When it was found to need further structural support and replacement of rotting timbers this year, Mrs Fleming again came generously to the rescue.

"If I hadn't stepped in, Hugh up there would have been very cross with me," she explained.

The bridge was restored by Brown & Ralph contractors.

Professor John Nilsson-Wright elected as Co-Vice-Master



Longstanding Darwin Fellow **Professor John Nilsson-Wright** has been elected as Co-Vice-Master, and took up the position in April. John serves in partnership with **Professor Angela Wood**, taking over the role from **Professor Fiona Karet**, who has served for the past seven years. We are enormously grateful to Fiona for her significant contribution to College life, and delighted to welcome John in his new capacity.

"I've been lucky enough to have been a member of Darwin since 2001 when I first joined the College as a Fellow. So when the Vice-Mastership vacancy was announced it seemed like a long overdue opportunity to contribute more actively to an institution that has been a central part of my life in Cambridge for more than two decades," John explains.

"From 2012 to 2020, while still very much part of the University, I was often overseas – first in Seoul and then in Paris. After coming back in the summer of 2020 and rooting myself more deliberately in Cambridge, I was struck by how much the College was a place, not only of intellectual and professional activity, but also of personal engagement and fellowship. Every College has its own distinctive character, but the community spirit of Darwin and the friendship that it provides, I have found uniquely rewarding. It's a pleasure and a rare privilege to have been given the chance by the Fellowship to serve as Vice-Master."

Darwin's 2025–26 University Challenge journey ends in fiercely fought semi-final



Congratulations to **Louis Cameron** (PhD English), **Lewis Strachan** (PhD Medical Science), **Ruth Ní Mhuircheartaigh** (MEd with Mathematics) and **Jon White** (PhD Geography), as well as the team reserve **Ben Rudd** (PhD Education), on their spectacular performance in *University Challenge*.

In reaching the semi-finals, the quizzers equalled the Darwin record set in 2018/19 by a team captained by **Jason Golfinos**, and matched last year in a team led by **Harrison Whitaker**. Darwin also competed in 2020-21, led by **Kerry Milowicki**, making **Louis Cameron** the College's first non-American captain.

After winning two out of three of their quarter-final matches, the team lost out to Edinburgh University in a hard-fought battle of the buzzers. Appropriately enough, the gong interrupted a final question on the number of kings called Louis who had occupied the French throne.

"Oh Darwin, what a run you've had," said host **Amol Rajan**. "We've loved getting to know you – thank you so much for being such great players."

We are delighted that Darwin is once again represented in the 2026–27 competition, and that the team won their first round match against Guildhall, screened in early August. Good luck to **Rachel Gu** (Master of Education), **Macsen Brown** (MPhil Education), **David Lumsden** (MASt Pure Maths), and **Ella Mason** (PhD Plant Sciences)!

Darwin Fellow develops "universal vaccine"



A Cambridge team led by Darwin Fellow **Professor Jonathan Heeney** has developed a 'universal vaccine', designed to offer protection against multiple coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, which caused the COVID pandemic.

Initial clinical trials in humans have shown that the vaccine is safe and has no significant side-effects.

The vaccine triggered immune responses in the volunteers not only to SARS-CoV-2 and SARS, but to related bat viruses that could potentially jump from animals to humans and cause future pandemics.

The technology uses an AI-designed 'super-antigen' to provide lasting protection against a broad range of viruses even as they mutate – the first time that a vaccine whose active component was designed entirely by computer simulations has been tested in humans. Vaccines developed in this way could protect against future emerging virus threats, as well as reducing the need for frequent reformulation.

"We've converted vaccine development from being reactive to being future proof. Our vaccines will continue to provide protection against viruses even as they mutate into new strains," said Jonathan, who leads the Lab of Viral Zoonotics at the Department of Veterinary Medicine.

He added: "We've overcome the problem of traditional vaccines, which have limited protection. It means we can escape the constant cycle of chasing the virus variants circulating in humans and updating the vaccines to try to catch up, like a dog chasing its tail."

Darwin alumna publishes new theory on immune responses to cancer



When **Naomi van den Berg** graduated from Darwin with a PhD in mathematical modelling last year, cancer research was not a field in which she had much experience.

Her PhD had focused on the interaction dynamics of microbes, while before coming to Cambridge she had completed a BSc in Environmental Sciences at the University of Utrecht, and an MSc in Resource Ecology at Wageningen University.

But last year she took up a role as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Francis Crick Institute, conducting mathematical modelling into cancer dynamics. In research published in the journal *Cancer Cell*, she presents a new theory of how tissue metabolism shapes the immune response to cancer.

In a concept she has termed *immunometabolic gatekeeping*, Naomi suggests that the metabolic properties of healthy tissues – how much energy they use and how well they clear metabolic waste – help determine how effective immune responses can be, even before cancer develops.

"Cancer research was very new to me, and with fresh eyes, colleagues and I developed a novel cancer synthesis," Naomi explains.

"The theory aligns several cancer paradoxes; including why solid cancers in children are confined to specific organs, why men get tumours more frequently than women, why large animals are cancer-resistant, and more."



Study led by Darwin Vice-Master shows growing link between obesity and social disadvantage

A study co-led by Darwin Vice-Master **Professor Angela Wood**, and her PhD student **Rob Fletcher** of St John's College, demonstrates that rates of obesity since the pandemic show an increasing correlation with social deprivation.

Working with researchers from the British Heart Foundation Data Science Centre at Health Data Research UK and The George Institute for Global Health, the study used anonymised NHS England electronic health records covering nearly 55 million adults. Looking at obesity trends from 2019 to 2025, it found that overall new cases of obesity had risen by 4% over the period, with young adults particularly affected. Cases rose by almost 20% among people in their 30s, and by 16% among those aged 20–29.

Rates of new obesity were seen to be 35% higher for people with the highest socioeconomic deprivation compared with people with the lowest socioeconomic deprivation, while there were significant geographical differences, with 48% of people affected by obesity in some areas of northeast England, compared with just 8.5% in the most affluent parts of London.

Angela, Professor at the University of Cambridge and Associate Director at the British Heart Foundation Data Science Centre, says:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact on health and lifestyle behaviours. By analysing electronic health records from the entire adult population of England before, during, and after the pandemic, we have generated the most comprehensive evidence to date on how obesity risk and burden are increasingly diverging across multiple dimensions of inequality. These findings underscore the critical importance of secure access to whole-population health data to enable research, surveillance, and timely action to address widening health inequalities.”

Small Grants for Big Ideas

Three outstanding teams have been selected to receive funding as part of the inaugural Small Grants for Big Ideas competition. Launched this year, the initiative will provide grants of up to £25,000 to three innovative projects each year to enable them to pilot new ideas and test promising solutions to global challenges.

Seventeen competing applications were received, in an extraordinary display of Darwinian ingenuity. Thank you to everyone who took the time to apply, and to the judges who gave up their time to assess the entries.

We are delighted to be able to announce that, following a meeting of the judging panel on 28 May, the following projects will be funded.

- **HydroSTAR: An Active Multi-Responsive Smart Hydrogel Platform for Effective yet Affordable Chronic Wound Dressings**
Dick Ferieno Fidarus (Darwin student), Dr Lakshimi Balasubramaniam (Darwin Fellow), Dr Tiffany Lai (Darwin alumna), Dr Sebastian Werner Krauss (Darwin Fellow), Hamza Khattak (external team member)
- **EntoUAV: first validation of Weather Surveillance Radar, a new low-cost standard for continental-scale insect population monitoring**
Reuben O'Connell-Booth (Darwin student), Professor Euan G. Nisbet (visiting Fellow at Darwin), Neil Mahon (Darwin student), Tommy Matthews (external team member – PhD student at University of Leeds and NCAS), Sofia Dartnell (Darwin student), Lucia Della-Savina (Darwin student)
- **RedRoot: Growing trust in sustainable agriculture by quantifying soil biology**
Matthew Macleod (Darwin student), Dr Alan Wanke (Darwin Fellow), Pjotr van de Jagt (Darwin student), Nicolas Garcia-Hernandez (external team member)

Sykes Prize

Congratulations to Darwin PhD student in English **Niko Kristic**, who has won Robinson College's Sykes Prize 2026. The creative writing prize encourages entrants to respond to a prompt with an imaginative piece of up to 2,000 words.

Niko's story, *The God Parasite*, was the winning response to this year's prompt, *Brothers*, by Giuseppe Ungaretti.

Louis Cameron, also studying for his PhD in English at Darwin, placed joint third in the competition with his story, *A Difficult Thing*. Louis was the overall winner of the prize in 2024.

The Darwin Dialogues

The Darwin Dialogues were launched on Tuesday 28th April, with keynote speaker, peace activist and educator **Satish Kumar** setting the tone. Satish's powerful lecture touched on his own encounters with iconic changemakers from Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa to Bertrand Russell, but emphasised the impact of small actions by individuals.

The Darwin Dialogues are a new initiative bringing together Darwinians, as well as practitioners, policy-makers and researchers from beyond the College community, to share their perspectives on pressing global challenges.



What sets the Dialogues apart is their commitment to genuine conversation. Each event will bring together a wide range of voices, approaches and attitudes, with space for open and unhurried exchange. Participants may leave with new connections, new ideas, or a new way of seeing a global problem.

We are delighted to announce that the inaugural Darwin Dialogue will take place on 29th and 30th September 2026, exploring the theme of *Peace and the Unsustainable*.



Project Pump House gets underway

Work has begun over the past few months towards a sustainable new approach and a greener future for Darwin.

A new Pump House on the river will store the equipment for river-source heat extraction, harnessing the latent heat of the river to provide the heating and hot water requirements of the College site. The planned building, visible to punters and passers-by, will reflect the industrial heritage of this part of the Cam, while showcasing an innovative and ambitious technology.

Since the spring, amphibious diggers have been preparing the riverbed, pipework has been laid beneath the main College lawn, a temporary haul road has been laid to allow vehicle manoeuvre, and construction has begun on the build itself.

Meanwhile, extensive improvements to the fabric of the Rayne Building and the Hermitage, from replacement windows to significantly increased insulation, will boost their efficiency to take full advantage of the new heat source.

Every effort is being taken to limit disruption to the College community and enable Darwin life to continue as normal as much as possible, and we are grateful to everyone for their forbearance as we enter this exciting new phase.



Reading against the grain

Munby Fellow Dr Grace Exley explains how her work acknowledges the hidden achievements of 19th century female scientists.

The women at the centre of Grace Exley's research have been waiting a long time for their moment in the spotlight. As the wives, sisters, and daughters of 19th century scientists, many of them contributed significantly to the development of scientific thought, but their efforts were subsumed into those of their male relatives, reduced to clerical support, or forgotten altogether.

Having completed her PhD last year at the University of Leeds, which explored women's engagement with the earth sciences at Oxford in the 19th century, Grace is currently the Munby Fellow at Cambridge University Library. The Fellowship's bibliographic slant has provided the opportunity to focus her attention on print culture, through a research project titled *Women in the Margins: Unearthing the Hidden Female Contributors to Nineteenth-Century Scientific Publications in Cambridge's Collections*.

The project had its genesis in a chapter of her PhD.

"I was looking at the ways that women contribute to books that are never acknowledged in the books themselves," Grace explains.

"So, in the history of science, we spend a lot of time thinking about theories that are printed in books as being these lovely finished products. And we



spend a lot of time thinking about the male authors whose names appear on those front pages. And we can see that we've got these sort of laundry lists of acknowledgements in books as well, the people that have read different chapters and different drafts. And yet, when you start to look a little more closely at things like manuscript material, what you'll find is that a lot of the time it might be in the wife's handwriting – but she's never mentioned in the acknowledgements."

Grace points out that, in the case of married women working alongside their husbands, their contribution may well have been recognised by their contemporaries, if not formally, but has been lost to time.

"There are ways in which spousal collaboration is absolutely the norm in 19th century science. You know, if you're married you're a unit. You work together."

“I was looking at the ways that women contribute to books that are never acknowledged in the books themselves.”

She highlights the example of a letter written by William Whewell, polymath and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, to Mary Buckland, the wife of Oxford geologist William Buckland. The Bucklands were writing a book, and Whewell asked Mary how it was progressing, clearly aware that it was her project as much as her husband's.

“Everybody knows, and yet in histories of science a lot of the time we've kind of forgotten that there are ways that these norms look slightly different. So what I'm looking at are the ways that women contributed to books that were generally unacknowledged and have therefore been overlooked. Things like being an editor, being a scribe – or sometimes even being an author in your own right but in a genre that we don't think of as being scientific.

So things like writing the life and letters of your husband, for example, or the life and letters of your father. That sounds like a kind of biographical thing, but actually the people who are reading this stuff are scientists themselves, and a lot of the time you're writing down your version of events, such as how one particular theory developed from your perspective.”

Grace's route into HPS began with a Natural Sciences degree at Cambridge, where she was an undergraduate at Murray Edwards, completing her BA and MSci degrees. Her research ranged

from aliens and pseudoscience to the representation of girls' relationship with science in 1950s comics, but it was the latter that sparked her interest in women's history, leading directly to her PhD.

“This PhD place came up at the University of Leeds on women in the history of geology. To begin with I applied kind of on the off-chance, but as I went through the process I thought well actually, looking at existing histories of geology, there are no women in these books at all. There are these off-hand references occasionally, so it's like everybody knows that they're doing something, but nobody's actually spent any time figuring out what it was that they were doing, and that's what I got the chance to do in my PhD.”

Grace explored the contributions of women preserved in the archive of Oxford's Museum of Natural History, which ranged from collecting geological and palaeontological specimens, to producing technical illustrations, to performing oft-overlooked – but crucial – administrative functions in scientific life. Its completion last year left her hungry for more.

“When you do a PhD you're presented with quite big questions, and I think if you feel like you've answered them all at the end of it, you probably haven't quite done it right. So when I came to the end

of my PhD it still felt like there was so much to find out about women in 19th century science.”

Documenting women's history involves a bit of creativity and a lot of detective work. Often information about women's lives and work will be buried within source material primarily focused on the men in their lives, which may have been extensively looked at before but not from this angle.

“HPS in general is a lovely magpie discipline,” says Grace.

“We're quite open to borrowing methods and approaches from various different places and using a wide range of source material.”

When it comes to the focus on women specifically, it requires close attention to details that can easily be missed.

“I think for me the really rewarding part about it is reading old source material against the grain to show that these women actually did something significant. You're working with traces of evidence a lot of the time, but they add up to a really powerful claim about an unacknowledged scientific workforce, and that invites us to fundamentally shift our focus and understanding of how science worked and who made it happen.”

Putting Darwin on the shelves of the College library

Professor Janet Browne and Dr Edwin Rose explain the genesis and evolution of the Burkhardt Collection, now part of the Darwin College library.



A substantial collection of books relating to Charles Darwin (1809-82) and Victorian science has been donated to Darwin College and is now available in the library. The bulk of the gift is made up of the private research collection of Frederick Burkhardt, the founding member of the Darwin Correspondence Project, based in the University Library from 1975 to 2023. It includes copies of Darwin's publications as well as many historical studies concerning the Darwinian revolution.

Dr. Frederick H. Burkhardt (1912–2007) was a scholar and humanist active in many fields,

including a term as President of the American Council of Learned Societies, President of Bennington College, Vermont, and a leading role in securing the establishment of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In retirement, with his wife, the philosopher Anne Schlabach Burkhardt (1916–2012), he was director of the major humanities initiative *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*. A philosopher by training, Fred took a deep interest in the intellectual shifts evident in the 19th century. Initially imagining that he might edit the correspondence between Darwin and Thomas Henry Huxley, the project grew exponentially.

By 1974 the Burkhardts had assembled an editorial team and sufficient funding to locate all letters written by Charles Darwin on a worldwide scale. Following a pilot project, they decided to include letters written to Darwin as well as those written by him – an unusual step for a collection of correspondence at the time, and one now widely followed – and to publish complete transcripts in chronological order. The resulting project eventually comprised 30 print volumes, issued by Cambridge University Press between 1985 and 2023, and employed upwards of 20 editorial and production staff members over the years. The primary editorial team worked in the Manuscripts Room Cambridge University Library with the generous assistance and patience of the librarians. From 2009 to 2013 there was an additional small team based in the History of Science Department at Harvard University organised by Janet Browne, now an Honorary Fellow of Darwin. Harvard's History of Science graduate students worked remotely with those in Cambridge, UK, funded by a joint award from NSF and AHRB.

Fred and Anne worked from their home in Bennington, Vermont with a small team of dedicated local assistants, coming to Cambridge each summer.

“The collection reflects 40 years of close attention to Darwin’s daily life and science, demonstrating the project’s growth and evolution.”

While a large part of their time was taken up by ensuring the continuation of funding for their ambitious project, they were also central to the editorial process. The Bennington team provided preliminary footnotes, letter dates, a first proofread, and identification of people mentioned in the letters.

The collection reflects 40 years of close attention to Darwin’s daily life and science, demonstrating the project’s growth and evolution. Many books contain letters from their

authors, reflecting the Burkhardts’ wide-ranging collaboration, while others contain marginalia or inserted slips, written in the Burkhardts’ green and red pens. A secondary collection of books donated by Janet Browne accompanies the Burkhardt books to bring the project up to date, while the College library now has the resources to continue to acquire related publications. Together, these collections provide a wonderful opportunity for members of the College to engage with Darwin’s works.

Thanks to the hard work of the Darwin College Library team, the volumes from the Frederick and Anne Burkhardt Collection have now been catalogued and can be accessed via I-Discover:



Opposite:
Professor Janet Browne, Honorary Fellow
Left:
Dr Edwin Rose, Bye-Fellow

Two Darwin students are heading to Scotland this summer, to take two very different shows to the Edinburgh fringe



The Darwinian former trapeze artist putting a musical spin on American history

Kaely Michels-Gualtieri is no stranger to an audience. Before pivoting to academia, she maintained a dazzling career as a trapeze artist, performing with both Ringling Brothers and Cirque du Soleil. But her next act is a passion project that brings together her love of history, musicals and the circus under one sparkly tent.

Barnum. Booth. Lincoln. explores the friendship between the 19th century showman and politician P.T. Barnum, and President Abraham Lincoln, as well as the theatrical careers of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and his older brother Edwin. Its initial spark came from a class Kaely took on American Presidents while an undergraduate at Brown University.

"I had no idea that Abraham Lincoln was shot by an actor," she says now.

"The stuff that everybody learns in second grade in America had gone straight over my head. And then in the next class it came up that P.T. Barnum was really good friends with Abraham Lincoln. And I performed in his show! That was the contract that launched my career, and I had no idea."

Further research only served to cement the idea that this was the story Kaely was meant to tell, from the discovery that John Wilkes Booth was both a famous actor, but also nowhere near as famous as his older brother Edwin; to the fact that Edwin Booth and his father had performed Hamlet in Barnum's museum. When she arrived in Cambridge to pursue an MPhil in American History, her work continued to propel the show's development.

"My dissertation is the academic version of this play! One informs the other."

Having completed a version of the script as a play, Kaely won a grant from Brown to workshop it professionally last summer in Washington DC, where it sold out at the city's fringe festival. But, despite her proclaimed lack of musical talent, her ultimate ambition for the show was always in musical form. After working with Hughes Hall Law student Chi Wai Hu on *The 24 Hour Musical*, a challenge set by the University's Musical Theatre Society, a collaboration was born.

"My goal was to find somebody who was as magical as Chi to help me turn it into a musical. He's made it infinitely better, in the best way possible. It's been incredible, because I've had all these ideas, but I've been so inside of it, especially because I've done so much archival research. Chi's helped me to be like 'ok, I know you know all these facts, but not everybody else is spending all their time deep in the archives of Baltimore.'"

As the show has evolved, numerous voices and perspectives have contributed to its current form. But its creator is far from precious about her project.

"A huge part of the joy of this is that it's been incredibly collaborative. You've got these incredibly smart students saying let's do that, or change this word. So part of it has been like a huge rewrite process, with everybody. And I love that, because I was a solo trapeze artist, which is great, but it's also kind of lonely. So it's wonderful that there's interest in it, and that every student we've worked with has made it better. It's like a dream come true."

Welsh soldier's experiences as prisoner of war brought to life

Darwin student **Macsen Brown** has spent half of this year immersed in the here and now of 2020s Cambridge, where he is pursuing an MPhil in Education. The other half, he has spent inside the head of a young Welsh soldier, held captive for ten months following the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

Macsen plays Private Neville Neads, the real-life great-grandfather of Homerton student Izzy Lane. Based on Private Neads' personal diaries, Izzy has crafted a verbatim play, *Operation Market Garden*, which debuted at the Corpus Playroom in the autumn and will head to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer. "The play starts on Armistice Day, when he's an old man remembering," explains Macsen.

"But most of the plot starts from 1944, when they flew out to the Netherlands, and it follows from the battle to being captured and moving between camps. They were basically taken on a sort of forced march out of the camp by the Russians, and left to die, until they were found by the Americans.

The diaries have been in Izzy's family ever since, and form the basis of 80% of the play's script. For Macsen, the key to his sense of connection with the character is in their shared Welsh identity.

"The diary is mostly in English, even though he was a first language Welsh speaker, as I am, because he was educated in English. He would have been educated in the 1920s, and in those days you got physically beaten for speaking Welsh at school. So he probably wasn't



hugely confident writing in Welsh. But Izzy said to me, every now and then, if he says "hmm?" or "what?" I can say that in Welsh. Which is fun."

The obvious challenge of depicting a battle on a small stage with limited resources has become a virtue, resulting in a focus on psychological rather than physical experience.

"We tried to avoid having too many people on stage at once, because it's packed into a tiny little room. A lot of it is representational – so the train is a bench – and it's more about the words and the characters rather than a super detailed set."

After suffering with laryngitis during the play's initial run ("I lost my voice, which meant I was able to really embody the 200 days in prison!"), Macsen is looking forward to returning to the character

in Edinburgh, where *Operation Market Garden* will appear for the final two weeks of the Festival.

"Playing Neville Neads has been particularly challenging because I'm keenly aware that he was a real person; and that the words I'm saying are not just ones Izzy has invented, but real, genuine thoughts he had during the darkest time of his life," he reflects.

"Finding it in myself to do justice to a man who went through something I can never even begin to fathom has been really difficult. It has been an absolute honour to help tell his story, which feels all the more relevant today as I worry that the devastating human cost of war appears to be the subject of collective amnesia amongst world leaders."

The artefacts, objects and images of science

Emeritus Fellow Professor Simon Schaffer's career as an academic, writer and broadcaster has developed in tandem with the department of HPS. He tells us how a fascination with machines and their impact on human behaviour has been a continuous thread throughout, and why Darwin is the perfect base.



Interdisciplinarity ranks highly among the qualities on which Darwin prides itself. But after 42 years as a Fellow, Professor Simon Schaffer sees it as more than a boast.

"Darwin's so engaged in cross-disciplinary culture in all sorts of ways," he says.

"There have been a lot of people in Darwin who are remarkably eminent scientists who've had major philosophical and historical interests of one sort or another. It's a space where conversations can take place that would be hard to organise formally, and that is really important for our department because it's not an identifiable disciplinary form, and it works by conversation."

Simon's career, which has spanned research, teaching, writing and broadcasting, and seen him honoured with the Erasmus Prize, the George Sarton Medal and the Dan David Prize, has run in

parallel with the evolution of the History and Philosophy of Science as a distinct discipline at Cambridge.

"I started at Trinity as a Natural Sciences undergrad in the autumn of 1972, an embarrassingly long time ago. As it happens, I'm sure I was not aware of this at the time, but that was also the year that HPS started as a department."

The history of HPS is itself deeply intertwined with that of Darwin. Founding Fellow Gerd Buchdahl had created first a programme and then gradually a standalone department, of which he became the inaugural head in 1972. Born in Germany in 1914, Professor Buchdahl fled to the UK in 1933, only to be deported as an enemy alien following the outbreak of war. While interned in a prison camp in Australia he organised classes in philosophy, before studying after his release at the University of Melbourne,

where he began an initiative to introduce arts and humanities to science students.

"The Melbourne programme of which he was the protagonist is very much the precedent for what then happens in Cambridge," Simon explains.

Through Gerd Buchdahl's vision and leadership, HPS emerged under the umbrella of the Natural Sciences department. By the time Simon was completing his undergraduate studies in the mid 1970s, the subject was available as a full-time focus from the third year.

"I didn't know there was such a subject. I was completely seduced by this, but it was quite an agonising choice because it involves essentially giving up a career in Natural Sciences."

Cambridge's approach to the study of science at undergraduate level lent itself to the creation of the new subject in a way which might not have been possible elsewhere, perhaps explaining why HPS remains so distinctive in the wider higher education context.

"Cambridge is extremely unusual in having its undergraduate programme as Natural Sciences and not specialist scientific disciplines," Simon explains.

"That in a way opens the path to the possibility of what we call HPS, because it means you're recruiting across the whole range of the sciences."

Having taken the leap to HPS as an undergraduate, Simon was forced to look beyond Cambridge (or at least Cambridge,

“It’s not an identifiable disciplinary form, and it works by conversation.”

UK) for the next stage of his academic life, as the Master’s programme had yet to be developed. Instead, he accepted a Kennedy scholarship to complete a Master’s at Harvard, before returning to pursue his PhD here “because I wanted to study Isaac Newton, and it seemed ludicrous to work on that anywhere else.”

Simon began his postdoctoral career with a teaching position at Imperial, before, in 1984, a lectureship in History of Science became vacant at Cambridge, bringing him back to the University for good.

“I was very lucky and I got the job and have stayed ever since.”

By the time of his appointment at Cambridge, Simon was already establishing a public profile, both through the publication of his first book, *Leviathan and the Air-Pump*, which 40 years on is acknowledged as having shaped the field, and through his broadcast career.

He credits Imperial with the emergence of this strand of his success. In the early 1980s, the university already had an AV department, and was keen to make use of it by recording films of faculty members.

“It was extremely good fun – I enjoyed it a lot. But already I realised what the frustration is, for an academic anyway, which is that what you can say in academic prose you cannot say in front of a screen or into a microphone. You never have enough time, and you’re never allowed to offer up detail because it just takes too long. But it makes you reflect on what it is you’re actually doing in quite an important way.”

Further television projects followed, as well as a regular slot as an expert on BBC Radio 4’s *In Our Time*. Live early morning radio, and a ban on any form of notes or paper prompts, was apparently every bit as terrifying as it sounds, but through familiarity with the format Simon “worked out that it would be ok, provided I had time for three espressos. Because it’s not my best time.”

But his appearances, however enabled by caffeine, helped to expand the profile of history of science as a discipline and perspective of its own.

‘Gradually over the late 90s through the 2020s I think there’s been across broadcasting a slow but real recognition that there is a story to tell that comes from this rather unlikely point of view.’

Central to Simon’s take on that story has always been the idea of machines and automation, captured by the physical objects preserved by the Whipple Museum of the History of Science.

“The Whipple predates the department by a lot,” he explains.

“It started essentially during the Second World War, extraordinarily enough, in 1944, and it was a kind of mobile collection initially. It lived in various implausible rooms on bits of the New Museums site or under Lion’s Yard, and eventually a room was secured where it still lives on Free School Lane.”

At the time of the department’s creation by Gerd Buchdahl, that same room became its home, with academics gathering between the objects in the collection.

“It was obviously a kind of provisional camp,” says Simon. “But the reason why it’s important is that the museum produces the department. The material culture of the sciences generates the interest in history and philosophy of science, not the other way around.”

That focus on “the hands-on experience of the artifacts and objects and images of science” has remained, from the study of androids and automata, to translating the archives of the Royal Observatory, held by the University Library, into an exhibition on Longitude at the National Maritime Museum.

Much of his work on the fears of 18th century textile workers that their skills would be rendered obsolete by machines finds a direct parallel today. But what Simon finds almost more interesting is how the machines created to do the work of people then shape the behaviour of people to suit the machines’ needs.

“There’s a question we might want to ask which I think is not asked often enough, which is not ‘what are the promises and threats of automation’, but ‘how is human behaviour changing so that it looks automatic?’. A very good example is supermarket checkouts. Apart from all the other things, like putting checkout staff out of work, they are now systems for training unprecedentedly large numbers of people to act like machines. ‘Unexpected item in the bagging area’ is a form of training, that we didn’t know we needed to learn in order to shop, and now we do.”

PhD student Mika Hyman talks chocolate, coconuts and material culture



Mika Hyman has a claim to fame in Darwin as the most popular Lunchtime Seminar speaker in living memory.

The tradition of sharing one's research is a well-established feature of College life, providing an opportunity to present work in progress, hone public speaking skills, and absorb the gloriously esoteric variety of other people's interests. While popular, it doesn't usually involve people being turned away because it's physically impossible to squeeze any more bodies into the 1 Newnham Terrace meeting room. Then again, it doesn't usually involve a tasting platter of chocolate.

Currently halfway through her PhD, *Curing Cocoa: Plants, Pathogens and People*, Mika is exploring chocolate as a global commodity, its role in imperial exploration, its impact on local labour, and how disease has periodically affected its availability.

Her interest in chocolate long predates her discovery of HPS as a discipline. While still at school in London, a Geography lesson on labour practices and environmental concerns within the cocoa industry led her to go home and announce: "we need to start eating better chocolate."

As an undergraduate studying Comparative Literature at Princeton, Mika pursued this interest by taking a part time role on Wall Street, working on quality evaluation within the cocoa industry.

"Unlike in coffee and wine there wasn't a set grading system for how you approached bean quality, especially in the speciality world, so it was an interesting moment of being able to bring some academic work into industry. I was learning about markets and futures, and basically thought I was going to go and work in commodities trading full time."

Instead, an undergraduate course on Art, Magic and Science in the Early Modern Period changed her trajectory. Hooked by the idea of studying alchemy, she asked to be allowed to take a graduate seminar with the same Professor, only to be told that if she was that interested she should apply for the Cambridge Master's in HPS. Putting her cocoa career on hold, she came to Cambridge and found her academic sweet spot.

"I loved Comparative Literature, but I hadn't really felt like it was a disciplinary home. As a Master's student there were so many interesting seminars, there were constantly interesting lectures... I remember finding it almost impossible to narrow down what I wanted to write about. I was having the time of my life."

Mika's Master's research reflected her excitement at the breadth of the discipline, ranging from 18th century botanical naming practices to artificial sweeteners, and the history of tickling. But it was the access to a physical connection with Cambridge's scientific past that really captured her imagination. Having been told that the Old Library at St John's College contained an 18th century coconut, she told a "little white lie" to the librarian about the focus of her dissertation in order to be allowed to see it.

"I thought – this is my one chance, I'm in Cambridge, I should write about materials that are here at the University. So I didn't work on the coconut, but I realised that the coconut was part of this broader medical cabinet, and wrote about poisons and medicines in the 18th century. But that was my first foray into material culture and working with collections in Cambridge, which basically set up what I ended up doing in the PhD."

A year as a research assistant working on the botanical collections at the University Herbarium, and fieldwork in Belize exploring agro-tourism and the relationship between traders and farmers also fed her appetite for further exploration. So when she was encouraged to apply for a PhD, Mika didn't take much pushing.

“...because there's such a rich intellectual community you always end up having conversations that make you think about your topic differently.”

Her current research combines her long-term fascination with chocolate and a wider interest in material culture and the history of agriculture, making use of the collections held by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Royal Geographical Society. Darwin has proved the perfect place to allow the project space to both focus and expand.

"I don't actually think I could do certain aspects of my PhD if it wasn't for Darwin because it's made it a much richer project. It's such a centralising and homely space, and because there's such a rich intellectual community you always end up having conversations that make you think about your topic differently."

The fluidity of HPS has also allowed her to incorporate other lifelong interests, such as music, into her research.

"I've been collaborating with a musicologist on a paper about a piece of music that was written in the 18th century for baroque cello about bladder stone surgery! It's a crazy piece of music, but it's been such a fun side project to have me coming at it from a history of medicine perspective, and him coming at it from a musicologist perspective. It's raised questions about sources in history and the types of collaboration that are possible. And I think that's one of the really exciting things about History of Science, is that it's a discipline that really lends itself to community and collaboration."

Fellow profile

"Charles the naturalist was no anomaly."

Bye-Fellow Dr Edwin Rose explains his fascination with 18th century knowledge sharing - and why the Darwin family is so much more than its most celebrated member.



Dr Edwin Rose completed his MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science at Darwin, before returning as Munby Fellow and Advanced Research Fellow. He is now pursuing a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Research Fellowship at the University of Leeds on *Darwinian Inheritance: Communication and Empire in the Making of a Scientific Dynasty* and retains a close association with Darwin College as Bye-Fellow and Deputy Praelector. Last year he published his first book, *Reading the World: British Practices of Natural History, 1760-1820*.

Edwin's academic career began with an undergraduate degree in History at the University of Swansea, though having focused primarily on the sciences at A level, his later combination of both interests was a logical progression. As a Master's student he explored chemistry, 18th century mapping, and 17th century microscopy, before alighting for his final dissertation on the botanical collections compiled by the physician and plantation owner Hans Sloane, whose collections formed the basis of the British Museum.

"Scrolling through the Natural History Museum's catalogue I found his

annotated copy of his own book, *The Natural History of Jamaica*. So I did a dissertation on that, because the annotations matched up really nicely with the botanical collection that still survives in the museum, lots of which was collected by enslaved people and related to Sloane's own substantial investments in the plantation economy."

Edwin further developed his focus on the natural history of the 18th century through a PhD at Churchill College. Again, his interest in the intellectual development of the period was interwoven with his fascination with

“Trying to challenge the established canon of how science is thought about historically is, I think, really important.”

books as physical and historical objects, which found a natural outlet in the Munby Fellowship in Bibliography at the University Library.

“While I was a PhD student looking at all these early books in the University Library I noticed that nearly all of them had the same provenance, coming from the library of either John or Thomas Martin, who were the second and third Professors of Botany at Cambridge in the 18th century. So I proposed to do a Munby Fellowship project on this collection, to try to understand them in the context of the Botanic Garden, but also imperial exploration and the University’s connections to that in the second half of the 18th century.”

The Botanic Garden itself has become a recurring theme in Edwin’s research, particularly the role of theology in its inception.

“All the people who founded the Botanic Garden were clerics with interests in Botany, and the garden was founded as a collection to demonstrate the extent and utility of God’s creation. There was no medical dimension, which is very unusual. Addenbrooke’s had its own gardens, and so did the Colleges, which were used for practical medical applications. The botanic garden, however, was very much a theological, philosophical garden.”

Following the Munby Fellowship, Edwin secured funding to pursue further research into the Darwin family and their scientific heritage, greatly expanding the College’s understanding of the dynasty whose name it bears. His work has contributed to the strengthening of the College’s relationship with living

members of the family during Mike Rands’ tenure as Master, as well as recognising Charles Darwin (1809–82) in the context of a family of scientists.

“The Darwins were active in science, or to be more exacting for the earlier period, natural history and natural philosophy from the turn of the 18th century. Charles the naturalist was no anomaly – his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, whose portraits are in the collection at Darwin College, were all really well known in their time periods.

Obviously Charles did come up with a fundamental theory that has shaped western society. But his sons have been dismissed as just basking in the reflected glory of their father, which isn’t true. They made genuine scientific advances long after their father had died. George’s theory, developed while he lived with his family at Newnham Grange, on the relationship between terrestrial oceanic tides and the sun and the moon remained valid until the mid-1960s - they did make genuine contributions to how we understand the natural world.”

Edwin has also pursued his interest in Captain Cook’s voyages and their contributions to natural history as an AHRC Research Fellow in HPS and Advanced Research Fellow at Darwin. An important part of the project concentrated on the activities of the naturalists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, whose interactions with Indigenous people across the Pacific show how information communicated by different groups was fundamental in shaping understandings of the knowledge of the plants of the Pacific. This research gained significant media attention last year .

“My co-researcher and I travelled around New Zealand and Australia, exploring Cook’s voyages in the Pacific and the intellectual debt that is owed to the various Indigenous communities who communicated information. There was a lot of back and forth in those tense interactions, that we’re still trying to find out more about. The written records are very sparse, but I’m hoping to pursue a future project tracing connections through oral histories, among other things, particularly in the Māori community.”

Edwin now straddles roles in Cambridge and at the University of Leeds, where he is continuing his exploration of the Darwins as part of a Leverhulme Trust funded project, as well as furthering his interest in the Pacific voyages. While his research focuses on the scientific advances of centuries past, he is, he says, “palpably finding new knowledge.”

“Trying to challenge the established canon of how science is thought about historically is, I think, really important. For example, all these ideas about naming classification that I’ve been looking at. They’ve always been attributed to European scholars in libraries and museums, when actually it’s a much more complicated intellectual legacy than that. They come from many more diverse sources, so I am fascinated to find out about these people, understand their contributions and give credit where it’s deserved.”

A question of justice

As we pinball from one heatwave to the next, Dr Ahmad Elabbar explains the moral and philosophical complications of identifying the victims of climate change.



When Ahmad Elabbar began a Physics degree at Loughborough University, it was a shock to the system in numerous ways. After studying 16 subjects in his final year of high school in Saudi Arabia, the switch to the narrow field of focus of a British undergraduate degree was abrupt. And, having previously been educated entirely in Arabic, it also demanded a whole new vocabulary.

Born in England to Libyan parents, Ahmad had attended the first few years of primary school here, before moving into the Saudi system at the age of eight and returning to the UK ten years later.

"I didn't really speak English from the age of eight to 18. I did a foundation year in science at Loughborough before the first year of my degree, but it was

a huge challenge. All of my science vocabulary had been learned in Arabic, the maths notation was in Arabic, and we didn't use X and Y. So it was a really difficult transition back. I couldn't have done the humanities in English, because my English was good enough to do a science-based degree, but I could not have written essays."

The humanities refused to let him go, however. While exploring the possibility of a career in science journalism, to combine his interests as his English improved, he discovered the existence of History and Philosophy of Science and his future began to take shape.

Despite what he described as a "hunger" to move beyond Physics from early on in his undergraduate studies, Ahmad completed a Master's in Physics at Loughborough, before dipping an initial toe in the waters of a broader discipline through a Master's in the Philosophy of Physics at Oxford.

"It took a while to convince myself to leave Physics because people tell you you've got lots of employment prospects! So when I applied to Oxford I thought, if they take me I'll take a year out, and if not I'll just continue in Physics. I kind of left it up to the universe."

But once he started at Oxford, life as a physicist rapidly fell by the wayside.

"I just loved it too much. It was immediate. The moment I got to Oxford and I started writing those essays, I wasn't coming back."

“Can you even make sense of the idea of saying this particular tornado was caused by climate change, this other one wasn’t?”

The intellectual freedom of Philosophy fulfilled a craving he didn't know he was feeling.

“The structure of a Master's in Philosophy is one where you're asked to sit down with books or papers, and read and come up with your own arguments. It's so different from how Physics works. In Physics you're just learning technique for a very long time, and the point at which you're really an original researcher comes much later.”

Working in opposition to the usual pattern of the British education system, which involves increasing specialisation, Ahmad continued to expand his intellectual palate, moving from the Master's in Philosophy of Physics to an MPhil in the History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge, exploring the history and philosophy of climate science. He then completed a PhD in which he looked at the role of the IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and the impact of its reports and decisions.

“My PhD was in what's sometimes called the political philosophy of climate science. When you're producing a report to advise governments, what are the essential findings about climate change that they need to know, given that they only have a limited amount of time to read your report, and climate science publishes 60,000 papers a year? You can't tell them everything. You have to curate. And there's a question of justice, about which aspects of this problem you communicate, and whose interests you prioritise.”

Looking through 30 years of archived IPCC reports, Ahmad examined their focus and their biases, interviewing their authors to understand the decisions made and consider their fairness. Building on this research, he is now working on a book on justice and climate assessment.

“I've become really interested in extreme weather, both the science of extreme weather and the attempt to attribute specific extreme weather events to climate change. I'm interested in how that's possible from a methodological perspective. Is that coherent? Can you even make sense of the idea of saying this particular tornado was caused by climate change, this other one wasn't? There are really interesting conceptual problems that you run into when you start doing that, because the weather has changed completely from where it was in the 19th century, both the extreme and the normal.”

Having been a student at St Catharine's College, Ahmad's affiliation with Darwin began when he was awarded the Adrian Research Fellowship, before becoming an Official Fellow after he was appointed as Assistant Professor. Darwin's longstanding connection to the HPS department, as well as the College's strong environmental ethos, meant it quickly felt like the right place to be.

“It's nice to feel that you're working in a place where there's a connection to the research that you're doing and the goals of the College. College life at Darwin feels a lot more integrated with my departmental life.”

Even at Darwin, which can feel like an oasis from the real world, the realities of climate change have been hard to ignore this year. For Ahmad, as he continues to explore the debate around funding and compensation for extreme weather, a false dichotomy appears to be being drawn between direct victims of climate change and everybody else, in a world where no one is unaffected.

“There have been proposals that you shouldn't be awarding funding unless you can prove that an extreme weather event has been made more likely by climate change.

And for that you need very sophisticated attribution studies, and I have many worries about that. One is just the practical worry that we can't do these attribution studies for all regions of the world. There are certain regions where it's extremely difficult because of lack of data, and those are the regions we think are most vulnerable to climate change.

But more broadly, I have deeper worries about the idea of saying that you're a victim of climate change only if you've been impacted by a weather event linked to climate change. I think there are some gaps in the reasoning there that scientists haven't reflected on.”

An evolving approach to the history of human thought

After stints in Switzerland, Hong Kong and China, as well as her native Japan, Dr Yumi Suzuki explains why Cambridge is the perfect place to explore ancient understanding of the natural world.



From creation myths to children's fables, it's easy to assume that conceptions of plant and animal life are consistent across cultures and time periods. But Dr Yumi Suzuki's research suggests otherwise. By comparing both folk and scientific taxonomies of animals, plants and minerals in early China and ancient Greece, she is exploring whether there is a common approach to categorisation, and whether or not they reflect objective, universal knowledge.

"It's a striking coincidence that we have written sources from roughly the same period from these two distant, longstanding civilisations in Europe and Asia," she explains.

"What I am interested in is not just understanding ways in which proto-scientific reasoning, speculation, induction and deduction were developed in antiquity, but how human cognitions evolve in different intellectual contexts throughout history. Throughout my MA and PhD research I have continued to work on the methodological issues involved in doing philosophy and science – the distinction between the two is unclear in antiquity."

Yumi began her career making documentaries, looking at child cognitive development and behavioural psychology. While her frequent research trips to libraries and universities had left

her contemplating a return to academia, it wasn't until she came across the books of former Master of Darwin Professor Geoffrey Lloyd that her intellectual ambitions came into sharp focus.

Reading *Early Greek Science: Thales to Aristotle* (1970) and *Ancient Worlds, Modern Reflections: Philosophical Perspectives on Greek and Chinese Science and Culture* (2004), initially in Japanese translation and later in their original English sparked a fascination with how two very different ancient cultures could inform our understanding of how people have seen the natural world.

"Since then, Geoffrey's work has been my main inspiration. However, when I was a PhD student, I tried to put his work to one side in order to develop my own approach to comparing these two intellectual traditions, which resulted in a comparison of the methods of moral reasoning and argumentation."

Yumi initially came to the UK in 2009 to complete an MA in Classics and a research MA in Ancient Philosophy at Durham University, where she met her British husband, then a PhD student. An impressive long-distance commitment followed, with seven years out of the past 17 spent in separate countries. Following a PhD in Chinese and Comparative Philosophy at the University of Hong Kong, Yumi took up research fellowships in Shanghai and Bern, while her husband continued to teach in Hong Kong – a juggling act which came to a head when he joined her in Switzerland just four days before the birth of their son in 2023.

Now installed as a family in Cambridge, Yumi joined Darwin in 2025 as Lloyd-Dan David Research Fellow at the Needham Research Institute, with a further affiliation to the Faculty of Classics, and frequent interactions with both the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. She had previously spent time at the University as a visiting PhD student in 2015, and a visiting scholar from 2022-23. Having followed in Geoffrey

"It's a striking coincidence that we have written sources from roughly the same period from these two distant, longstanding civilisations in Europe and Asia,"

Lloyd's footsteps throughout her career she now works alongside him, recently collaborating in the organisation of Geoffrey's fifth "Science of the Forest, Science of the Past" conference.

While fascination with the parallels and differences between ancient Greek and Chinese thought drives much of her research, Yumi points out that generalisation about either tradition is futile.

"The story is often much more complicated. Comparative study is not an established subject with a single method, but an evolving approach to understanding the history of human thought.

While some people describe me as 'interdisciplinary', I am not sure whether this accurately reflects my work. My primary interest is not in the interaction between "disciplines". Rather, I am interested in answering a question that happens to be relevant to multiple areas of research by using materials from various disciplines. In this sense, Darwin is an ideal place for me. I have received strong and invaluable support from colleagues in various disciplines, including zoology, botany, biology, archaeology, history, anthropology, mathematics and neuroscience. In particular, I have greatly benefited from conversations with people working on and interested in the evolution of species - both the evolution of life forms (as in Darwin's work), and the evolution of the notion of "species". I cannot think of any better university than Cambridge for this sort of transdisciplinary research project."

Mastering the art of leading Darwin

As Dr Mike Rands prepares to step down as Master, he talked to us about the highlights of his time at Darwin, in a whistlestop tour of six years in office.



For an institution which prides itself on its face-to-face interactions, Dr Mike Rands' introduction to life as the Master of Darwin was a lonely experience. When he took up the role in October 2020, he was sworn in at a distance and in a face mask, before installing himself in his office in a College which, though full of people, was unable to bring them together.

"Even though I wasn't going to be able to see very many people, I felt I wanted and needed to be a presence in the College," he remembers.

Chairing committees with a sea of unfamiliar faces on a screen, rather than the opportunity to get to know his new community, was a challenge, while for students the usual welcome events fell by the wayside. Instead Mike found himself hosting Zoom calls with each student household in turn, fielding concerns about College, University or Government policy, and checking how students were coping and continuing their studies.

The relationship with alumni, too, had to be recalibrated. Online events introduced

by the Development team brought together an international cohort of alumni to hear from an invited speaker, an initiative which reached many more people than would have been able to connect with the College in person.

"We had hundreds of people online from all around the world, and that opportunity to engage such an international community was quite new. We had some excellent alumni speakers, who talked with passion about their time at Darwin and their subsequent careers."

“I don’t think I would have applied to be the Master of any other College.”

Mike’s own time at Darwin followed a career as a conservation biologist, including 13 years as Director of BirdLife International and 11 as the founding Executive Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI). When, in 2019, he was approached by a College Fellow and told that Darwin was hoping to shortlist someone with an environmental background, he initially, with typical modesty, suggested a few people whom he thought might be suited to the role. A month later he was asked directly whether he would consider applying himself.

“I don’t think I would have applied to be the Master of any other College. But I knew a number of students at CCI who said Darwin was a great College because it’s postgraduate, because it’s international and so interdisciplinary, because it’s informal and because of its special location by the river at the heart of both the University and the city. So that made me think about it much more seriously.”

His own positive experiences as a doctoral student at Wolfson College, Oxford also predisposed him to recognise the benefits of an exclusively postgraduate environment, while Darwin’s riverside location appealed to him as a lover of swimming.

“I thought I might be able to swim in the river every day. I’ve not swum in the river once!”

Other ambitions, however, have proved more possible to fulfil. Darwin’s first Strategic Plan, developed through a participatory process with involvement

from across the community, was proposed and led by Mike, and laid out plans for the next decade, many of which are now being implemented by students, Fellows and staff.

A focus on global challenges was also important to Mike personally and, with the introduction this year of both the Darwin Dialogues and the Small Grants for Big Ideas, is taking shape as a centrepiece of the College’s activities.

“Because Darwin is so international and research-rich across many disciplines, I felt that we could do more as a College to raise awareness of and contribute new ideas to help solve global challenges, whether, for example, to address inequality, environmental issues or human health. I think those challenges have increased during my tenure, though they’re probably more geopolitical now than they were when I started. But I’ve been really pleased by the enthusiasm across the College community for responding to them.”

Mike has made a deliberate effort to expand Darwin’s wider reputation and capacity to make a difference, boosting its public profile through the creation of the College’s first Communications Manager role, and increasing fundraising efforts through the launch of a campaign to mark the 60th anniversary. His commitment to sustainability is embedded in the College through numerous initiatives and approaches, and has often reflected his personal passions, including leading early morning walks through the College gardens to hear the dawn chorus, and installing swift boxes. He will leave a lasting mark in the plans

for decarbonisation now underway with the building of the Pump House.

“I was delighted to find so much enthusiasm for setting an ambitious target to become a net zero College and take up innovative solutions to decarbonising such as the water-source heat pump. It’s been exciting to see the College develop a global reputation for tackling sustainability in such novel ways.”

Quietly, behind the scenes, Mike has been reshaping Darwin in other ways too. He has made deliberate efforts to diversify the Fellowship, improving the gender balance and bringing in new Fellows from a rich variety of backgrounds, nations, ethnicities and disciplines, both in the early stages of their career and more established. He has also introduced the first EDI working group, made up of staff, Fellows and students, to review and enhance policies and practices across the College as required.

The approach to EDI reflects the longstanding wider engagement of students in a way which is almost unique to Darwin, which Mike hadn’t fully appreciated but now takes justified pride in.

“I wasn’t aware when I became Master how involved the students are in the running of the College. There’s the support that DCSA officers provide to other students, but also how engaged the students are in governance. There’s a student representative on most committees; there are three of them on the Council. When I tell other College heads that’s what we do some of them

Farewell interview

"It's not about me. It's about what the College does, and I hope I've played a part in that."



say 'wow, isn't that crazy?', but it's not crazy, it's really good."

The Erasmus Seminars and College Chalk Talks, introduced during Mike's tenure as Master, now have an established place alongside the 40-year-old Darwin College Lecture Series and Lunchtime Research Seminars in sharing the intellectual life of the College.

To support the delivery of its 10-year Strategic Plan, the College has launched its first major fundraising campaign, building on its first 60 years and attracting engagement from alumni, Fellows and students. Mike was particularly pleased to secure the agreement of members of the Darwin family to the creation of a new category of College membership – Sir George

Darwin Fellow Benefactors – to celebrate and acknowledge philanthropic generosity.

He has enjoyed fostering this closer relationship with the wider Darwin family, many of whom have attended or contributed to events over the past few years, and all of whom have a wealth of intellectual interests and knowledge to share with the College community.

Since his anti-social introduction to the role of Master, Mike has made up for lost time, leading with warmth and empathy, and building connections across the College. His personal concern for every Darwin member is clear, and means that, while he'll clearly miss the job, he won't altogether regret handing on some of the responsibilities of leadership.

This care for the individual also contributes to the pleasure he has taken in graduations, which he admits he never predicted he would enjoy so much.

"I didn't think they'd be particularly fun or easy – I never studied Latin! But the way in which the degree ceremonies are run in the Senate House is really impressive. They are formal. They are daunting. But the fact that every single student gets a personal few words as they're being given their degree is very special. So, I've made a real effort to do as many of the Darwin sessions as I can and very much enjoyed them all."

If his enthusiasm for the dignity of degree ceremonies has taken Mike by surprise, his pleasure in the opportunity they offer for a more personal celebration at Darwin is utterly in character, as is his recognition of the team effort such an occasion represents.

"The students are so happy and proud, and even though you're doing the same thing eight or ten times a year, every time it's a real joy because the people are so enthusiastic and 99% of the feedback we get from students and parents is positive. And that's a tribute to everybody. It's not about me. It's about what the College does, and I hope I've played a part in that."

Help us to honour Mike's impact

Dr Mike Rands is one of the great conservation leaders of his generation. As founding Executive Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, he took a bold idea and built it into an extraordinary reality, a world-class conservation campus, housed in the David Attenborough Building, that has transformed how research, policy and practice come together in service of nature.

Since becoming Master of Darwin College six years ago, he has continued his steadfast commitment to nature. He has gained the support of the whole College community to work together for a carbon neutral future and to put sustainability at the heart of everything we do. Likewise, he has never stopped championing CCI - a passionate advocate, opening doors and lending his voice to the Initiative at every opportunity.

Mike will be stepping down as Master in September 2026, and we feel strongly that his legacy deserves to be honoured in a lasting and meaningful way. Working in collaboration with CCI, we are seeking to establish a PhD studentship in his name, the first in what CCI plans to grow into a full cohort of groundbreaking transdisciplinary scholars.

Our goal is to fund at least one studentship of £200,000. If we are able to raise more, an anonymous donor has offered a generous sum to help establish an endowment fund to secure the studentship in conservation in perpetuity.

The Mike Rands Scholarship would do exactly what Mike has always done: bring exceptional people together across disciplines to tackle the defining conservation challenges of our time. It would be a living legacy, a pipeline of brilliant minds inspired by his example for generations to come.

If you wish to honour and thank Mike for his extraordinary dedication to nature, please consider a gift towards the new studentship. You can make a gift online at: www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/alumni-and-supporters/donate/ or contact development@darwin.cam.ac.uk for more information.

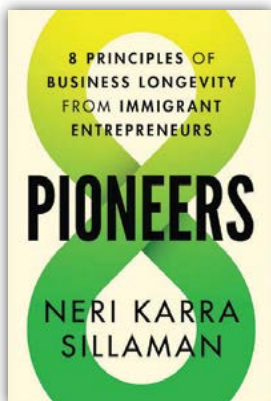
THANK YOU for your generosity.



Dr Mike Rands and his wife, Dr Gill Rands

Books

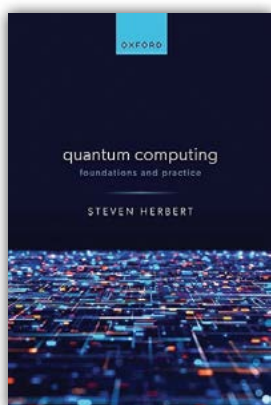
We are delighted to celebrate some of the books published by members of the Darwin community this year, and apologise for any we've missed!



Dr Neri Karra Sillaman

PhD Management Studies, 2002
Pioneers: 8 Principles of Business Longevity from Immigrant Entrepreneurs

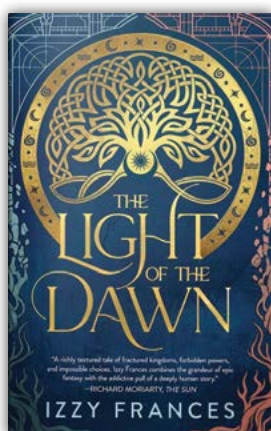
Garlanded with awards including the *Thinkers50 Best New Management Book of 2025* and the *Financial Times 2025 Best Book of the Year*, *Pioneers* combines Neri Karra Sillaman's business acumen with her academic rigour and her personal perspective as a former refugee, in an exploration of the success of immigrant entrepreneurs.



Dr Stephen Herbert

PhD Computer Science, 2010
Quantum Computing: Foundations and Practice

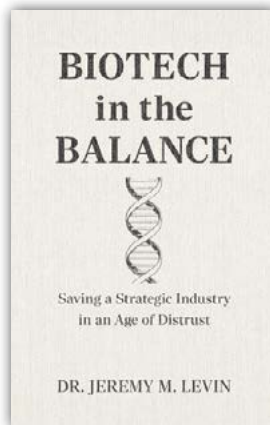
Published by Oxford University Press, this exploration of the power of quantum computation is the first major textbook to cover recent quantum algorithms such as HHL.



Dr Isobel Greenhalgh, writing as Izzy Frances

PhD Psychology, 2022 (Clare College – Darwin College resident)
The Light of the Dawn

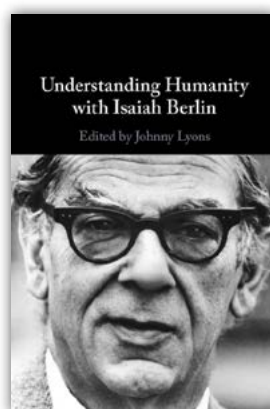
An honorary member of the College, having lived in Darwin accommodation while her Darwinian husband completed his PhD, Isobel Greenhalgh draws on her scientific and academic background, as well as her experience of chronic illness, in her debut novel, an epic fantasy exploring the stories constructed by controlling societies.



Dr Jeremy Levin

Clinical Medicine, 1979
Biotech in the Balance: Saving a Strategic Industry in an Age of Distrust

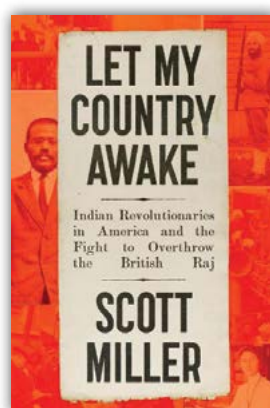
Scientist, doctor and biotech CEO Jeremy Levin puts patients at the centre of his analysis of how the politicisation of science and research funding risks stalling the development and supply of treatments, and reversing medical progress.



Dr Johnny Lyons

MPhil Social and Political Theory, 1991
Understanding Humanity with Isaiah Berlin

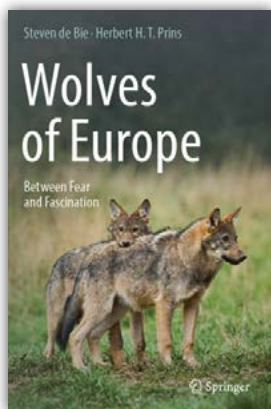
Contributions by a diversity of distinguished scholars examine Isaiah Berlin's most significant essays, and appraise his intellectual preoccupations and their relation to the deepest questions of human life.



Scott Miller

MPhil International Relations, 1993
Let My Country Awake: Indian Revolutionaries in America and the Fight to Overthrow the British Raj

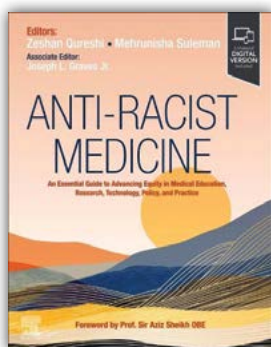
In the first book to examine an overlooked moment in Indian and American history, Scott Miller, a former foreign correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, tells the story of an extraordinary plan hatched by Indian students at UC Berkeley in the early 20th century, to liberate India from British colonial rule.



Professor Herbert Prins

PhD Biological Sciences, 1980
Wolves of Europe: Between Fear and Fascination

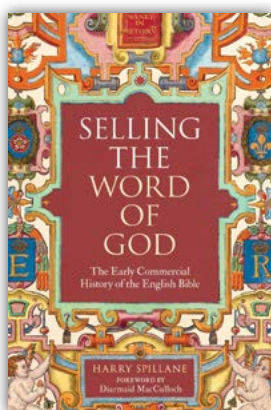
Professor Emeritus of Resource Ecology at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, Herbert Prins explores the story of Europe's wolves, from fear and folklore to a potential future in which recovering populations establish an uneasy harmony with people.



Dr Zeshan Qureshi

PhD History and Philosophy of Science, 2023
Anti-Racist Medicine: An Essential Guide to Advancing Equity in Medical Education, Research, Technology, Policy, and Practice

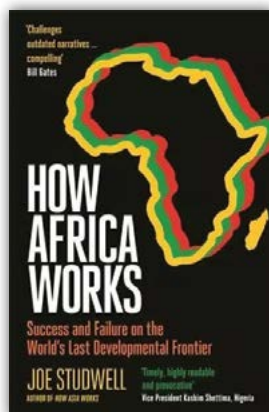
Current PhD student Zeshan Qureshi put his career as a paediatrician on hold to explore race in the context of healthcare, resulting in this blueprint for an anti-racist approach to leadership, medical education, clinical care, research and technology, which had its launch in Parliament earlier this year.



Dr Harry Spillane

Munby Fellow, 2024-5
Selling the Word of God: The Early Commercial History of the English Bible

Completed during Harry Spillane's Fellowship at Darwin, *Selling the Word of God* explores the publication story of the Bible in English – how it was marketed, advertised, illustrated and edited to become the bestseller to end all bestsellers.



Dr Joe Studwell

PhD Management Studies, 2014
How Africa Works: Success and Failure on the World's Last Developmental Frontier

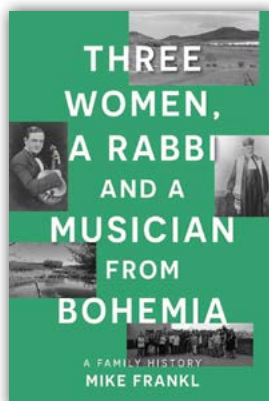
Described by the *Financial Times* as "one of the most original and important books on Africa in years", alumnus, journalist and economist Joe Studwell unpacks prevailing myths around African development, and presents an optimistic view of the continent's future.



Professor Jamie Woodward

PhD Archaeology, 1990
A Little History of the Earth

Alumnus and Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Manchester, Jamie Woodward takes on the challenge of covering the full span of the earth's history, from fossils of ancient creatures to the very air we breathe, for a general audience.



Mike Frankl

Three Women, a Rabbi and a Musician from Bohemia

Mike Frankl, husband of Darwin Fellow Professor Fiona Karet and longstanding friend of the College, traces the disparate strands of his family scattered by the Holocaust in this moving family history.



Dr Tony Cox

1941 – 2026

Darwin Fellow from 1999, and Emeritus Fellow from 2008

My friend and colleague, Tony Cox, who died on 26 March 2026, was an outstanding physical chemist, hugely respected worldwide. He made major contributions to a number of important environmental problems. He was generous with his time, supportive, collegial and collaborative with lively, catholic interests.

Tony's undergraduate and graduate degrees were from UMIST, followed by a postdoc in Canada before taking up a post in the environmental science research group at Harwell. There, Tony produced an impressive body of work, making key contributions to our understanding of acid rain – a major problem in the 1960s and 1970s – and to groundlevel ozone and air pollution. Inevitably, he became involved in the stratospheric ozone story. He was a superb kineticist and his measurement of the rate of reaction of ClO, a stratospheric breakdown product of the CFCs, to form the ClO dimer was one of the key elements contributing to our detailed understanding of polar ozone depletion.

The quality of his work was hugely respected. Indeed, the Nobel Committee sought his views when the prize went to atmospheric chemists in the mid-1990s, and Tony attended the prize-giving ceremony. He served the community in many other ways: on the EU stratospheric

science panel, on the IUPAC kinetic data panel. He was a regular contributor to the Montreal Protocol assessments.

At the beginning of the 1990s Tony helped to set up the European Ozone Research Coordinating Unit based in Cambridge with EU and UK Department of the Environment funding and was its first head. With support from NERC he then moved permanently to Cambridge where he established a research group with wide-ranging interests. They studied the chemical, photochemical and heterogeneous reactions of chlorine, bromine and iodine. Aerosol processes in the atmosphere, including their relevance to volcanic emissions and to geoengineering, became another strand of research and, of course, tropospheric ozone and air pollution remained strong themes for Tony. His last paper looked at Covid, combining his interests in atmospheric oxidation and aerosol science.

Tony was a wonderful companion. He was interested in, and inquisitive about, almost everything and knowledgeable about a wide range of topics. He was particularly interested in the natural world, flora, fauna and geology, the latter fuelling his research interest in volcanoes. A walk with Tony would usually include some birdwatching and, in autumn, foraging for mushrooms. The walks would always be followed by a trip to the pub. Tony also loved to cook; I often saw him on Cambridge market negotiating with the fishmonger. On top of all this, he was an excellent artist.

We were on many committees together. Tony would always want to combine a meeting with an opportunity to visit some interesting site. I used to say that of all the people I knew, he was the one who had cracked the work-life balance. On reflection, that analysis is wrong. For Tony, it was all life and he lived it very well. He is hugely missed by those who were fortunate enough to know him.

*Emeritus Professor John Pyle BCE FRS.
This obituary first appeared in Chem@Cam magazine.*



Dr Robert Malpas

1950 – 2026

PhD Natural Sciences 1974

The death of Robert Malpas marks the loss of a distinguished conservationist who, for over 40 years, made invaluable contributions to the protection of East Africa's ecosystems, providing technical support and advice to government agencies, NGOs and community organisations in conservation management across the region.

Rob read for a BSc in Zoology at the University of Southampton, graduating in 1971. One of his lecturers, Dr Mike Delany, had close contacts with Makerere University in Uganda and the Nuffield Unit of Tropical Animal Ecology (NUTAE, later the Uganda Institute of Ecology). These institutions supported an expedition organised by Dr Delany to the Ssesse Islands in Lake Victoria, in which Rob participated along with many others who were to become lifelong friends and colleagues.

NUTAE was subsequently looking for a researcher to study the diet, condition and growth of elephants in the Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks, and offered the position to Rob. Accepting it enabled him to register for a PhD with the Department of Applied Biology at Cambridge in 1974, before undertaking over two years of fieldwork in Uganda. During his time at Cambridge, Rob was an active and valued member of Darwin College. He also managed to

find time to pursue his interest in flying, and successfully obtained his Private Pilot Licence at the Cambridge Aero Club.

After graduating, Rob returned to Uganda, where he coordinated and implemented surveys of the country's protected areas. In 1981 he became Director of a regional projects operations centre in Nairobi covering Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, before becoming IUCN's first Regional Representative in Eastern Africa in 1983.

In 1995, Rob took on a major new challenge, stepping away from his IUCN position to enrol for a Master of Science in Management at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, for which he secured a highly prestigious Sloan Fellowship.

Returning to Nairobi, Rob established his own conservation consultancy, the Conservation Development Centre, which provided specialist technical support for agencies working to promote nature conservation aligned with human development goals.

On his retirement in 2021, Rob closed the Conservation Development Centre and made a gradual transition to a new life in Comrie, Scotland. He remained actively engaged in conservation, both through consultancy work with UNEP and, more locally, through sustainable development initiatives in Comrie. Rob continued to derive great pleasure from being in nature, whether it be through spending time in his garden, going on local walks and cycle rides around Comrie, or undertaking travels further afield.. To the end, he was unfailingly generous in his support for friends and in helping them navigate the challenges of daily life. He will be greatly missed.

Dr Andrew Laurie



Professor Sir Charles Hoare FREng FRS

1934 – 2026

Honorary Fellow of Darwin from 2001

Darwin Honorary Fellow Professor Sir Tony (C.A.R.) Hoare was one of the most distinguished computer scientists that the UK has ever produced. He made foundational contributions to programming languages, operating systems, formal verification, and concurrent computing.

A recipient of the Turing award - often called the Nobel prize for computer science - he was recognisable even to teenagers as the inventor of the Quicksort algorithm. A philosopher by training, he had a long and very distinguished career, first in industry and then in academia, most notably as head of Computing Science (as he liked to call it) at the Other Place. He "retired" to Microsoft Research in Cambridge and took an Honorary Fellowship at Darwin, where he was very generous with his time and always an enthusiastic supporter of the lunch meetings with our Computer Science and Engineering students.

When receiving the prize that the Computer Laboratory named for another eminent Darwin fellow (David Wheeler), Tony memorably asked "Could Computers Understand Their Own Programs" by reference to Aristotle and Euclid. At the celebration of his life that took place in March, participants heard Wittgenstein read in German, were induced to sing *What Shall We Do with the*

Drunken Sailor (a favourite tune) and left to the sound of the theme music to *Call the Midwife* (in recent years a favourite show of Tony's). He will be missed!

Professor Alan Blackwell and

Professor Andy Pitts

In Memoriam

Mr Michael Cook

1933 – 2026

1990, MPhil Architecture and the Moving Image

Dr Nancy Cox

1948 – 2026

1970, PhD Pathology

Dr Gheorghita Dumitriu

1938 – 2026

1971, English

Dr Barry Gale

1941 – 2024

1967, PhD Philosophy

Dr Helen Kiew

1946 – 2025

1969, PhD Botany

Dr Sunil Mankad

1968 – 2025

1991, PhD Chemical Engineering

Professor Iain Raeburn

1949 – 2023

1971, Mathematics

Dr Richard Saunders

1953 – 2025

1978, PhD Physics

Darwin College Register

VISITOR

Sue Lascelles, Baroness CARR of WALTON-on-the-HILL DBE PC MA (Hon.) LLD; (2023); Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales

MASTER

Michael Russell Wheldon RANDS BSc DPhil; (2020)

VICE MASTERS

John Harold NILSSON-WRIGHT PhD; (2001); Associate Professor, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Angela Mary WOOD MA PhD; (2016); Tutor, University Lecturer in Biostatistics, Department of Public Health and Primary Care

DEAN

Duncan James NEEDHAM PhD; (2013); Associate Lecturer, Faculty of History

DEPUTY DEANS

Timothy Nicholas MILNER MA; (2016); College Praelector, Tutor, University Ceremonial Officer and additional Pro-Proprietor for Ceremonial Occasions
Simone Nicole WEYAND PhD; (2016); Group Leader, Department of Biochemistry

BURSAR

John Tannatt DIX LLB MA; (2014)

COLLEGE SECRETARY

Julian Graham EVANS MA; (2014); Secretary of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Fiona Janet DUFFY BA MA; (2023)

OFFICIAL FELLOWS

Anne Carla FERGUSON-SMITH CBE PhD FRS FMedSci; (1997); Arthur Balfour Professor of Genetics, Department of Genetics
Torsten KRUDE PhD; (2000); Associate Professor, Department of Zoology
Alan Frank BLACKWELL PhD; (2001); Professor of Interdisciplinary Design, Department of Computer Science and Technology
Emily Fleur SHUCKBURGH CBE PhD; (2001); Director, Cambridge Zero
Mark Edmondus Jan DE ROND DPhil; (2006); Professor of Organisational Ethnography, Judge Business School
Dénes SZÜCS MA PhD; (2007); Wine Steward, Reader in Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology, Department of Psychology
Carl Edward RASMUSSEN PhD; (2008); Professor of Machine Learning, Department of Engineering
Russell Paul COWBURN PhD ScD FRS; (2011); Director of Research, Cavendish Laboratory

Thomas Jeffrey MILEY PhD; (2011); Lecturer in Political Sociology, Department of Sociology

Chris Guy SANDBROOK PhD; (2011); Tutor, Director of the Conservation Research Institute; Professor of Conservation and Society, Department of Geography

Sara Theresa BAKER PhD; (2012); Professor in Developmental Psychology and Education, Faculty of Education

Jonathan Luke HEENEY PhD ScD; (2012); Head of The Laboratory of Viral Zoonotics, Department of Veterinary Medicine

Jan Dietrich Karsen LÖWE PhD FRS; (2012); Research Leader, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

Paul Stuart ANDERSON PhD; (2013); Associate Professor in Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Jane Elizabeth FRANCIS DCMG PhD; (2013); Director, British Antarctic Survey

Paul Joseph LEHNER PhD FRCP FMedSci FRS; (2013); Professor of Immunology and Medicine, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research

Fiona Eve KARET PhD FMedSci; (2014); Professor of Nephrology, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research

Christine VAN RUYMBEKE PhD; (2015); Deputy College Praelector; Tutor, Ali Reza and Mohamed Soudavar Professor in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Julia M DAVIES MA PhD; (2016); Head of Transport Group, Department of Plant Sciences

Aylwyn Olav SCALLY PhD; (2016); Tutor, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics

Maha ABDELRAHMAN PhD; (2017); Reader in Development Studies and Middle East Politics, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Alexandra Melike BRINTRUP PhD; (2017); Associate Professor in Digital Manufacturing, Institute of Manufacturing

Paolo CAMPANA PhD; (2017); Associate Professor in Criminology and Complex Networks, Institute of Criminology

Daniel Haskell WEISS PhD; (2017); Tutor, Polonsky-Coexist Lecturer in Jewish Studies, Faculty of Divinity

James Benedict ROWE PhD; (2018); Patrick Sissons Fellow, Director of Cambridge Centre for Frontotemporal Dementia and Related Disorders, Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Thorsten Edwin BOROVIK PhD; (2019); Principal Investigator, Laboratory for Primate Embryogenesis, Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience

Ioannis KONTOYIANNIS PhD; (2020); Churchill Professor of Mathematics of Information

Angelos MICHAELIDES PhD FRS; (2021); 1968 Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry

Annouchka Cassandra BAYLEY PhD; (2022); Tutor, Chair of the Arts and Creativities Research Group, Faculty of Education

Jacqueline COX MA; (2022); Archivist; Keeper of the University Archives, University Library

Professor Eric Baird FRENCH PhD; (2023); Montague Burton Professor of Industrial Relations and Labour Economics, Faculty of Economics

Flora Barbara SAMUEL BA PhD RIBA; (2023); Professor of Architecture, Department of Architecture

Chloe KATTAR PhD; (2023); Librarian, Advanced Research Fellow, Faculty of History

Diana ARSENI PhD; (2023); Group Leader, Laboratory of Molecular Biology

Hong GE PhD; (2023); Senior Research Fellow, Department of Engineering

Jeremy ADELMAN DPhil; (2024); Director of the Global History Lab, Faculty of History

Serafina CUOMO PhD; (2024); AG Leventis Professor of Greek Culture

Karishma JAIN PhD; (2024); Teaching Professor of Sustainability and Innovation, Department of Physics

Ahmad Abdalla ELABBAR PhD; (2025); Assistant Professor in Philosophy of Science and Technology

Virginia LEAVELL PhD; (2026); Assistant Professor in Organisational Theory and Information Systems, Judge Business School

HONORARY FELLOWS

Geoffrey Ernest Richard LLOYD Kt PhD FBA; (1985)

Jeffrey William EDINGTON PhD DSc; (1998)

Amartya Kumar SEN CH MA PhD (Hon) LittD FBA FRSE; (1998)

Michael Charles SHEPPARD MA DPhil; (2000)

Robert Anthony RAYNE; (2004)

Martin John, Lord REES of LUDLOW OM PhD (Hon) ScD FRS; (2004)

Bernard Michael de Lerisson CAZENOVE; (2005)

Jean Olwen THOMAS DBE MA ScD FRS FMedSci; (2007)

Robert Hughes JONES PhD; (2008)

Simon Hastings BITTLESTON PhD; (2013)

Alan Roy FERSHT Kt PhD FRS FMedSci; (2014)

Nicola Margaret PADFIELD (Hon.) KC MA DipCrim DES; (2014)

Gregory Paul WINTER Kt CBE PhD FRS FMedSci; (2014)

Robin Wayne CARRELL PhD ScD FRS FMedSci FRSNZ; (2015)

Janet ROSSANT CC PhD (Hon) ScD FRS FRSC; (2017)

Elizabeth Helen BLACKBURN AC PhD (Hon) ScD FRS FAA FRSN; (2018)

Simon Douglas KEYNES PhD LittD FRHistS FSA FBA; (2018)

Eric Stark MASKIN PhD (Hon) ScD; (2018)

Sally Claire DAVIES GCB DBE FRS FMedSci; (2020)

Philippa Jane ROGERSON PhD; (2020)

Heather Jane HANCOCK LVO DL MA; (2021)

Amrita NARLIKAR PhD; (2021)

Euan George NISBET PhD; (2020)

Elizabeth Jane ROBERTSON MA PhD (Hon) ScD FRS FMedSci; (2022)

John CLARKE PhD FRS; (2023)

Julia Mary SLINGO DBE (Hon) ScD FRS, (Hon) FRMetSoc, (Hon) FRSC (Hon) FlntP; (2023)

Angela Mary Bruce DARWIN JP; (2023)

Elizabeth Janet BROWNE PhD; (2024)

Emmanuelle Marie CHARPENTIER PhD (Hon.) ScD FRS; (2024)

Richard James GILBERTSON PhD FRS FMedSci FRCP EMBO; (2025)

Maria LEPTIN PhD (Hon) MedScD ForMemRS FMedSci; (2025)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Lakshmi BALASUBRAMANIAM PhD; (2022); Herchel Smith Research Fellow, Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience
Xiaolei ZHANG PhD; (2022); Research Fellow Statistical Genetics and Genomics, European Bioinformatics Group
Fabian Simon EICHBERGER PhD; 2023; Charles & Katharine Darwin Research Fellow in Law, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law
Amelia Elizabeth Seham HASSOUN PhD; 2023; Research Fellow in Anthropology, Minderoo Centre
Peter Benjamin MARTIN PhD; 2023; Moses and Mary Finley Research Fellow, Faculty of Classics
Tian Irene TIAN PhD; 2023; Research Fellow in Cell Biology, MRC Institute of Metabolic Science
Alan WANKE PhD; (2023); Research Fellow in Cell Biology, Sainsbury Laboratory
Lara ABEL PhD; (2024); Research Fellow, Bennett Institute for Public Policy
Alexander Rizzolo EPSTEIN PhD; (2024); Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry
Tiffany Lok Tung KI PhD; (2024); Henslow Research Fellow, Department of Zoology
Ioannis SARRAPOULOS PhD; (2024);
Megan BROWN; PhD; (2025); Research Associate, Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry
Grace EXLEY PhD; (2025); Munby Fellow in Bibliography, University Library
Thomas KELLY; PhD; (2025); Moses and Mary Finley Research Fellow, Faculty of Classics
Sebastian KRAUSS; PhD; (2025); Oppenheimer Research Fellow, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Debasmita Mukherjee; PhD; (2025); Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow; Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute
Zahra KAZANI; PhD; (2025); Islamic Art Research Associate; Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies
Valeria RAFFUZZI; PhD; (2025); Research Associate, Nuclear Energy Group, Department of Engineering
Yumi SUZUKI; PhD; Lloyd-Dan David Research Fellow, Needham Research Institute

VISITING FELLOWS

Fady EL-NAHAL PhD (2025)

EMERITUS FELLOWS

Reginald Frederick William GOODWIN MA PhD MRCVS; (1966)
George Thomas GÖMÖRI MA BLitt; (1969)
Elisabeth Somerville LEEDHAM-GREEN MA PhD; (1973)
Roger George WHITEHEAD CBE MA PhD FIBiol; (1973)
Nicholas JARDINE MA PhD; (1975)
Dean Ullathorne HAWKES MA PhD RIBA; (1976)
Richard HENDERSON CH PhD FRS; (1981)
Ronald Alfred LASKEY CBE PhD FRS; (1982)
Janine Delysia BOURRIAU FRENCH MA FSA; (1983)
Nicholas James Bertram Alwyn BRANSON MA PhD; (1983)
Andrew Christopher FABIAN OBE MA PhD FRS; (1983)
Simon John SCHAEFFER MA PhD; (1984)
Harshad Kumar Dharamshi Hansraj BHADSHIA Kt PhD FEng FRS; (1985)

Leopold Eftimios Anagnostis HOWE MA PhD; (1986)
Adrian Thomas GROUNDS DM FRCPsych; (1987)
Mohammad Munawar CHAUDHRI PhD; (1990)
Andrew Mawdesley PITTS PhD; (1990)
Kathleen Michelle WHEELER PhD; (1990)
Karalyn Eve PATTERSON FRS FMedSci FBA; (1991)
Margaret M. CONE PhD; (1992)
Matthew Russell JONES PhD; (1992)
John Robert COOPER PhD; (1993)
Carol Elspeth Goodeve BRAYNE DBE MSc MD FRCP FFPH; (1995)
Francois André PENZ PhD; (1995)
Christopher Michael BISHOP PhD FRS FRSE; (1998);
Director, Microsoft Research Cambridge
Peter John BRINDLE MA MPhil FCMI FInstD; (2001)
Peta Margaret STEVENS MA; (2001)
Ian MCCONNELL MA PhD MRCVS FRCPath FRSE; (2003)
Christopher CULLEN MA PhD; (2005)
Michael Edwin AKAM DPhil FRS; (2006)
Philip Alexander DAWID MA ScD FRS; (2007)
Lawrence William SHERMAN PhD; (2009)
Martin Kenneth JONES PhD FSA; (2011)
Christine Mary Rutherford FOWLER MA PhD FRAS FGS FRCS; (2012)
Eric William WOLFF PhD FRS; (2013)

DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATES

Ian Duncan, Lord BURNETT of MALDON KG PC DL
Diana, Lady BRITTAN DBE
Edward Graham Mellish CHAPLIN CMG OBE
Hermann Maria HAUSER KBE PhD FRS FREng FInstP CPhy
Sheila Tayback LEATHERMAN CBE (Hon.) FRCP
Venkatramani BALAJI PhD

BYE-FELLOWS

Ms Catherine Morag Elisabeth HOWIE (2018)
Dr Arokia NATHAN (2019); Tutor
Dr David Alan FRIEDMAN (2021)
Dr Anthony HOTSON (2023)
Dr Nicholas HUMPHREY (2023)
Dr Andreas KONTOLEON (2023)
Dr Nan MA (2023)
Professor Jennifer SCHOOLING (2023) [2018]
Dr Jerome Ronald SIMONS (2023)
Dr Julia SNYDER (2023)
Dr Stefanie ULLMANN (2023)
Dr Nan MA (2023)
Dr Daniel WUNDERLICH (2023)
Mr Kofi ADJEPONG-BOATENG (2024)
Dr Nigel BOWLES (2024); Tutor
Dr Daniel FAZAKERLEY (2024)
Mr Ronald HAYNES (2024)
Dr Eyal MAORI (2024)
Dr Gloria PUNGETTI (2024)
Dr Edwin ROSE (2024) [2020]; Deputy College Praelector
Dr Christine SCHWOBEL-PATEL (2024)
Mr Matthew SPENCER (2024)
Professor Ning ZHANG (2024)
Professor John Frederick DEWEY (2025)
Dr Stefan GRÄF (2025)
Dr Guillaume GUILBAUD (2025)
Dr Nebojša RADIĆ (2025)
Dr David GERSHLICK (2026)

Dr Olha KUSHNIRUK (2026)
Dr Simeon XU (2026)

GEORGE DARWIN FELLOW BENEFACTORS

Dr Mark DYER
Dr William Hall JANEWAY CBE
Mrs Weslie Resnick JANEWAY
Mr Marc FEIGEN
The Honourable Robert RAYNE

SENIOR MEMBERS

Ms Patricia ASKE; Darwin College
Ms Saumya BALSARI; Author
Prof John GABBAY; Cambridge Institute of Public Health
Ms Noelle L'HOMMEDIÉU; Darwin College
Dr James SMITH; Department of Public Health and Primary Care

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATES

Dr Hana ALIEE; Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute
Dr Josh ARBON; Department of Zoology
Dr Anne BARANGER; Department of Geography
Dr Viviana BASTIDAS; Department of Engineering
Dr Bella BOYLES; Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute
Dr Chico de CARVALHO; Department of Zoology
Dr Camila CLEMENTE; Department of Chemistry
Dr Fethiye Irmak DOĞAN; Department of Computer Science and Technology
Dr Onur ENGİN; Faculty of Music
Dr Peter HAN; Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Dr Leonie HODEL; Department of Geography
Dr Daniel HUGENROTH; Department of Computer Science and Technology
Dr Adam HUNT; Department of Archaeology
Dr Richard LATHAM LECHOWICK; CRASSH
Dr Tong LI; Department of Plant Sciences
Dr Stephanie NESTOROW; Department of Pharmacology
Dr Giulia OCCHINI; Alan Turing Institute
Dr Emma PEARCE; British Antarctic Survey
Dr Malavika RAO; Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance; Department of Land Economy
Dr Eliana RITTS; CRASSH
Dr Alexia SAMPRÍ; Department of Public Health and Primary Care
Dr Danying SHI; Department of Engineering
Dr Floortje VAN DEN HEUVEL; British Antarctic Survey
Dr Anna VAUGHAN; Department of Computer Science and Technology
Dr Lieven VERDONCK; Department of Classics
Dr Sneha VISHWANATH; School of Veterinary Science

Darwin College Register

Cambridge Degrees Received August 2025–July 2026

DOCTOR OF LAW (honoris causa)

Sue Lascelles, Baroness CARR of WALTON-on-the-HILL

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

AI for the study of Environmental Risks

Omer NIVRON

Machine learning for bias correction in climate models, with application to forecasting heatwaves

Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

Laura Jean IRVINE

Making more waves: routes to triadic states for internal waves

Shiza Batool NAQVI

Acoustic scattering by gratings

Archaeology

Ruairidh MACLEOD

An ancient genomic perspective of kinship, disease and environment

Architecture

Michael SALKA

On the origins of buildings: a social-ecological network approach to contemporary bioregional architectures of American earth, Norwegian timber, & Balinese bamboo

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Hershini Shruti SONEJI

The afterlife of Exegesis: Postbhāṣya Vedānta and the Svāmīnārāyaṇa-Siddhānta-Sudhā

Biochemistry

Emmanouela PETSOLARI

Molecular recognition, in- and out- of equilibrium, in the actions of bacterial multidrug efflux nanomachines
Carolina Ting-Ting QIU MEXIA DE AZEREDO
Towards inhibition of oncogenic RhoA signaling using stapled peptides

Biological Sciences

Sebastian Shaun BALCH

Structural and biochemical characterisation of the human telomerase catalytic cycle and a telomerase dimer

Elena del Carmen GÓMEZ GARCÍA

Exploring the role of gastrin-releasing peptide neurons in circadian time-keeping of the suprachiasmatic nucleus

My Ha PHAM

A comprehensive survey of somatic mutation landscapes in normal human cells

Carlos PIEDRAFITA ALVIRA

Expanding the scope of protein translation with non-canonical monomers in vivo

Iván SHLAMOVITZ

RNA Polymerase II control in the changing transcriptional landscape

Roksana Anita DUTKIEWICZ

Signalling mechanisms of the tyrosine phosphatase SHP2 upstream of Ras

Tiffany LAI

The role of PTPRF and PTPRK in regulating cell adhesion

Eirini PETSALAKI

Computational approaches for the prioritisation of functional phosphorylation sites in yeast

Tzen Szen TOH

Investigating intratumoural heterogeneity and plasticity with multiplexed single-cell assays

Charlotte Edra Mary WEST

Machine learning methods for detecting positive selection

Biotechnology

Giannina Del Carmen OWYOUNG VILLARREAL

Structural and functional insights to Bacillus spore germination and toxin engineering for sustainable agriculture

Chemical Engineering

Jongmin LEE

Predictive disintegration process modelling of immediate release tablets using terahertz technology

Chemistry

Yilin LI

Personal exposure to air pollution and associated inflammatory responses: the relative impact of indoor and outdoor sources

Arthur Rainer LIT MUN JUN

The development of enantioselective rhodium-catalysed aziridination reactions directed by a chiral cation

Xinyu LIU

Understanding and optimising carbon disorder for high-performance supercapacitors

Maria MURACE

Structural colour in marine organisms: from nature to applications

Jayaprakash MURULITHARAN

Assessing PM2.5 pollution and the role of transboundary emissions across Greater Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2018 to 2023

Francesca Helen RIDGEWAY BISHOP

Studies on the synthesis and analysis of nucleic acids

Classics

Patrick William HAYES

A study of political borders and their formation in the Hellenistic period

Clinical Neurosciences

Giulio DEANGELI

Vitras, proteomizer, ghostbuster - a journey from wet lab to machine learning and back, pursuing Parkinson's disease

Criminology

Sarika Mira DEWAN

Maternal exposure to violence and child malnutrition in LMICs: a cross-sectional, population-based study in conflict-affected Northern Uganda

Development Studies

Baptiste ALBERTONE

On the periphery of the Anthropocene: development, freedom, and nature

Clement Hugo Thomas DE RIVAS

A constructivist and institutionalist political economy perspective on ideational, political and institutional changes in France

Earth Sciences

Catherine Elizabeth BODDY

Sedimentary controls on Ediacaran macrofossil distributions

Joseph William FONE

Ambient seismic noise imaging using trans-dimensional and machine learning techniques with application to Borneo and Iceland

Joshua Adam LANHAM

Southern ocean water masses in a changing climate: structure, variability, and pathways to the Antarctic shelf

Nicholas LUCAS

The thermal structure of collisional orogens – insights from the Grenville orogen in Canada and Scotland

Esme Olivia SOUTHERN

Seismicity associated with magmatic intrusions: insights from the Reykjanes Peninsula, southwest Iceland

Economics

Marium ASHFAQ

Essays in industrial organisation

Venkatasai Ganesh KARAPAKULA

Essays in causal and comparative econometrics

Education

Laszlo Tsonio AVRAMOV

Identity crafting: a study of a pedagogy of identity transformation using experiential learning approaches in a leader development context

Consuelo BEJARES

Statemaking through distant presence in the urban periphery. An exploration of scaled education actors negotiating possible futures in a changing sociopolitical landscape in Chile

Nicola Louise HUTSON

Using pedometers to explore the physical activities that children want to do, and teachers want to implement: a mixed method case study

Brenda SIMPSON

Understanding ECE policies, access to, and learning outcomes from ECE among refugees and nationals in Uganda: a cross-cohort comparison

Engineering

Javier ANTORAN

Scalable Bayesian inference in the era of deep learning: from Gaussian processes to deep neural networks

Ruben Matias CLAVERIA VEGA

Bayesian approaches to time-frequency inverse problems

Jennifer HAWKIN

Do Net-Zero plans add up? A framework and model to quantify risks of resource supply shortages in climate mitigation strategies

Li Jie HSIEN

Stakeholders in sustainable business model innovation

Jinghui HU

Multimodal interaction for text entry and control in mixed reality

Jan KAISER

Evaluating the role of reference architectures in designing low-cost digital manufacturing systems

Emma Marlene KALLINA

Stakeholder involvement for responsible AI development in practice

Lingxuan KONG

Reliable machine learning methods for payment risk prediction in supply chain financing

Aljaž KOTNIK

A web-based approach for post-processing large ensembles

Alberto PEPE

Machine learning with geometric algebra: multivectors for modelling, understanding and computing

Shemma Salih Abdelaziz SALIH

Operationalising trust for supply chain sustainability and resilience

Marine Milena Caroline SCHIMEL

Models of neural circuits as optimally driven dynamical systems 'if IQR is the answer, what is the question?'

Aliaksandra SHYSHEYA

Advances in few-shot learning for image classification and tabular data

Jonathan Jak Sum SO

Natural gradient methods in statistics and machine learning

Gavin Robert SUMMERS

Towards platforms for synthetic recognition

Qian WANG

4H-SiC FinFET devices and modelling

Dafydd RAVENSCROFT

Design and development of emerging platforms for personal healthcare

Film and Screen Studies

Matteo Christian MASTRANDREA

Set pieces: theatrical space and the arrangement of things in classical Hollywood cinema

Genetics

Pio Alberto Sierra RODRÍGUEZ

New insights into transposable elements from high quality genome sequences across diverse animals

Trevor COUSINS

Genetic inference of deep hominin evolutionary history using the sequentially Markovian coalescent

Matthew Alexander HILL

Investigation of transcriptional regulation by C. elegans SET-2/SETD1 H3K4 methyltransferase through single-nucleus profiling

Haematology

Natasha Helen CUTMORE

Establishing the feasibility of using ctDNA for molecular profiling in DLBCL

History

Edward Culin BROWN

The monetary theory and practice of the federal reserve, 1914–35

Mercedes GALINDEZ

Wind power investment in Europe, 1990–2019

Richard John SENIOR

Non-bank finance in eighteenth-century England

History and Political Science

Amelia Szymkowiak URRY

Climate, uncertainty, and the slippery measurement of Antarctic ice

Infection and Immunity

Drew William GRANT

Systematic C-degron activity profiling implicates conditional regulation of the CTLH E3 ligase complex in ribosome maturation

Land Economy

Ana Paula ALBUQUERQUE CAMPOS COSTALONGA SERAPHIM

How urban nature shapes health: unravelling the spatial complexity of nature-health systems

Jürgen Michael-Thomas SAUER

China's role in the evolution of the global electricity sector: a comparative empirical analysis

Law

Quentin Benedikt SCHÄFER

Competition law liability for obtaining, maintaining and asserting intellectual property rights subsequently declared invalid or not infringed

Materials Science

Atif JAN

In-situ plasmon-enhanced characterization of optically accessible ultra-thin film ferroelectric devices

Medical Science

Isabelle NEWSHAM

Data-driven and machine learning approaches for exploration and inference of biological pathways in physiological and pathological states

Medical Genetics

Yasemin Canan COLE

Interrogating the genomic and metabolomic landscape of pseudohypoxic pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma syndromes

Medicine

Emily Marie BELTRAN

The role of cell autonomous complement in B cell function and regulation

Sarah Victoria EVANS

Cardiovascular, autonomic and neuropathic physiology and their involvement in the extra-articular manifestations of hypermobility disorders

Oncology

Sara Victoria LIGHTOWLERS

Cellular and molecular mechanisms of response to, and recurrence following, breast radiotherapy

Ceilidh Marie WELSH

A systems approach to modelling tumour and tissue response in radiotherapy for head-and-neck cancer

Pathology

Inês Sofia DOS SANTOS RODRIGUES FERREIRA

Human head and neck epithelioids as tool to study early cancer evolution and responses to clinical therapies

Rachel WEILD

Ion channel modulation during Chlamydia trachomatis development

Philosophy

Samuel Oliver COLE

Political liberalism and LGBTQ+ citizens

Physics

James Harrison FOWLER

An investigation of the magnetic and electrical properties of YNi3

Jiayi LI

Ultra-thin III-V photovoltaic technology for space applications

Tobias Jakob LOOSER

Regulating and quenching star formation in galaxies across the Cosmic Epochs

Kalid ULAS

Exploring isolated double quantum dot detectors for scalable quantum computing architectures

Polar Studies

Bronte Lyn EVANS RAYWARD

'Walk the Perimeter': Stories of place in the Falkland Islands

Politics and International Studies

Johnny Raymond LYONS

Psychiatry

Rachel Lillian SMITH

Network-based approaches towards understanding the emergence of neurodevelopmental disorders

Elizabeth Frances MCKIERNAN

A study of ultra-high field strength structural and spectroscopic MR imaging in dementia with Lewy bodies and Alzheimer's disease

Psychology

Evan LEWIS-HEALEY

Investigating the neurophenomenological dynamics of breathwork and DMT

Adam James RHODES

Resilience to addiction is enabled by frontostriatal memory reconsolidation

Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics

Javier ECHEVARRÍA CUESTA

Rigidity results for thermostats

Zexing LI

On self-similar blowup for nonlinear Schrodinger equation

Radiology

Kang-Lung LEE

Improving quality of prostate MRI

Ian Andrew SELBY

Investigating the use of artificial intelligence in chest radiography: efficacy, bias, and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

Shuaiyu YUAN

Non-proton magnetic resonance imaging data processing and analysis

SynTech

Joseph Michael PHELPS

The use of high-throughput experimentation to accelerate the development of methods for complex amine synthesis

Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

Jodie Lorraine WEBBER

Language, communication, and cognition: a study of slum-dwelling women in a nutrition education programme in India

Veterinary Medicine

Kelsey Elizabeth LOWMAN

The evolution of B cell reactivity following sequential dengue infection

Darwin College Register

Zoology

Roxanne Bianca HOLMES

The role of sound and sociability in the success of invasive lionfish (Pterois spp.)

MASTER OF ARTS UNDER STATUTE B II 2

Lakshmi BALASUBRAMANIAM

Angelos Andreas MICHAELIDES

Xiaolei ZHANG

MASTER OF LAW

Isha

Varun AHUJA

Jack BROOKES

Samin HUSEYNOV

Alexander Nikolai JESSEN

Young Ji KIM

Ujval MOHAN

Jarrod Robert MORTON-HOFFMAN

Jan NIERMANN

Ziyi NING

Romit Nandan SAHAI

Sebastian SAUTER ODIO

Mackenzie Catherine STEWART

Julian WESTPHAL

MASTER OF CORPORATE LAW

Wing Tung Serena CHAN

MASTER OF RESEARCH

Biological Sciences

Elise Rose Jeanne GARÇON

Connected Electronic and Photonic Systems

Chon In CHEONG

Genomic Medicine

Tom KASPER

Medical Sciences

Ameera Daisy Louise CUNNINGHAM

Emily May SMITH

Sensor Technologies & Applications

Dafydd RAVENSCROFT

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Advanced Computer Science

Ruquaiya Abdullahi SHUAAIBU

Hetong SHEN

Simon Istvan VIRAG

Jingyi WAN

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Ka Ho Gary LI

Anthropocene Studies

Sara Maria ATANASIU

Samantha MURPHY

Regan PALMER

Isobel Mary PENNINGTON

Architecture and Urban Studies

Yin Yee TAN

Archaeological Research

Ruairidh MACLEOD

Archaeology

Sabrina Catherine GILL

Biological Sciences (Genetics)

Yiyang DU

Ana MORENO BARRIGA

Biological Sciences (Plant Science)

Jack REEVES

Biological Sciences (Taught)

Timothy Seng Chai ANG

Tina MCRUNNEL

Sachin YUVARAJ DINESH BABU

Biological Anthropological Science

Anna Louise SHORT

Biotechnology

Mathis LEROI

Chemistry

Xinyu LIU

Clinical Neuroscience

Rivkah BAR-OR

Cognitive Neuroscience

Ryan Oliver JEPSON

Criminological Research

Amira Ismail Mohamad SHARIF

Data Intensive Science

Jing QIU

Andrea SAINZ BEAR

Development Studies

Abubakar ABASS

Sarthak BAJPAI

Camilla Alessandra BELTRAME

Ershi HUA

Yiting LEE

Xinghai LI

Mila Helena ROEMER

Melina TSILIRA

Kaiwen SHEN

Yutong XIA

Yixuan ZHANG

Digital Humanities

Shambhavi Manish KUMAR

Grace Melia MCGUIRE

Xin YUAN

Economic Research

Harry JAMES

Ho Lam LEUNG

Economics

Josh CROSSLEY

Qiyi JIN

Fanbo KONG

Shuiqing LIU

Yuhan TIAN

Shiyi WU

Xixuan YANG

Education

Kim Louise ALBONE

Rory Jack Charles O'NEILL

Oriane CASTERA

Sungjin OH

Ammika SINGHSACHAKUL

Isabella Anne ZENTNER

Tianyi CHEN

Zige WU

Energy Technologies

Alex BAIGNERES

Engineering for Sustainable Development

Wahid BITAR

Avinaash VEERAMAH

English Studies

Jack William HEATH

Eva ROTHENBERG

Anthony Gerald SCURTO

Thomas James WICKER

Environmental Policy

Ben BILEFIELD

Ethics of AI, Data and Algorithms

Rafael-David KAHMI

Film and Screen Studies

Ziyi DENG

Ye HE

Yasmin JAFRI

Rui LI

Finance

Zhuoxun LI

Haoyuan LIN

Linting ZHANG

Finance and Economics

Jiayi YING

Genomic Medicine

Gabriel Philip Adebori ABRAHAM

Geographical Research

Ursa MALI

Geography

Emily Noel KRAUS

Global Risk and Resilience

Benjamin ROBINSON

Health, Medicine and Society

Ashley FOX-WILTSHIRE

Keir Jasper HESSE

Heritage Studies

Séamus BRANCH

History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine

Lucia Frances DELLA-SAVINA
Mia Caroline HOOVER
Clara VADEZ

Holocene Climates

Pengwei SONG

Human-Inspired AI

Ahmad Alfani HANDOYO
Wai Yan MAN
Qian Shu WANG

Industrial Systems, Manufacture and Management

Simon Bear DEVLIN

Innovation, Strategy and Organisation

Pepijn Sebastiaan GROENEVELD

Linguistics and Language Sciences

Auden Charles BYROM

Literature, Culture and Thought

Andrea Gaston Codony

Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence

Marian CHEN
Cederik HÖFS
Scott JONES
Yuan LI

Management

Preston Isaac BEATTY
Emma Lena DEANGELO
Simone Claudio FARACI
Zoe HILAL
Jan Michal KAROLCZAK

Medical Science (Clinical Neuroscience)

Natalia Aneta MALIG

Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise

Mariia HORB

Modern South Asian Studies

Chitian ZHANG

Molecular Mechanisms of Human Disease

Davis YAWE

Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

Hanyu YAO

Nuclear Energy

Etienne Marc Jacques VAQUIER

Obesity, Endocrinology and Metabolism

Ana Pusterla PARISH

Philosophy

Joseph Daniel BATCHELOR
Rikhil JHAVERI
Edith Molly LEVINE

Physics

Brian Lake BOSTWICK

Planetary Science and Life in the Universe

Yuanjin WANG

Planning, Growth and Regeneration

Nektarios CHRISTODOULOU
Eva Juliette Heloise SAVIDAN
Ryota USHIO
Anna ZOELLER

Population Health Sciences

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Jack HODGKINSON
Chaorui Raymond LI

Real Estate Finance

Francesca Elizabeth GNODDE
Chen HUANG
Reena Daya KHANNA
Manon Rose TOULEMONDE
Haoyue ZHANG
Ying ZHANG

Scientific Computing

Anastasios ADAMOPOULOS
Masahiko TAKETANI

Social Anthropology

Shuyang LIANG

Social Anthropological Analysis

Thomas Richard Edward WHITE

Social Anthropological Research

Charlotte Taomi BEHRENS
Emma Bente VAN DER TAK

Sociology

Saleha Bark Nasser Douman ALAMERI
Lauren Nicole REDDY
Angela H SONG

Technology Policy

Nurlan NOGOIBAEV
Chiaki SANO

Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion

Madeleine Sara AWAN
Allison Lynn BOLLES
Wangyang HUA
Emilia Beatrice WARR

Latin American Studies

Tengyuan WANG

Politics and International Studies

Simon Peter KNUPFER
Mingxuan YANG

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Anna Leigh QIANG

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

Kwan-Chak Mathew MAN
Julia WLODARCZYK

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Saho AIZAWA
Muhammad Asad ASHRAF
Ishika BANSAL
Anandita Naveen CHANDRA
Jinxing CHEN
James Patrick HEFFERNAN IV
Abinesh KANAGARAJ
Tsu Huey LIM
Shweta MENON
Tauseef MUSTAFA
Meghana PRAKASH
Ziad Sherif Anis SOLIMAN
Anirukta SRIVASTAVA
Katherine Priscilla THOMAS
Siripoom TUBTIMCHAROON
Palita VAROJPIPUTHN
Mitali Arun WAGHMARE
Eliza Ensign WHITE
Zhaoyu ZHANG

MASTER OF FINANCE

Lakshey JAIN
Hanchu LUO
Rongyu RUAN

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Esme Kate CHALLIS
Miao MI
Ruth MORIARTY
Michael Francis VARLEY

MASTER OF ACCOUNTING

Beryl Awuor OTIENO
Max Florens Jan Patrik REIMANN

MASTER OF STUDIES

Mathematical Statistics

Govind Singh BHACHU

Pure Mathematics

Leo Peter Bruno HILTI
Jonathan Wang HOU
David LUMSDEN
Paul Karl SIEWERT
Gaoke ZHANG
Shurui ZHANG

Social Innovation

Evrim Selin OZELCI

Sustainability Leadership

Sigurdur Asar MARTINSSON

Theoretical Physics

Iris Ria CHATTERJEE
Tegan GOULD
Andreu VEGA CASANOVAS



Alumni Events in 2026

Saturday 19 September

Origins:

Thinking About the Darwins as a Scientific Dynasty

Sunday 27 September

Celebrating Your Impact:

A Thank You Luncheon (invitation only)

Saturday 17 October

Darwinians Making a Difference:

How Charities can Respond to Global Challenges

Friday 6 November

Alumni and Fellows Formal Hall

Thursday 3 December

**'Winter Warmer' Festive Drinks Reception,
London**

Saturday 5 December

DCBC Dinner

Tuesday 8 & Wednesday 9 December

Giving Day

Saturday 12 December

Festive Family Formal Hall

We look forward to welcoming you back to Darwin. For full details of events and reunions, please see darwin.cam.ac.uk/alumni-and-supporters/alumni-events

Editor: Laura Kenworthy.

We welcome short articles, pictures and news from all alumni.

Correspondence to: communications@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Front cover image: Professor Alan Blackwell

Back cover image: Laura Kenworthy

Events and reunions:



Correspondence:

