

FACULTY NEWS BULLETIN

29 April 2021



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Faculty would like to welcome Samantha Noel who joined us as a Graduate Office Administrator.

PhD Approvals

Many congratulations to the following students who have recently completed their PhD's:

Andrew Celsus	DAMTP	A Riemann-Hilbert Approach to the Kissing Polynomials
Oliver Feng	DPMMS	Topics in shape-constrained inference
Pieter Lammers	DPMMS	Macroscopic behaviour of Lipschitz random surfaces
Japinder Singh Nijjer	DAMTP	Flow and mixing in complex porous media
Sathyawageeswar Subramanian	DAMTP	Quantum Algorithms for Matrix Problems and Machine Learning
Katarzyna Wyczesany	DPMMS	Topics in high-dimensional geometry and optimal transport

STEP Support Programme

To complement and extend the online STEP Support Programme (<https://maths.org/step>), we are providing a series of free online STEP preparation webinars open to every UK state-school student holding a conditional Cambridge offer based on STEP. While in past years we have run face to face day events, due to COVID-19 this additional tailored support is being provided through a series of 8 webinar workshops, including sessions covering exam techniques and tips, working through STEP questions, and opportunities to ask questions.

Invitations were sent out last term by the Cambridge Admissions Office, and 152 UK state-school offer holders have registered for the webinars, which are led by Claire Metcalfe and also supported by student ambassadors alongside MMP staff. The sessions began on 17 March, and run until mid-May, and are receiving extremely positive feedback from participants.

For more information please see <https://maths.org/step/cambridge-state-school-offer-holders-webinar-series>

Moore Library Update

The Moore library is now open to readers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and they are hoping to move to 5 days a week in the very near future. Booking is essential and can be made via the library website; <https://moore.libraries.cam.ac.uk/zero-contact-services/book-seat>. Books can also be ordered via the 'click and collect' service.

Students can participate in a 'virtual' study room where they can work with others from 1pm to 4.30pm on Wednesday afternoons. Library staff will be present for questions about resources or anything else library-related. The zoom link for booking a place is available here ; www.training.cam.ac.uk/cul/course/stemm-virtual-study

Meanwhile the maths reading lists have been made accessible from the Moore via reading list software (Leganto) and we are interested in any user feedback for this service - (https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3rTISNiOPI59POi).

Finally a new term means a new research training programme from the Moore! Sessions. This term includes Referencing (online drop in), Copyright and Creative Commons and Becoming a Reflective Researcher. For more information on these and other sessions please visit <http://bit.ly/KMA2021>

If you have anything you would like to be included in the next News Bulletin please send details to newsbulletin@maths.cam.ac.uk by Wednesday 5 May. **The next issue will be published in W/C 10 May 2021**

Career Support Fund – Second round now open

The second round of the [Career Support Fund](#), which provides support for employees whose careers have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, is now open and closes for applications on 15 May 2021. The fund is open to all staff categories.

Schmidt Fellowship Call 2021

Final year PhD students are now invited to self-nominate for the Schmidt Science Fellowship programme. Please find details of the Fellowship [here](#). The closing date for applications is 9am on Monday 24 May 2021.

EVENTS

Rouse Ball Lecture 2021

Thursday 13 May, 4pm

This year's Rouse Ball lecture will be held on Thursday 13 May at 4pm BST, and will be given by Professor Bjorn Poonen of MIT. The title is "**Undecidability in Number Theory**", and all interested are invited to attend.

Abstract

Hilbert's tenth problem asked for an algorithm that, given a multivariable polynomial equation with integer coefficients, would decide whether there exists a solution in integers. Around 1970, Matiyasevich, building on earlier work of Davis, Putnam, and Robinson, showed that no such algorithm exists. But the answer to the analogous question with integers replaced by rational numbers is still unknown, and there is not even agreement among experts as to what the answer should be.

To join the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94090826813?pwd=d0t2dEtkVHVyOXJ6RmhmMXN1ZGJUQT09>

The Royal Institution - A new force of nature at the LHC?

Thursday 6 May, 7pm - 8.30pm

Join Ben Allanach and LHCb physicists Paula Alvarez Cartelle and Harry Cliff who will be explaining the surprising results involving muons, from the LHCb experiment at CERN in Geneva. They will discuss the potentially huge implications for our understanding of the world and reveal if this means we are finally about to see what lies beyond the Standard Model of Particle Physics. Click [here](#) to book tickets.

Becoming an antiracist University: improving the experiences of racially minoritised postdocs

Wednesday 12 May, 10.30am - 12 noon

This session is to brainstorm on ideas that would make a difference to improve the experiences of racially minoritised postdocs at the University. The postdoc Academy are holding this open discussion to better understand the experiences of postdocs and to develop specific actions for this group under the work of the University's [Race Equality Charter](#) and the institutional [Research Culture Action Plan](#). The session is open to all postdocs, whether you belong to a racially minoritised group, or wish to be an ally in the fight against racism.

The online session will take place on Wednesday 12th May, 10:30 – 12noon, hosted by the Postdoc Chairs' Network and facilitated by Dr Miriam Lynn and Dr Joanna Jasiewicz from the university [Equality & Diversity](#) team, as well as Liz Simmonds, Assistant Head of the [Postdoc Academy](#).

This will also be a great opportunity to meet and hear the experiences of Professor Franklin Aighbirhio, the Co-Chair of the [University BAME Staff Network](#), and Professor Shumone Ray, who will each talk about their experience as a racially minoritised postdoc. Sign up [here](#) to receive meeting and Zoom details closer to the date.

Mental Health Awareness Week

10– 16 May

The University has curated a wide-ranging programme of talks and activities marking Mental Health Awareness Week (10-16 May). The week forms part of the University's commitment to promoting good mental and physical health for all.

The [webpage](#) has full programme details. Some events require you to book in advance, and some are pre-recorded and can be accessed at any time from May 10th. Where possible, live sessions will be recorded and links will be posted on [these webpages](#) to be viewed at your convenience.

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week is 'Nature and the Environment'. Staff and students are being encouraged to make use of the outdoors and as such the [University Sports Centre](#) have a number of events to take part in, including a distance to the moon challenge! The challenge is to get moving as a single University of Cambridge community to achieve two clear targets to clock up a combined distance equivalent to travelling around the world, and then to travel to the moon. You can clock up distance by walking, running, cycling, swimming, wheelchair racing - however you like! See [here](#) to take part.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Cambridge Green Challenge Let's Talk Transport campaign

The University's [Let's Talk Transport campaign](#) has launched this month and is your chance to join the conversation about what's stopping us travelling more sustainably. Whether you have specific circumstances which don't fit with sustainable travel options, or always find yourself hopping in your car instead of on your bike or the bus - they want to hear from you. Visit their [website](#) to find out how you can get involved and help move forward together.

Over the course of the Easter term they are running a set of events to tell you what they already do to enable sustainable travel, as well as what they have coming up and new innovations that are being trialled.

They will also be running a set of focus groups and 1:1 surgery sessions to find out about your experiences travelling to and around Cambridge. They would like to hear what makes this harder for you or stops you travelling in a way you might like to. In order to take part in these sessions please complete their online expression of interest form [here](#).
