

Somerville Supporters' Day – Saturday 8th February 2025

Junior Research Fellow's Showcase



Dr Sarah Woodward – Postdoctoral Researcher at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology and a Fulford Junior Research Fellow

Dr Woodward is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology and a Fulford Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College.

In November 2023 Sarah joined the group of Dr. Emma Slack at the University of Oxford as a Postdoctoral Researcher to investigate vaccine-induced antibody responses. Emma's active research collaborations investigate the role of microbes in enteric disease, childhood malnutrition, and asthma development.



Dr Raffaele Sarnataro: Fulford Junior Research Fellow & Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Neuroscience
Metabolic origins of the pressure to sleep

Dr Raffaele Sarnataro is a Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College and postdoctoral scientist at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on understanding how the need for sleep is controlled and encoded in the brain. Dr Sarnataro holds a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnologies and a Master's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology both from the University of Pisa, Italy, a Diploma di Licenza in Biology from Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy, and a Master's degree and a DPhil in Neuroscience both from the University of Oxford, UK. Before his doctoral studies, he did research at the University of Oxford, Harvard Medical School and Scuola Normale Superiore.

Raffaele was President of the Oxford University Cortex Club, the neuroscience student forum, is a long-term collaborator of Italian National Association of Natural Sciences Teachers and Amgen Biotech Experience Italy, and was jury member at the 29th International Biology Olympiad, contributing to science communications and public engagement at various educational levels.



Dr Emma Soneson – Fulford Junior Research Fellow & Postdoctoral Researcher at Department of Psychiatry's BrainWaves Study

The 'dream school' for good mental health: A(n achievable) way forward

Emma will be sharing insights from her work on supporting schools to be places that promote good mental health and prevent poor mental health. As part of her presentation, she will share findings from her project on 'The Dream School for Good Mental Health', which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to learn how to make tangible progress in achieving this goal.

More broadly, Emma's research focuses on developing, evaluating, and scaling-up new interventions and approaches to improve child and adolescent mental health and well-being, with a focus on those who have traditionally been overlooked or excluded.



Dr Juan Neves-Sarriegui: Fulford Junior Research Fellow & DPhil History

Democratisation and Free Speech in 19th-Century Latin America

Juan Neves-Sarriegui completed his doctorate in history at the University of Oxford and is currently a Fulford Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. Juan is a global historian focusing on democracy, revolutionary movements and free speech in Latin America and Atlantic world during the long 19th-century. He is currently working on a comparative history of democracy and freedom of expression in Europe and the Americas.



Dr Joshua Booth – Junior Research Fellow – DPhil Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

'What does psycholinguistics have to do with language change?

I am a theoretical phonologist with a special interest in sound structures in Germanic languages. In particular, I focus on prosodic issues, such as syllable structure and stress placement. I am interested in the historical development of Germanic languages, as well as the structure of the modern languages, such as English and German. As a postdoctoral researcher in the Language and Brain Laboratory, my research interests additionally include experimental psycholinguistics, focusing on the way the brain processes phonological representations and morphological complexity.