



Panellist Profiles – Pathways 2019

Andrew Dunleavy

Vice President, Quantitative Analytics, Barclays

Subject of PhD: Physics



“I studied undergraduate Physics at Imperial College then trained as a medical physicist in Manchester. I spent three years working in radiation oncology before deciding to move back to something more academic. I did a PhD at the University of Bristol - although I enjoyed it, the idea of chasing post-doc positions didn't appeal. I decided to move into banking as it involves the mathematical/computational problem solving I enjoyed during my PhD. I successfully completed a six-month internship and was offered a graduate role in Barclays Quantitative Analytics. I still work at Barclays, supporting the quantitative indices and strategies business”

Ann McGruer

Review Officer, Police Investigations and Review Commissioner

Subject of PhD: English Literature

“I did my undergraduate studies at Aberdeen Univeristy, completing an MA in English Literature. I then moved to Staffordshire for my postgrad and finished my PhD at Keele Univeristy in September 2008. After finishing my PhD, I joined the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) administration team on a series of short term contracts in October 2008. In September 2010 I joined the SRA's Fraud and Confidential Intelligence Bureau (FCIB) as an Intelligence Researcher and was in that role until November 2015 when I moved to the Authorisation Directorate as an Authorisation Officer. I moved from the Midlands back to Scotland in July 2018 to take up my current role as a Review Officer for the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC). While all of the substantive roles that I have had since completing my PhD have been very different in terms of the core duties and responsibilities, they have all required me to use the research, analytical and writing skills developed while doing my PhD.”





Catriona Cunningham

Research Fellow, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Regenerative Medicine



“I first studied medicine at the University of Aberdeen. I knew from an early age that I loved science and initially wanted to go down the clinician scientist route to divide my time equally between research and clinical practice. I therefore decided to do undertake an intercalated BSc. This involved taking a year out of medical school and joining the final year of the Neuroscience with Psychology degree programme. I had such a phenomenal year (in part down to the wonderfully supportive lecturers) and realised that I was much more passionate about science than medicine. As soon as I graduated, I moved to the University of Manchester where I did my PhD on the EPSRC and MRC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Regenerative Medicine programme. I thoroughly enjoyed my project on developing stem cell-based therapies for repairing the injured brain after stroke and found I really loved working in academia. After I completed my PhD in September 2018, I stayed here to do an EPSRC doctoral prize fellowship. My future ambition is become PI with expertise in developing regenerative therapies for brain and spinal cord repair.”

Catherine Casson

Lecturer in Enterprise, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: History

Catherine Casson joined AMBS in August 2014 from the Department of Management, Birmingham Business School, University of Birmingham. She had previously held concurrent positions as a Research Fellow in the Winton Institute for Monetary History, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford and as a Teaching Fellow in Medieval History in the School of History and Cultures, University of Birmingham. She completed her PhD in 2009 in the Department of History, University of York on the subject of forgery in trade and manufacturing in medieval English towns, 1250-1400.



Catherine Holden

Postdoctoral Fellow, Institut Català d'Investigació Química (ICIQ)

Subject of PhD: Chemistry



“After completing my MChem at the University of Oxford and doing a couple of short placements in industrial R&D labs, I moved to to the University of Manchester to start my PhD in synthetic organic chemistry. During my PhD I had a short career break to have a baby, but returned after about one year and completed my PhD. Toward the end of my PhD, I considered several career options including industrial research, teaching, and public policy. I ultimately chose to take a postdoctoral position at ICIQ (Catalan Institute of Chemical Investigation) in Spain to continue doing academic research. After one year, I successfully applied for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to support my research, which will continue until February 2020.”



Chongwei Chua

Head of Department (Science), Pendleton Sixth Form College

Subject of PhD: Biochemistry

“I studied Biotechnology at Imperial and moved to Manchester to do my PhD. My colourful career journey took me through stints in the armed forces, as a tax official, a bank manager, leadership within the community performing arts and community sports sector, and in research in academia and industry, before embarking on a teaching career rather later than most. Now in my tenth year in teaching, I manage a large and successful science department in a large further education college. I have recently taken on a radically different career move whilst maintaining my role as a head of department. Any guesses as to the exact nature of this career move?”



Danielle White

Director, DCW Consultancy

Subject of PhD: Career Transition



“Before graduating from the UoM with a PhD in Career Transition I worked with young people in the charity sector. For many years I supported those from complex backgrounds to transition into occupations they value, one to one conversations enabled me to unblock negative thought patterns, expand options and support career agency and planning. During and following my doctorate I worked as a lecturer; teaching around my interests, writing for publication and speaking at various national and international conferences.

I have since set up my own executive coaching and education consultancy; I deliver workshops and executive coaching for PhD graduates, early career academics and others who are experiencing a significant turning point in their life. These workshops utilise transition models developed during my doctorate, I am active in presenting at conferences and events.

My passion is to utilise my knowledge and experience to support people in living their best life. I enjoy learning and collaborating with others; working for myself enables me to constantly develop professionally and engage with interesting and engaging people.”



Emma Nichols

Public Engagement Manager, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Fire Safety Engineering

"I completed an MSci in Physics With Astrophysics at Queen's University Belfast in 2005, then worked various admin temp jobs for about 18 months before starting my PhD in fire safety engineering. After I finished that in 2010, I moved to UoM as a post-doc in the School of Maths, in a group studying UK wildland fires. I started getting involved in the School's outreach activities with children and members of the public, and decided I wanted to transition into that as a full-time career, so I made the move into a comms and outreach role in one of the research institutes.

After about a year in that job the physics education charity the Ogden Trust part-funded a new role for an "Ogden Science Officer" (managing outreach and public engagement) in the School of Physics & Astronomy - I've been doing that for just over five years, although it's no longer externally funded."



Heather Shawcross

Editorial Project Leader, Fishawack Communications

Subject of PhD: Cardiovascular Medicine



"From a BSc in Biology with Industrial Experience, a PhD seemed the natural progression and I was keen to get started. However, soon after beginning I realised that a career in the lab was just not for me. I struggled through to complete my project, but I soon noticed that the days I spent at my desk, either writing about my project or presenting my data in different ways, were my most enjoyable days. After attending a careers talk about medical writing, I saw that there was a career path that would allow me to do this as a job and I regained my excitement for science. I applied to several companies and received two job offers, accepting the position at Fishawack as a Medical

Writer. Since then I have been promoted twice and am currently working as an Editorial Project Leader. No two days are the same and I get to work on a variety of exciting project types and therapy areas, as well as travelling all over the world."

Humera Sharif

Research Chemist, Apex Molecular

Subject of PhD: Chemistry

"I gained an MChem degree at the University of Manchester. As part of the degree we were required to undertake a research project in our final year and it was then I decided that I wanted to carry on my career in research. With my heart set on continuing my time at university, I started on a PhD degree which was jointly supervised by Prof Greaney in Chemistry and Prof Micklefield in the MIB. During the stressful time of trying to wrap up my time in the lab I decided to take up short PDRA position at the MIB with Prof Scrutton After taking a few months break, I then gained employment at Apex Molecular at Alderley Park as a research chemist where I've been working since January."



Jack Coffin

Lecturer in Fashion Marketing, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Marketing and Consumer Research

"I studied Management at Manchester Business School from 2009 to 2012, after which I decided to study for a combined postgraduate and PhD (also known as a 1+3). At the end of my PhD I was lucky enough to secure a maternity cover post at the School of Materials. I then applied for a full-time contract when it became available."



Jakob Whitfield

Writer/Editor, Self-Employed

Subject of PhD: History of Technology



"Originally I did an undergraduate degree in aeronautical engineering, then went into the gas industry for a couple of years. I then came to Manchester to do an MSc+PhD in the History of Science and Technology. After my PhD I joined Cambridge University Press, working on journals digitisation, which gave me an interesting overview of academic publishing.

In 2016 I moved away from Cambridge and became the primary carer for my twin girls, combining this with freelance editorial and writing work. In the last few years I've had a portfolio career; alongside my writing and editing (earlier this year I published a children's illustrated history of flight with Hachette UK),

I'm a visiting lecturer at Wolverhampton Business School, and work as a skills trainer for ThinkWrite, delivering staff development training in universities across the UK."

Jennie McLean

Principal Medical Writer, Fishawack

Subject of PhD: Mechanotransduction pathways in healthy and degenerate intervertebral discs (Rheumatology)

"After enjoying writing about my research much more than conducting it, and attending the inaugural Pathways event, I decided to pursue a career in medical communications. I secured a position as an associate medical writer at an agency in Cheshire just after (finally) submitting my thesis in 2007.

Since then, I have worked at several different agencies in a variety of roles. I've developed medical education materials, digital outputs and assisted with global meetings on numerous therapy areas (ranging from rheumatoid arthritis and macular degeneration to infant nutrition and Parkinson's Disease). I have also been involved in the selection process and interviews for entry level writers.

In my current role as a Principal Medical Writer, I provide scientific leadership and editorial delivery expertise for on a publications account. I help train new writers, mentor senior writers, review all projects for scientific accuracy, provide creative input and help streamline internal processes. I also provide witty banter during tea breaks."





John Piprani

Archaeology Technician, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Archaeology



“BA, MA, PhD + Careers Service QQA (both part time), Visiting Lecturer, Delivering Archaeology workshops to the public, Archaeology Technician.

I finished my PhD in 2016 and was left with the challenge of earning a living based upon an in depth knowledge of how stone tools were made, and how to make stone tools. Currently I am working in all four of the above roles. Each has been a stepping stone to the next, and all my roles are very rewarding, some even financially! I can now confirm that there is a future in the past.”

John Waller

Associate Director of Observational Research, Adelphi Real World

Subject of PhD: Molecular Biology

“During my PhD I participated in various extracurricular activities aimed at widening my horizons beyond the laboratory. These ventures served as great opportunities to develop skills and network with professionals away from the academic environment. In my last two years of academia I worked on various projects outside of my PhD and was able to establish a relationship with a representative of Adelphi Real World. In fact, it was at this very event in 2016 that I was able to network with the man who eventually put me forward for my first role at Adelphi.

I initially joined Adelphi as a research executive, a role not too dissimilar to a researcher in many walks of academic life. My team conducts observational research on behalf of pharmaceutical clients. These studies often include audits of medical chart data, patient/physician reported data, review of secondary databases etc. I enjoyed the research part of my role but it was the business side of the job that most excited me. So I began pushing to be more client facing and was soon presented with opportunities to go out and represent the company in BD meetings, conferences etc. This helped me develop towards my current role as associate director which involves oversight of the whole research process at Adelphi Real World for any given project in addition to business development duties.”

Jordi Busquets Blanco

Quantitative Analyst, Barclays PLC

Subject of PhD: Statistical Mechanics of the Blume-Emery-Griffiths Neural Network

“I completed a Physics degree from the University of Barcelona, Spain. After that, I obtained a PhD in the field of statistical mechanics of neural networks from the University of Leuven, Belgium. Following that I decided to leave academia and subsequently joined the finance industry as part of the Quantitative Analytics group at Barclays, where I have worked for over a decade.”





Lisa Auker

Senior Medical Writer, Fishawack

Subject of PhD: Dermatology



“I graduated from my PhD in 2017 by which point I had been working as a medical writer for just over a year. I started work whilst finishing my thesis, which proved difficult at times! I had known that I wanted to pursue a career in medical communications about half way through my PhD after attending one of Peter Llewellyn’s ‘medcomms’ career events. I work on several types of projects across a range of therapy areas including dermatology, CNS (mainly Alzheimer’s disease and schizophrenia), oncology and sexual medicine. I have also been fortunate enough to travel, which I particularly enjoy.”

Liz Granger

Acting Head of Widening Participation and Public Engagement, University of Central Lancashire

Subject of PhD: Cell Biology

“I finished my PhD in September 2013 in the Allan lab. I had a short research assistant post in the lab for 3 months and then secured my first role at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) as the UCLan and Ri Young Scientist Centre (YSC) Manager. The YSC is a partnership between UCLan and the Ri and is a state-of-the-art lab used to deliver interactive workshops allowing young people to creatively explore science. In this role I managed the centre and developed and delivered a programme of STEM workshops for schools and colleges. In 2016 my role changed to Public Engagement Manager. This role involved managing the Engagement and Access team to deliver projects that



aim to make the University more open and accessible to everyone regardless of background. Alongside the YSC key areas of responsibility included: - Public and Community Engagement - Lancashire Science Festival – annual event engaging over 20,000 young people and families - Access and WP programmes for schools (pre-16) and community groups In November 2018 I took on the acting role of Head of Widening Participation (WP) and Public Engagement. This role involves more responsibility and input into shaping the University’s strategic approach to WP and Public Engagement. I also manage the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) team that are based within UCLan as the lead institution for the Future U project.”



Louise Maddison

Life Sciences Consultant, Decision Resources Group

Subject of PhD: Systems Biology (Oncology)



“After studying Chemistry at Nottingham University, I took a year out with Raleigh International in Chile and worked in a business role with the Environment Agency’s lab service. I then came to Manchester to train as a Clinical Biochemist. After my initial training I decided to undertake a PhD in Systems Biology at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology and upon completion received the EPSRC Doctoral Prize. I then started to transition away from academia and towards industry with a Technology Strategy Board funded post-doc working on public-private-partnership between the NHS, UoM and a US Biotech to develop a new diagnostic platform for sepsis.

Whilst at University I did lots of extracurricular activities e.g. Science and Research Editor for The Mancunion, Consultant for Oxbridge Biotech Roundtable and the Researchers into Management Programme. All of these experiences prepared me to successfully transition away from academia to a boutique scientific consultancy which carried out projects for Pharma clients on clinical trial design, communication strategy, commercial opportunity assessment and market access. Following this I moved into medical writing and have now focused my career in global pricing, reimbursement and market access of pharmaceutical products as a consultant at Decision Resources Group.”

Mark Quinn

Lecturer, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Aerospace Engineering

Mark graduated from the University of Manchester in 2009 with an MEng in Aerospace Engineering and again in 2013 with a PhD in Transient Compressible Flow and Flow Diagnostics. During his time as a postgraduate student he authored several publications, performed consultancy work for Rolls Royce, and developed and ran several widening participation events focused on engineering.



Upon completing his PhD, Mark joined the Aircraft Research Association. His work at ARA involved large-scale complex flow diagnostics, system development and integration, and aerodynamic consultancy. After two years of working on various challenging projects and working with several aerospace primes, Mark returned to Manchester as the Knowledge Exchange Fellow for aerospace. During this time Mark developed relationships with potential industrial suppliers, developed proposals and collaborated extensively within the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering.

Mark is currently a Lecturer and Programme Director at the University of Manchester and teaches over 250 students from five different disciplines on experimental engineering. Mark’s research has involved collaborations with national and international partners ranging from ARA and Rolls Royce to US Air Force and the European Space Agency. Currently Mark is working on several Horizon 2020 projects funded by the European Commission in addition to industry funded work and collaborations with other academic institutions.



Martin Fergie

Lecturer, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Computer Science



Martin Fergie is a computer science researcher at the University of Manchester in the Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences. After completing his PhD in 2012, he became the Chief Technology Officer of DigitalBridge, a start-up applying deep learning technology for performing image understanding for indoor scenes. In March 2017 he moved to the University of Manchester to apply his experience in machine learning and computer vision to help develop novel imaging biomarkers. Research areas include predicting breast cancer risk from mammographic screening data and developing models for predicting clinical outcomes from histology data for follicular

lymphoma. He is now a Lecturer in Health Data Science in the Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences at the University of Manchester. Website: <https://mfergie.github.io/>

Michael Smith

Cancer Research UK Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Cancer Sciences

“All Manchester... Undergraduate - Pharmacology - Manchester University PhD - Resistance to targeted therapy in melanoma - Manchester University First Post Doc - Resistance to targeted therapy in melanoma Manchester University Second Post Doc - Using Mass Spec to study RTK proximal signalling - Manchester University but that is hardly the fully story.”



Natalie Cureton

Senior Scientist, AstraZeneca

Subject of PhD: Targeting nanocarriers to the placenta



“I am currently a Senior Scientist at AstraZeneca, working within the Oncology iMed division as an in vivo lead on multiple breast cancer projects. I joined AstraZeneca 2 years ago and was recently promoted from to Senior Scientist. Prior to this position, I completed my PhD at The University of Manchester based in The Division of Developmental Biology & Medicine with a thesis title, The Development of Nanocarriers for Targeted Drug Delivery To The Placenta. Along with my PhD I was awarded The President's Doctoral Scholar Award and also received a number of travel awards for presentations at international conferences.

As part of my PhD I completed a PIPS placement at The University of Manchester Intellectual Property (UMIP) where I was involved in identifying and assessing IP coming from UoM.”



Murray Booth

Principle Development Scientist, Waters

Subject of PhD: Chemical Engineering

“My First degree was in astrophysics and after enjoying my MPhys projects I decided that research was for me. A talk from one of the professors during the 4th year gave me the confidence to look beyond physics departments in terms of where I could do a PhD. I ended up in a chemical engineering department doing electron and soft x-ray synchrotron spectroscopy of pharmaceuticals, spending a lot of time engineering and developing the instrumentation. I didn't want to stay in academia long term, but did in the short term. I took up a (series of) postdoc positions in atmospheric science, primarily building new (mass spec) instruments. After spending far too long as a postdoc I decided to find a real job, but it still took more than a year to find something suitable.

I left Manchester University in 2014 to work for Waters, a manufacturer of analytical instruments. In my current role I help develop and design new mass spectrometers, integrating, testing and building them. It's surprisingly similar to academia. There are projects to develop better instruments, you're trying to stay ahead of rival labs, experiments are conducted, and work gets written up.



<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researcher-careers/researcher-career-stories/what-do-research-staff-do-next-career-stories/murray-booth>"

Nick Weise

Lecturer, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Chemistry and Biochemistry



“I finished my BSc in Molecular Biology in 2012 and PhD in Chemistry & Biochemistry in 2015. I was then a part-time postdoc and part-time public engagement programme manager at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology until 2017, when I became a Lecturer in the School of Chemistry. As part of my development I have been accredited as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (2017) and completed a PGCert in Higher Education (2018). I have recently taken up a new part-time lecturing position in the Division of Medical Education, split with my other role teaching chemistry.”



Parmesh Gajjar

Research Assistant, School of Materials, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Applied Mathematics

“After my completing my undergraduate and masters, I took two years out studying in India before returning to the UK. After being away from home for 6 years, I wished to be closer to home and with a very good University on my doorstep I thus chose to pursue a PhD in Applied Mathematics at Manchester. After completing in 2016, I took a 5 month break before starting a postdoc in the School of Materials. Whilst I did not have each step of my career planned, I am grateful for the opportunities that have fortunately come my way.”



Peter Burch

Assistant Project Manager, Arcadis UK

Subject of PhD: History – The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingship



“I completed my PhD – a re-examination of the origins of early Anglo-Saxon kingship – in early 2016. This followed a general arts BA and a MA in Medieval History. Since graduating I have been employed full-time as a Project Manager for Arcadis UK, a global design and consultancy firm for built and natural assets.

I am currently working on the c. £1bn Manchester Airport Transformation Programme where I am involved with a range of projects, including the production of a Concept of Operations for the Airport, the adoption of Building Information Modelling as a facilitator of whole-life asset management and assuring the go-live of new facilities through the performance of Operational Readiness.”

Pin Shen Teh

Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University

Subject of PhD: Computer Science

Pin received the President Doctoral Scholarship award in 2014 to study for a PhD in Computer Science degree at University of Manchester and was awarded the degree in 2018. He has been teaching for more than 10 years mainly at higher education institutions across UK and Malaysia. His teaching focuses on programming and database units. He has also experience teaching students age 6-16 ICT and coding. His research interests include cybersecurity, practical applications of machine learning and biometrics systems. He is now a Lecturer in Information Technology Development at the Manchester Metropolitan University Business School.





Sarah Finn-Sell

Lecturer in Physiology, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Developmental Biology



“I first became interested in developmental biology as an undergraduate at the University of Cambridge having had the opportunity to present my dissertation work at The Physiological Society annual meeting. I moved to the University of Southampton in 2008 to undertake a PhD in the Institute of Developmental Sciences where my research focussed on pre-implantation embryo development and the early embryo environment, in particular how glucose metabolism and glucose concentrations were regulated in the human reproductive tract throughout the menstrual cycle. In 2013 I joined the University of Manchester, Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre as a Postdoctoral Research Associate working on an MRC funded program grant with Professor Colin Sibley. The project investigated how alterations in anti-oxidant milieu and altered vascular function may contribute to Fetal Growth restriction (FGR) and addressed the efficacy of dietary antioxidants as a potential therapy for FGR. In 2015 I returned to working on early developmental processes as a Postdoctoral Research Associate with Dr Edward Johnstone, Professor Melissa Westwood and Professor John Aplin on an MRC grant entitled; Sphingosine-1-phosphate and vitamin D as modifiable essential mediators of human placental development. On-going work is assessing the effect of these factors on trophoblast dynamics using both in vitro and in vivo models. In September 2018 I was appointed as Lecturer in Physiology and have a broad teaching portfolio from placental development and function to cell transport physiology.”

Shaden Jaradat

Research Strategy Coordinator – FSE, University of Manchester

Subject of PhD: Physics

“I obtained my BA and MSci in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge in 2002 and a PhD in Physics from UoM in 2006. I worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in UoM’s School of Physics and Astronomy from 2007 to 2012, initially in the Liquid Crystals Group then the Biological Physics Group. I then left the research side of academia, and moved to the International Development Division where I managed the University’s student recruitment activities in the Middle East and Africa, coordinated the University’s policy-setting committee on English language qualifications, and developed relations and partnerships with major sponsors. During this period I was elected in 2017 by representatives of UK HEIs to Co-Chair the UK-Saudi Interest Group, a forum bringing together the British Council, internationalisation colleagues from over 100 UK institutions and key stakeholders in Saudi’s education sector. In 2018 I joined the Research Strategy Coordination Team in the Faculty of Science and Engineering and I have since been tasked with coordinating the formulation and development of the University’s Vision and Strategy on the 4th Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0). My current focus is the creation of a UoM Industry 4.0 Institute, and ensuring the University is ready for the upcoming £150M government-funded Made Smarter Industrial Challenge.”





Steven Leech

Learning and Participation Manager, Science and Industry Museum

Subject of PhD: Archaeology/Social Anthropology



“I studied at the University of Manchester as an Undergraduate, Masters and PhD student (variously between 2006 and 2017). My areas of interest were the archaeology of the contemporary world and the politics and philosophies underpinning the curation and conservation of heritage sites and museum collections (the use of the past in the present). My doctoral thesis explored the legacy of former Cold War surveillance sites in the UK as a form of heritage and collected memory. Alongside my studies, I volunteered and interned at various cultural institutions and events across Manchester, such as the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester International Festival and the Greater Manchester police

Museum and Archives. Following my PhD, I took a role as a Content Developer at the Science and Industry Museum. For the most part, this involved curating objects and writing narratives for temporary exhibitions. I am now working as the Learning and Participation Manager at the museum, focusing on community engagement and participation in the creation of new gallery spaces.”

William Hall

Finance Graduate, United Utilities

Subject of PhD: German Studies

“My academic journey began with an integrated Masters degree in French and German at the University of Manchester and Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg. Coming towards the end of my degree with unscratched intellectual curiosities, I decided to stay on for a PhD in German. My PhD examined the relationship between the work of two early 19-century writers, Heinrich von Kleist and E.T.A. Hoffmann, and the philosophical context of the Enlightenment. I was awarded an AHRC scholarship to undertake this. Over the course of my PhD, I decided that I did not want to spend my career carving out a niche for myself in research, but break free from the rarefied world of academia! Central to this decision were two factors: firstly, my longstanding interests in business and current affairs and the desire for a new challenge; and secondly, the scarcity of opportunity for humanities PhDs in the academic job market. After much hand-wringing and numerous workshops and courses, I decided on a career in Finance. In September 2018 I joined United Utilities on a Finance graduate programme.

I will spend the first three years of my career doing a series of placements within different finance roles and completing my professional exams. My current role supports the Fixed Assets team, which provides the financial reporting and data for over £100bn of property, plant and equipment.”



Yang Chu (Chris)

Responsible Procurement – Risk and Governance Manager, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)

Subject of PhD: Project Finance and Risk Management

Yang Chu completed his MSc in Management of Projects and he then completed his doctorate in Project Finance and Risk Management at the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering in the University of Manchester in 2007. He undertook post-doctoral work at the Manchester Business School on supply chain risk management. He also worked for three years in the Oxford School of Hospitality management and the InterContinental Hotels Group for a major hotel industry Enterprise Risk Management project. For his work on this project he was given the UK technology Strategy Board's 'Business Leader of Tomorrow' award in 2013. He is now Risk Manager with the InterContinental Hotels Group.

