

STFC Data Intensive Science CDT network  
2018 UK-wide welcome and networking meeting

## **Careers Panel 1600-1700 Tuesday Nov 20th <https://tinyurl.com/y95ce6rz>**

We are pleased to have a panel of six people who started their careers with a PhD in astronomy or particle physics, generally with a data intensive flavour, and have since made successful careers in industry, finance, academia, and government. During the meeting we will collect short written questions, and select the best, or the most common, and fire them at the panel. For example - Did they plan their career, or was it a glorious accident? What would they change if they started again? Did their PhD help them in their later career?

### **Suggesting Questions**

Go to this Google Doc link, and just edit!! <https://tinyurl.com/y95ce6rz>

### **Panellist Short Bios**

#### **Deepak Mahtani (Pivigo)**

Deepak completed his PhD in astronomy from Keele university exploring exoplanet atmospheres. After completing the Virtual S2DS program in March 2016, he went on to work at a leading gambling company as an insight analyst. He now works as a data scientist and community manager at Pivigo working to help all aspiring data scientists understand how to get started as a data scientist and works in internal data science projects within Pivigo.

#### **Isaac Roseboom (Delta DNA)**

Isaac completed his PhD in Australia at the University of Queensland and then embarked on a 6 yr academic career with stops at the University of Sussex and University of Edinburgh. During this time he worked on large international astronomy projects including the Herschel Space Observatory and SCUBA 2. In 2011 Isaac moved to a small Edinburgh based startup, deltaDNA, to work on statistical analysis of in game data. Since then the company has grown to become the world leader in this field, with Isaac moving into a more strategic role as first Chief Strategy and subsequently Chief Product Officer. Currently Isaac oversees all areas of product delivery for deltaDNA as well as evangelising the use of data to build better games.

#### **Ben Panter (CEO and Founder, Blackford Analysis)**

Following a PhD in Astronomy and Fellowships in MPA and Edinburgh, Ben Panter used technology developed through his work to launch Blackford Analysis, a medical imaging company. Since 2010 the company has grown to the point where its clinical products and image processing platform are used in over a thousand hospitals, imaging centres and ophthalmology clinics across the US, Australia and New Zealand with staff spread between the UK and US.

#### **Greg Cowan (RBS)**

Following a PhD in particle physics from the University of Glasgow, Greig joined the University of Edinburgh to help deploy and commission the grid computing infrastructure used by the CERN Large

Hadron Collider. In 2010 he moved to EPFL as a member of the LHCb collaboration, focussing on measuring CP-violation in the b-quark system and searching for exotic states in the hadron spectrum. From 2013-2018 he was an STFC Ernest Rutherford research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, working on LHCb. In July this year he joined the Royal Bank of Scotland, where he runs a data science team that is applying the latest techniques to combat financial crime, predict credit risk and understand customer interactions with the bank.

### **Pippa Goldschmidt (Scottish Government/Novelist)**

After a PhD in astronomy and several years as a post-doc, Pippa Goldschmidt joined the civil service fast stream where she worked for both UK and Scottish Governments in many policy areas including outer space regulation, competition policy, e-commerce, homelessness and marine renewable energy. She is now a full-time published author who specialises in writing both fiction and non-fiction inspired by science.

### **Rita Tojeiro (University of St Andrews)**

Rita Tojeiro started her career with a data-intensive PhD in Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh. Following by a postdoctoral position and an STFC Fellowship, she eventually landed on a permanent position at the University of St Andrews. Rita has worked on science topics as varied as the cosmic microwave background, the analysis of galaxy spectra, and the large-scale structure of the Universe. Underpinning all of her work is a strong data-analysis background, a skill in increasing demand as astronomical surveys increase in size - and science goals become ever more ambitious.