

Emma K. Towlson

Center for Complex Network Research (CCNR), Northeastern University
177 Huntington Ave, Floor 11
Boston, MA, 02115
+1 (617) 373-2355
ektowlson@gmail.com
<https://emmatowlson.github.io/>

EMPLOYMENT	Associate Research Scientist	Jan. 2018 - present
	Part-time Lecturer	Sep. 2016 - present
	Postdoctoral Research Associate	Apr. 2015 - Jan. 2018
	CCNR, Northeastern University (NEU)	
	P.I.: Prof. Albert-László Barabási	
	Research Affiliate	Apr. 2018 - present
	Media Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
	P.I.: Prof. Ed Boyden	
EDUCATION	PhD Physics, Network Science	Oct. 2011 - Mar. 2015
	University of Cambridge. Cavendish Laboratory (Theory of Condensed Matter (TCM) Group) and Girton College.	
	Supervisor: Dr. Sebastian Ahnert	
	Collaborating with Prof. Ed Bullmore and the Brain Mapping Unit (BMU)	
	Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	
	Associate member of the Institute of Physics	
	TCM graduate representative	
	MMathPhys (First Class Honours)	Oct. 2007 - Jun. 2011
	University of Warwick	
	4th Year project “Superfluidity in Strongly Coupled Light-Matter Systems”	
	Supervisor: Dr. Marzena Szymanska	
	Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (URSS)	Jul. 2010 - Sep. 2010
	University of Warwick	
	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra Chapman	
FUNDING & AWARDS	NSF NCS-FO: Collaborative Research	Oct. 2017
	\$237,499 over 2 years (of the \$707,296 total awarded to four groups).	
	Title: Ground-Truth Analysis and Modeling of Entire Individual <i>C. elegans</i> Nervous Systems	
	P.I.s: Prof. Edward Boyden (MIT), Prof. Albert-László Barabási (NEU), Prof. Max Tegmark (MIT), and Prof. Steven Flavell (MIT).	
	Responsible for the BarabásiLab component of the grant, both in terms of writing the proposal and carrying out the research given its success.	
	Network Neuroscience Satellite	Jun. 2017
	James S. McDonnell Foundation (JSMF) sponsored \$20,000.	
	EPSRC Scholarship	2011
	Awarded for research proposal for graduate study at the University of Cambridge.	

Warwick Postgraduate Research Scholarship (WPRS) 2011
Selected for a prestigious scholarship for further study at the University of Warwick, one of around 15 available university wide.

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (URSS) 2010
Awarded £1000 for summer research proposal at the University of Warwick.

PUBLICATIONS **Synthetic ablations in the *C. elegans* nervous system**

Emma K. Towlson and Albert-László Barabási. *Accepted in Network Neuroscience*, 2019.

Preprint: arXiv:1907.11297.

Comment on “What would a synthetic connectome look like?” by Ithai Rabinowitch

Emma K. Towlson. *Accepted in Physics of Life Reviews*, 2019.

Brain Networks Reveal the Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs on Schizophrenia Patients and Controls

Emma K. Towlson, Petra E. Vértes, Ulrich Müller, and Sebastian E. Ahnert. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 2019, 10: 611.

Multi-Subject Stochastic Blockmodels for Adaptive Analysis of Individual Differences in Human Brain Network Cluster Structure

Dragana M. Pavlović, Bryan Guillaume, Emma K. Towlson, Soroosh Afyouni, Petra E Vértes, Thomas Yeo, Edward T. Bullmore, and Thomas E. Nichols. *Under review at NeuroImage*, 2019.

Preprint: bioRxiv:10.1101/672071

Effect of antipsychotics on the community structure of brain functional networks

Ryan Flanagan, Lucas Lacasa, Emma K. Towlson, Sang Hoon Lee, and Mason A. Porter. *Journal of Complex Networks*, 2019, doi:10.1093/comnet/cnz013.

***Caenorhabditis elegans* and the network control framework - FAQs**

Emma K. Towlson, Gang Yan, Petra E. Vértes, Yee Lian Chew, Denise S. Walker, William R. Schafer, and Albert-László Barabási. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B*, 2018, 373(1758).

NiCE Teacher Workshop: Engaging K-12 Teachers in the Development of Curricular Materials That Utilize Complex Networks Concepts

Emma K. Towlson, Lori Sheetz, Raluca Gera, Jon Roginski, Catherine Cramer, Stephen Uzzo, and Hiroki Sayama. *Complicity*, 2018, 15(1).

Editorial: Bridging Scales and Levels

Emma K. Towlson and Fabrizio De Vico Fallani. *Network Neuroscience*, 2018, 2(3):303-305.

Network control principles predict neuron function in the *C. elegans* connectome

Gang Yan[†], Petra E. Vértes[†], Emma K. Towlson[†], Yee Lian Chew, Denise S. Walker, William R. Schafer, and Albert-László Barabási. *Nature*, 2017, 550: 519-523.

[†] These authors contributed equally to this work.

Recordings of *Caenorhabditis elegans* locomotor behaviour following tar-

geted ablation of single motorneurons

Yee Lian Chew, Denise S. Walker, [Emma K. Towlson](#), Petra E. Vértés, Gang Yan, Albert-László Barabási, and William R. Schafer. *Scientific Data*, 2017, 4: 170156.

The Rich Club of the *C. elegans* Neuronal Connectome

[Emma K. Towlson](#), Petra E. Vértés, Sebastian E. Ahnert, William R. Schafer, and Edward T. Bullmore. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 2013, 33(15): 6380-6387.

IN

Spatial properties of the mouse brain network

PREPARATION [Emma K. Towlson](#), Jose Brum, and Albert-László Barabási. *In preparation*, 2019.

Diversify Network Science: The State of Race and Gender Diversity in Network Science Scholarship

[Emma K. Towlson](#), Syed Haque, Dina Mistry, Matthew Simonson, and Brooke Foucault-Welles. *Submitted; Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A*, 2019.

**CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS**

Cultivating Tipping Points: Network Science in Teaching

Catherine Cramer, Ralucca Gera, Michaela Labriole, Hiroki Sayama, Lori Sheetz, [Emma K. Towlson](#), and Stephen Uzzo. *Complex Networks IX: Proceedings of the 9th Conference on Complex Networks CompleNet 2018*, Springer Proceedings in Complexity, pp 175-183.

Centrality Clubs and Concepts of the Core: Decoding the Communicative Organisation of the Brain

[Emma K. Towlson](#), Petra E. Vértés, Sebastian E. Ahnert, and Edward T. Bullmore. *Proceedings of the European Conference on Complex Systems 2012*, Springer Proceedings in Complexity 2013, pp 497-501.

**INVITED
TALKS**

Lessons from Antarctica: Women in STEM changing the narrative of leadership

Diversify NetSci satellite, NetSci, Università la Sapienza di Roma (Jul. 2020)

Network neuroscience lecture at NetSci 2019 school

NetSci, University of Vermont Complex Systems Center (May 2019)

Introduction to Complex Networks & Controllability

Brainhack-Networks, University of Vermont Complex Systems Center (May 2019)

Panelist: Diversify Network Science 2020 and Beyond

Diversify NetSci satellite, NetSci, University of Vermont Complex Systems Center (May 2019)

Network control theoretic approaches to understanding brain structure and function

Biology Department colloquium series, NEU (Apr 2019)

Introduction to network control: Concepts, methods, and applications to neuroscience

Educational lecture at OHBM, Singapore (Jun. 2018)

Control principles in the *Caenorhabditis elegans* nervous system

Talks at Network Neuroscience satellite, NetSci, Paris (Jun. 2018) and Analysis and Interpretation of Connectomes, Janelia Research Campus (May 2018)

Network Science

Talk at the Genetics Bootcamp, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School (Jan. 2018)

How ‘rich’ is your brain?

Contribution to the Minute Madness competition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of women@CL. The Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge (May 2014).

TALKS & CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Synthetic essentiality: Muscle controllability following multiple neuronal ablations in the *C. elegans* nervous system

Poster at the 22nd International *C. elegans* Conference, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Lightning talk and poster at Network Neuroscience satellite, NetSci, University of Vermont Complex Systems Center (May 2019)

Hackathon Team Expert

Brainhack-Networks, University of Vermont Complex Systems Center (May 2019)

Network Science Tutorial

Boyden Lab retreat, MIT (Sep. 2018)

NiCE Teacher Workshop: Engaging K-12 Teachers in the Development of Curricular Materials That Utilize Complex Networks Concepts

Talk at ICCS, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge MA (Jul. 2018)

Control principles in the *Caenorhabditis elegans* nervous system

Talks at CompleNet, NEU (Mar. 2018) and Janelia Research Campus (Apr. 2016).

¿Six degrees of separación?: Experiences from designing and implementing an intensive, interdisciplinary, and project-based network science course in Guadalajara

Talk at NetSci, The JW Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis (Jun. 2017).

Experimental Test of Network Control: Functional predictions in the *C. elegans* nervous system

Poster at NetSci, The JW Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis (Jun. 2017)

Spatial Characteristics of Mesoscopic Connections in the Mouse Brain Network

Talk at NetSci, The K-Hotel, Seoul (Jun. 2016).

Connectivity in the Mouse Brain

Talk at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School (Nov. 2015).

A Short Introduction to Networks/Graph Theoretical Analyses

Lecture at the first Summer Workshop on the Dynamic Brain, Friday Harbor Laboratories. Co-hosted by the Allen Institute for Brain Science and the Computational Neuroscience Program at the University of Washington (Sep. 2014).

Brain networks reveal the effects of antipsychotic drugs on schizophrenia patients and controls

Talk at NetSci, University of California Berkeley (Jun. 2014).

The Globally Integrative Rich Club of the *C. elegans* Neuronal Connectome

Talk at 25th IUPAP International Conference on Statistical Physics, Seoul National University (Jul. 2013); poster at NetSci, Copenhagen (Jun. 2013).

Large Scale Brain Networks

Talk at Graduate Research Seminar, Girton College, University of Cambridge (Feb. 2013).

“Networks: Complex Futures”, LERU BRIGHT Conference

Representative for the University of Cambridge, University of Amsterdam (Aug. 2012)

Centrality Clubs and Concepts of the Core: Decoding the Communicative Organisation of the Brain

Talks at the BMU Networks Meeting, University of Cambridge (Oct. 2012) and ECCS, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Sep. 2012); poster at NetSci, Northwestern University (Jun. 2012).

Constructing Dynamic Networks and State Spaces from High Resolution Trading Data: Information Theoretic Approaches

Poster at the 4th Annual Oxford University SIAM Student Conference (Feb. 2011).

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Network Neuroscience, MIT Press
Associate Editor.

Aug. 2019 - present

Network Neuroscience, MIT Press

Jun. 2017 - Jun. 2018

Guest editor for Focus Feature “Bridging Scales and Levels” dedicated to participants of the Network Neuroscience satellite at NetSci 2017.

PEER REVIEW

National Science Foundation (NSF) panel: Served on Advisory Panel

Funding proposals: Reviewed for NSF, The City College of New York and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (CCNY-MSK) Partnership, The Templeton Foundation, The Army Research Office (ARO), and The Israel Science Foundation (ISF).

Journals: *Nature*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *PNAS*, *PLOS Computational Biology*, *Network Neuroscience*, *Scientific Reports*, *The European Physical Journal B (EPJ B)*, *IEEE’s Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*, *TopiCS*, *EPJ Data*, *Biosystems*, and *Human Brain Mapping*.

Conference calls: NERCCS2020, IC2S2 2020, NetsciX 2020, IC2S2 2019, NERCCS 2019, ICCS 2018, NetSci 2018, IC2S2 2018, NetSciX 2018, CompleNet 2016 & 2017. Poster judge at Scientista Symposium 2019, NetSci 2018.

ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The International Conference on Complex Systems 2018

Jul. 2018

Special sessions chair with Dr. Marc Santolini. The Hyatt Regency, Cambridge.

CompleNet 2018

Mar. 2018

Local organising chair. NEU, Boston.

Network Neuroscience Satellite

Jun. 2017

The JW Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis.

Spearheaded the timely development of a Brain Networks NetSci associated satellite that had been running for 2 years into a larger Network Neuroscience satellite. Led the committee of ~ 20 experts in the field to achieve this, and sustained over 120 attendees throughout the day, making it one of the largest satellites NetSci has hosted to date. Continuing coordination of expansion for following conferences in 2018-9.

Cavendish Graduate Student Conference 2013

Dec. 2013

Chair of the organising committee for this one day conference for c.150 young physics

researchers at Cambridge. Plenary speaker Dr. Simon Singh and sponsored by BP.
Organiser for the Cambridge Networks Network (CNN) Jul. 2013 - Mar. 2015
 Primarily conglomerated events by liaising with networks groups across the UK.
“The 3 Peaks Challenge: Warwick in Africa... in Wales?!” Jul. 2011
 Organised for and inspired 60 people to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours. The event was covered in local media and raised around £15,000.
Warwick MathPhys Society May 2008 - Jun. 2011
 Co-founded the society, authored 2 revision guides and delivered lectures to undergraduates. By 2011, the society held over 200 members and had secured sponsorship from Teach First.

PROFESSIONAL Homeward Bound Nov. 2018 - Dec. 2019
DEVELOPMENT Selected as one of 95 women to be part of the 4th cohort of Homeward Bound: a ground-breaking leadership initiative, set against the backdrop of Antarctica, which aims to heighten the influence and impact of women in making decisions that shape our planet. The 10-year vision is to create a 1000-strong network of women scientists, ready and able to exert their influence on global policy. Engaging with a year-long leadership program, conducted remotely and culminating in a 3-week Antarctic voyage in Dec. 2019.

COMPUTER SKILLS **Languages & Software:** Extensive experience with Python programming, Bash scripting, and Matlab. Limited experience with C++.
 Working knowledge of network related software (including NetworkX, Cytoscape, Gephi, and GraphViz), L^AT_EX typesetting, Microsoft Office, and OpenOffice. Exposure to image processing software (AFNI and SUMA).
Large-Scale Computing: Experience with cluster computing (Warwick University, Northeastern University), and the Google Cloud Platform.
Operating Systems: Mac OS X, UNIX/Linux, Raspbian, and Windows.
Courses: *C++: Programming in Modern C++*, University Computer Service Training, University of Cambridge (Oct. 2014 - Mar. 2015).
Algorithms: Design and Analysis Part I, online course provided by Stanford University (Oct. 2014 - Dec. 2014).

EDUCATION **Network Science Solutions Book** Nov. 2019
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT Solutions for the problems set in Network Science by Albert-László Barabási.
Networks in Classroom Education (NiCE) Teacher Workshop Jul. 2017
 United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point
 Led sessions in this workshop for ~ 30 K-12 teachers of various subjects, aimed at introducing Network thinking to the classroom and as a curriculum development tool.
Network Science Summer Course Jun. 2017
 Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Barcelona
 Designed and delivered a week long summer course introducing Network Science to ~ 30 Masters level students in the Statistics department.
Network Science Summer Course Jun. 2017
 Signa Lab, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), Guadalajara
 Designed a 6 week long summer course introducing Network Science to ~ 20 undergraduate students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, and delivered 2 of those weeks. The course is highly interactive, including hands-on activities with toy networks, drones, and Lego.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION **Network Science Graduate Course** Sep. 2016 - Present

Co-instructed with Prof. Albert-László Barabási and Dr. Sean Cornelius.
CCNR, Physics Department, Northeastern University.

Summer Internship Jun. 2019 - Sep. 2019
Supervised a bioinformatics student on a project investigating the organisation of functional brain networks in health, depression, and anxiety.

Visiting Faculty Aug. 2016 - Present
Collaborated with and supported Prof. Jose Brum's career change from Director-General of the Brazilian Association for Synchrotron Light Technology to brain research.

Visiting Graduate Students Aug. 2015 - Present
Supervised and co-supervised 3 students visiting CCNR.

The Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM) Mar. 2019
Grader for ICM competition, sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP).

Summer Student Jun. 2013 - Sep. 2013
Co-supervised a student working on network community structure with Dr. Sebastian Ahnert.

Mathematics IA/B/Biology and Physics Supervisor for Natural Sciences Tripos Students Oct. 2011 - Mar. 2015
324 hours, King's, Trinity, Corpus Christi, and Pembroke Colleges, University of Cambridge.

IB Physics Lab Demonstrator Oct. 2011 - Dec. 2011
Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge.

Mathematics Supervisor Oct. 2010 - Jun. 2011
60 hours, University of Warwick.

OUTREACH

Modern Women in STEM Jun. 2019
Contributed a personal story for a book of stories of women scientists, aiming to inspire girls aged 8-13 years.

"What is so exciting about physics?" Sep. 2015
Featured in a booklet produced by Cavendish Inspiring Women (CiW) and distributed to high schools across the UK.

Physics at Work Sep. 2012
Gave talks on behalf of TCM to teenagers at the Cavendish Laboratory.

Physics Olympiad Jul. 2012, Jul. 2013, Jul. 2014
Coached team of 17-18 year-olds selected to represent the UK in the Physics Olympiad.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Warwick in Africa Project Aug. 2009 - Aug. 2013

- Visited South Africa (Johannesburg and Stellenbosch) 5 times to lead classes and work with the African teachers to improve mathematics education in deprived townships.
- With 11 other volunteers opened a Winter School during the public sector strikes (Aug. 2010) to prepare finalists for their exams which was attended by more than 300 students. Received thanks from the South African Department of Education.
- During a small pilot scheme established links with Stellenbosch University (Jul. 2011) and following a personal ambition arranged for the first set of students from Makapula High School to be entered in the South African Mathematics Olympiad (Mar. 2012).
- Part of the interview panel for 2012 student teacher candidates.
- Co-ordinated the expansion of the scheme in Stellenbosch to involve the National University of Singapore, lecturers from the University of Warwick, and corporate volunteers from Ernst & Young and Standard Chartered (Jul. 2012).