

DR. ALEXANDER SHAKEEL BATES

I am a neuroscientist and programmer on open-source projects. I work on insect brains. I am interested in how neurons wire together, and how they work together to build complex, innate behaviours. D.O.B. **23/09/1993**.

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3256 20 21



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PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH

- present
01/10/2020
- **Postdoctoral Fellow in Neurobiology**
Harvard Medical School 📍 Boston, US
 - Member of the laboratory of [Prof. Rachel Wilson](#)
 - Working on navigational circuitry, using calcium imaging, neurophysiology and behavioural studies involving virtual reality with *D. melanogaster*
 - **Visiting Scientist**
Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge 📍 remote
 - Neuroinformatics work with the [Drosophila Connectomics Group](#)
 - Developed R tools for neuroanatomy and connectomics



GRANTS

- 01/06/2025
01/06/2022
- **Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowship**
Wellcome Trust & University of Oxford 📍 UK
 - 30,000 GBP towards my current research
 - Collaboration between groups of Rachel Wilson, Wei Lee, Scott Waddell and Shaul Druckmann
 - **EMBO fellow**
European Molecular Biology Organization 📍 Europe

01/06/2022
01/04/2021
 - **Life Science Research Foundation Fellowship**
Life Science Research Foundation 📍 US

2021

 - Did not pursue
 - **Human Frontiers Fellowship**
International Human Frontier Science Program 📍 International

2021

 - Did not pursue

Media

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👤 [alexanderbates](#)
🔗 [asbates.com](#)
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🔍 [google scholar](#)
📄 [0000-0002-1195-0445](#)
📄 [researchgate](#)
📄 [GQQ-6852-2022](#)

Software

🏢 [natverse](#) - co-author
✂ [neuromorphr](#) - author
✂ [neuronbridger](#) - author
✂ [neupintr](#) - author
✂ [hemibrainr](#) - author
✂ [mouselightr](#) - author
✂ [insectbrainr](#) - author
✂ [crantr](#) - author

- 30/09/2019 ● **Herchel Smith PhD Scholarship** 📍 Cambridge, UK
 01/08/2015 Herchel Smith Foundation
- 01/08/2018 ● **Boehringer Ingelheim PhD Scholarship** 📍 European
 01/08/2016 Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation

🎓 EDUCATION

- 30/09/2020 ● **Neuroscience PhD** 📍 Cambridge, UK
 01/09/2015 MRC LMB, University of Cambridge
- PhD student with **Dr. Greg Jefferis**
 - **Thesis:** The lateral horn, a brain region in the fly, primes innate olfactory behaviours by combining patterns of second-order olfactory projection neuron activity. In my work, I developed tools and analyses, and reconstructed neural networks from electron microscopy data, in order to better understand this brain region and how memory systems interact with it
 - Neuroinformatics, data science, R programming
 - **Awards:** Honorary Vice Chancellor's Award, MRC LMB Max Perutz Prize 2019, Winner of the British Neuroscience Association Postgraduate Prize 2020
- 01/07/2015 ● **Neuroscience BSc** 📍 London, UK
 01/09/2012 University College London
- 1st class degree with honours
 - Modules taken listed on [linkedIn](#)
 - **Awards:** Burnstock Sessional Prize in Neuroscience BSc (ranked first in year) (2012–2013) (2013-2014) (2014-2015), Dean's list for the Faculty of Life Sciences (2013-2014) (2014-2015), Rob Clarke Award from the Society of Physiology
- 01/09/2012 ● **A levels** 📍 London, UK
 01/09/2010 Woodbridge High School
- 6 A*s at A-level, comprising: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English Literature, Philosophy and Russian, and in a history related EPQ (level 3) project
- 31/08/2010 ● **GCSEs** 📍 London, UK
 01/09/2008 Woodbridge High School
- 13 A*s: English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Statistics, Core Science, Additional Science, History, Philosophy, Geography, French, Italian, Russian and Expressive Arts. **Jack Petchey Achievement Award**

👁️ REVIEWS

	title	author	journal	year	cites
2	Systems neuroscience: Auditory processing at synaptic resolution	AS Bates , G Jefferis	Current Biology	2022	1
6	Neuronal cell types in the fly: single-cell anatomy meets single-cell genomics	AS Bates , J Janssens, GS Jefferis, S Aerts	Current opinion in neurobiology	2019	65

Skills

R
 python
 MATLAB
 github
 git
 markdown
 Illustrator
 InDesign
 communication
 text editing
 journalistic writing
 creative writing
 open access

Peer Reviews

journal reviews
 PLoS
 Comp. Bio. 3
 eLife 3
 Nature Comm. 1

PAPERS

title	author	journal	year
Neurotransmitter classification from electron microscopy images at synaptic sites in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	N Eckstein, AS Bates , A Champion, M Du, Y Yin, P Schlegel, AKY Lu, ...	Cell	2024
Information flow, cell types and stereotypy in a full olfactory connectome	P Schlegel, AS Bates , T Stürner, SR Jagannathan, N Drummond, J Hsu, ...	Elife	2021
Complete connectomic reconstruction of olfactory projection neurons in the fly brain	AS Bates , P Schlegel, RJV Roberts, N Drummond, IFM Tamimi, ...	Current Biology	2020
The natverse, a versatile toolbox for combining and analysing neuroanatomical data	AS Bates , JD Manton, SR Jagannathan, M Costa, P Schlegel, T Rohlfing, ...	Elife	2020
Analysis and optimization of equitable US cancer clinical trial center access by travel time	H Lee, AS Bates , S Callier, M Chan, N Chambwe, A Marshall, MB Terry, ...	JAMA oncology	2024
Analysis and optimization of equitable US cancer clinical trial center access by travel time.	H Lee, A Bates, A Marshall, S Callier, N Chambwe, T Janowitz	Journal of Clinical Oncology	2023
Analysis of methods to improve engagement of under-represented and socioeconomically deprived patients in clinical research	H Lee, AS Bates , R Dima, S Nadella, N Jordan-Martin, C Brennan, ...	Cancer Research	2022
Functional and anatomical specificity in a higher olfactory centre	S Frechter, AS Bates , S Tootoonian, MJ Dolan, J Manton, AR Jamasb, ...	elife	2019
Whole-brain annotation and multi-connectome cell typing of <i>Drosophila</i>	P Schlegel, Y Yin, AS Bates , S Dorkenwald, K Eichler, P Brooks, DS Han, ...	Nature	2024
Quantitative Attributions with Counterfactuals	DY Adjavon, N Eckstein, AS Bates , GSXE Jefferis, J Funke	bioRxiv	2024
Discriminative attribution from paired images	N Eckstein, H Bukhari, AS Bates , GSXE Jefferis, J Funke	European Conference on Computer Vision	2022
BACTrace, a tool for retrograde tracing of neuronal circuits in <i>Drosophila</i>	S Cachero, M Gkantia, AS Bates , S Frechter, L Blackie, A McCarthy, ...	Nature methods	2020
Neural circuit mechanisms for steering control in walking <i>Drosophila</i>	A Rayshubskiy, SL Holtz, A Bates, QX Vanderbeck, LS Capdevila, ...	bioRxiv	2020
BACTrace a new tool for retrograde tracing of neuronal circuits	S Cachero, M Gkantia, AS Bates , S Frechter, L Blackie, A McCarthy, ...	bioRxiv	2020
Neurogenetic dissection of the <i>Drosophila</i> lateral horn reveals major outputs, diverse behavioural functions, and interactions with the mushroom body	MJ Dolan, S Frechter, AS Bates , C Dan, P Huoviala, RJ Roberts, ...	Elife	2019

This table shows all of my work, searchable on pubmed. Author list displays first six. My name in bold, underlining indicates first (co)authorship. Get in contact for information on recent projects.

Rx Most of my work has first been published on bioRxiv

@ Much of my work comes with open source R code

	title	author	journal	year	cites
16	Communication from learned to innate olfactory processing centers is required for memory retrieval in <i>Drosophila</i>	MJ Dolan, G Belliart-Guérin, AS Bates , S Frechter, A Lampin-Saint-Amaux, ...	Neuron	2018	112
17	Automated reconstruction of a serial-section EM <i>Drosophila</i> brain with flood-filling networks and local realignment	PH Li, LF Lindsey, M Januszewski, Z Zheng, AS Bates , I Taisz, M Tyka, ...	bioRxiv	2019	98
18	A <i>Drosophila</i> computational brain model reveals sensorimotor processing	PK Shiu, GR Sterne, N Spiller, R Franconville, A Sandoval, J Zhou, ...	Nature	2024	53
19	Network statistics of the whole-brain connectome of <i>Drosophila</i>	A Lin, R Yang, S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, S Yu, ...	Nature	2024	53
20	Neuronal wiring diagram of an adult brain	S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, SC Yu, CE McKellar, ...	Nature	2024	218
21	Comparative connectomics of the descending and ascending neurons of the <i>Drosophila</i> nervous system: stereotypy and sexual dimorphism	T Stürner, P Brooks, LS Capdevila, BJ Morris, A Javier, S Fang, M Gkantia, ...	bioRxiv	2024	9
22	The connectome of the adult <i>Drosophila</i> mushroom body provides insights into function	F Li, JW Lindsey, EC Marin, N Otto, M Dreher, G Dempsey, I Stark, ...	Elife	2020	336
23	A connectome and analysis of the adult <i>Drosophila</i> central brain	LK Scheffer, CS Xu, M Januszewski, Z Lu, S Takemura, KJ Hayworth, ...	elife	2020	955
24	Connectomics analysis reveals first-, second-, and third-order thermosensory and hygrosensory neurons in the adult <i>Drosophila</i> brain	EC Marin, L Büld, M Theiss, T Sarkissian, RJV Roberts, R Turnbull, ...	Current Biology	2020	94
25	Input connectivity reveals additional heterogeneity of dopaminergic reinforcement in <i>Drosophila</i>	N Otto, MW Pleijzier, IC Morgan, AJ Edmondson-Stait, KJ Heinz, I Stark, ...	Current Biology	2020	73
26	Neural circuit basis of aversive odour processing in <i>Drosophila</i> from sensory input to descending output	P Huoviala, MJ Dolan, FM Love, P Myers, S Frechter, S Namiki, ...	bioRxiv	2018	44
27	Combinatorial encoding of odors in the mosquito antennal lobe	P Singh, S Goyal, S Gupta, S Garg, A Tiwari, V Rajput, AS Bates , ...	Nature communications	2023	11



SELECTED TALKS

2019	● ECRO meeting European Chemoreception Research Organization	📍 Trieste, Italy
2018	● Boehringer Ingelheim Meeting Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds	📍 Hirschegg, Austria
2017	● MPI Connectomics meeting Max Planck Institute	📍 Berlin, Germany

Referees

👤 PhD Supervisor:
Dr. Gregory Jefferis, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge,
jefferis@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk

👤 Current Supervisor:
Prof. Rachel Wilson, Harvard Medical School,

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------|
| 2017 | ● ECRO meeting
European Chemoreception Research Organization | 📍 Cambridge, UK |
| 2017 | ● Boehringer Ingelheim Meeting
Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds | 📍 Hirschegg, Austria |
| 2016 | ● Brains and Roses
Schaeffer and Datta group organised | 📍 Montserrat, Catalonia |



SELECTED POSTERS

- | | | |
|------|---|------------------|
| 2023 | ● HHMI Investigators' Meeting
HHMI HQ | 📍 Chevy Chase |
| 2019 | ● UK Neural Computation
University of Nottingham | 📍 Nottingham, UK |
| 2017 | ● Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds communication workshop
Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation | 📍 Mainz, Germany |
| 2016 | ● Maggot Meeting
Janelia Research Campus | 📍 Ashburn, US |
| 2016 | ● High-resolution circuit reconstruction meeting
Janelia Research Campus | 📍 Ashburn, US |
| 2016 | ● LMB GSA Symposium
MRC LMB, University of Cambridge | 📍 Cambridge, UK |



LEADERSHIP

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 01/10/2019

01/01/2016 | ● President of BlueSci
University College London
• Lead BlueSci , the University of Cambridge's science media society, through 15 issues of the magazine | 📍 London, UK |
| 2018 | ● Mentored summer student
MRC LMB, University of Cambridge | 📍 Cambridge, UK |
| 01/05/2018

01/09/2017 | ● Mentored undergraduate student
Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge
• Student won best thesis in year award and two authorships | 📍 Cambridge, UK |
| 2017 | ● Mentored summer student
MRC LMB, University of Cambridge | 📍 Cambridge, UK |

2017	● LMB graduate symposium lead organiser MRC LMB, University of Cambridge	📍 Cambridge, UK
2016	● LMB graduate symposium organiser MRC LMB, University of Cambridge	📍 Cambridge, UK
01/10/2015 01/10/2014	● President of the UCLU Writer's Society University College London	📍 London, UK
01/10/2015 01/10/2014	● Science Editor, Pi Magazine University College London	📍 London, UK
2014	● UCL iGEM 2014 Advisor University College London <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project planning, oversight, team selection and management • Gold medallist 	📍 London, UK

OTHER

2019	● Visiting Scholar Janelia Research Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked in FlyEM, Dr. Gerry Rubin's Group • Worked on the hemibrain connectome 	📍 Ashburn, US
2018	● Paris Spring School in Neuroscience Techniques Paris Descartes University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A course in Optical Imaging and Electrophysiological Recording in Neuroscience 	📍 Paris, France
2016	● Visiting Scholar Janelia Research Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Dr. Albert Cardona's Group • Worked on the L1 larval connectome 	📍 Ashburn, US
2015	● University of Queensland Winter Scholarship University of Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on tectal activity in zebrafish larvae, light sheet imaging, Dr. Ethan Scott's Group 	📍 Brisbane, Australia
2014	● Amgen Scholarship Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on neuronal structural plasticity in D. melanogaster larvae, Dr. Landgraf's group 	📍 Cambridge, UK

2013



UCL iGEM 2013 team member

University College London

- Team member, cloning, cell culture, project planning
- Gold medallist

📍 London, UK

2013



Summer student in the biomolecular modelling laboratory

Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute

- Student Placement with **Dr. Tammy Cheng**, python programming

📍 London, UK

Made with the R
package
pagedown and
datadrivencv.

Code available
on  **GitHub**.

Last updated on
2025-03-09.