

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.

total_cites h_index i10_index



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

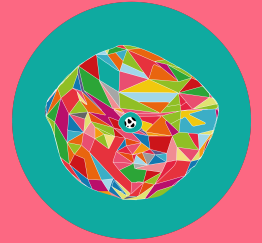
01/06/2022
|
01/04/2021
 - **Life Science Research Foundation Fellowship**
Life Science Research Foundation 📍 US

2021

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

2021

 - Did not pursue



📄 download this resume

Media

✉ alexander_bates@hms.harvard.edu
🐦 [as_bates](#)
🔗 [alexanderbates](#)
🔗 [asbates.com](#)
in [linkedIn](#)
🔗 [google scholar](#)
🔗 [0000-0002-1195-0445](#)
🔗 [researchgate](#)
🔗 [GQQ-6852-2022](#)

Software

🔗 [natverse](#) - co-author
✂ [neuromorphr](#) - author
✂ [neuronbridger](#) - author
✂ [neuprintr](#) - author
✂ [hemibrainr](#) - author
✂ [mouselightr](#) - author
✂ [insectbrainr](#) - author

- 30/09/2019 ● Herchel Smith PhD Scholarship
 01/08/2015 Herchel Smith Foundation
 01/08/2018 ● Boehringer Ingelheim PhD Scholarship
 01/08/2016 Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation

Cambridge, UK

European

EDUCATION

- 30/09/2020 ● Neuroscience PhD
 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
 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
 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
 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](#)

London, UK

London, UK

London, UK

REVIEWS

	title	author	journal	year	cites
1	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	59

Skills

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

Peer Reviews

journal reviews
 PLoS
 Computational Biology
 eLife
 Nature
 Communications

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,
Rachel.Wilson@hms.harvard.edu

BSc Tutor at UCL:
 Dr. Marco Beato, UCL
 Neuroscience,
 Physiology and
 Pharmacology,
m.beato@ucl.ac.uk

Supervisee: Serene
 Dhawan, Princeton,
 PhD student,
serenedhawan@gmail.com

PAPERS

	title	author	journal	year	cites
2	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	89
3	Complete connectomic reconstruction of olfactory projection neurons in the fly brain	AS Bates , P Schlegel, RJV Roberts, N Drummond, IFM Tamimi, ...	Current Biology	2020	140
4	Neurotransmitter Classification from Electron Microscopy Images at Synaptic Sites in Drosophila Melanogaster	N Eckstein, AS Bates , A Champion, M Du, Y Yin, P Schlegel, AKY Lu, ...	bioRxiv	2020	65
5	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	135
7	Functional and anatomical specificity in a higher olfactory centre	S Frechter, AS Bates , S Tootoonian, MJ Dolan, J Manton, AR Jamasb, ...	Elife	2019	84
8	Whole-brain annotation and multi-connectome cell typing quantifies circuit stereotypy in Drosophila	P Schlegel, Y Yin, AS Bates , S Dorkenwald, K Eichler, P Brooks, DS Han, ...	bioRxiv	2023	19
9	Discriminative attribution from paired images	N Eckstein, H Bukhari, AS Bates , GSXE Jefferis, J Funke	European Conference on Computer Vision	2022	4
10	BACTrace, a tool for retrograde tracing of neuronal circuits in Drosophila	S Cachero, M Gkantia, AS Bates , S Frechter, L Blackie, A McCarthy, ...	Nature methods	2020	25
11	Neurogenetic dissection of the Drosophila lateral horn reveals major outputs, diverse behavioural functions, and interactions with the mushroom body	MJ Dolan, S Frechter, AS Bates , C Dan, P Huovalia, RJ Roberts, ...	Elife	2019	124
12	Communication from learned to innate olfactory processing centers is required for memory retrieval in Drosophila	MJ Dolan, G Belliart-Guérin, AS Bates , S Frechter, A Lampin-Saint-Amaux, ...	Neuron	2018	93
13	Automated reconstruction of a serial-section EM Drosophila brain with flood-filling networks and local realignment	PH Li, LF Lindsey, M Januszewski, Z Zheng, AS Bates , I Taisz, M Tyka, ...	bioRxiv	2019	85
14	Network Statistics of the Whole-Brain Connectome of Drosophila	A Lin, R Yang, S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, S Yu, ...	bioRxiv	2023	0
15	Neuronal wiring diagram of an adult brain	S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, SC Yu, CE McKellar, ...	bioRxiv	2023	26

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 recents projects.

Rx Most of my work has first been published on bioRxiv

g Much of my work comes with open source R code

	title	author	journal	year	cites
16	A leaky integrate-and-fire computational model based on the connectome of the entire adult <i>Drosophila</i> brain reveals insights into sensorimotor processing	PK Shiu, GR Sterne, N Spiller, R Franconville, A Sandoval, J Zhou, ...	bioRxiv	2023	4
17	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	221
18	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	648
19	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	75
20	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	50
21	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	40
22	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	3



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
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
 - **UCL iGEM 2014 Advisor**
University College London
📍 London, UK
 - Project planning, oversight, team selection and management
 - Gold medallist

OTHER

- 2019 ● **Visiting Scholar**
Janelia Research Campus
📍 Ashburn, US
 - Worked in FlyEM, [Dr. Gerry Rubin's Group](#)
 - Worked on the hemibrain connectome
- 2018 ● **Paris Spring School in Neuroscience Techniques**
Paris Descartes University
📍 Paris, France
 - [A course in](#) Optical Imaging and Electrophysiological Recording in Neuroscience
- 2016 ● **Visiting Scholar**
Janelia Research Campus
📍 Ashburn, US
 - Worked with [Dr. Albert Cardona's Group](#)
 - Worked on the L1 larval connectome
- 2015 ● **University of Queensland Winter Scholarship**
University of Queensland
📍 Brisbane, Australia
 - Worked on tectal activity in zebrafish larvae, light sheet imaging, [Dr. Ethan Scott's Group](#)
- 2014 ● **Amgen Scholarship**
Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge
📍 Cambridge, UK
 - Worked on neuronal structural plasticity in *D. melanogaster* larvae, [Dr. Landgraf's group](#)
- 2013 ● **UCL iGEM 2013 team member**
University College London
📍 London, UK
 - Team member, cloning, cell culture, project planning
 - Gold medallist
- 2013 ● **Summer student in the biomolecular modelling laboratory**
Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute
📍 London, UK
 - Student Placement with [Dr. Tammy Cheng](#), python programming

Made with the R
package [pagedown](#)
and [datadrivencv](#).

Code available on [GitHub](#).

Last updated on 2023-
11-27.