# Fiona Skerman: CV & publications

## EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

- 2020- Assistant Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- 2021 Fall Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley, USA. semester program Computational Complexity of Statistical Inference.
- 2019–2020 Heilbronn Research Fellow, Bristol University, UK
- 2019–2019 Postdoc working with Prof. Dan Král', Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
- 2017–2019 Postdoc working with Docent Cecilia Holmgren, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- 2015–2017 Heilbronn Research Fellow, Bristol University, UK.
- 2011–2016 Doctor of Philosophy, Oxford University, UK.
  - Thesis *Modularity of Networks*,

Supervisor: Prof. Colin McDiarmid

- ★ Corcoran Prize for the best thesis in the Oxford Statistics Department 2015-2016.
- 2004–2010 Bachelor of Philosophy in Mathematics, Australian National University, Australia. First Class Honours, 92%.
  - Thesis **Degree Sequences of Random Bipartite Graphs**, Supervisors: Prof. Brendan McKay, Dr. Judy-Anne Osborn.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowship.
- 2017 Corcoran Prize for the best thesis Oxford Statistics Department 2015-2016.
- 2016 G-Research second prize for Oxford thesis in quantitative methods  $\sim$ £5000.
- 2014 Half Blue, Kayaking, Oxford University.
- 2014 Balliol College 750th Anniversary Science Prize, Oxford.
- 2011-2015 Statistics Department Teaching Bursary, DPhil Scholarship, Oxford University.
  - 2011 J. Crawford Prize for best female thesis in the Sciences, Australian National University.
- 2004-2010 National Undergraduate Scholarship, Australian National University
  - 2004 Best Student Seminar, Advanced Physics I, Australian National University
  - 2003,4 A. L. Blakers memorial prize, Australian National Mathematics Summer School
  - 2003 Australian Students Prize and Ipswich Youth of the Year, Australia.

#### Publications and submitted manuscripts

- 19. Convergence laws for random Mallows permutations, with T. Muller and T. Verstraaten, *preprint*, <u>arXiv:2302.10148</u>
- 18. **Is it easier to count communities than find them?**, with C. Rush, A. Wein and D. Yang, *preprint*, <u>arXiv:2212.10872</u>.
- 17. Partially observing graphs: when can we infer community structure?, with C. McDiarmid, *preprint*, <u>arXiv:2112.13190</u>.
- 2023+ 16. From flip processes to dynamical systems on graphons, with F. Garbe, J. Hladký and M. Šileikis,

  Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré, to appear, arXiv:2201.12272.
- 2023+ 15. A branching process with deletions and mergers that matches the threshold for hypercube percolation, with L. Eslava and S. Penington,

with L. Eslava and S. Penington,

Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré, to appear arXiv:2104.04407.

- Finding large expanders in graphs: from topological minors to induced subgraphs, with B. Louf, Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, 30 1 (2023) arXiv:2012.15722.
   No additional tournaments are quasirandom-forcing, with R. Hancock, A. Kabela, D. Kral, T. Martins, R. Parente and J. Volec, European Journal of Combinatorics, 108 (2023) arXiv:1912.04243.
   The modularity of random graphs on the hyperbolic plane.
- 2022 12. The modularity of random graphs on the hyperbolic plane, with J. Chellig and N. Fountoulakis,

  Journal of Complex Networks, 10 1 (2022) arXiv:2104.01041.
- 2021 11. Assigning times to minimise reachability in temporal graphs, with J. Enright, K. Meeks,

  Journal of Computer and System Sciences, 115 (2021) link arXiv:1802.05905.
- 2020 10. **Modularity of Erdős-Rényi random graphs**, with C. McDiarmid, *Random Structures & Algorithms*, **57** 1 (2020) link arXiv:1808.02243.
- 9. Random tree recursions: which fixed points correspond to tangible sets of trees?, with M. Podder and T. Johnson,

  Random Structures & Algorithms 56 3 (2020) link arXiv:1808.03019.
- 8. The parameterised complexity of computing the maximum modularity of a graph, with K. Meeks,

  Algorithmica 82 8 (2020) link arXiv:1807.06965.
- Embedding small digraphs and permutations in binary trees and split trees, with M. Albert, C. Holmgren, and T. Johansson,
   Algorithmica 82 3 (2020) link arXiv:1901.02328.
- 2019 6. *k*-cuts on paths and some trees, with X. Cai, L. Devroye and C. Holmgren, *Electronic Journal of Probability* **24** (2019) <u>link arXiv:1804.03069</u>.
- Inversions in split trees and conditional Galton–Watson trees, with X. Cai, C. Holmgren, S. Janson and T. Johansson, Combinatorics, Probability and Computing 28 3 (2019) link arXiv:1709.00216.
- 4. **Modularity of regular and treelike graphs**, with C. McDiarmid, *Journal of Complex Networks* **6** 4 (2018) link arXiv:1606.09101
- 2017 3. **Guessing numbers of odd cycles**, with R. Atkins and P. Rombach *Electronic Journal of Combinatorics* **24** 1 (2017) <u>link arXiv:1602.03586</u>
- 2016 2. **Degree sequences of random digraphs and bipartite graphs**, with B. D. McKay *Journal of Combinatorics* **7** 1 (2016) link arXiv:1302.2446
- Avoider-Enforcer Star Games, with A. Grzesik, M. Mikalački, Z. Nagy, A. Naor, and B. Patkós Dicrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science 17 1 (2015) link arXiv:1302.2555

## Conference publications and submissions

- c8. **Is it easier to count communities than find them?**, with C. Rush, A. Wein and D. Yang, *Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS 2023)* link
- c7. k-cuts on a path, with X. Cai, L. Devroye and C. Holmgren Algorithms and Complexity 11th International Conference, 2019, Proceedings. (CIAC 2019) link
- c6. The parameterised complexity of computing the maximum modularity of a graph, with K. Meeks 13th International Symposium on Parameterized and Exact Computation (IPEC 2018) link

- c5. **Modularity of Erdős-Rényi graphs**, with C. McDiarmid, *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Probabilistic, Combinatorial and Asymptotic Methods for the Analysis of Algorithms (AofA 2018)* link
- c4. **Permutations in binary trees and split trees**, with M. Albert, C. Holmgren and T. Johansson (AofA 2018) <u>link</u>
- c3. **Inversions in split trees and conditional Galton–Watson trees**, with X. Cai, C. Holmgren, S. Janson and T. Johansson (*AofA 2018*) <u>link</u>
- c2. **Avoider-Enforcer Star Games**, with A. Grzesik, M. Mikalački, Z. Nagy, A. Naor, B. Patkós *The seventh European conference on combinatorics, graph theory and applications Pisa, Italy, September 9–13, 2013 (Eurocomb 2013*) link
- c1. **Modularity in random regular graphs and lattices** with C. McDiarmid, *Proceedings of Erdős Centennial, Electronic Notes in Disc. Math.* **43** (2013) <u>link</u>

## Invited Conference Talks

- Aug, 2023 Workshop on Random Discrete Structures, EPFL, Switzerland.
- Jun, 2023 Session on Algorithms on Random Graphs, Applied Probability Society (APS) meeting, Nancy, France.
- Jun, 2023 Modeling Decisions for Artificial Intelligence (MDAI), Umeå, Sweden. (plenary)
- May, 2023 *Is it easier to count communities than find them?*, Machine Learning Day, Digital Futures, KTH, Sweden.
- Mar, 2023 *Is it easier to count communities than to find them?* Oberwolfach Random Graphs: Combinatorics, Complex Networks and Disordered Systems, Germany.
- Nov, 2022 *Is it easier to count communities than find them?*, Workshop on Random Graphs, Bernoulli Institute, Groningen, Netherlands.
- Jun, 2022 Partially observing graphs when can we infer underlying community structure?,

  Conference on Mathematics for Complex Data, KTH University, Stockholm, Sweden.
- May, 2022 Partially observing graphs when can we infer underlying community structure?, Scottish Combinatorics Meeting, Glasgow University, UK online.
- Mar, 2022 *Modularity and Edge-sampling*,
  Bellairs worksop on Probability and Combinatorics, Holetown, Barbados.
- Feb, 2022 Partially observed graphs: when can we infer community structure?,
  Dagstuhl Seminar: Logic and Random Discrete Structures, Germany hybrid.
- Aug, 2021 *Modularity and Edge-sampling*,
  Banff BIRS : Random Graphs and Statistical Inference, Canada online.
- Jun, 2021 A branching process with deletions and mergers that matches the threshold for hypercube percolation,
   Analysis of Algorithms Conference, Austria online
- Nov, 2018 Permutations in Random Trees,
  Dagstuhl Seminar: Genomics, Pattern Avoidance, and Statistical Mechanics, Germany.
- Apr, 2017 Modularity of Random Graphs,
  Workshop on Random Graphs and Random Processes, Kings College London, UK.
- Mar, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, ICMS Complex Networks, Edinburgh, UK.

#### SEMINARS

- Mar, 2023 When can we infer community structure in graphs?, Complex Systems, CoSy, seminar, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Dec, 2022 Is it easier to count communities than find them?, Umeå Combinatorics Seminar, Sweden.
- Nov, 2022 Is it easier to count communities than find them?, TU Graz Combinatorics Seminar, Austria online.
- Oct, 2022 Is it easier to count communities than find them?, Uppsala Combinatorics Seminar, Sweden.
- Apr, 2022 Infanticide and incest: a branching process with deletions and mergers that matches the threshold for hypercube percolation, Georgia Tech Combinatorics Seminar, US online.

- Dec, 2021 When can we infer community structure in graphs?, Topos Institute, Berkeley, US.
- Dec, 2021 When can we infer community structure in graphs?, Simons Institute, Berkeley, US.
- Apr, 2021 Modularity, Data Analysis Department Seminar, Łódź University of Technology, Poland.
- Nov, 2020 Edge-sampling and modularity, Probability & Combinatorics Seminar, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Jun, 2020 Branching processes with merges and hypercube percolation, Combinatorial Mathematics Society of Australasia Seminar, online.
- Feb, 2020 Edge-sampling and modularity, ProbL@b Seminar, University of Bath, Bath, UK.
- Jan, 2020 Edge-sampling and modularity, Combinatorics Seminar, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.
- Jan, 2020 Edge-sampling and modularity, Combinatorics Seminar, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Jan, 2020 Edge-sampling and modularity, Probability Seminar, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.
- Nov, 2019 Random tree recursions: which fixed points correspond to tangible sets of trees?, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Jun, 2019 Community structure in Networks: limits of learning, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Jun, 2019 Community structure in Networks: limits of learning, Groningen Stochastics Seminar, NDL.
- Mar, 2019 Modularity of Networks, University of Bergen, Norway.
- Dec, 2018 Guessing numbers of odd cycles, Queen Mary Combinatorics Study Group, UK.
- Sep, 2018 Introduction to Modularity, Computer Science Reading Group, Glasgow University, UK.
- Apr., 2018 Modularity of Random Graphs, Stockholm University, Sweden.
- Mar, 2018 Tree automata on Galton-Watson trees, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Mar, 2017 Modularity of Random Graphs, Seminar, Lancaster University, UK.
- Jan, 2017 Modularity of Random Graphs, Seminar, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Nov, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, Combinatorics Seminar, UNSW, Australia.
- Oct, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, Computer Science Seminar, Glasgow University, UK.
- Oct, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, Pure Math. Seminar, Royal Holloway, UK.
- May, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, Combinatorics Seminar, Birmingham University, UK.
- Mar, 2016 Network Coding, Information Theory Seminar, University of Bristol, UK.
- Nov, 2015 Modularity of Random Graphs, Combinatorics Seminar, University of Bristol, UK.
- Nov, 2014 Modularity on Random Graphs, Combinatorics Seminar, University of Warwick, UK.

#### Conference Talks and Presentations

- Mar, 2023 Upp-Upp Meeting, Dept. Statistics, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Jan, 2023 Quasirandom-forcing tournaments, Probabilistic Midwinter meeting, Umeå Univ. Sweden.
- Aug, 2022 Incest and infanticide: a branching process with deletions and mergers that matches the threshold for hypercube percolation, Random Structures and Algorithms, Gniezno, Poland.
- Jun, 2020 Permutations in binary trees and split trees, Haifa Graph workshop, online.
- Jul, 2019 Modularity and edge sampling, Random Structures and Algorithms, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Feb, 2019 Random tree recursions: which fixed points correspond to tangible sets of trees?, Winter Combinatorics meeting, Open University, UK.
- Jan, 2019 Random tree recursions: which fixed points correspond to tangible sets of trees?, Probabilistic Midwinter meeting, Umeå University, Sweden.
- Sep, 2018 Permutations in binary trees and split trees, Polish Combinatorics Conference, Bedlewo,
- Jun, 2018 Permutations in binary trees and split trees, Analysis of Algorithms, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Jun, 2018 Permutations in binary trees and split trees, Stochastic Processes, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Aug, 2017 Modularity of Random Graphs, Random Structures and Algorithms, Gniezno, Poland.
- Jul, 2017 Inversions in random labellings of trees, British Combinatorial Conference, Glasgow.
- Jun, 2017 Inversions in random labellings of trees, Permutation Patterns, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Jun, 2017 Guessing numbers of odd cycles, Graphs, Hypergraphs and Set Systems, Umea, Sweden.
- Jan, 2017 Modularity of Random Graphs, Probabilistic Midwinter meeting, Umea, Sweden
- Sep, 2016 Guessing numbers of odd cycles, Polish Combinatorics Conference, Bedlewo, Poland.
- Jun, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, Probabilistic Combinatorics Downunder, Australia.

- Jun, 2016 Modularity of Random Graphs, SIAM Conference on Discrete Math, Atlanta, USA.
- Jul, 2015 Modularity of Networks, British Combinatorial Conference, University of Warwick, UK.
- Apr, 2015 Modularity of Networks, Scottish Combinatorics Meeting, Glasgow, UK.
- Aug, 2013 Modularity in random regular graphs, Random Structures and Algorithms, Poznan, Poland.
- July, 2013 Modularity, edge expansion and lattices, poster Erdős Centennial, Budapest, Hungary.
- Aug, 2012 Degree sequences in random bipartite graphs, British Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference, University of Warwick, UK.

## SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- Feb, 2024 Computational Complexity of Statistical Inference program at Banff (BIRS), Canada.
- Apr., 2023 McGill Probability and Combinatorics Workshop, Bellairs Institute, Barbados.
- Mar, 2022 McGill Probability and Combinatorics Workshop, Bellairs Institute, Barbados.
- Apr, 2021 Dagstuhl Seminar: Temporal Graphs: Structure, Algorithms, Applications, online.
- Apr, 2019 McGill Probability and Combinatorics Workshop, Bellairs Institute, Barbados.
- Mar, 2018 McGill Probability and Combinatorics Workshop, Bellairs Institute, Barbados.
- Oct, 2017 Dynamics on Random Graphs and Random Maps, CIRM Marseille, France.
- May, 2017 Techniques in Random Discrete Structures, University of Athens, Greece.
- Dec, 2016 Algorithms, Logic and Structure, University of Warwick, UK.
- Aug, 2016 Prague Discrete Summer School on Discrete Math., Czech Academy of Sciences.
- Jul, 2016 Sao Paulo School of Algorithms Combinatorics and Optimization, Brazil.
- Jul, 2015 Regularity and Analytic Methods in Combinatorics, University of Warwick, UK.
- Jul, 2014 Extremal Cominatorics, ICMS Edinburgh, UK.
- Feb, 2014 French-British Workshop on Random Graphs, Paris, France
- Jan, 2014 Stochastic Activity Month: Probability and Graphs, TU Eindhoven, Netherlands.
- Sep, 2013 Phase Transition in Random Discrete Structures, TU Graz, Austria
- Aug, 2013 Random Graphs, Geometry and Asymptotic Structure, Birmingham, UK
- Jul, 2013 Cornell Probability School, Cornell University, USA
- Jun, 2013 School of Graph Theory SGT2013, Oléron, France.
- Nov, 2012 STAR Workshop on Random Graphs, University of Utrecht, Netherlands
- Sep. 2012 French-British Workshop on Analytic Combinatorics, Oxford, UK
- Sep, 2012 Polish Combinatorics Conference, Bedlewo, Poland
- Aug, 2012 4th Emlektabla Workshop on Positional Games, Budapest, Hungary
- Mar, 2012 Block Course: Extremal Combinatorics Random Discrete Structures, Berlin, Germany

## TEACHING AND ADMISSIONS

#### **Uppsala University**

- 2023 Lecturing, PhD course on Complexity and Statistical Inference.
- 2022 Lecturing, Probability II.
- 2022 Lecturing, Modelling Complex Systems.
- 2020 Lecturing, Modelling Complex Systems.

#### **ALEA Young workshop**

2019 Lecturing, *Phase transitions in Random Graphs* short course for PhD students and early career researchers at ALEA Young 2019 workshop in Caen, France.

#### **Bristol University**

2016 Lecturing, Topics in discrete mathematics: Boolean Functions (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year).

#### Oxford University - Statistics Department

2011-4 Tutoring Assistant, Applied Probability (3<sup>rd</sup> year).

- 2012-4 Tutoring Assistant, Statistical Lifetime Models (3rd year).
  - 2012 Tutoring Assistant, Linear Programming (2<sup>nd</sup> year).

#### Oxford University - Mathematical Institute

- 2014 Tutor, Probabilistic Combinatorics (3<sup>rd</sup> year).
- 2013 Tutoring Assistant, Probabilistic Combinatorics (3rd year).
- 2012 Tutor, Graph Theory (3<sup>rd</sup> year). Tutoring Assistant, Combinatorics (4<sup>th</sup> year).
- 2011-2 Tutoring Assistant, Graph Theory (3rd year).

#### Oxford University First Year Collegiate Classes

- 2014-5 St Hughes College, Optimisation.
  - 2015 Hertford College, Graph Theory.
  - 2014 St Edmunds Hall, Probability Revision.
  - 2012 Somerville College, Linear Algebra.

#### Oxford University Undergraduate Admissions

2014-5 Assistant interviewer, St Hughes College.

#### Australian National University - Mathematics Department

- 2008, 2010 Tutor, Mathematics and Applications Honours (1st year)
  - 2008 Tutor, Mathematics and Applications 2 Honours (1st year)
  - 2008 Tutor, Games, Graphs and Machines (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

## GRANTS

- 2021 Co-PI: WASP NEST on Learning in Networks ( $\sim$ 2 mil EUR shared between four researchers).
- 2020 Al4Research Sabbatical awarded from Uppsala University (~40000 EUR).
- 2019 Travel grant from the Lisa and Carl-Gustav Esseens foundation Lisa och Carl-Gustav Esseens stiftelse (11000 SEK/1100 EUR).
- Part of working group led by Prof. David Sumpter to write the successful application for a new position at Uppsala University as part of the Wallenberg foundation Artificial Intelligence programme. Contribution: 1 page description of possible research problem 'fundamental limits of learning'.
- 2018 Travel grant from the Lisa and Carl-Gustav Esseens foundation Lisa och Carl-Gustav Esseens stiftelse (10000 SEK/1000 EUR).
- 2018 Travel grant (11000 SEK/1100 EUR) from Stiftelsen G S Magnusons fund awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.
- 2017 Heilbronn Collaboration Grant (2000 GBP).

## Research visits ( $\geq 2$ weeks)

- Jan-Mar, 2018 Uppsala University, Sweden visiting Cecilia Holmgren.
  - Apr, 2017 Courant Institute, New York visiting Joel Spencer.
- Oct-Nov, 2014 University of Warwick, Coventry visiting Dan Král'.

# OUTREACH/COMMUNITY MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

- 2020 Talk: Community Structure in Networks- with an interlude on random graphs, talk in Matrix (Maths Society) lunch series for undergraduate students, Bristol University, UK
- 2018 Talk: Community Structure in Networks, talk in the Matematikseminariet series for undergraduate students, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 2018 Talk: Community Structure in Networks, Uppsala University Maths Club, Sweden

2009-13, 2015 Tutor, National Mathematics Summer School (NeMeSiS), Australia

2010 Talk: Soccer, Bucky Balls & Euler Number, Australian National University Math Day

## Referees

DPhil. Prof. Colin McDiarmid, Dept. of Statistics, Oxford University.

Supervisor cmcd@stats.ox.ac.uk

Networks Prof. Mason Porter, Dept. of Mathematics, UCLA.

Expertise mason@math.ucla.edu