# 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

- 21. Modularity of very dense graphs, with C. McDiarmid, preprint, arXiv:2311.06875
- 20. **Universal lower bound for community structure of sparse graphs**, with V. Agdur and N. Kamčev, *preprint*, <u>arXiv:2307.07271</u>
- 19. **Convergence laws for random Mallows permutations**, with T. Muller and T. Verstraaten, *preprint*, <u>arXiv:2302.10148</u>
- 18. **Modularity and edge sampling**, with C. McDiarmid, *preprint*, arXiv:2112.13190.
- 2023+ 17. 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+ A branching process with deletions and mergers that matches the threshold for 16. hypercube percolation, with L. Eslava and S. Penington, Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré, to appear arXiv:2104.04407. Is it easier to count communities than find them?, 2023 15. with C. Rush, A. Wein and D. Yang, Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS 2023) link arXiv:2212.10872. Finding large expanders in graphs: from topological minors to induced subgraphs, 2023 with B. Louf, Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, 30 1 (2023) arXiv:2012.15722. No additional tournaments are quasirandom-forcing. 2023 with R. Hancock, A. Kabela, D. Kral, T. Martins, R. Parente and J. Volec, European Journal of Combinatorics, 108 (2023) arXiv:1912.04243. 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 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. Modularity of Erdős-Rényi random graphs, 2020 10. with C. McDiarmid, Random Structures & Algorithms, 57 1 (2020) link arXiv:1808.02243. 2020 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. The parameterised complexity of computing the maximum modularity of a graph, 2020 with K. Meeks, Algorithmica 82 8 (2020) link arXiv:1807.06965. 2020 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 *k*-cuts on paths and some trees, with X. Cai, L. Devroye and C. Holmgren, Electronic Journal of Probability 24 (2019) link arXiv:1804.03069. Inversions in split trees and conditional Galton-Watson trees, 2019 with X. Cai, C. Holmgren, S. Janson and T. Johansson, Combinatorics, Probability and Computing 28 3 (2019) link arXiv:1709.00216. Modularity of regular and treelike graphs, 2018 with C. McDiarmid, Journal of Complex Networks 6 4 (2018) link arXiv:1606.09101 2017 Guessing numbers of odd cycles, with R. Atkins and P. Rombach Electronic Journal of Combinatorics 24 1 (2017) link arXiv:1602.03586 Degree sequences of random digraphs and bipartite graphs, 2016 with B. D. McKay Journal of Combinatorics 7 1 (2016) link arXiv:1302.2446 2015 **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

#### INVITED CONFERENCE TALKS

- May, 2024 Colloquia in Combinatorics, QMUL & LSE, United Kingdom.
- Nov, 2023 Barcelona Math Days, Catalan Mathematics Society.
- 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, Umea 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 & WASP courses**

- 2023 Lecturing, PhD course on Complexity and Statistical Inference.
- 2023 Tutorials, Probability and Statistics I.
- 2023 Lectures & Tutorials, Structure in Noisy Networks, WASP Community Building school.
- 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 (3rd 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (2nd year)

## GRANTS

- 2021 Co-PI: WASP NEST on Learning in Networks ( $\sim$ 2 mil EUR shared by 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).
- 2018 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).
- 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 (> 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

- 2024 Lecturer, National Mathematics Summer School (NeMeSiS), Australia
- 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