

Dr. Nikolaus Vertovec

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

St Hugh's College, University of Oxford

☎ +44 7547868711 | ✉ nikolaus.vertovec@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk | 🏠 vertovec.info | 📷 nikover | 🌐 nikolaus-vertovec

Born: June 9th, 1997 | **Nationality:** British, German, American | **Marital Status:** Civil Partnership

Education

University of Oxford

Oxford, United Kingdom

DPHIL ENGINEERING SCIENCE

2020 - 2024

- Supervisors: Prof. Kostas Margellos & Prof. Sina Ober-Blobbaum
- Thesis: Optimal Control for Safety-Critical Systems

ETH Zurich

Zurich, Switzerland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE ETH IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2016 - 2019

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg Gesamtschule

Göttingen, Germany

ABITUR 1.0 (HIGHEST GRADE IN COHORT)

2007 - 2016

Professional Experience

2024 - present	Postdoctoral Researcher	Dept. of Computer Science, University of Oxford
2020 - 2024	Doctoral Researcher	Dept. of Engineering Science, University of Oxford
2020 - 2021	Environmental Justice Campaign Organizer	NooWorld, Los Angeles
2019 - 2020	Intern (Surface Simulator, Mars Perseverance Rover)	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena
2018 - 2019	Control Engineer	Swiss Academic Spaceflight Initiative, Zurich
2016 - 2016	Intern (computer vision/indoor drone navigation)	Debuggable Limited, Berlin
2015 - 2016	Research Assistant - Software Engineering	Institute for Computer Science, University of Göttingen

Grants and Fellowships

- 2023-2026 **Career Development Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence (£200,000)**, St Hugh's College, University of Oxford — 3-year research fellowship supporting independent research (2023-2026)
- 2024 **Fellows' Discretionary Research Fund**, St Hugh's College, University of Oxford — Competitive internal funding supporting research
- 2021-2022 **Graduate Study Support Fund**, Keble College, University of Oxford — Competitive internal funding for graduate student research

Publications

- F. B. Mathiesen*, N. Vertovec*, F. Fabiano, L. Laurenti, A. Abate (2025). Certified Neural Approximations of Nonlinear Dynamics, 39th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2025) (under review)
- P. Solanki*, N. Vertovec*, Y. Schnitzer, J. Van Beers, C. de Visser, A. Abate (2025). Certified Approximate Reachability (CARE): Formal Error Bounds on Deep Learning of Reachable Sets. 2025 IEEE 64th Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2025 (accepted)
- J. Cloete, N. Vertovec, A. Abate (2025). SPoRt - Safe Policy Ratio: Certified Training and Deployment of Task Policies in Model-Free RL. International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) 2025 (accepted)

N. Vertovec, K. Margellos, M. Prandini (2024). Finite sample learning of moving targets. In Automatica (second round of review)

T. Heil, F. Meissner, N. Vertovec (2025). Techno-material entanglements and the social organisation of difference. In Ethnic and Racial Studies, vol. 48, no 9. pp. 1859–1875.

N. Vertovec (2024). Optimal control for safety-critical systems. PhD Thesis

N. Vertovec, S. Ober-Blöbaum, K. Margellos (2024). Safety-Aware Hybrid Control of Airborne Wind Energy Systems. In Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics, vol. 47, no. 2, pp. 326–338.

N. Vertovec, K. Margellos (2023). State Aggregation for Distributed Value Iteration in Dynamic Programming. In IEEE Control Systems Letters, vol. 7, pp. 2269–2274.

N. Vertovec, K. Margellos (2022). Multi-objective low-thrust spacecraft trajectory design using reachability analysis. In European Journal of Control, vol. 69, p. 100758.

N. Vertovec, Sina Ober-Blöbaum, K. Margellos (2022). Verification of safety critical control policies using kernel methods. In 2022 European Control Conference (ECC), London, United Kingdom, pp. 1870-1875.

N. Vertovec, S. Ober-Blöbaum, K. Margellos (2021). Multi-objective minimum time optimal control for low-thrust trajectory design. In 2021 European Control Conference (ECC), Delft, Netherlands, pp. 1975-1980.

Teaching Experience

Dept. of Computer Science, University of Oxford		Dept. of Mathematics, ETH Zurich	
2024-present	Continuous Maths	2019	Numerical Methods
2024	Modern Control Systems	Dept. of Electrical Engineering, ETH Zurich	
Dept. of Engineering Science, University of Oxford		2018	Digital Circuits Lab
2024-present	Engineering in Society		
2022-present	Introduction to Control Theory		
2022-2024	Introduction to Computing		
2022-2023	Control Lab		
2022-2023	Linear and Optimal Control		

Peer Review

CONFERENCES REVIEWS:	JOURNAL REVIEWER
International Symposium on AI Verification (SAIV)	Automatica
Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)	IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology (TCST)
American Control Conference (ACC)	IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics
Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC)	IEEE Control Systems Letters (L-CSS)
Airborne Wind Energy Conference (AWEC)	European Journal of Operational Research
European Control Conference (ECC)	Wind Energy Science

COMMITTEE ROLES AND SESSION ORGANIZER:

Conference on Hybrid Systems: Computation and Control (HSCC), poster committee

Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), Invited Session organizer on "Safe planning and control with uncertainty quantification"