

Dr. Sam Grafton-Waters

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Summary

My interests have evolved over time and I am keen to apply my skills of data analysis, coding, and research into real world problems. I recently completed my PhD at Mullard Space Science Laboratory where I developed these essential qualities and presented my work in multiple formats from published works, conferences and seminars, to outreach teaching programs.



PhD

Mullard Space Science Laboratory, UCL

September 2017 - February 2022

Throughout my PhD I collaborated with many academics on an international scale, communicating and discussing research ideas and projects. I have led projects and met my deadlines through careful planning and organisation. As challenges occurred, I drew on my resilience and applied a considered approach to find the best solution.

- **Thesis Title:** *Exploring Photoionised Outflowing Winds in Active Galactic Nuclei*
- **Supervisors:** Prof. Graziella Branduardi-Raymont and Prof. Mathew Page

The list of my publications can be found at: [ADS](#)

Undergraduate Degree

University of Leicester

October 2013 - July 2017

MPhys Physics with Astrophysics

First Class with Hons

A-levels

John Masefield High School and Sixth Form College

September 2011 - June 2013

Maths: A; Chemistry: B; Physics: C

Outreach

Nov 2020 - present

ORBYTS

- Created and developed projects in which sixth form students analyse real XMM-Newton data of an individual active galactic nucleus
- Written Python codes for the students to model the X-ray spectra
- Presented and explained complex black hole physics to the students
- Published our findings in Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society; the students were co-authors
- The code can be found on my Github page: 🌐 github.com/samgriftonwaters/ORBYTS

Partner School

Date

Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology (NUAST)
NUAST and Nottingham High School

Nov 2020 - May 2021
Feb 2022 - present

Workshops and Training Sessions

- Attended a public engagement workshop in January 2020
- Attended training sessions in how to plan, develop and teach outreach projects to students in Feb and April 2021

Seminar Organiser

Sept 2019 - Dec 2020

- Organised and was responsible for the weekly seminars held for external speakers.
- I identified that there was a gender discrepancy with previous speakers. Under my leadership, the ratio for male to female speakers decreased from 5:2 (averaged from 2016 - 2019) to 1:1 (averaged

for 2020 - 2021).

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, I adapted these seminars, by using Zoom, which proved beneficial because it enabled me to invite speakers who would otherwise have been unable to participate, especially international scientists.

Key Skills

- Programming:** Python, R
- Spectral Codes:** SPEX, XSPEC
- Website Design:** HTML, CSS **My Website:** samgriftonwaters.github.io
- Document processors:** LATEX, Microsoft Office
- Communication Platforms:** Zoom, Microsoft Teams

Talks and Presentations

Transient Obscuration Event in NGC 3227 during 2019 <i>Seminar</i>	24th February 2022 <i>MSSL, UK</i>
Origin of the X-ray Narrow Line Region <i>Accretion Disk Winds Conference</i>	9th September 2021 <i>Durham, UK (Remote)</i>
Outflowing winds of Active Galactic Nuclei <i>Seminar</i>	10th December 2020 <i>Leicester, UK (Remote)</i>
Photoionisation Modelling of the Emission Line Regions in NGC 7469 <i>New Results in X-ray Astronomy 2019 Conference</i>	4th September 2019 <i>MSSL, UK</i>

Proposals

I submitted a research proposal for 20th XMM-Newton Announcement of Opportunity study the AGN NGC 5643 for 2021/22 observations. I led and wrote the proposal, implementing the science goals and data analysis, as well as working with some collaborators to make sure the proposal was valid. The proposal was accepted.

Certificates and Memberships

- Child Protection in Education - Level 2** **Awarded:** 8 March 2021
- Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society** **Elected:** February 9th, 2018

Blog Articles

I have written two blog articles for the MSSL astronomy website:

- Journey to the Centre of a Galaxy: Active Galactic Nuclei** - Described what supermassive black holes are and explained the impact my research has on understanding such complex objects. [Link](#)
- XMM-Newton: 20 Years and Counting** - Celebrating the 20th anniversary of XMM-Newton. [Link](#)

Further Interests

- Cricket** - I have been a member with Cheltenham and Cranleigh cricket clubs. I have captained a number of different teams, which has enhanced my team work, tactical planning and, management under pressure skills.
- Keen guitarist** - allows me to be patient when learning something new.

References

Graziella Branduardi-Raymont Mathew Page Mark Cropper	Primary Supervisor Secondary Supervisor Head of Astro Group	g.branduardi-raymont@ucl.ac.uk m.page@ucl.ac.uk m.cropper@ucl.ac.uk
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