



DTC Career and Alumni Day Friday 29th January 2016

University of Edinburgh, Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street, Edinburgh

09:00	Registration & Refreshments - <i>Informatics Forum, Ground Floor, Atrium</i>
09:20	Welcome for Alumni & Current Students: Dr Mark Van Rossum, DTC Director <i>All talks in Informatics Forum, Ground Floor, Room G.07</i>
09:30	Virtual Poster Presentation
10:30	Academic Talk: Prof Bob Fisher; Chair in Computer Vision; Institute of Perception, Action and Behaviour, University of Edinburgh, UK <i>"Where do PhD students go after their PhD? A changing story"</i>
11:00	Refreshment Break - <i>Informatics Forum, Ground Floor, Atrium</i>
11:30	Alumni Talks: David Reichert; Google DeepMind, UK <i>"Adventures in deep learning land"</i> Adrianna Teriakidis; Technical Services, Epic – Verona, WI <i>"My Epic Adventure"</i>
12:30	Networking Lunch for Attendees - <i>Informatics Forum, Ground Floor, Atrium</i>
13:30	Break Out Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>6 groups available; 45 mins each</i>
14:15	Alumni Talks Graham McNeill; Researcher; Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford <i>"L2: A Compile-to-JavaScript Language for Data Analysis and Visualization"</i> James Withers; Professional Services Lead Engineer; Swiftkey <i>"Engineering success, post-PhD"</i>
15:15	Refreshment Break - <i>Informatics Forum, Ground Floor, Atrium</i>
15:45	Break Out Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>6 groups available; 45 mins each</i>
16:30	Feedback and Questions
17:00	Alumni Day Reunion Drinks Reception <i>– All Alumni, Current Students and DTC Supervisors welcome to attend Informatics Forum, 2nd Floor, Mini Forum 1</i>
19:00	Close of Day



Virtual Poster Presentation

We will have poster boards set up around the ground floor of the Forum, identified with a letter of the alphabet on it. You will be assigned a team with approximately 5 people in it, and each of you will have a minute each to talk about your virtual poster which in your imagination should show the work that you are currently doing. You will then be asked to join another team at another poster board, continuing on for eight sessions so that you get to know everyone, and something of the work they're doing.

Alumni and Academics Talks:

The day will begin with a talk from one of our own academics, Prof Bob Fisher.

Then we'll be hearing from some of our Alumni who will be sharing their thoughts regarding whether they felt that their experiences within the DTC were helpful for their chosen career, what skills they currently use and what they miss. They will also talk about the work they are currently doing.

Abstracts and Personal Descriptions for each of our speakers (where provided) can be found on the next page of the Schedule.

Break Out Sessions:

(Alison Edie will let you know which group you're in when you Register on the day)

- Independent Fellows and Faculty Jobs;
Informatics Forum, G.07
- Post-Doc Careers in Computational Research;
Informatics Forum, G.07A
- Post-Doc Careers in Neuroscience/Biology;
Informatics Forum, Café
- Starting Your Own Business;
Informatics Forum, G.07
- Working in a Data Science Company;
Informatics Forum, G.07A
- Working in IT;
Informatics Forum, Café



Prof Bob Fisher

Chair in Computer Vision

Institute of Perception, Action and Behaviour

University of Edinburgh

Abstract: In the past, PhD students traditionally became academics to a large extent, whereas now the percentage doing this is much lower, with most students considering company research or development jobs. This short talk will discuss some trends in both Science and Engineering in general and also results from a recent survey in Informatics.

Biography: Prof. Robert Fisher has been an academic in the School of Informatics (originally in the former Department of Artificial Intelligence) at University of Edinburgh since 1984 and a full Professor since 2003. He received his PhD from University of Edinburgh (1987), investigating computer vision in the former Department of Artificial Intelligence. His previous degrees are a BS with honours (Mathematics) from California Institute of Technology (1974) and a MS (Computer Science) from Stanford University (1978). He worked as a software engineer for 5 years before returning to study for his PhD.

David Reichert

Google DeepMind

Abstract: I will talk a bit about my DTC experiences and how they led to me ultimately ending up at DeepMind. To give context, I'll share my perspective on how deep learning developed over the years. Then I'll briefly give an overview of our work at DeepMind.

Biography: David did his PhD at the DTC 2007-2012 with Amos Storkey and Peggy Seriès. He was always interested in the potential connections between deep learning neural networks and models of processing and learning in the brain. He then went on to do a postdoc with Thomas Serre at Brown University, in a computer/biological vision lab. Since 2014, he has been working at Google DeepMind on various issues related to deep learning, reinforcement learning, and AI tasks design.

Adrianna Terikiadis

Technical Services

Epic

Verona, WI

Abstract: I will talk about my experience making the transition from DTC to postdoc to working in Healthcare IT, and share a little about what kinds of things I do at my current job. I will also talk about why it is a very interesting time right now to be involved in Healthcare in the USA.

Biography: I was a member of the DTC from 2005-2010. My thesis was on the development of motor neurons with Richard Ribchester and David Willshaw. I then completed a 2-year postdoc in Neuroeconomics at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, before joining Epic in 2013.



James Withers

Professional Services Lead Engineer

SwiftKey

Abstract: Following my PhD I chose to dive into an engineering career, starting off at a software giant and ending up at a growing NLP startup. I'll cover a few highlights and key choices I made along the way. I'll also give an overview of SwiftKey and our approach to modelling user intent.

Biography: I currently work as the Professional Services technical lead engineer at SwiftKey, where my team integrates our NLP and machine learning technologies in client systems. I've worked with everyone from smartphone OEMs and TV manufacturers to Intel and Stephen Hawking. I'm also involved in lots of prototyping and I'm the lead engineer on SwiftKey Symbols, an assistive communications tool for non-verbal autistic children. Prior to SwiftKey, I worked at IBM as a developer and tester on decision management products.