

## Kate Oliver

Trained as a physicist, having graduated University College London with a 2.1 Physics MSci in 2008, Kate has subsequently been working in diverse areas of science communication. Most recently she has been running communications and events activity for the Faculty of Engineering at UCL. She has six years experience writing about science and engineering, from medical imaging to space travel, for professional STEM organisations and science magazines such as the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and Physics World. Other roles she has performed include assistant press officer at the European Synchrotron Research Facility in Grenoble, and researcher for the BBC. Her Master's work resulted in an Applied Physics Letters paper on the efficiency of processing organic LEDs in different atmospheric environments.

### Experience:

- 06/2011 – 08/2014 Communications, Marketing and Events Manager, UCL Engineering. Helping to communicate, translate and find opportunities for the work of around 700 researchers, from crime scientists to electronic engineers, to reach diverse audiences; through websites, social media press releases, live events, collaborations, commissioned videos and more.
- 11/2010 – 03/2011 Researcher, BBC Factual, Science department. Responsible for finding compelling stories, locations and contributors, checking scientific literature for veracity and accuracy, and providing scientific background and context.
- 09/2009 - 09/2010 Writer, [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk) website. For the UK Council for Mathematical Sciences, created materials to show the benefits of studying maths to an audience ranging from 11 to adult.
- 01/2009 – 08/2012 Occasional columnist, Physics World 'Lateral Thoughts'
- 01-07/2009 Assistant press officer, European Synchrotron Radiation Facility. Duties include creating and uploading news about events, discoveries, papers and equipment for the website, supporting and occasionally writing press releases, producing articles for the quarterly ESRF news magazine, sourcing photos and proof-reading.
- 06-09/2008 Employed by Push.co.uk, owned and run the The Independent Newspaper, to compile succinct, witty profiles on the character and facilities of various UK universities.

- 02/2008 – Now Book reviewer and features writer, The Sky At Night Magazine. Features have included reviews of upcoming missions, cosmological observations, and a five-page feature on building a space elevator.
- 02/2008 – Now Writing a personal blog –[www.schrodingerskitten.co.uk](http://www.schrodingerskitten.co.uk) . Covering unlikely combinations of scientific subjects, such as polycrystalline structure and icecream, SK is designed to be an interesting read for a layman or a scientist.
- 2008 – 2009 Writer, Science section, London Student.
- 10-11/2007 Contributing author, 'Defining moments in Science', published by Cassell Illustrated in October 2008. Pieces outlined the science behind, and significance of, such things as standard candles and solar neutrinos for a lay audience.

## **Education:**

- 2014-Present **University of Bristol**  
PhD candidate, Bristol Centre for Functional Nanomaterials, an EPSRC CDT
- 2004-2008 **University College London**  
2.1 MSci in Physics, culminating in a research project with Prof. Cacialli into organic semiconductor devices. Data from this project was published as "Fenwick, O; Oliver, K; Cacialli, F; (2012) "Cross-linking of a poly(3,4-ethylene dioxythiophene):(polystyrene sulfonic acid) hole injection layer with a bis-azide salt and the effect of atmospheric processing conditions on device properties." App. Phys. Lett, 100, 053309 (2012)
- 2002-2004 **Worcester 6<sup>th</sup> Form College**  
3 As at A level, in Maths, Physics and Jewellery.  
4 As at AS level, in Critical Thinking, Maths, Physics and Jewellery, 1 B at AS level, in French  
Key Skills Level 3 (equivalent to GCSE) in IT
- 1997-2002 7 A\*s at GCSE, in English Literature and Language, Double Science, Textiles, Art, and RE; 3 As in Maths, History, and French
- Boasting points:** Once made a cake in the shape of the ARPAnet for Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn. Had a story on the front page of Reddit. Has stroked a tiger. Functional in French.