

Stephanie Buttigieg

PHD STUDENT · INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Education

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

PHD IN ASTRONOMY

October 2023 - present

- Supervisors: Prof. Debora Sijacki and Dr Christopher J. Moore
- Research Area: Supermassive black hole mergers
- Courses in data-intensive science, statistics and high-performance computing.

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

MAST IN ASTROPHYSICS

October 2022 - June 2023

- Select courses: Quantum Field Theory, Cosmology, Field Theory in Cosmology and Formation of Structure in the Universe.
- Final Project: 'Is space haunted? Exorcising ghosts from the gravitational particle spectrum' supervised by Dr William Barker.
- Graduated with distinction.

University of Malta

Msida, Malta

BSC IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

October 2018 - September 2022

- Specialised in Applied Mathematics and Astrophysics.
- Exchange year at the University of Warwick, UK.
- Final Year Project: 'Dynamical Systems in Beyond Standard Theory Cosmology' supervised by Prof. Jackson Levi Said.
- Graduated with first class honours.

Publications

IN REVIEW

Buttigieg S., Sijacki D., Moore C. J., Bourne M. A., 2025. Premature supermassive black hole mergers in cosmological simulations of structure formation. Submitted to the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. e-Print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.17549>.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2023 - 27	Cambridge Centre for Doctoral Training in Data-Intensive Science PhD Studentship , UK Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)	~ £20,000 p.a.
2022 - 23	Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme , Government of Malta	£10,000
2023	Field's Scholarship , Christ's College Cambridge	£150
2025	Bottomley Fund for Travel , Christ's College, Cambridge	£200
2023	Evolve Prize for Science , University of Malta	
2019, 20, 22	Dean's List , Faculty of Science, University of Malta	

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

March 2025. Invited talk: CamGW Meeting, Kavli Institute for Cosmology, University of Cambridge

May 2025. Invited talk: NANOGrav Astrophysics Working Group (teleconference)

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

February 2025. Talk at Wednesday Seminar Series. Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge.

July 2025. Talk at GR – Amaldi Conference. Glasgow, UK.

Professional Experience

2022 **Summer Research Intern**, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Teaching Experience

2018 - 2024 **Mathematics and Physics**, Private Tutor

2019 **PwC Malta**, STEM Trainer

Outreach & Professional Development

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & WOMEN IN SCIENCE ADVOCACY

Ongoing. Producing *Astronomija bil-Malti*, an online science communication series in Maltese.

February 2025. Invited panellist. *Curiosity Knows No Boundaries: Celebrating Women and Girls in Science*, organised by the Malta Chamber of Scientists at the University of Malta.

March 2025. Invited panellist. *Her Voice in Science* at the EU parliament.

October 2024. Talk at Institute of Astronomy public open evenings titled *Meet the cosmic giants: understanding supermassive black holes*.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Women's Network, Institute of Astronomy

CO-CHAIR

January 2025 - present

- Events organised for International Women's Day: public/school outreach, departmental awareness events, social media campaign.

Cambridge University for Reproductive Rights

SPEAKERS OFFICER

October 2024 - present

Faculty Board for Physics and Chemistry, University of Cambridge

PHD ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE

October 2024 - present

Christ's College MCR

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER, WOMEN'S & NON-BINARY OFFICER, VICE PRESIDENT

October 2022 - March 2024

Science Students' Society, University of Malta

EDUCATION OFFICER

July 2019 - June 2020

Board of Studies, Department of Physics, University of Malta

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

October 2021 - June 2022