

Stephanie Buttigieg

PHD STUDENT · INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Education

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

October 2023 - present

PHD IN ASTRONOMY

- 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

October 2022 - June 2023

MAST IN ASTROPHYSICS

- 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

October 2018 - September 2022

BSC IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

- 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

PUBLISHED

Buttigieg, S., Sijacki, D., Moore, C. J., Bourne, M. A., 2025. Premature supermassive black hole mergers in cosmological simulations of structure formation. Published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society 2019 (2025), 2038 <https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/staf1336>. e-Print: arXiv: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. CamGW Meeting, Kavli Institute for Cosmology, University of Cambridge

May 2025. NANOGrav Astrophysics Working Group (teleconference)

November 2025. Galaxy and SMBH formation, growth, and co-evolution workshop, Nepal.

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

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

May 2025. Talk at *Unveiling massive black hole evolution with gravitational waves and light* workshop. Paris, France.

July 2025. Talk at *GR – Amaldi* conference. Glasgow, UK.

September 2025. Talk at *Young astronomers on galactic nuclei* meeting. Southampton, UK.

September 2025. Talk at *the black holes across cosmic time* conference. Cambridge, UK.

Professional Experience

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

Teaching Experience

2025 **Mathematics for Natural Science Tripos Part 1a**, Supervisor, Christ's College, University of Cambridge

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/MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

October 2024 - present

Faculty Board for Physics and Chemistry, University of Cambridge

PHD ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE

October 2024 - October 2025

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