

11<sup>th</sup> NExT Workshop  
SEPnet Career Panel Sessions

**Please read the following biographical details before the SEPnet Career Panel sessions so you can prepare some questions for our panellists.**

**Biographical Details**

**Wednesday 30 June 13.45 – 14.30**

**Riley Ilieva**

Riley completed a PhD in experimental nuclear physics in 2017 and has a keen interest in software architectures for complex experimental systems. After graduating, she worked as an Applications Engineer at National Instruments before moving to the Time and Frequency Group at NPL working on optical clocks comparison over fibre. Since November 2020 she has been working as a software engineer at Bristol Nano Dynamics, designing and testing software for a High-Speed Atomic Force Microscope.

**Tamsin Nooney**

I completed an MSci in Astronomy and Physics in 2011 at UCL. After a fun year working Front of House at a theatre, I applied to do a PhD in particle physics at QMUL, which I completed in 2016. I stayed on at QMUL for the next 2 years as a post doc, before changing direction and starting on the BBC R&D graduate scheme. I am now an R&D engineer at the BBC, which broadly involves designing and developing new technology that could improve public service broadcasting.

**Navin Seeburn**

Navin is CTO for RedOptima, a company which delivers objective, hitherto unachievable contextual fidelity in real-time collision risk calculation through remotely gathered data, physical modelling and machine learning. Navin started from a PhD degree in particle physics focused on spatial analytics and moved directly into this role in industry in summer 2018.

**Hira Virdee**

Hira studied physics and then completed his PhD in astrodynamics. He went into business and management consulting before going back to the space industry as the founder of Lumi Space, a photonics company, dealing with space situational awareness.

**Friday 2 July 13.45 – 14.30**

**Katie Ley**

I started my PhD in Thermoluminescent Dosimetry at the University of Surrey in 2016 after graduating with a MPhys in Nuclear Astrophysics, also from Surrey. During my PhD I researched the thermoluminescent properties of mass produced silica material in the form of glass jewellery beads. During my time studying for my PhD I presented at 4 international conferences, published 4 first author articles, co-authored an article and competed in the 2019 STEM for Britain competition in which I won Gold for the Physics category.

In January 2020 I started working for Sopra Steria, a large consultancy firm who specialise in Digital Transformation. My role has evolved since I started, partially due to the effect COVID has had on the work environment. I am currently enrolled in a project

management academy working towards the equivalent of a foundation level degree in project management.

**William Marlow**

I have a theoretical physics background having spent 4 years studying mathematics at Cambridge University to master's level and then another 4 years as a PhD student in string theory and the AdS/CFT correspondence at the University of Southampton. The focus of my research was on applications of the AdS/CFT correspondence to problems in condensed matter physics and in measuring entanglement.

Since completing my PhD I have worked as a software engineer at IBM at the Hursley labs. I diagnose and fix complex issues with a software product that underpins most of the world's banks, insurance companies and airlines. My other responsibilities include product security, diagnostic improvements and internal process improvements.

**Ash Stott**

I joined eOsphere as a permanent employee in 2020 after concluding a PhD from the University of Surrey. My PhD involved the electrochemical synthesis of materials for supercapacitor devices. In 2015 I worked at eOsphere as a SEPnet student, where I investigated the feasibility of a software-defined satellite ground receiver. After a successful feasibility study this project was continued as my MPhys research placement.

I currently work with satellite earth observation data to develop solutions for sustainable development and management in various countries such as Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.