

## **Wolfson Mentor Connect: Mentor Supplementary Information**

### **ACADEMIA**

#### **Professor Julie Curtis**

I retired from my university post in 2021 after 30 years at Oxford. I loved my undergraduate teaching and the supervising of many postgraduate students in Russian literature and language from colleges across the university.

My publications have been focused on satirical writers under Stalin (Bulgakov, Zamiatin), and for several years I also ran a research project on protest theatre in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in the Putin era, editing a book on the subject in 2020.

I am re-joining Wolfson's Governing Body in October 2024 in order to take up the role of Vicegerent. My office was always at Wolfson, and my children went to the nursery here, so this feels like my second home.

#### **Professor Peter Stewart**

Born in Belfast in 1971, I studied in Cambridge for eight years before starting a career as a university lecturer in classical art and archaeology. I held posts at Cambridge and Reading Universities and the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, before moving to Oxford in 2011.

Aside from my academic teaching and research, I have held leadership and management roles in higher education as Acting Dean in the Courtauld, Director of the Classical Art Research Centre, and recently as Vicegerent of Wolfson College.

I also have an interest in institutional governance and strategy in universities, museums, and heritage. I was on the Board of the Ashmolean Museum for eight years and am chair of trustees of The Brooking, a heritage charity which holds the largest collection of British architectural details.

I have extensive expertise in organizational leadership, especially in the academic and charity contexts.

### **Associate Professor Julie Cosmidis**

I am an Associate Professor working in Geomicrobiology (the application of microbiology to Earth Sciences problems). I obtained my PhD in 2013 in Paris, and worked in the United States as a postdoc (University of Colorado in Boulder) and Assistant Professor (Penn State University), so I have experience working and finding jobs in different academic systems. I am also a mother of three young children, and I love to talk about ways to balance work with family and other personal interests.

[Website](#) | [Linkedin](#)

### **Associate Professor Angela Minassian**

I am a consultant physician in infectious diseases by training. I lead a clinical malaria vaccine programme at the University of Oxford which involves testing first-time-in-human vaccines against *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax*, incorporating controlled human malaria infection to test vaccine efficacy.

I am passionate about building relationships and transferring skills to empower the research teams where malaria is endemic, and our trials now span Phase I-IIb in the UK, Africa (Tanzania, The Gambia and Burkina Faso) and Thailand. Using the platform of the malaria human challenge model I also conduct experimental medicine research to explore mechanisms of disease tolerance, and am developing a novel model of relapse for *P. vivax*. I also run clinical trials of vaccines against emerging pathogens and have an interest in developing new human challenge models of infection with which to assess these.

### **Professor Annina Schmid**

Annina is a Professor of Pain Neurosciences and a Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences at Oxford University in the UK. She leads the [Neuromusculoskeletal Health and Science Lab](#) which uses a translational and interdisciplinary approach to study the pathophysiology of neuromusculoskeletal conditions with the ultimate goal to improve management for patients.

Annina and her team specialise in deep clinical phenotyping combining clinical methodologies (e.g. psychophysical testing, neurophysiological recordings, sensory profiling) with advanced

neuroimaging (e.g. diffusion tensor imaging, MR neurography) and cellular and molecular analyses of human bio-samples to gain a detailed understanding of changes associated with nerve injuries and neuropathic pain.

I have a special interest in capacity building especially for allied health professionals and am a strong advocate for women in academia.

### **Professor David Zeitlyn**

Social anthropologist working in Cameroon (and Nigeria) on religion and divination, sociolinguistics, visual anthropology (photography). Wider interests in research ethics, data archiving, qualitative digital research.

### **Professor Elena Ene Drăghici-Vasilescu**

Elena is Professor of Byzantine and Medieval Studies, as well as of the History of Ideas. She teaches and researches in the fields of Byzantine culture (philosophy, iconography) for the University of Oxford and also independently. Her doctorate is from the University of Oxford. Dr. Vasilescu's work focuses, inter alia, on the texts of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite and of the Cappadocian thinkers Gregory Nazianzen and Gregory of Nyssa.

### **Dr Silvia Aviva Schwarz**

Silvia Schwarz Linder holds a PhD in South Asian Studies from the University of Vienna. She has lectured at the Universities of Innsbruck and of Ca' Foscari Venice and has been a Research Associate at the Institute for Indology and Central Asian Studies, Leipzig University. She is currently Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. Her research focuses on the Tantric traditions of the Śrīvidyā and the Pāñcarātra, specifically on the philosophical and theological doctrines expressed in the relevant South Indian Sanskrit sources. She is currently developing a comparative philosophy research project: From the Greek art of living to the Indian liberation in this life.

### **Professor Thomas Bowden**

During my time as a Principal Investigator in the Division of Structural Biology at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, I have held fellowships from the Medical Research Council and

Wellcome, and receive funding from various UK, EU, and US-based grant agencies. My research focuses on characterising glycoproteins displayed on the surface of enveloped viruses. By integrating techniques from virology, immunology, and cell biology, I aim to leverage insights into glycoprotein structure and function to support the development of therapeutics and preventive medicines. As a Research Fellow at Wolfson College, I greatly value its integrative and inclusive community.

### **Professor Helen Lawton Smith**

My research primarily focuses on geographies of innovation but in recent years it has focused on equality, diversity and inclusion. This includes being the holder of an EU award on gender inequality in universities - [the TRIGGER project](#). Mentoring was a major element of the Birkbeck/UK programme. More recently my research has focused on entrepreneurship by people with disabilities and by people from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. I am an experienced mentor of junior and senior colleagues.

### **Christoph Bachhuber**

I am an academic archaeologist and have held various research and teaching positions at the University of Oxford, University of Reading, the Freie Universität Berlin, Brown University, and the British Institute at Ankara. I am a fieldwork archaeologist and have led fieldwork projects in Türkiye (Turkey) with a primary interest in early urban societies during the Bronze and Iron Ages and related topics including the cultural history of the Hittites and the Neolithic period of the same region. Other areas of expertise include contemporary issues of archaeological heritage in Türkiye and Western Asia.

### **Dr Rachel Delman**

I am a historian and research partnerships professional working at the intersection of academia and heritage. I specialise in the medieval and Tudor periods with particular expertise in gender, material culture and the built environment, and the afterlives of medieval buildings in modern-day settings and contexts. Following a doctorate in History (Oxford, 2017), I held research fellowships at the universities of Edinburgh (Susan Manning Fellow, IASH) and York (Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship). I returned to Oxford in 2022 to take up my current

post as the Heritage Partnerships Coordinator in the Humanities Division, alongside which I maintain an active role as an academic and public historian and heritage consultant. More widely, I am a Trustee of the Historic Towns and Villages Forum, an Advisory Board Member for the IHR's Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, and a fellow of Advance HE, the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

### **Nahed Ahmed**

Nahed Ahmed is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Wolfson College and Saïd Business School, supported by a CARA Fellowship. Her research focuses on the intersection of female entrepreneurship, social capital, and technology in conflict-affected and displacement contexts. She holds a PhD from York St John University as a HESPAL Scholar, with a thesis on "Female Entrepreneurship and Social Capital in the Gaza Strip". With over 15 years' experience in higher education across the UK and the MENA region, she is passionate about inclusive, practice-based education and participatory research with marginalised communities. Nahed is also interested in refugee and migrant entrepreneurship. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), a lecturer, and a reviewer for journals including the Journal of Business and Socio-economic Development (JBSED). Her work is published in academic journals and Springer-edited volumes. She also mentors early-career researchers and supports development initiatives for education and entrepreneurship in crisis settings.

## **INDUSTRY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

### **Dr Jonathan Paine**

Dr Jonathan Paine is a career investment banker and specialist in the telecommunications, media and technology (TMT) sectors. He has recently retired from Rothschild & Co. where he led the media team for over 25 years as managing director, then senior adviser and chair of the global TMT team. He is an expert in mergers and acquisitions and corporate strategy. In his early career he also worked at Schrodgers, Swiss Bank Corporation and S.G. Warburg.

He joined Wolfson College in 2010 as a mature student and completed his doctorate in 2017. He writes on literature and economics and his monograph, *Selling the Story*, was published by

Harvard University Press in 2019. He is a Supernumerary Fellow of Wolfson College and has served on the college's Investment Committee since 2010.

He has held non-executive board positions in the health, housing and charity sectors and is currently a non-executive director of the University of East Anglia. He is also the Treasurer of the International Dostoevsky Society. Dr Paine is the nonexecutive director of the Scott Trust, owner of the Guardian newspaper.

### **Dr Andrew Mackintosh**

My background is general management roles in established technology companies but my recent and current activity is investing government funds in early-stage technology businesses.

### **Shaked Ashkenazi**

I obtained a PhD in Life Sciences, followed by postdoctoral research at the Dunn School of Pathology. Alongside my research career, I also developed skills in science communication, science writing and editing. In 2023 I started my first non-academic job as a content marketing manager, where I now keep growing and developing my skills in product marketing, primarily within the biomed industry.

## **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

### **Dr Peter Barber**

Following more than a decade's experience as a researcher in Philology and Linguistics in Oxford, I moved into University professional services. I have since built expertise in the research funding and innovation landscape through roles in the Humanities and Medical Sciences Divisions e.g., working with University-level strategic applications.

I now support the department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, aiming to build a broader and deeper research grant portfolio, through training, lectures, one-to-one support for applications and interviews, strategic planning and improving research culture.

I would be happy to discuss research grants with any Wolfson mentees wishing to support their continuing research, but I would also be happy to work with anyone considering a move into e.g., professional services, to think through together what such a transition may mean personally and professionally, and to help develop, where relevant, strategies for maintaining one's sense of academic identity in the process.

### **Phillip Tait**

I work for the Department of Physics, Oxford to enable the outputs of our research programmes to realise societal impact through business collaboration and commercialisation.

My role supports all members of the Department from students to senior academics, to engage in activities that utilise their knowledge, skills and technology to solve new challenges. I oversee entrepreneurship training and also help businesses access the broad range of capabilities in Oxford Physics and support the development of collaborations and new ventures.

I joined the Department on an STFC Innovation Fellowship (IPS) and have been appointed as an Innovation Champion by Oxford University Innovation. Before joining Oxford Physics, I managed national programmes of innovation at the UK Research Councils in both physical and life sciences, following my DPhil/Post-Doc in Biochemistry/Oncology at Oxford.