

DPhil Student Chico Camargo wins University Public Engagement Award

Chico Camargo, of the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics has won an Early Career Researcher award in this year's Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards, which celebrate public engagement work across the University. The announcement was made at an awards ceremony at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History on 28 June hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson.

Chico won his award for his work on YouTube creating videos about complex systems concepts. Since June 2016, Mr Camargo has been part of a Portuguese-speaking YouTube scientific outreach channel called BláBláLogia, with daily videos on topics from space travel to ecology. He aims not only to focus on research but also to inspire people in the ways that we study such phenomena and increase understanding of the world around us.

Chico is the host and writer of a fortnightly show, Top Models, where he engages people with the mathematical models used in science, and how they connect the natural and the social sciences. He has produced over twenty films to date to a mostly young adult (18-30 years old) audience in Brazil.

Today, BláBláLogia has almost 100,000 subscribers, over 5 million views, with some videos reaching tens of thousands of views. The channel won the 2016 YouTube 'NextUp' prize, awarded to the most promising channels with under 100k subscribers,

The public engagement work has fed back into his research, as having to explain elaborate concepts in a more fundamental way, without relying on university-level mathematics, has led to a more thorough understanding of the tools he uses every day. Members of BláBláLogia have also been invited to many seminars, debates and panels as a result, helping to raise their research profile.

The Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards recognise and reward those at the University who undertake high-quality engagement activities and have contributed to building capacity in this area. Mr Camargo was one of five Early Career Researcher winners at the awards.

Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor says: "I have been deeply impressed by the quality of the public engagement with research projects submitted for this year's awards. The breadth and diversity of the activities taking place show how seriously the University takes its commitment to public engagement. It is inspiring to see the positive impact these activities have both on research and on the individuals and communities that have been involved, from warriors in Tanzania and young adults in Brazil, to local communities affected by dementia."

Professor Alison Woollard, the University's Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research says: "Public engagement enriches both research and society and the University is committed to enabling our researchers to inspire,

consult and collaborate with the public. I'm delighted that we are able to recognise and highlight the fantastic work our researchers are doing and hope these awards encourage more colleagues across the University to carry out their own public engagement with research."

About the awards

The Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards recognise and reward those at the University who undertake high-quality engagement activities and have contributed to building capacity in this area. The awards are awarded in three categories – Early Career Researcher, Building Capacity and Projects. Entrants can be at any level in their career and activities of any scale are welcome.

Winning entries receive recognition for their achievements at the Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards Ceremony that will take place on 28 June 2017. The Vice-Chancellor's prize will also be announced at the ceremony and receive a cash prize of £1,500.

Further information on Chico Camargo's award

1) Researcher contacts

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2) Extra links

Three of the videos produced for *BláBláLogia* (turn captions ON):

March 2017:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRRzVOL9x4Y&index=21&list=PLqG7fA3EaMRMeooCWTuF9VpSQD4VlxL_1

Another episode, from September 2016:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTmvjuinnZA&index=7&list=PLqG7fA3EaMRMeooCWTuF9VpSQD4VlxL_1

The first episode, aired on June 2016, explaining the topic of the show:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM2jTmhAk_0&list=PLqG7fA3EaMRMeooCWTuF9VpSQD4VlxL_1&index=1

3) Project Case study

Chico Camargo

Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics

My research is in the field of complex systems and complexity science. Most of my public engagement work involves creating videos about complex systems concepts. My aim is to not only focus on what researchers work on but also inspire people in the ways that we study such phenomena and increase understanding of the world around us.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

I first became interested in public engagement by taking part in Famelab, 3 Minute Thesis, Science Cabaret and Bright Club, many of which were organised by Science Oxford.

Since June 2016, I have been part of a Portuguese-speaking YouTube scientific outreach channel called *BláBláLogia*, with daily videos on topics from space travel to ecology.

I am also the host and writer of a fortnightly show, *Top Models*, where I engage people with the mathematical models we use in science, and how they connect the natural and the social sciences. We have produced over twenty films to date to a mostly young adult (18-30 years old) audience in Brazil.

Outcomes & Impacts

Today, *BláBláLogia* has almost 100,000 subscribers, over 5 million views, with some of my videos reaching tens of thousands of views. Members of *BláBláLogia* have also been invited to many seminars, debates and panels as a result, helping to raise their research profile.

The channel also won the 2016 YouTube 'NextUp' prize, awarded to the most promising channels with under 100k subscribers, which together with some modest advertising revenue, has enabled us to purchase a new camera for future filming.

The public engagement work has fed back into my research, as having to explain elaborate concepts in a more fundamental way, without relying on university-level mathematics, has led me to a more thorough understanding of the tools I use every day.

"An incredible video. The information is light, trustworthy and transmitted in a very charismatic way. Just like many others here, I'm looking forward to the next video."
YouTube viewer