

£2m UK-wide boost for mathematical innovation careers

April 2025 saw the start of a £2 million NetworkPlus grant – Mathematical Innovators in the Digital Space ([MInDS](#)) - awarded by UKRI to CAMaCS, the Institute for Mathematical Innovation (IMI) at Bath, Queen's University Belfast, and the UK Knowledge Exchange Hub, to forge a national career path for Innovation Research Associates (InRAs). Over the next four years, the MInDS initiative will co-fund InRA roles, build a UK-wide InRA community, and support InRA career progression all the way through to professorial-level positions. With more than 25 existing InRA-style roles already across the country, MInDS aims to scale this exciting new career space to create a national ecosystem that turns mathematical brainpower into transformative real-world impact.



Kick-off with fairness: stats-powered match draws

CAMaCS Innovation Research Associate Iain Souttar has been working on a project with Gareth Roberts (Statistics) on developing a novel method for producing an unbiased draw in the context of the UEFA Champions League. This work is motivated by recent radical changes to the format, and the mechanism used by UEFA provably introducing statistical biases.

The goal of the project is to introduce a method that is at once statistically fair and unbiased, transparent, practical, and entertaining. The project team have been very busy, presenting at a Maths in Sport conference in Luxembourg, and drafting a publication, with a goal of eventually engaging directly with UEFA and/or other football associations to produce fair and transparent draw mechanisms for highly constrained tournaments. They are currently, with the help of two Statistics undergraduate students, producing visualisations for the concepts underpinning the project.

The research builds on work done by Gareth and his colleague Jeffrey S. Rosenthal, which was published in the Canadian Journal of Statistics in 2024 and was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the UK's EPSRC.

Thinkubator follow up: alumni calculate the future of grooming innovation

We held a Thinkubator in May with a group of enterprising Warwick graduates who have set up a successful business selling barbering and grooming products across the globe (BarberBoss). It was a day packed full of energy, ideas, and enthusiasm, which has led to the company committing to fund two Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). The applications for these are now underway.

We also held a Thinkubator in June with the Platform Housing Group based in Solihull. They are currently reviewing our post-Thinkubator report about ways to work together, and we have a follow-up call planned with them in late July.

Adding up to excellence: InRA Kat Phillips wins public engagement award

A massive congratulations to our InRA Kat Phillips for winning the **Online Engagement Award** at The Warwick Awards for Public and Community Engagement!

The WAPCEs seek to recognise the vital contributions Warwick staff and students make in engaging the public in our learning and discovery. The awards acknowledge those who contribute to Warwick's goals of sharing and co-producing knowledge.

As the creator of KatDoesMaths, Kat has built a vibrant online platform to make mathematics and academia more accessible and engaging. Kat's work bridges research, communication, and entertainment, and has led to collaborations with major science communicators and platforms like NewScientistLive and StandUpMaths. At Warwick, Kat continues to share her academic journey while promoting new career paths in mathematical sciences and public engagement.



Read more about Kat's public engagement work over at <https://katdoesmaths.me/>.

New variables, same vision: meet our newest team members

A very warm welcome to our sixth Innovation Research Associate, Allen Hart, who joined us in May 2025, and to three new members on our Executive Committee: Paris Giampouras and Gabriele Pergola from Computer Science, and Ferran Brosa-Planella from Maths.

We have also formalised three Deputy Director roles to represent each of our three funding departments, and we are delighted to have the support of Julia Brettschneider (Statistics), Tom Montenegro-Johnson (Maths), and Paolo Turrini (Computer Science) in these positions.

Coming up in CAMaCS

We are planning a sandpit event in early autumn with Warwick's Institute for Global Sustainable Development. This will involve a "speed dating" style session to draw up ideas for collaborative grant proposals. If you're interested in arranging a similar event for your department or group, please get in touch!

Our (award winning!) InRA Kat Phillips was successful in bidding to host a two-day training workshop on the communication of mathematics, funded by the INI and the Newton Gateway. This will take place on campus on 13th and 14th January 2026.