



StAndEngaged
Public Engagement with Research



THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
WITH RESEARCH (PER) TEAM PRESENTS

ASK ME ANYTHING!
WITH LANA WOOLFORD

In collaboration with the Fortissat Science Alliance





LANA WOOLFORD

DIRECTOR OF (SHE/HER)
CLOUD CHAMBERS STUDIO &
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
OFFICER, UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH

WHAT SUBJECT WAS YOUR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN?

Physics with Professional Experience (basically a year in industry)

WERE YOU ALWAYS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE?

I've always been interested in science but I intended to study history - I switched my UCAS application 2 days before the deadline! I studied a real mix of A Levels & I've been fascinated by interdisciplinary study ever since.

WHAT WAS YOUR PHD PROJECT ABOUT?

I was using a light scattering technique called 'Raman spectroscopy' to pick up differences in the molecules inside cells (which change depending on whether the cell is abnormal or healthy) to improve the way we test for cervical cancer. When lasers interact with molecular bonds it can change colour - studying these colours helps us to classify the cells to make a diagnostic test.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY?

I work as the Public Engagement (PE) & Communications Officer for the Centre for Inflammation Research, & also freelance as a scientific animator. My uni role is pretty diverse. I help academics write the impact sections of their grants, write lay summaries of research for the website, make videos, animations & artwork of research, organise PE and patient events both in-person and online, inform strategies & deliver training for sharing research - the list goes on!

IF YOU WEREN'T A SCIENTIST, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING NOW?

I work as an animator & designer one day/week, so I would probably do that full time.

FAVOURITE FOOD?

I'm a big foodie but ultimately, mum's Sunday roast dinner.

FAVOURITE MUSICIAN?

Tough one! Folk music enthusiast, I'm a big fan of Rura.

WHAT WAS THE MOST FUN THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?

It was great fun going to the premiere of my fruit fly animation at the Bristol Science Film Festival in Millenium Square. We got dressed up and sat in black deckchairs in the sun - I felt like a film director at Cannes!

TELL US A JOKE!

Did I tell you I bought a dog from a blacksmith the other day? Within 20 minutes it had made a bolt for the door!

Contact standengaged@st-andrews.ac.uk if you have questions for Lana, subject line 'AMA'