



# **RSC Photophysics and Photochemistry Group Early Career Meeting 2026**

**3-4 September 2026 | Durham**

Durham University



## **RSC Photophysics and Photochemistry Group Early Career Meeting 2026**

The 2026 Early Career Meeting will be held over two days, on 3–4 September 2026, at Durham University.

The conference location is:

Room CG91

Department of Chemistry

Durham University

Durham

DH1 3LE

United Kingdom

When you arrive at the main entrance (next to the security barrier), you will find the registration desk at the front, and we will direct you to the appropriate area.

Presentation Abstract e-book:



Poster Abstract e-book:



|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1: Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9.00-9.45                                         | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9.45-10.00                                        | <b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Chair: Dr Sebastian Sprick</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10.00-10.30                                       | INVITED TALK: <b>Prof. Martin Bryce</b> (Durham University)<br><i>Luminescent Nanoparticles for Thrombotic Therapy</i>                                                                                              |
| 10.30-10.50                                       | <b>Carolina Francener</b> (Durham University) <i>Anti-Kasha fluorescence, ultra-long room-temperature phosphorescence and delayed fluorescence from a nearly flat non-symmetric polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon</i> |
| 10.50-11.10                                       | <b>Aniket Kumar Srivastawa</b> (University of St Andrews)<br><i>Mechanophotochemistry: Lighting up EDA complexes in the Solid State</i>                                                                             |
| 11.10-11.30                                       | <b>Mateja Smitran</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>An investigation of the populating and de-populating rates of the spin = 2 qudit state in a covalently linked rubrene dimer after singlet fission</i>            |
| 11.30-11.50                                       | <b>Coffee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11.50-12.10                                       | <b>Kieran Richards</b> (Swansea University)<br><i>Designing radicals for upconversion – substitution effects of rylene chromophores</i>                                                                             |
| 12.10-12.30                                       | <b>Chomponoot Suppaso</b> (University of Strathclyde)<br><i>Photoconductive Pb(II) based coordination polymers toward CO<sub>2</sub>-to-formate conversion</i>                                                      |
| 12.30-13.30                                       | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Chair: Dr Marc Etherington</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 13.30-14.00                                       | INVITED TALK: <b>Prof. Julia A. Weinstein</b> (University of Sheffield)<br><i>Charge transfer in metal chromophores in solution: insights from ultrafast IR, 2D-IR and X-ray spectroscopies.</i>                    |
| 14.00-14.20                                       | <b>Oliver Christie</b> (Swansea University) <i>Magneto-Optical Effects in Organic Radicals</i>                                                                                                                      |
| 14.20-14.40                                       | <b>Satil Kumar Jana</b> (University of St Andrews) <i>MR-TADF Emitter Engineering for Efficient Sky-Blue Narrowband Solution-Processed OLEDs</i>                                                                    |
| 14.40-15.00                                       | <b>Dr Jeffrey Gorman</b> (Durham University) <i>Probing the exciton dynamics of organic semiconductors using sub-nm DNA control</i>                                                                                 |
| 15.00-15.20                                       | <b>Coffee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| 15.20-15.50 | <b>TUTORIAL: Prof. Robert Pal</b> (Durham University) <i>Title TBC</i>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 15.50-16.10 | <b>Amélia Auvile</b> (University College Dublin) <i>Synthesis and Photophysical Studies of Ruthenium Polypyridyl Probes for Quadruplex DNA</i>                                                                                                                       |
| 16.10-16.30 | <b>Jacob F. Jones</b> (University of Bristol) <i>Ultrafast Charge-Transfer Determines the Fluorescence Sensing Properties of a Glucose-Binding Synthetic Lectin</i>                                                                                                  |
| 16.30-16.50 | <b>Manuela Ciocca</b> (Free University of Bozen-Balzano) <i>Conjugated polymer nanoparticles boosting growth and photosynthesis in biohybrid plants</i>                                                                                                              |
| 16.50-17.10 | <b>Natasha J Wrathall</b> (University of Birmingham) <i>Nature-Inspired UV Chromophores for the Application of Molecular Heaters</i>                                                                                                                                 |
| 17.10-17.30 | <b>Alexandra Stuart</b> (University of Bristol) <i>Understanding and engineering magneto-optical control of designer flavoproteins</i>                                                                                                                               |
| 17.30-17.45 | <b>The Photophysics and Photochemistry Early Career Researcher Lectureship 2026</b><br><b>Meera Madhu</b> (The Ohio State University) <i>Heterogeneous Ensembles of Coupled Chromophores Explain the Common Photophysics of Eumelanin and Natural Organic Matter</i> |
| 17.45-18.30 | <b>Poster and Reception</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 19.30       | <b>Conference Dinner –</b><br><b>Durham Amateur Rowing Club</b><br><b>City Boathouse, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham</b>                                                                                                                                              |

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| Day 2: Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> of September 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9.00-9.30                                       | Coffee                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chair: Dr Patrycja Brook                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9.30-10.00                                      | INVITED TALK: <b>Prof. Ji-Seon Kim</b> (University of Oxford) <i>Molecular Control of Charge Generation and Photostability in Organic Semiconductors</i>                                 |
| 10.00-10.20                                     | <b>Thaísa Brandao</b> (University of São Paulo) <i>Photoinduced <math>\pi</math>-Stacking in Naphthalene Diimide: From Supramolecular Assembly to Excited-State Dynamics</i>             |
| 10.20-10.40                                     | <b>Dr Borys Zakharchenko</b> (Newcastle University) <i>Coupling Together Fuel and Organic Synthesis in Dicyanoanthracene-Viologen Conjugates</i>                                         |
| 10.40-11.00                                     | <b>Lucy Winkler</b> (TU Dresden) <i>Utilizing Immediate Phosphorescence in Organic Photonic Devices for Rewritable Information Storage and UV Sensing</i>                                |
| 11.00-11.30                                     | Coffee                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11.30-11.50                                     | <b>Rhys J. Bourhill</b> (University of Strathclyde) <i>Conjugated polyelectrolyte photocatalysts for hydrogen production coupled to sustainable biomass-derived feedstock oxidation.</i> |
| 11.50-12.10                                     | <b>Quinsu Ma</b> (Jagiellonian University) <i>Morphology-Controlled Au/InVO<sub>4</sub> Photocatalysts for Visible-Light-Driven H<sub>2</sub> Evolution</i>                              |
| 12.10-12.30                                     | <b>Diksha Mittal</b> (University of Cambridge) <i>Solar Reforming of Lignin to CO and Value-added Aromatics Under Mild Reaction Conditions</i>                                           |
| 12.30-13.30                                     | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Chair: Dr Jeffrey Gorman                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13.30-14.00                                     | INVITED TALK: <b>Prof. Tom Penfold</b> (Newcastle University) <i>Understanding the Mechanism of Intersystem Crossing in Molecular Excited States</i>                                     |
| 14.00-14.20                                     | <b>Aiden E Matthews</b> (Northumbria University) <i>Using cage linkers to capture the fundamentals of charge transfer for use in emissive applications</i>                               |
| 14.20-14.40                                     | <b>Marc H. Garner</b> (Technical University of Denmark) <i>Mind the Inverted Singlet-Triplet Gap</i>                                                                                     |
| 14.40-15.00                                     | <b>Dr Piotr Pander</b> (Silesian University of Technology) <i>Enhancing the Red and Near Infrared OLED Efficiency of a TADF Emitter through an Internal Solvation Effect</i>             |

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| 15.00-15.30 | <b>Coffee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15.30-15.50 | <b>Marc K. Etherington</b> (Northumbria University) <i>Methylated pyridinium salts as luminophores for bioimaging with glassy organic dots</i>                                                                                                       |
| 15.50-16.10 | <b>Dr Andrew Danos</b> (Queen Mary University of London) <i>Singlet-triplet gaps for evaluating thermally activated delayed fluorescence: which one is the (b)EST?</i>                                                                               |
| 16.10-16.30 | <b>Lucy A. Weatherill</b> (Durham University) <i>Highly efficient yellow to sky blue OLEDs: tuning the electron-acceptor properties of 10-hydroxy-10H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]thiaborinine 5,5-dioxide for the design of high-performance TADF emitters</i> |
| 16.30-16.50 | <b>Mohrah Alqahtani</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>Photophysical Investigation of the Effect of Annulation in hydporphyrins</i>                                                                                                                    |
| 16.50-17.00 | <b>Prizes and Closing Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Day 1: Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2026 Poster Session |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P1</b>                                                        | <b>Diksha Mittal</b> (University of Cambridge) <i>Solar Reforming of Lignin to CO and Value-added Aromatics Under Mild Reaction Conditions</i>                                                           |
| <b>P2</b>                                                        | <b>Jacob Jones</b> (University of Bristol) <i>Ultrafast Charge-Transfer Determines the Fluorescence Sensing Properties of a Glucose-Binding Synthetic Lectin</i>                                         |
| <b>P3</b>                                                        | <b>Stefan Diesing</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>Bayesian Model Selection for Thermally Activated Delayed Fluorescence</i>                                                                             |
| <b>P4</b>                                                        | <b>Samuel. F. Arrowsmith</b> (University of Bristol) <i>Investigating the Solvent Polarity and Isotope Dependence on the UV-induced Photochemical Dynamics of Indole</i>                                 |
| <b>P5</b>                                                        | <b>Andrada Cocea</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>Luminescent Materials for Organic LEDs: A Study of a TTM-based Radical Emitter</i>                                                                     |
| <b>P6</b>                                                        | <b>Michael Penny</b> (University of Bath) <i>Unravelling Excited State Dynamics of Hantzsch Esters</i>                                                                                                   |
| <b>P7</b>                                                        | <b>Marc H. Garner</b> (Technical University of Denmark) <i>Assignment of low-lying UV-Vis transitions in a stable [6]cumulene</i>                                                                        |
| <b>P8</b>                                                        | <b>Suraksha Rajan</b> (University of St Andrews) <i>What Makes Mechanophotocatalysis Faster?</i>                                                                                                         |
| <b>P9</b>                                                        | <b>Ross Young</b> (University of Strathclyde) <i>Plastic Waste as a Feedstock for Hydrogen Production</i>                                                                                                |
| <b>P10</b>                                                       | <b>Mateja Smitran</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>An investigation of the populating and de-populating rates of the spin = 2 qudit state in a covalently linked rubrene dimer after singlet fission</i> |
| <b>P11</b>                                                       | <b>Searena Carroll</b> (University College Dublin) <i>Dual Emitting Ruthenium Polypyridyl Complex for Targeting DNA</i>                                                                                  |
| <b>P12</b>                                                       | <b>Steffan Walker-Griffiths</b> (University of Birmingham) <i>Uncovering the excited state behaviour of a series of novel dicationic and radical cationic naphthalenediimides</i>                        |
| <b>P13</b>                                                       | <b>Ji Woo Park</b> (University of Cambridge) <i>Integrated CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Photocatalytic Conversion Using Amino Acid Solutions</i>                                                           |
| <b>P14</b>                                                       | <b>William D. Tetlow</b> (Northumbria University) <i>Rare-Earth-Free Luminescence in Sn<sup>2+</sup>-Doped Barium Sulfide Phosphors</i>                                                                  |

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| <b>P15</b> | <b>Paloma L. dos Santos</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>The LUMOS Group: Understanding and Controlling Excited States in Organic Semiconductors</i>                                                   |
| <b>P16</b> | <b>Andrea Szloboda</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>Pushing the boundaries of the energy gap law: Near-infrared TADF material spectroscopy</i>                                                         |
| <b>P17</b> | <b>Marta Bladé</b> (University of Barcelona) <i>Organic thiophene-based compounds exhibiting room temperature phosphorescence for oxygen sensing applications</i>                                      |
| <b>P18</b> | <b>Meiyue Liu</b> (University of Bristol) <i>Tracking photoinduced electron transfer in de novo designed proteins</i>                                                                                  |
| <b>P19</b> | <b>Venkata Pramod Chodimella</b> (Johnson Matthey) <i>Self-optimising reaction-robot system for day and night photocatalytic operation</i>                                                             |
| <b>P20</b> | <b>Sagarika Mishra</b> (University of St Andrews) <i>Donor-acceptor nanoaggregates for nanomolar detection of pesticides in water</i>                                                                  |
| <b>P21</b> | <b>Paolo Mastroeni</b> (Durham University) <i>Lipid Droplet Response to Glucose in Fibroblast Cells Using Multiphoton-active Red-emitting BODIPYs</i>                                                  |
| <b>P22</b> | <b>Hessah Eid Alanazi</b> (University of Sheffield) <i>Towards CO<sub>2</sub> Photoreduction: Excited-State Interactions in a ZnTPP-Re(II) Assembly Mediated by Axial Pyridine-Zn(II) Coordination</i> |
| <b>P23</b> | <b>Connor Armstrong</b> (Durham University) <i>Multiphoton Studies and Cellular Imaging of New BOIMPY Dyes</i>                                                                                         |
| <b>P24</b> | <b>Jake Barker</b> (University of St Andrews) <i>On the Grind: Probing Photostability and Reaction Translation to Mechanophotocatalysis</i>                                                            |

**RSC Photophysics and Photochemistry Group Early  
Career Meeting 2026**

**Sponsors**



**HORIBA**



**Asynt**

**MERCK**



## CONFERENCE SOCIAL RUN

### Join me for Durham parkrun

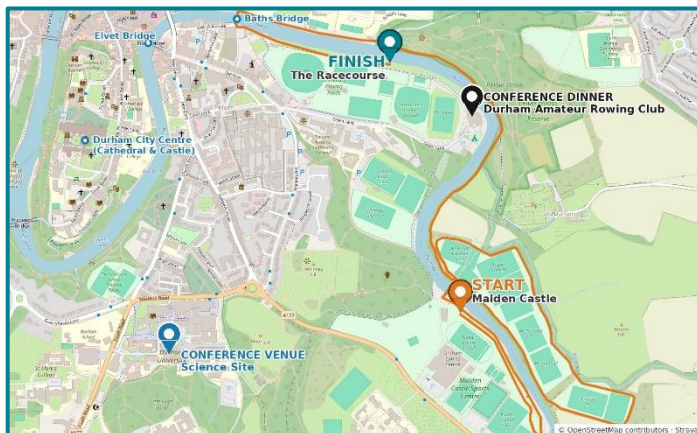
Hosted by **Marc Etherington**

Northumbria University

| 5K | DATE                     | MEET    | START   |
|----|--------------------------|---------|---------|
|    | Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept | 8:45 am | 9:00 am |

### Blow off some conference cobwebs

Durham parkrun is a free, timed 5k that loops out from Maiden Castle along the River Wear and finishes at The Racecourse, near the city centre. Walk, jog, run – people of all abilities are welcome. I'll be at the start line in my running kit (see photo); look out for me at the meeting point.



### Meet & start:

Graham Sports Centre

Maiden Castle, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3SE

- The Course
- Finish – The Racecourse
- Conference Dinner – Durham ARC
- Conference Venue – Science Site

Start is about 15–20 min walk from the Science Site/City Centre.

Buses 55/56/57/X1 from Durham Bus Station also stop at Maiden Castle/Houghall.

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**Scan to register (free, one-time)**

[parkrun.org.uk/durham](http://parkrun.org.uk/durham) — bring your barcode.



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