

Richard Blythe



Richard holds a Personal Chair in Complex Systems in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to this, he was awarded an MSci (Hons) degree in Physics with Study in Continental Europe by the University of Bristol, a PhD in Theoretical Physics by the University of Edinburgh and two personal research fellowships before appointment as a Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh in 2007.

In his research, Richard uses mathematics and computer models to understand how patterns and structures emerge in systems with many interacting parts. He is particularly interested in how self-propelled organisms (like bacteria, birds or fish) may cluster together, and how information and behaviour spreads through social networks. Richard developed the visitor and

workshop programme of the Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics which has welcomed countless physicists from around the world to collaborate on fundamental questions about the universe. He currently sits on the steering committee of the University's interdisciplinary Centre for Language Evolution.

Richard has contributed widely to undergraduate teaching, including coordinating the research project experience for Physics and Astronomy finalists and welcoming new students with their first taste of University mathematics. He further served for five years in the College of Science and Engineering as the College Academic Misconduct Officer, improving procedures and working with colleagues to maintain academic integrity during the pandemic. His sustained good practice in University teaching was recognised in 2018 with the award of a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

[Register of Interests](#)

Committee Memberships

- University Court
- Knowledge Strategy Committee