



## Trustee: Ben Burningham

I grew up in Hertfordshire, and my childhood passion for physics and all things space led me to pursue an undergraduate degree in astronomy at University College, London. I followed this up with a PhD from the University of Exeter. After a brief stint in the private sector working in e-learning design, I returned to astrophysics research via a postdoctoral position at the University of Hertfordshire (UH), where I have been since 2006. My time at UH has been punctuated by overseas secondments to the Observatório Nacional in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil; 2012 - 2013) and NASA Ames Research Center in California (USA, 2014 - 2016).

I am now an Associate Professor of Astrophysics and Director of Outreach and Public Engagement for the Department of Physics, Astronomy & Maths at UH. My time is split between teaching, research, and oversight of the extensive programme of outreach and public engagement that takes place within my department. Much of it is focused on our Bayfordbury Observatory site, where we hold regular open evenings, and host visits from schools, youth groups and the wider local community. We have a strategic goal of raising science capital of disadvantaged young people and underrepresented groups in physics, astronomy and maths, and we partner with a number of local schools in this regard, and work closely with the University's widening access team. We have worked with STEMPOINT on a number of projects over the years, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to support their excellent work by joining the Board of Trustees.