

Felix Drinkall

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE · UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Eagle House, Walton Well Road, Oxford, OX2 6ED

✉ felix.drinkall@eng.ox.ac.uk | 📞 felix-drinkall-645b0111b

Doctoral Candidate at the Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, University of Oxford, and Professional Athlete for GB Rowing.

Education

University of Oxford

Oxford, United Kingdom

DPHIL IN NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING AND QUANTITATIVE FINANCE

October 2021 - Present

- Member of the Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance and Oxford e-Research Centre.
- Researching the intersection between **Natural Language Processing** and **Time-Series Forecasting**.
 - Researching best methods for modelling text for time-series forecasting
 - Investigating the pitfalls of using language models in dynamic tasks within the financial domain
 - Modelling macro-economic causal effects for diachronic linguistic change
- Tutor for the Introduction to Natural Language Processing course for the Stanford exchange school
- Completed the first two years part-time as I was rowing professionally, attempting to make the 2024 Olympics
- Reviewer for the ACL 2024
- Published 2 papers at the NAACL (top tier of NLP conferences) - "Forecasting COVID-19 Caseloads Using Unsupervised Embedding Clusters of Social Media Posts" and "TimeMachine GPT" (upcoming conference)

MENG IN ENGINEERING, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

September 2017 - June 2021

- **First-Class Honours**
- **Recipient of the Vincent's Fernside Scholarship** for academic and sporting success at Oxford University.
- **84% in my Masters' Thesis:** "Forecasting COVID-19 caseloads using social media posts" - Edgell Sheppee Prize 2021 for the **best thesis from an Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Management student**
- Courses: Entrepreneurship and Management, Machine Learning, Machine Vision and Robotics, Medical Imaging and Informatics, Advanced Probability, Systems and Perturbation Methods and Advanced Mathematics.

Experience

Alan Turing Institute

London, UK

RESEARCHER

February 2023 - Present

- I am working as a researcher for the Alan Turing Institute on the **Narrative Detection and Tracking team**. We are building out a methodology for effectively capturing fine-grained narratives, tracking them and predicting their future dynamics within a community.

GB Rowing Team

Reading, UK

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

November 2017 - July 2023

- Throughout my university studies I have had to balance the obligations and responsibilities of a professional athlete. This has made me **able to balance a tough workload and work under pressure** whilst maintaining peak performance in and out of the classroom. Faced with missing out on the Olympic squad this summer, I am left with unique lessons from elite sport and a fire in the belly.

Rahn+Bodmer

Zurich, Switzerland

QUANTITATIVE INVESTMENT ANALYST INTERN

July 2020 - August 2020

- **Developed a full-stack portfolio optimisation tool using Python and HTML** within the Django framework. During my internship, I gained exposure to the trading department, investment strategy development, and fundamental research. I had the privilege of presenting the tool to both the financial analysis team and multiple partners.

Skills and achievements

Technical

- **Advanced knowledge of Python**, specifically the Pytorch and Transformers libraries.
- **Presented a tutorial at the OMI NLP SoDaS Conference** on how to use NLP for social data science.
- Experience **training decoder-based language models from scratch**.
- Hands-on experience working with state-of-the-art **Time-Series Forecasting** models.

Other

- **Junior World Rowing Champion from 2017.**
- **U23 World Champion from 2019 and 2021.**
- Competed in the Oxford vs. Cambridge Boat Race
- Winner of the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition, playing at the Wigmore Hall with my brass band.
- In my school play Jerusalem (written by Jez Butterworth) I performed to 400 people each night.