

## CURRICULUM VITAE – DR BETH SINGLER

I am an anthropologist focussing on the cultural response to artificial intelligence (AI). I employ both traditional and digital ethnography techniques, and fieldwork has taken place in Japan, the USA, and the UK. Impactful public engagement work has involved popular publications, science festival talks, a series of award-winning short documentaries, and media appearances.

### Qualifications:

2011 - 2016 **PhD Theology and Religious Studies**, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge.  
Supervisor, Dr Timothy Jenkins.

Thesis: *The Indigo Children: New Age Experimentation with Self and Science*  
(published with Routledge in 2017)

2010 – 2011 **MPhil Theology and Religious Studies (Distinction)**, Pembroke College,  
University of Cambridge. Supervisor, Dr Timothy Jenkins

1999 – 2002 **MA Hons (Cantab) Theology and Religious Studies (2:1)**, Pembroke College,  
University of Cambridge

### Employment, Affiliations, and Fellowships

Oct. 2018 - **Junior Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence, Homerton College, Cambridge**  
Anthropological research on conceptions and narratives of AI that have an impact on  
people's lifestyles, communities, and futures.

Sept. 2018-  
June 2019 **Co-Investigator, 'Global AI Narratives Project', Leverhulme  
Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI), Cambridge**  
One of four original co-investigators on the project proposal. Using an  
anthropological approach to consider the variety of accounts of AI from around the  
world which have emerged from their cultures and traditions. Funded by Templeton  
World Charitable Foundation (TWCF) and Google DeepMind for £300,000.

May 2017- **Co-Founder, 'Faith and AI' Project, CFI**  
Learning about religious communities' understandings of AI. Plans for public reports,  
academic publications, and social scientific research.

Jan. 2017 - **Associate Research Fellow, CFI**  
Bringing anthropological methods and sources to the discussion on AI Narratives and  
Justice. Working with external bodies such as the Royal Society, Royal Society for  
the Arts, Google Deepmind, and TWCF.

Feb. 2016 -  
Oct. 2018 **Research Associate on the "Human Identity in the Age of Nearly  
Human Machines" Project, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St  
Edmund's College, University of Cambridge**  
Ethnographic fieldwork among technologists and experts.  
Surveying technological and pop-cultural sources on AI.  
Produced a series of short documentaries on the future of AI and robots to engage the  
public, which involved interviews with theologians and philosophers. Won the AHRC  
Best Research Film of the Year award, 2017.

### Academic Publications:

#### Forthcoming

“Blessed by the Algorithm”: Theistic Conceptions of Artificial Intelligence as Entanglements of AI  
and Religion”, forthcoming in the journal of *AI and Society*

“The AI Creation Meme: A Case Study of the New Visibility of Religion in Artificial Intelligence Discourse”, for a special issue on the New Visibility of Religion for the journal *Religions*

“Artificial Intelligence and Religious Language in Science Fiction”, a book chapter for *Religion and Film*, eds Rebecca King and Tenzan Eaghill, Bloomsbury.

“Origin and the End: Artificial Intelligence, Atheism and, Imaginaries of the Future of Religion”, forthcoming book chapter in an edited collection, *Emerging Voices in Religion and Science*, eds Bethany Sollereeder and Alistair McGrath, OUP (tbc).

## **2020**

“Artificial Intelligence and the Parent/Child Narrative”, a book chapter for *AI Narratives: A History of Imagining Thinking About Intelligent Machines*, eds Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal and Sarah Dillon, OUP.

## **2019**

“Conceiving AI: Creation and the Parent/Child Narrative in Blade Runner 2049”, book chapter in *Blade Runner 2049 and Philosophy*, eds Robin Bunce and Trip McCossin, Open Court Publishing Company.

“An Ethnographic Discussion of Existential Hope and Despair in AI Apocalypticism”, in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*.

## **2018**

Edited a special issue on AI and Religion for *The Journal of Implicit Religion*, including authoring articles: “An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Religion for the Religious Studies Scholar” and “Roko's Basilisk or Pascal's? Thinking of Singularity Thought Experiments as Implicit Religion”.

## **2017**

*The Indigo Children: New Age Experimentation with Self and Science*, a monograph with Routledge.

## **2016**

“No Leader, No Followers: The Internet and the End of Charisma?” in Inform's 25th Anniversary Conference Volume, edited by Eugene Gallagher, Routledge.

“The New Age Movement and the Definition of the Child”, in *The Bloomsbury Reader in Religion and Childhood*, edited by Anna Strhan, Stephen G. Parker, Susan Ridgely. Bloomsbury.

## **2015**

“Big, Bad Pharma: New Age Biomedical Conspiracy Narratives and their Expression in the Concept of the Indigo Child”, in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*.

“‘My Brother, the Insect’: Researching the Indigo Children and their New Age Cosmologies and Spiritual Guides”, in *DISKUS: Journal of the British Association for the Study of Religion*

“Internet-based New Religious Movements and Dispute Resolution” in *Religion and Legal Pluralism*, ed. Russell Sandberg. Ashgate

“Possession and Exorcism in the New Age Movement” in *Spirit Possession Around the World: Possession, Communion, and Demon Expulsion across Cultures*, ed. Joseph Laycock. ABC-CLIO

## **Teaching Experience:**

November 2018                    **Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge.**  
For SOC 8: Religion and Contentious Mobilization

October 2017 -                    **Occasional Lecturer, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge**

October 2012 -                    **Supervisor, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge**

## **Funding and Awards:**

- 2018 - 2021            **Co-Investigator for Global AI Narratives' Project, CFI**  
£175k funding from Templeton World Charitable Foundation and £125k from Google DeepMind
- November 2017        **AHRC Best Research Film of the Year Award for *Pain in the Machine***  
Short documentary on AI and robotics, involving interviews with theologians and philosophers (£2000 for next film)
- April 2016            **Cambridge Shorts/Wellcome Trust Short Film Scheme**  
(£4,000) for the production of *Pain in the Machine*
- July 2011            **Faculty of Divinity Graduate Award for Distinction in the MPhil (£300)**
- June 2011            **The Bethune-Baker Graduate Studentship** – Pembroke College, Cambridge (£5,700 p.a. for three years)
- June 2011            **Pembroke College Graduate Award** (£1,000 p.a. for three years)

## **Impact, Public Engagement, and Outreach**

Sifted's Top 30 AI People in Europe to Follow on Twitter

Gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on AI and my research was cited in their final report

Co-Author of a report with CFI and Royal Society on "Perceptions and Portrayals of AI and why they matter."

Member of the UK Advisory Board for "Citizenship in the Digital Age", Templeton project

Co-Chair for the advisory board for RSA/Google DeepMind Forum on Ethical AI

Popular Articles on AI published by Aeon Magazine in both 2017 and 2018.

Editorial Board member for Cambridge University's Research Horizons - a special issue on AI

Rising Star 2014, University of Cambridge

**Media appearances:** The Today Programme BBC Radio 4, The Sunday Programme BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 3, BBC Click and BBC Click Live, the BBC's Inside Out documentary series, BBC News, LBC radio, CNBC, and Radio 5 Live.

**Interviewed by:** New Scientist, BBC, Forbes, CNBC, Techworld, Alphr, OneZero

Chosen as one of the 'Progress 1000' for 2017 and 2018 – the 1000 leading figures in a variety of fields selected by the Evening Standard.

**Public talks:** CogX Festival of AI and Emerging Technology, London Science Museum, Munich AI Summit, New Scientist Live, Hay Festival (as one of the Cambridge Series and the Hay 30 thinkers to watch), Edinburgh Science Festival, Norwich Science Festival, Cheltenham Science Festival, Cambridge Festival of Ideas, Cambridge Literary Festival, Sutton Trust Summer Schools, Cambridge Short Film Festival, and Ars Electronica.

References on Request.