**Chiara Batini, Department of Health Sciences (16.06.22)**

I’m Chiara, and I am a Research Fellow in Genetic Epidemiology. I am part of the Department of Health Sciences, and we are based in the George Davies Centre at the end of Peace Walk, just outside campus.

I am a biologist by education, specifically I’ve studied genetics, and I started my career using human genetics to understand our past and our evolution, and then about five years ago, maybe seven by now, I moved towards using human genetics for research of clinical relevance. So it doesn’t feel like a change but it was quite a big change, and because of the kind of research I do, I have been interacting with other disciplines all the way through. It’s difficult to pick examples, but if I have to choose - I remember very happy times interacting with archaeologists and linguists when I was working in understanding our past, because of course genetics has got its own limitations, and so discussing our results with them was incredibly rewarding, and really enriching in terms of understanding how to interpret them. And then a very different example, from more recent times, is a project I’m involved in that aims at developing a sustainable strategy for collecting air-conditioning data in low- and middle-income countries, and it’s currently based in South Africa, with the idea of expanding beyond. So this is led by physicists, really, but it does include many different disciplines, and we have all been learning a lot from each other so far. I am involved in the project more from the Health Sciences side, so of course I’m not directly involved in the air pollution data research, but I have been involved in terms of impact of the project.

Because of the kind of research I’ve done, I have actually interacted with several disciplines, but of course each interaction has not been the same in each case, so it has been a different level of involvement. Sometimes it’s just, almost a consultation of experts of other disciplines, and other times it has been a proper collaboration. The ones that I interact with the most now are really medicine and statistics, because of the nature of the research I do. We think a little bit differently, and by combining that way of thinking, you really come across different perspectives that would be completely unexplored otherwise.

My favourite place is just on the side of campus, not quite on campus, is Welford Road Cemetery - I find it incredibly beautiful, very peaceful, of course, but also what I really enjoy - and that might sound odd - I really enjoy looking at grave inscriptions, and thinking about what kind of life people may have had, and there’s quite a few interesting graves in that cemetery, so that’s where I go for a chillout walk, and it has been incredibly helpful during lockdown, actually.