



# SILVIA LANATI



## OPERATIONS LEAD PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH UNIT (PERU)

"I love talking to people about science and scientists, we are humans after all! It is so important showing the human side of research and innovation and make concepts accessible to everyone."

### Academic profile

#### Degree

BSc in Natural Sciences

#### Post grad

PhD in Physiology

MSc in Experimental Biology

#### Qualification/achievement you are

##### most proud of

UoS Vice Chancellor Awards 2020 for Public Engagement and Outreach

#### Subjects you enjoyed at school

science, art, Italian literature

### Career Summary

Born and raised in a vineyard on the hills of northern Italy, I took my BSc and MSc at my local University while I served as a first responder for the Italian Red Cross for 6 years. After that, I moved to Bristol to be a laboratory technician before taking a PhD studying metastasis in human melanoma. All followed by a postdoc in biochemical engineering at UC Santa Barbara (California) and then in neuroblastoma immunotherapy at the University of Southampton (UoS). In the meantime, I gradually started gaining experience in research engagement, until I moved completely career path to "the other side of the bench" and today I work for the Public Engagement with Research unit (PERu), where I am in charge of planning, organising and delivering the Southampton Science and Engineering Festival (SOTSEF), the Human Worlds Festival and the itinerant 'Bringing Research to Life' Roadshow.

### Describe your job



### What inspired you?

Growing up in the countryside, I have always wanted to work on something that could benefit nature since I was a kid, and this is the reason why I chose Natural Sciences for my BSc. Then while working with the Italian Red Cross I stirred my interests to medicine, but eventually I discovered research engagement and it was the final game changer - I am still so glad though that I have the inner core of a scientist, my actual contribution in my role would be so different without that!

### Did you know .....

The UK has a cutting-edge support network for professionals, communities and researchers dedicated to public engagement called NCCPE - the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement - which has its own annual international conference and academia!

### Top tip

Like my dad always says "Impara l'arte e mettila da parte" "Learn an art and put it aside" (lit.). It might sound corny but it means to learn anything anywhere and never forget it since you will never know when this will make a difference to your career or maximise the impact you have. And never feel stuck on a career path, you have to do what you love and be happy.

### Best thing about my job

Travelling, which has been a great way to meet and talk to people from all over the world and seeing, eating and visiting something new every time.

### Find out more

- @uos\_engagement
- <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/per/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJTByrUt9SHJty81DXyI95A>

### Watch the video:

QR code in here