

Dr. James E. Brooks

I want to identify the most promising and rigorously analysed research in the world, and apply it as effectively as possible to make the world better for everyone. I am looking for a varied and challenging role that helps me achieve that aim. My particular areas of interest are personal effectiveness, research, communication and education.

The start of my academic career was at the University of Bath in Psychology and Communication Engineering. Later, I specialised in Electrical Engineering in which I gained my B.Sc. and co-authored several publications on artificial intelligence. I moved on to achieve a Ph.D. in Quantifying Risks in Renewable Power Generation.

I returned to the world of communications when I became a cameraman and assisted on media training and communication skills events. That became my preparation for leading the development of a tech start-up which included making technical decisions for product development as well as hiring new employees. My focus has evolved towards teaching people how to form positive habits, rapidly acquire new skills, and achieve their goals; presenting my ideas at Oxford University, Board Intelligence, The Effective Altruism Summit (USA), Stirling University, and The Centre for Applied Sciences (UK).

5app | Head of Development | Nov-2013 to Current

- Responsible for creating the development roadmap and keeping our small team working towards it for the first public release of our new product.
- Implemented a major refactoring to improve the quality of our code and automate a number of time consuming tasks.
- Moved to a more agile development structure after I became a Certified ScrumMaster.
- To ensure the product met the needs of users and was understandable I carried out multiple rounds of user testing; iterating and improving the product after each round.

Personal | Workshop Instructor | Sept-2012 to Current

- I have been teaching workshops on “*personal and professional effectiveness*”.
- Topics have included: How to form positive habits, Rapidly acquiring new skills, Achieving your goals, and Effectiveness.
- Each topic is based on published research hence I conducted an extensive literature review and background reading for every workshop.
- See <http://goo.gl/HbO2kT> for an example of the hand-out for a workshop on “Procrastination”.

- Workshops and presentations at: Oxford University's Centre of Effective Altruism Group, Board Intelligence Ltd., The Effective Altruism Summit (USA), Stirling University, and The Center for Applied Sciences.

5app | Developer | Aug-2011 to Nov-2013

- Introduced git and github to the team for revisioning and issue tracking.
- The main developer for an extended version of a reliable networking library.
- Designed and implemented native libraries for iOS, Android, and Windows 8 (in Objective-C, Java, and C#).
- Rewrote the server-side code in node.js using a redis data-store.

University of Bath | Ph.D. | July-2006 to July-2013

- Topic: "*Quantifying and mitigating risk in large scale renewable wind power generation*".
- Research involved: mathematical modelling, artificial intelligence, risk analysis.
- Presented research papers in UK, Italy, and China.

University of Bath | Copyeditor | July-2009 to Sept-2009

- Reviewed and corrected distance learning material.
- Topic: "*Electrical Power System Economics*".

White Hart Multimedia | Camera Operator | Oct-2002 to July-2010

- Part-time work as camera operator across UK and in Kenya.
- Filmed interviews of numerous board-level directors.
- Assisted with workshops on media training and communication skills.

University of Bath | B.Sc. | Oct-2003 to July-2006

- Graduated with honours 2:1.
- Undergraduate project: computer modelling of a magnetic levitation train based around a custom numerical integrator and an artificial intelligence optimised control system (written from scratch as a multi-threaded C++ program).

Personal Interests

I have a love of learning new things and being able to break them down to teach to others.

Sports: Having previously taken a keen interest in karate, horse riding and modern pentathlon competing at a high level in each I have now changed to focus on dance (ceroc and bachata), weightlifting, rock climbing, and mountaineering.

Other: I am passionate about the science of goal setting and achievement, regularly teaching workshops on how plans fail and what can be done about it. I am one of the organisers of a rationality and practical philosophy group in London.