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HUMAN SCIENCES
2001-2004
MSC IN NEUROSCIENCE
2004-2005

Kerri Smith

FEATURES EDITOR NATURE

Oxford Human Sciences, 2001-2004
MSc in Neuroscience, 2004-2005

Kerri Smith writes, commissions and edits for *Nature* magazine, mainly on neuroscience and biomedicine. She has also presented and produced award-winning audio documentaries including the *Nature Podcast* and *NeuroPod* series.

HOW DO YOU USE YOUR EP DEGREE TODAY? In each essay I wrote, my tutor, Dick Passingham, would ask for all critiques or original thoughts on the topics we were writing about to be written in italics or otherwise highlighted. He wanted to see the amount of italicised text increase throughout the eight weeks of tutes. It really made me realise that I should be forensic in questioning and critiquing what I was reading, and asking myself: could this experiment have been done differently? What might be controversial about the assumptions made? Would I conclude the same thing given the same data? Building that skill was so crucial to the Masters I went on to do and the career in journalism that I have pursued. I may not write in italics too much, but I still use the 'Passingham' approach every day.

FUNNIEST MEMORY? My lab partner and I, halfway through a practical involving *Drosophila*, accidentally used too small a dose of ether to knock the flies out, and half of them escaped from the vessel they were in, dozily buzzing off into the lab to our surprise and dismay. We soldiered on regardless, compiling our results on their coloration - but our methodology was shabby and I wouldn't have trusted our results!



THE SKILLS I PICKED UP during my time as an undergrad and as an MSc student are invaluable to my current job, writing and editing feature length articles on life sciences and watching for trends in science and the scientific community. Right now I have two neuroscience pieces on the go, and another on a psychology topic in the pipeline.

Experimental Psychology
graduates go amazing places!

