

# Rockets and research schools: The making of a modern space lab

Osnat Katz

UCL/Science Museum

[osnat.katz.19@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:osnat.katz.19@ucl.ac.uk)

- About my research
- Why do this?
- *How* to do this?
- Interesting findings

Thanks to Jon Agar,  
Doug Millard and  
Lucie Green for all  
their supervision

Some thank  
yous...

Jocelyn Bell  
Burnell

Graziella  
Branduardi-  
Raymont

Phil Charles

Andrew Coates

John Coker

Richard Cole

Robin Corbet

Mark Cropper

Len Culhane

Enise Nihal

Ercan

Lucie Green

Barry Hancock

Colin Jones

Dhiren Kataria

Keith Mason

Arvind Parmar

Ken Phillips

Alan Smith

Gethyn

Timothy

Gordon Wrenn

# About me

- AHRC funded CDP PhD researcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Background: space, physics...
- ...then science communication
- Now a historian!

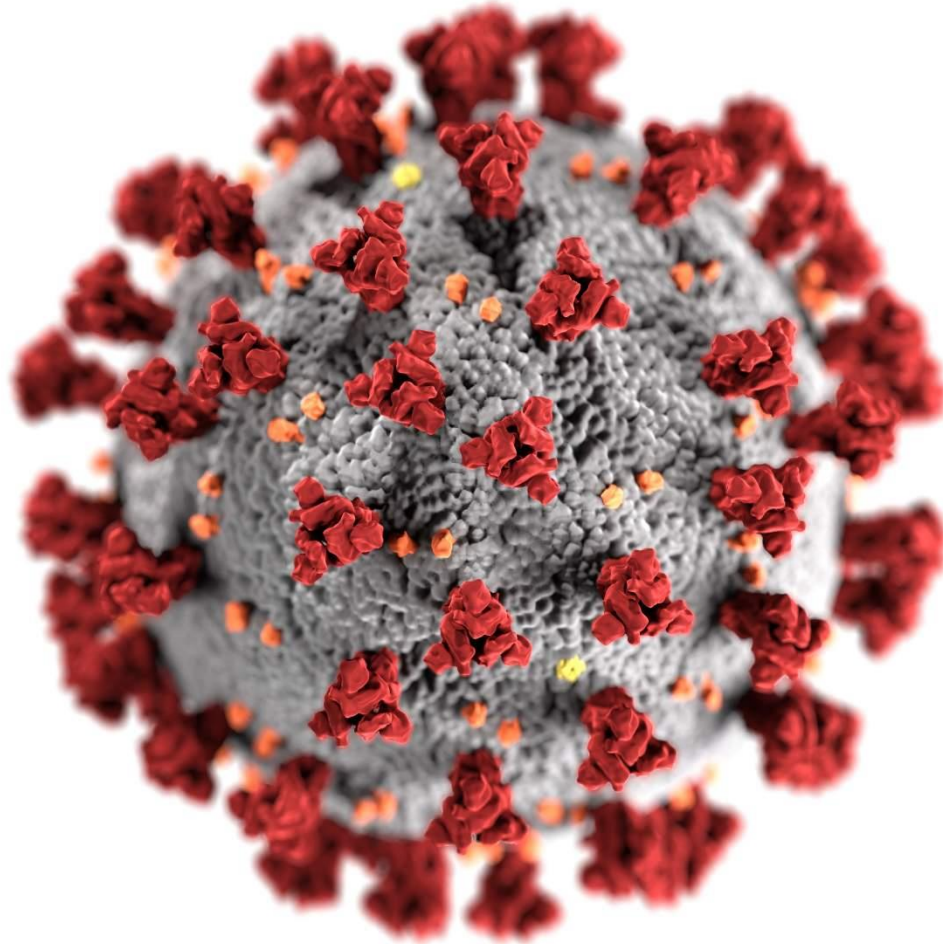


Credit: Science Museum

- **Social and cultural**  
history of MSSL
- (what people do,  
and *why*)
- Preserve  
knowledge for  
future generations
- Understand how  
MSSL does science

About my  
research

# Investigating history



# Investigating history: oral history

- Remote interviewing with scientists and engineers
- Fashioning memory
- Generosity



# Investigating history: material culture

- Access difficult
- Photographs
- Combine with interviews



# What are we learning?

- Roles of principal investigators, engineers, administrators less examined in history of science
- Knowledge through negotiation
- Instruments + data drive maturation of science

# Conclusion

- Much to learn about mature science, knowledge production
- Instruments important for more than just science!
- Oral history effective in investigating subjective feelings about science