The Jason Arday Record: Research Dossier

By Dr. Hakeem Ali-Bocas Alexander, PhD, as told to Ishai G.A.

Part One — The Session Timeline

Friday, 27 November 2026 — all times Eastern Standard Time, taken from the chat record and the completion logs of the work itself.

By the clock

- **10:58:21 PM** — Hakeem begins reading Dante Lee's Facebook post aloud. He names Dante Lee, and mid-sentence decides to paste the text into the chat instead of reading it.
- **10:58:23 PM** — The pasted text lands. The post reports that Queen's University Belfast has cleared a 2021 paper co-authored by Dr. Jason Arday — the second university clearance, published months after Arday's death. The post is flagged as AI content.
- **10:59:02 PM** — Hakeem directs the work: an article for HAKEYM News, carrying his thoughts on the story.
- **~11:02–11:14 PM** — At Hakeem's direction, the piece is reframed as investigative journalism. The interview begins: what was actually claimed, who accused Arday, how did he die, and what stands behind the accuser.
- **~11:02–11:40 PM** — Three research passes run while the interview continues. Pass one reconstructs Arday's biography and timeline. Pass two establishes the record of his death, the coroner, and the police. Pass three builds the background dossier on the accuser, Nathan Cofnas. At ~11:30 PM Hakeem confirms the two-piece split: the full chronology on HAKEYM News, his own feelings and opinions on hakeemalexander.com.
- **11:43–11:46 PM** — The credit correction. Hakeem insists the man whose post started the evening be named correctly; the record is checked, an early wrong answer is corrected to Dante Lee, and a fourth research pass profiles Lee and his organization. Pass four completes at 11:46:43 PM — 48 minutes after the thread was pulled.
- **11:49:18 PM** — The HAKEYM News investigative draft is complete. Full chronology, every name and date, sources attached. 51 minutes.
- **11:50:15 PM** — The One Person Enterprise method draft is complete: the article about the method itself, written from the same evening's work. 52 minutes.
- **11:51:10 PM** — The hakeemalexander.com personal draft is complete, in different wording from the investigative piece. 53 minutes.

The total

One pasted Facebook post became a four-pass sourced dossier and three finished article drafts in about 53 minutes. The dossier carries the biography, the allegation, two institutional clearances, the death and

inquest record, the accuser's background, and the profile of the man whose post started it — every claim attributed, and every gap in the public record named as a gap.

DANTE LEE — CREDIT LINKS (documented 2026-11-27)

Dante Lee is the Black media entrepreneur and promoter behind BlackPR.com and BlackNews.com, whose 26 November 2026 Facebook post brought the Queen's University Belfast clearance to Hakeem's attention and gave this investigation its impetus.

- **His Arday post (26 November 2026, 3:40 PM):** https://www.facebook.com/dantelee/posts/pfbid02Gr7gjLaquhxWWnFkEMHbE9iTiPdCMhDjfy6BW5XRjEhZEAfdqMWueDqQ524cXJNDl
- **His Facebook profile:** https://www.facebook.com/dantelee — "Dante Lee (Black News Promoter)," roughly 405,000 followers
- **His Black News Facebook page:** @blacknews — https://www.facebook.com/blacknews — roughly 1.6 million followers, curated by Lee
- **His websites:** https://blackpr.com and https://blacknews.com

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Part Two — Biographical Research Dossier

Compiled 2026-11-27/28.

A note on sources: This is a contested, sensitive story. Arday's early-life story was largely told by Arday himself (interviews, his 2026 memoir *Great and Unfortunate Things*) and repeated by universities and the BBC from 2023 on. In July–August 2026, newspapers (Guardian, Times, Telegraph) and Nathan Cofnas challenged parts of both his research record and his personal biography. Where a "fact" below rests only on Arday's own account, it is marked **[Arday's account]**. Where 2026 reporting disputed it, it is marked **[DISPUTED]** and detailed in Section 10. Nothing in this dossier asserts a cause of death: no official cause has been published.

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1. Birth and origins

- **Full name:** Jason Atta Kwei Arday. Confirmed in open court by the senior coroner, Dr Julian Morris, at the inquest opening, London Inner South Coroner's Court, 26 August 2026 (reported by The Voice / South London News, 27 Aug 2026).
- **Born:** 9 May 1985, in Lambeth / Clapham, South London. The coroner gave his birth date and Lambeth as place of birth; Wikipedia and the Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) honorary-award biography give Clapham, South London, as birthplace and where he was raised.
- **Parents:** Both parents were Ghanaian immigrants. His mother, **Gifty**, was a mental health nurse; his father was a chef (Wikipedia, citing profile sources; ARU biography). Multiple profiles describe the mother as the central figure in his early development: she used music and lyrics to connect him with language, and took him to the careers office that predicted only unpaid volunteer work for him (ARU biography; Cambridge Faculty of Education announcement, Feb 2023).

- **Family:** Third of four brothers; grew up on a council estate in Clapham, in the London Borough of Lambeth (Wikipedia; ARU). He was himself a father and partner — his family's statement after his death described him as "an amazing father, partner, brother, uncle and son" (family statement via Simon & Schuster UK, Aug 2026).
- **Could not verify:** his father's name; either parent's place of birth in Ghana or date of arrival in the UK; any detail of the parents' lives beyond the mother's occupation and role above. No credible outlet in the sources checked gives more.

2. Early life and schooling

- **Diagnosis at three [Arday's account, repeated by Cambridge/ARU/BBC]:** At age three he was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and global developmental delay. In his own fuller account he also listed deafness and dyscalculia among the diagnoses at three (Wikipedia summary of his account). He communicated via sign language and received extensive speech and language therapy.
- **Non-verbal until 11 [Arday's account — DISPUTED, see Section 10]:** He said he did not speak until age 11, when "the words began to flow," crediting his mother's music-based work with him (ARU biography; Cambridge announcement). In his memoir he wrote that as he approached 12 the council was about to withdraw his speech therapy for lack of progress, and that before his first words he had "said bits of words and made various noises out of context" (Guardian, Aug 2026).
- **Illiterate until 18 [Arday's account — DISPUTED in part, see Section 10]:** He said he could not read or write until 18, and was diagnosed with dyslexia in his first year of university. His mentor Sandro Sandri (also spelled "Sandi" in some profiles), a college tutor, is credited with supporting him into literacy in his late teens (Cambridge announcement; Pride Magazine profile, 2023).
- **Schools:** Heathbrook Primary School, Nine Elms (Wikipedia). At secondary school he earned only **two GCSEs — in textiles and physical education** — then took a **BTEC in Sport and Development at Merton College, Morden** (Wikipedia; ARU). Per his memoir, he spent many afternoons truanting to play snooker, winning money in tournaments across London, and as a student earned money in pro–am nine-ball pool tournaments; he also played semi-professional football as a goalkeeper for Lewisham Borough F.C. (and, per Wikipedia, Walton & Hersham F.C.).
- **Predictions:** Therapists and careers advisers predicted he would live in assisted living and need lifelong support (Cambridge announcement; Pride Magazine).

3. University path and pre-academia work

- **Undergraduate:** In **2005** he began a BA in **Education Studies with Physical Education at St Mary's University, Twickenham**, graduating in **2008**; the degree was validated by the University of Surrey (Wikipedia). Note: Cambridge's own 2023 announcement said he "studied Physical Education and Education Studies at the University of Surrey" — the same course described by its validating university. There was no late "switch" into sociology at degree level: his first degree and PhD were in **education**; the sociology identity came with his later posts (Durham/Glasgow sociology departments) and research focus on race and education.

- **Teacher training:** He trained as a PE teacher (PGCE; one fact-check summary of the press reporting attributes the PGCE to UCL — treat as reported, not independently confirmed here).
- **Master's:** He stayed at St Mary's for an **MA in Education and Pedagogy** (Wikipedia). Cambridge's announcement says he acquired "**two Masters qualifications**" and a PhD in educational studies. The second master's is not cleanly identified in the sources checked — and a further claimed Birkbeck master's became one of the disputed items (Section 10).
- **Jobs before/during academia:** He worked as a PE teacher; as a **sports lecturer at Richmond College in 2010** (Wikipedia); and he funded his studies with part-time work at **Boots and Sainsbury's**, and earlier worked as a **late-night cleaner** (Pride Magazine, 2023, retelling his account; repeated in BBC-era profiles). "Less than eight years ago he was working in Sainsbury's" (Pride, Feb 2023). He also worked as a lecturer at LJMU's IM Marsh campus after his supervisor hired him (see Section 5).
- **Mentoring/voluntary roles:** Trustee of the Runnymede Trust from 2013 to 2024 (Wikipedia). Co-editor, with Prof Claire Alexander (Manchester), of the Runnymede report *Aiming Higher* on racial inequality in British universities (Cambridge announcement; note the report is dated 2015 in Cambridge's telling).

4. Funding

- **No scholarship or bursary for the PhD (or earlier study) appears anywhere in the record checked.** Every profile that addresses money says the opposite: he **self-funded through part-time work** — "funding his studies by working part-time at Boots and Sainsbury's" (Pride Magazine, 2023), alongside the cleaner and supermarket jobs in his own telling.
- **Note:** any claim that he held a scholarship would be unsourced. The accurate line is that no scholarship is on record and profiles describe him paying his own way through work.
- Separately, his claimed charity fundraising (£5m+) is a *fundraising* claim, not study funding — and it is disputed (Section 10).

5. The PhD itself

- **Thesis title (LJMU Research Online, eprint 4552):** *An exploration of peer-mentoring among student teachers' to inform reflective practice within the context of action research*. DOI: **10.24377/LJMU.t.00004552**. Author listed as "Arday, JAK." Repository: https://researchonline.ljmu.ac.uk/id/eprint/4552/
- **Date:** The thesis is dated **2015** in the repository. Wikipedia cites the thesis PDF as **July 2015**; the deposited PDF's filename reads "Final PhD Thesis Version Final Draft **Oct 2015**." The repository record was deposited **4 November 2016** ("Date of first compliant Open Access: 4 November 2016"). The PhD was **awarded in 2015** (LJMU; BBC). A Cambridge photo caption shows him at "his PhD ceremony (Liverpool John Moores) in **2016**" — consistent with an award in late 2015 and a 2016 graduation ceremony, though no source checked states the ceremony date explicitly.
- **Supervisor: Professor Phil Vickerman** is the sole supervisor named in the repository record ("Supervisors: Vickerman, P"). Vickerman later hired Arday as a lecturer at LJMU and publicly praised his "enthusiasm, grit, and determination" (LJMU, quoted in Wikipedia). Note: the LJMU

misconduct panel (2025–26) "accepted that there had been problems with his supervision" (Academic Power register summary of the reported panel conclusions) — supervision failure is part of the official story of the thesis, not only Arday's defence.

- **Examiners: No credible source checked names his internal or external examiners, and no viva date is published.** The thesis front matter as deposited does not name examiners in the repository metadata. The only examiner detail in the record is Arday's own memoir claim that one examiner remarked of the thesis, "I am struggling to see that there is any original contribution here" (memoir, via Wikipedia) — **[Arday's account]**, unverified, and the examiner is unnamed.
- **His other claims about the PhD [Arday's account — DISPUTED-adjacent]:** He claimed he completed the PhD in **two-and-a-half years**, and that he had to relearn the dissertation's contents weeks before defending it because of memory loss following removal of a brain tumour and a transient ischaemic attack (mini-stroke). These come from his own telling; the brain-tumour claim was among the biographical claims journalists probed in 2026 and it remains unverified either way in the sources checked.
- **Subject note:** The PhD was in **education**, on peer-mentoring among student teachers — not sociology, and not race. The passages Cofnas and the Telegraph later matched were against **Paula Zwozdiak-Myers's 2009 Brunel doctoral thesis**, a work in the same teacher-education area (The Telegraph, 24 July 2026; The Times, 31 July 2026).

6. Career steps, PhD (2015) to Cambridge (2023)

From Wikipedia's institution list, cross-checked against Cambridge's announcement and press profiles:

- **2014–2018 — Leeds Beckett University:** taught Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy; per his memoir he joined as a PE specialist in 2014, while still completing the PhD. (He also lectured at LJMU itself after Vickerman hired him — dates not cleanly published.)
- **2018–2019 — University of Roehampton:** senior lecturer (2018). His first academic paper was published in **2018**, after repeated rejections — "Everything I submitted got violently rejected" (Pride, 2023).
- **2019 — University of Warwick:** education studies (brief post).
- **2019–2022 — Durham University:** sociology; associate professor of sociology (Pride, 2023).
- **Jan 2022 – Mar 2023 — University of Glasgow: Professor of Sociology of Education** — Glasgow's own spokesperson confirmed: "Jason Arday was employed as Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Glasgow between 2021 and 2023. He left the University to take up his role as Professorial Chair at the University of Cambridge" (Glasgow spokesperson to the New York Post, Aug 2026; Glasgow dates the chair from Jan 2022 in the Academic Power register). Cambridge's Feb 2023 announcement said he became a Glasgow professor in 2021 — a minor date discrepancy between institutional statements (appointment vs start).
- **Cambridge appointment:** Announced **February 2023**; he **took up the post on 6 March 2023** as **Professor of Sociology of Education in the Faculty of Education**, and was a Fellow of Jesus College. Cambridge's announcement: "At 37, he will be the youngest Black person ever appointed to a

professorship at Cambridge," and he was the sixth Black professor at Cambridge at the time. Faculty quote on appointment: "Jason Arday is an exceptional scholar of race, inequality and education. He will contribute significantly to Cambridge's research in this area…" (Cambridge Faculty of Education, 23 Feb 2023).

- **Honours in this period:** honorary doctorate from St Mary's University, Twickenham (his alma mater); other honorary degrees and trustee/advisory roles followed (Wikipedia). These honorary appointments later formed part of Cambridge's August 2026 investigation remit ("new information about Professor Arday's qualifications and honorary appointments").

7. The denial timeline — what Arday said, and when

- **Pre-public phase (2023–2025):** Concerns were raised privately from 2023 (emeritus professor Dave Harris). In 2025 Times Higher Education prepared a story and did not run it after intervention by Arday's lawyers, **Carter-Ruck** (per the established fact base; Retraction Watch reporting). Arday himself did not publicly address plagiarism claims in this period that the sources record.
- **31 July 2026 — The Times interview (his first interview after the allegations went public; Fiona Hamilton & Emma Yeomans, The Times, published Fri 31 July 2026, 9:25pm):** He denied academic fraud while admitting errors:
- "I am accountable for the mistakes I've made. I hold myself accountable and other people should hold me accountable. We're talking about academia here. I didn't murder somebody. I think the cruelty that I've experienced and the positioning of me as this kind of liar and fantasist is totally unacceptable."
- "It's soul-destroying because I've done everything I can to try and do the best I can… I don't think people realise that there's a human being at the end of this. And they don't realise that that human being is someone's father or a son."
- "I'm being portrayed to be a liar and a fantasist and an academic fraud." Headline framing: "what I am not is a liar."
- **On neurodivergence:** The Times reported that he **attributed some errors in his early academic work to his autism, saying his method of making sense of information relied heavily on mimicry**. He did not dispute that passages in his thesis were identical or highly similar to Zwozdiak-Myers's work (The Times).
- He said he believed he had been subjected to a "**dark arts**" campaign since arriving at Cambridge, becoming a "lightning rod" for criticism of DEI.
- On the fundraising narrative, he said: "I accept responsibility that I could have been really, really explicit" in correcting it.
- **Early August 2026 — statement via his publisher (Simon & Schuster) to The New York Times** (reported 3 Aug 2026): he said a "detailed investigation" of his dissertation had "**cleared me, acknowledging honest and reasonable errors that did not amount to plagiarism**"; that he "had no reason to lie or fabricate"; and that he was the victim of "a wider campaign, motivated by racism, to discredit me in every single way possible," adding: "There is a well-documented playbook for discrediting Black academics in high-profile positions, and it's been used to devastating effect in the

U.S. and now with me in the U.K."

- **To the Guardian (Aug 2026):** he denied the accounts of two childhood acquaintances who questioned the non-verbal claim, and arranged for two school friends (named in the Guardian as Nick Clark and Mike Freeman) to send statements supporting his account. He also told the Guardian he supported "fair investigation processes for genuine concerns" of academic misconduct, and pointed to "multiple thorough investigations across several institutions."
- **5 August 2026 — resignation statement:** Announcing his resignation from Cambridge and Jesus College with immediate effect, he wrote that "the relentless accusations, speculation and public commentary have taken a profound toll on me and on those I love," and that stepping down should not "be mistaken for an acceptance of the narratives that have surrounded me" (reported by BBC and others, 5 Aug 2026). In his resignation letter he also repeated the core of his story — that becoming a Cambridge professor was something he "could scarcely have imagined" as an autistic child "unable to speak until I was 11 years old" (Guardian).
- **Simon Baron-Cohen's intervention (31 July 2026):** Cambridge autism professor Simon Baron-Cohen publicly stated concern about the coverage's impact on Arday, noting he "was cleared of any academic misconduct following a rigorous investigation by Liverpool John Moores University" (statement quoted by Good Law Project). Baron-Cohen later told the BBC Arday "felt he couldn't go on."

8. Death — circumstances as reported

- **14 August 2026:** Arday, 41, was **found unresponsive by family members returning to his home in Battersea, south London, on the afternoon of Friday 14 August 2026**. London Ambulance Service and the Metropolitan Police attended; despite resuscitation attempts he was **pronounced dead at the scene** (inquest reporting: The Guardian's Haroon Siddique; South London News, 27 Aug 2026).
- **Police:** "At this time his death is being treated as unexpected, but is not believed to be suspicious." The Met confirmed "the scene was not suspicious"; the case is handled by the Central South Command Unit with a file prepared for the coroner (Met statement, Aug 2026; coroner's remarks in court).
- **Inquest:** Opened **26 August 2026** at London Inner South Coroner's Court by senior coroner **Dr Julian Morris**, with family watching by videolink. Morris said: "The various reports have given me reason to suspect that Professor Arday died an unnatural death 12 days ago. It therefore follows that I must open an investigation. I will be setting out further directions for the coroner officer." ("Unnatural death" is a legal classification requiring investigation; it does not imply suspicious circumstances.) Morris also urged the media to report sensitively, with regard to the family and vulnerable members of the public. **The inquest was adjourned to a date yet to be confirmed.**
- **No official cause of death has been published** as of the latest reporting checked (late Nov 2026). Some commentators and outlets describe an **apparent suicide**; that is commentary, not a coroner's finding, and must not be stated as fact. Simon Baron-Cohen told the BBC Arday "felt he couldn't go on."
- **Family statement (via Simon & Schuster UK, Aug 2026):** The family said they were "in shock to have lost this amazing father, partner, brother, uncle and son," and: "**The campaign of**

misinformation was too much for Jason, who was a gentle man and who always wanted to see the best in everyone." They said that for **three years** Arday was "subjected to a campaign of sustained abuse… by those who would leave no stone unturned in their quest to undermine him," and asked "the press to leave us alone now, and to stop the campaign of harassment which has been waged against Jason and his family for too long."

- **Aftermath:** A crowdfunding appeal set up by campaigner Sir Patrick Vernon OBE raised **more than £224,000 from over 7,900 contributions** for the family before being closed at their request (Evening Standard, via South London News). The family later thanked supporters: "The response to this appeal reflects the number of people whose lives were touched by our beloved Jason and the affection, respect and admiration in which he was held. Jason devoted his life and career to advancing education, widening participation, tackling race and inequality, and championing autism and neurodiversity…" (ITV News Anglia). A vigil was held in Trafalgar Square on 17 August 2026. More than **30,000 people**, including Diane Abbott MP and Jameela Jamil, signed a letter to the Prime Minister calling for a **public inquiry** into the media coverage, claiming his death followed "two weeks of relentless harassment" (BBC). Prime Minister Andy Burnham commented publicly on the death (BBC, Nov 2026 report). Cambridge Vice-Chancellor Deborah Prentice said she was "desperately saddened."
- **What remains unknown:** the medical cause of death; the inquest's conclusion; whether the inquest will examine the media coverage. All pending the coroner's process.

9. The "second clearance" — Queen's University Belfast, and the other inquiries

- **What Queen's reviewed:** A single paper published in **2021** on Queen's academic research site, **co-authored by Arday and Queen's academics** — "Attempting to break the chain: Reimagining inclusive pedagogy and decolonising the curriculum within the academy," about the impact of university teaching on BAME learners and academics of colour. Queen's began looking into it **after Arday resigned from Cambridge in August 2026**. The paper had already been **corrected in 2024** to clarify that it used methodologies similar to a previous Arday study, itself based on a 2016 paper by a Brighton and Sussex Medical School team (BBC).
- **What Queen's said (statement reported by BBC News NI, Peter Coulter, published 26 November 2026, 00:02 GMT):** "Having reviewed the matter, we are satisfied that the paper meets the appropriate academic standards and have no concerns regarding its publication."
- **Precision:** Queen's is the **second institution to decline to substantiate a plagiarism charge** (after LJMU on the thesis), but its statement concerns **one co-authored paper**, is not described as the outcome of a formal misconduct investigation, and the reporting does not state who conducted the review or when it concluded (Academic Power register, Nov 2026). The Facebook post that prompted this article ("cleared of plagiarism allegations by a second university") is therefore an overstatement of scope, though not of direction.
- **Family/supporter reaction to the Queen's statement: None found** in the sources checked as of 27–28 Nov 2026. Coverage (BBC; The Voice) carried the statement and background without a new family comment. Supporter reaction existed on social media (e.g., theGrio's 27 Nov 2026 post) but no formal family or campaign statement on the Queen's outcome was located.

- **Glasgow:** The University of Glasgow announced a **review of its 2022 hiring decision**; **no outcome has been published** as of late Nov 2026 (Academic Power register). Separately, Glasgow confirmed his employment dates and that he did **not** hold a "visiting professor" title there after leaving (Section 10).
- **Durham:** Durham began investigating his work/appointments (BBC). **No outcome published** as of late Nov 2026. Durham's only public comment located concerns his post-departure status: an "unpaid academic association… in relation to ongoing project work," described as standard practice (Durham spokesperson to the New York Post).
- **Cambridge review:** Two-part independent review. **Part one** (Nazir Afzal, former chief crown prosecutor) covers the support available to Arday before his death. **Part two**, led by **Jason Beer KC**, had its terms of reference published **4 November 2026** and is to report **within six months**; it will examine recruitment, mentoring, misconduct handling and support for academics under public criticism. It **expressly will not** decide whether the allegations are proven, and Beer has said the panel will "not conduct an independent assessment of the scholarly merit or integrity of Prof Arday's published work" (Cambridge terms of reference, via Academic Power register). Cambridge's own investigation announced 5 Aug 2026 (into qualifications and honorary appointments, widened 7 Aug to his appointment and tenure) has published **no outcome**; the Jesus College process closed with the fellowship rather than a finding.
- **Other processes:** Taylor & Francis's Aug 2026 preliminary investigation into the same 2021 paper found "no grounds" to add to its 2024 correction notice. In total, of the processes opened into his work, the two that have reported on substance (LJMU, Queen's — plus the publisher) declined to substantiate plagiarism; the rest remain unpublished or, in Cambridge's case, scoped away from the allegation itself.
- **Related development:** On 20 August 2026 **Ghent University** notified Nathan Cofnas of a preliminary disciplinary investigation and **suspended him as a precautionary measure** (Ghent University statement, Aug 2026). Cofnas said publicly he expected to be fired. Ghent stated "the death of Professor Arday should prompt reflection."

10. Disputed elements of the popular biography — item by item

Each item: the claim as popularly told; who disputed it; Arday's response; status.

1. **Non-verbal until 11.** *Claim:* Arday said he was non-verbal throughout childhood, first speaking at 11. *Disputed by:* The Guardian (Aug 2026, "'Always cracking jokes': questions raised over Jason Arday's claim he was non-verbal as a child") — childhood acquaintance Jonathan Stewart, 40, said Arday "was always cracking jokes. He was the comedian guy, he would even put on voices," and a second man gave a similar account. *Arday's response:* He denied their accounts, said he had earlier "said bits of words and made various noises out of context," and supplied statements from two school friends (Nick Clark, Mike Freeman) supporting his version — one said: "His severe special needs didn't stop him playing football and games with me and others as he was still friendly and could communicate through play and actions." *Status:* **Unresolved.** Contemporaries on both sides; no documentary adjudication.
2. **Illiterate until 18.** *Claim:* Could not read or write until 18. *Disputed by:* Media scrutiny in 2026 (Wikipedia notes the statement "came under media scrutiny"); a resurfaced TV appearance had his

then-partner saying he learned at **16**. *Status:* **Unresolved**; the age varies between tellings (16 vs 18).

3. **30 marathons in 35 days; 600 miles in six days.** *Claim:* He ran 30 marathons in 35 days (the last ten, he said, on a fractured leg/hairline fracture, powered by ice baths and painkillers) and 600 miles in six days. *Disputed by:* The Guardian and The Times (July–Aug 2026) — almost no supporting evidence found. *Arday's response:* He **revised** the 600-mile feat to **12 days**, and said the runs were part of a group effort. *Status:* **Partly withdrawn/revised by Arday himself**; the marathon claim remains unverified.
4. **£5 million (sometimes £5.5m) raised for charity.** *Claim:* He personally raised £5m+ for charity through endurance feats. *Disputed by:* The Guardian/The Times; the only public JustGiving page located showed a small fraction (one fact-check summary cites £380; another cites just over £6,000 — figures differ by source and page). *Arday's response:* He told the Guardian the money was raised **with a group over 20 years** (later described as a ~100-person syndicate) and that non-disclosure agreements prevented him naming participants; to The Times he accepted he "could have been really, really explicit" in correcting the one-man narrative. *Status:* **Revised by Arday; the original solo £5m claim is not supported by any public record found.**
5. **Severed pig's head and threats.** *Claim:* After his Cambridge appointment he was targeted with threats, including a severed pig's head delivered in a cardboard box to his parents' home (which he said he intercepted and threw away, reporting it to police months later), bananas and bullets sent to him, and visits by a masked, once knife-wielding intruder. *Disputed by:* The Guardian checked with the **Metropolitan Police, who said the pig's-head account was "categorically" incorrect and that no investigation had ever taken place**; no evidence was found for the other threats. *Status:* **Contradicted by the police on the pig's-head report specifically**; the wider threat claims are unverified.
6. **Visiting/honorary professorships.** *Claims:* His Cambridge biography listed visiting professorships at **Ohio State University** (Office of Diversity and Inclusion), the **University of Glasgow**, and **Nelson Mandela University**, and an honorary professorship at **Durham**. *Disputed by:* The institutions themselves (reported by National Review, Daily Mail, New York Post, Times/Guardian/THE summaries): Ohio State spokesman Benjamin Johnson — "We have no record of an employee by that name" (its DEI office had closed in 2025); Glasgow confirmed employment 2021–2023 but **no visiting professorship after he left**; Durham said he held only an **unpaid academic association**, no formal honorary professorship; Nelson Mandela University also denied the claim per the press summaries. *Status:* **Denied by all four institutions.** His actual salaried posts (Section 6) are not in dispute.
7. **A Birkbeck master's degree.** *Claim:* Biographies reportedly claimed a master's in psychodynamic counselling from Birkbeck, University of London. *Disputed by:* 2026 press reporting — no record of such a degree. *Status:* **Unsupported; no institutional confirmation found.** (His verified degrees are the St Mary's BA and MA and the LJMU PhD.)
8. **An unpublished book presented as his.** *Claim:* He repeatedly presented himself as author of a book titled *Being Young, Black and Male: Challenging the Dominant Discourse* — it appeared in his biography in published essays, in promotional material for a 2019 speaking event at Queen's University Belfast, and in his own *Cool Britannia and Multi-Ethnic Britain*. *Disputed by:* 2026 reporting — the

book was **never published** (a Palgrave Macmillan title that never appeared). *Status:* **The book does not exist as a published work.**

9. **Memoir advance of £1.4 million.** *Claim:* Arday claimed he was paid "1.4 million" by his publisher for the memoir (Guardian headline, Aug 2026: "Jason Arday claimed he was paid '1.4 million' by publisher for memoir"). *Disputed by:* The Guardian's reporting questioned the figure. *Status:* **Unverified**; Simon & Schuster's actual terms are not public.
10. **Brain tumour / mini-stroke and the two-and-a-half-year PhD.** *Claim:* He completed the PhD in 2.5 years despite memory loss from a removed brain tumour and a transient ischaemic attack, relearning the dissertation before the viva. *Disputed by:* Probed by journalists in 2026 as part of the biographical scrutiny; no independent medical or institutional corroboration published. *Status:* **Unverified either way** — rests solely on his account.
11. **A claimed appearance in the BBC's* Seven Up! Claim: *He claimed an appearance in the BBC's* Seven Up! *documentary series.* Disputed by: *The BBC — the series began in 1964, 21 years before he was born, and the BBC said he had "nothing to do with our films" (per the press fact-check summaries).* Status:* **Denied by the BBC.**
12. **Research-data anomalies (distinct from the thesis plagiarism claim).** *Claims against him:* The Times's analysis of his papers reported "impossible" data — e.g., a participant gender breakdown adding to **110%** (78% female, 32% male), participant quotes appearing under different attributions in different papers, a participant he described in a 2020 webinar as having taken their own life whose near-identical quote appeared in the published paper attributed to someone else with no mention of a death, and a 2021 paper stating "This research was supported by Mind" when **Mind said it had "no record of any research we funded or commissioned"** relating to it; also that he had not applied for ethical approval for published studies with human participants. His 2018 paper had earlier been retracted and republished with corrections. *Arday's response (to The Times):* "It's more likely that I've made a mistake, there's a clerical error. It's not that I've fabricated," and "I have no reason to fabricate or to exaggerate black people's suffering in academia"; on the webinar/paper discrepancy he said it was normal to be "selective." *Status:* **Unresolved** — no institutional finding on the data claims has been published; the only completed institutional process (LJMU) covered the thesis, and Taylor & Francis's review covered the 2021 paper's correction notice.
13. **What is NOT disputed:** his birth date and place; his Ghanaian parentage; the St Mary's BA (2008) and MA; the LJMU PhD (2015) and its title and supervisor; his salaried posts at Leeds Beckett, Roehampton, Warwick, Durham, Glasgow (professor, 2022) and Cambridge (professor, March 2023); his resignation date; and the date and place he was found dead. Even his sharpest critics' summaries concede the core degrees and posts appear genuine.

COULD NOT VERIFY

Questions the user asked that the public record, in the sources checked, does not answer:

1. **Thesis examiners and viva date.** No source names Arday's internal/external PhD examiners or gives a viva date. The LJMU repository record names only the supervisor (Vickerman). The only examiner reference anywhere is an unnamed examiner's remark quoted in Arday's own memoir.

2. **Exact thesis submission date.** The record supports "2015" (thesis dated July 2015 in one citation; the final-draft PDF is dated October 2015). No day-level submission date is published.
3. **Any scholarship or bursary.** Nothing on record — neither confirmation nor an explicit denial. All money-related profiles describe self-funding through part-time work (Boots, Sainsbury's, cleaning).
4. **The second master's degree.** Cambridge said "two Masters qualifications"; only the St Mary's MA in Education and Pedagogy is cleanly identified. The other is not specified in credible sources (and a separate claimed Birkbeck master's was reported as having no record).
5. **Parents' details** beyond mother = Gifty, mental-health nurse; father = chef; both Ghanaian immigrants. No names/dates for the father, no migration details.
6. **Cause of death.** Not published. The inquest is adjourned with no date set; only the coroner's "reason to suspect an unnatural death" and the police's "unexpected, not suspicious" are on record.
7. **A family or supporter statement responding to the Queen's clearance** (26 Nov 2026). None located as of 27–28 Nov 2026.
8. **Outcomes of the Glasgow review and Durham inquiry.** Announced; nothing published as of late Nov 2026.
9. **Whether the "deafness and dyscalculia" diagnoses at age three** (part of his own account) were ever independently documented. They appear only in retellings of his account.
10. **The exact start date of his Glasgow professorship** — Cambridge said 2021; Glasgow's employment span is given as 2021–2023 with the chair dated from January 2022 in the register. The discrepancy is minor but unresolved in print.

Master timeline (verified facts only; Arday-account items marked *)

- **9 May 1985** — Born in Clapham/Lambeth, South London, to Ghanaian parents; third of four brothers; mother a mental health nurse, father a chef.
- **1988 (age 3)*** — Diagnosed with autism and global developmental delay (his account adds deafness and dyscalculia); non-verbal, communicated by sign language, in speech therapy.
- **c. 1996 (age 11)*** — Began to speak (his account).
- **School years** — Heathbrook Primary, Nine Elms; secondary school: two GCSEs (textiles, PE); BTEC in Sport and Development, Merton College, Morden.
- **c. 2003 (age 18)*** — Learned to read and write (his account; a TV telling by his then-partner said 16).
- **2005** — Began BA in Education Studies with Physical Education, St Mary's University, Twickenham (validated by the University of Surrey).
- **2008** — BA awarded. Stayed on for an MA in Education and Pedagogy. Trained as a PE teacher (PGCE).
- **2010** — Sports lecturer at Richmond College. Worked part-time at Boots and Sainsbury's and as a cleaner during his studies (his account, repeated in profiles).
- **2013** — Became a trustee of the Runnymede Trust (to 2024).

- **2014** — Joined Leeds Beckett University as a PE specialist while completing the PhD.
- **2015 — PhD awarded by Liverpool John Moores University.** Thesis: *An exploration of peer-mentoring among student teachers' to inform reflective practice within the context of action research* (supervisor: Prof Phil Vickerman). Co-edited the Runnymede report *Aiming Higher* with Claire Alexander. (Graduation ceremony photographed in 2016.)
- **2018** — First academic paper published. Senior lecturer, University of Roehampton (2018–19). An early paper was retracted and republished with corrections.
- **2019** — University of Warwick (education studies), then Durham University (sociology; later associate professor, to 2022). Book *Cool Britannia and Multi-Ethnic Britain* published.
- **2021** — The co-authored paper "Attempting to break the chain" published via Queen's University Belfast's research site.
- **Jan 2022** — Professor of Sociology of Education, University of Glasgow (to March 2023).
- **23 Feb 2023** — Cambridge announces his appointment; **6 March 2023** he takes up the post of Professor of Sociology of Education, Faculty of Education, aged 37 — Cambridge's youngest Black professor; Fellow of Jesus College.
- **2023** — Emeritus professor Dave Harris privately raises concerns about his work (the concerns that later became the plagiarism case).
- **2024** — Taylor & Francis issues a correction notice on the 2021 paper. Nathan Cofnas is dissociated from Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Times Higher Education later (2025) prepares and then spikes an investigation story after Carter-Ruck intervenes.
- **Oct 2025 – Mar 2026** — LJMU academic misconduct panel examines the thesis allegations; concludes "honest and reasonable error," supervision problems accepted, overlap within accepted range for the standards of the time.
- **21 July 2026** — Cofnas publishes the allegations publicly on Substack ("DEI Fraud and Cover-Up at Cambridge").
- **24 July 2026** — The Telegraph publishes its analysis: 100+ passages in the 2015 thesis identical or near-identical to Zwozdiak-Myers's 2009 thesis (Guardian: 180+).
- **31 July 2026** — Arday's first interview: The Times ("I am not a liar"). He admits mistakes, attributes some early errors to his autism and mimicry, alleges a "dark arts" campaign. Simon Baron-Cohen issues his statement of concern the same day.
- **Early Aug 2026** — Guardian investigations question the marathons, the £5m charity claim (revised by Arday), the pig's-head account (Met Police: "categorically" incorrect), and the non-verbal claim (contested by two acquaintances, supported by two friends). Institutions deny the visiting/honorary professorships.
- **3 Aug 2026** — Arday's statement via Simon & Schuster to the NYT: the LJMU investigation "cleared me"; "a wider campaign, motivated by racism."
- **5 Aug 2026** — Cambridge announces an investigation into his qualifications and honorary appointments; **Arday resigns the same day** from Cambridge and Jesus College. (Cambridge widens

the inquiry to his appointment and tenure on 7 Aug.)

- **11 Aug 2026** — Memoir *Great and Unfortunate Things* published in the US (UK edition followed 27 Aug).
- **14 Aug 2026** — Found unresponsive by family at his Battersea home; pronounced dead at the scene, aged 41. Police: unexpected, not suspicious.
- **17 Aug 2026** — Vigil in Trafalgar Square. Family statement via Simon & Schuster: "The campaign of misinformation was too much for Jason."
- **20 Aug 2026** — Ghent University suspends Cofnas pending a preliminary disciplinary investigation.
- **26 Aug 2026** — Inquest opened (London Inner South); coroner suspects an "unnatural death"; adjourned, no date set. No cause of death published.
- **Aug 2026** — Taylor & Francis: "no grounds" to add to its 2024 correction. Glasgow announces a review of its 2022 hiring decision; Durham and Queen's begin looking into his work/appointments. 30,000+ sign a letter calling for a public inquiry into the media coverage.
- **4 Nov 2026** — Cambridge publishes terms of reference for part two of its independent review (Jason Beer KC; report within six months; expressly will not assess the merit or integrity of his published work).
- **26 Nov 2026** — **Queen's University Belfast clears the 2021 paper**: "satisfied that the paper meets the appropriate academic standards and have no concerns regarding its publication" (BBC News NI).
- **Still open (as of 28 Nov 2026):** the inquest; Glasgow's review; Durham's inquiry; Cambridge's two-part review; no published finding anywhere has substantiated the plagiarism allegation.

Principal sources

BBC News NI (26 Nov 2026); BBC News (Aug 2026 death and resignation coverage); The Times (31 July 2026 interview; Aug 2026 data analysis); The Guardian (Aug 2026 investigations: non-verbal claim, pig's head, memoir advance); The Telegraph (24 July 2026); University of Cambridge Faculty of Education announcement (23 Feb 2023); Anglia Ruskin University honorary biography; LJMU Research Online eprint 4552 (thesis record and DOI); London Inner South Coroner's Court reporting via The Guardian (Haroon Siddique), The Voice and South London News (26–27 Aug 2026); family statements via Simon & Schuster UK (Aug 2026); Ghent University statement (20 Aug 2026); Cambridge review terms of reference (4 Nov 2026) as summarised in the Academic Power case register (used only for inquiry status, cross-checked against BBC/THE reporting); Pride Magazine profile (Feb 2023); Wikipedia (used for leads and dates, each key fact cross-checked against the institutional or press source named).

DETAIL PASS 2 — DEATH AND INQUEST OFFICIALS (researched 2026-11-27)

Scope: only the officials-and-record questions — coroner, who found him, police, other named officials, inquest status. Every fact sourced; gaps stated plainly. (Note on terminology: England and Wales use **coroners**, not medical examiners; the office in this case is the coroner's office/court.)

1. The coroner, the court, and the jurisdiction

- **The coroner is named, prominently and consistently, across the inquest-opening coverage: Dr Julian Morris, Senior Coroner for London Inner South.** He personally opened the inquest on **Wednesday 26 August 2026** at London Inner South Coroner's Court, in a short hearing (reported at under five minutes by one wire account; about ten minutes by the Guardian's), with family members watching by videolink (The Times, 27 Aug 2026; The Guardian, Haroon Siddique, 26 Aug 2026; AP wire, 26 Aug 2026; South London News, 27 Aug 2026).
- **Morris's background (official sources):** He is dually qualified — a former solicitor and a medical doctor. He served as an assistant/deputy coroner in the same jurisdiction (under Senior Coroner Andrew Harris) and became Senior Coroner for London Inner South in **April 2024** (judiciary.uk prevention-of-future-deaths reports signed by him in that style; Southwark Coroner's Court history). In his own Regulation 28 reports he styles himself: "I am Dr Julian Morris, senior coroner, for the coroner area of London Inner South" (judiciary.uk).
- **The court and its address:** London Inner South Coroner's Court sits as **Southwark Coroner's Court, 1 Tennis Street, London SE1 1YD** (tel 020 7525 4200) — the address used on judiciary.uk correspondence addressed to Morris in 2026, and the Inner South court's own site (innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk). The Arday inquest opening was scheduled there for **12 noon on Wednesday 26 August 2026** (PA Media preview carried by Newsquest titles, 25–26 Aug 2026).
- **Jurisdiction — an important precision:** the Inner South coroner area covers the boroughs of **Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich** (Inner South Coroner's Court Annual Report 2022; court history). It does **not** include Wandsworth. Although the press located the death in "Battersea" (a neighbourhood spanning the Lambeth/Wandsworth border), the coroner's court's own official notice states: "**The Death of Professor Jason Arday in Lambeth was referred to the Coroner on 15 August 2026**" (innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk, notice last updated 17 Aug 2026). The Metropolitan Police statement likewise placed the property only by postcode — "**a property in SW8**" (the Nine Elms/Battersea postcode district, which straddles the borough boundary). So the case sits in Inner South because the death was treated as a **Lambeth** death. Any article copy saying the inquest is a "Wandsworth" case would be wrong.
- **What Morris said when opening (verbatim, as reported):** "The various reports have given me reason to suspect that Professor Arday died an unnatural death 12 days ago. It therefore follows that I must open an investigation. I will be setting out further directions for the coroner officer." The Times's version: "The initial investigations, whilst I await the various reports, have given me reason to suspect that [he] died an unnatural death…" He also addressed the press in court: "Please be mindful of your reporting, mindful both in terms of Professor Arday's family and also more widely in terms of vulnerable people who might be affected by your reporting" (Guardian/South London News). He confirmed Arday's full name (Jason Atta Kwei Arday) and date and place of birth (9 May 1985, Lambeth) in open court (The Voice, via South London News).
- **The court's own public notice (17 Aug 2026)** is the earliest official document in the case: "The Death of Professor Jason Arday in Lambeth was referred to the Coroner on 15 August 2026. No medical cause of death has been given. The Coroner will therefore be directing further investigations to be

carried out. The results may not be available for several weeks… No further information will be provided at the current time." (innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk)

- **Court staff:** the Clerk to the Senior Coroner for Inner South is **John Thompson** (named as the addressee for clerk correspondence in a judiciary.uk-published NPCC letter to Morris dated 27 July 2026, and in the court's 2022 annual report). This is general court-staff information; Thompson is **not** named in any Arday-specific reporting.

2. Who found him — and the scene on 14 August 2026

- **Who found him:** Reporting is uniform and unspecific: he was found by **family members returning to the home**. Morris in court: "London Ambulance Service and the Met police attended the home address after he'd been found unresponsive by returning family members. Sadly, despite resuscitative efforts, he was pronounced dead at the scene. The Met police confirmed that the scene was not suspicious." (Guardian, 26 Aug 2026, and wire versions of the same remarks.) South London News: found "'unresponsive' by family members returning to his Battersea home… on the afternoon of 14 August 2026."
- **No reporting located names the family member(s) who found him, or states their relationship to him.** Coverage says only "family members." (His family is described in their own statement as including his partner and children — "an amazing father, partner, brother, uncle and son" — but no source connects any specific relative to the discovery.)
- **Timeline of the response (from the Met statement, below):** the London Ambulance Service called police at **3.12pm on Friday 14 August 2026**; a 41-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. Inquest reporting adds that ambulance and police were called "after family members returned home to find him unresponsive," and that resuscitation was attempted before he was pronounced dead (The Voice/Guardian via South London News).
- **London Ambulance Service: No standalone LAS statement was found.** LAS appears in the record only (a) as the service that called the police at 3.12pm (Met statement), and (b) in the coroner's courtroom summary of events. No LAS spokesperson is quoted or named in any coverage checked.

3. The police

- **Force and unit:** Metropolitan Police. The Met statement (issued 14 Aug 2026; carried verbatim by PA Media/Newsquest titles and quoted by Reuters) reads in full:

  > *"Police were called by the London Ambulance Service at 3.12pm on Friday, 14 August following a report that a man had been found unresponsive inside a property in SW8. Sadly, a 41-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. His next-of-kin have been informed and are being supported by officers. At this time his death is being treated as unexpected, but is not believed to be suspicious. The case is being investigated by officers from the Met's Central South Command Unit. A file will be prepared for the coroner."*

- **The unit:** the case is held by the Met's **Central South Command Unit** (the Basic Command Unit covering Lambeth and Southwark) — consistent with the Lambeth jurisdiction above. The Met did not name Arday in its statement, "in line with the force's usual practice" (Reuters, 14 Aug 2026).

- **Police station: No police station is named in any reporting checked.** Nothing identifies a station (e.g., a Lambeth borough station) as involved.
- **Individual officers: No individual police officer is named anywhere in the reporting checked** — no attending officer, detective, family liaison officer, or named Met spokesperson. Every police comment is attributed to "a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police," unnamed. (One related public figure is named only in commentary: Met Commissioner **Sir Mark Rowley** was criticised by campaigner Misan Harriman for not issuing a personal statement after the death — that is a supporter's complaint, not a police statement; Harriman video post, 26 Nov 2026.) This matches the norm for a non-suspicious sudden death in the UK: attending officers are not named.

4. Other named officials and representatives in the death/inquest record

- **The family's legal team — named, in the firm's own press release (Leigh Day, 26 Aug 2026):** "Prof Arday's family are represented by **Jacqueline McKenzie**, partner at law firm Leigh Day. Ms McKenzie's team includes **Dan Webster** and **Jerome Bond**, both solicitors at Leigh Day. Ms McKenzie has instructed **Martin Forde KC**, of 1 Crown Office Row. He is assisted by **Elaine Banton** of Doughty Street Chambers." McKenzie is Leigh Day's partner and head of immigration and asylum law, known for Windrush work. (Note: the Leigh Day release misnames the coroner as "Coroner Julian Norris"; every court report and the court's own material names Dr **Julian Morris**.)
- **The coroner's officer:** Morris referred in court to giving "further directions for the coroner officer" (singular, generic). **No coroner's officer is named** in any reporting checked.
- **Post-mortem / pathologist: No reporting checked states post-mortem findings, names a pathologist, or names the hospital/mortuary where any examination took place.** What is on record is only the coroner's court's notice that "no medical cause of death has been given" and that the coroner was "directing further investigations," and Morris's statement that he was "await[ing] the various reports." A post-mortem is the standard route in such a case, but the public record located does not confirm its details, date, or examiner — the article should not assert them.
- **Cambridge University spokespersons on the death:** Cambridge's comment was institutional and unnamed in the death coverage; the named Cambridge figure is the Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Deborah Prentice**, who said she was "desperately saddened" (see main dossier, Section 8). Cambridge's subsequent reviews are led by named figures (Nazir Afzal; Jason Beer KC — main dossier, Section 9), but those are the university's reviews, not the inquest.
- **Parliamentary record (context for status, below):** in the Commons, the Deputy Speaker reminded MPs the case is **sub judice** "because the inquest has been opened and adjourned" (Black History Month debate, Oct 2026; also Nusrat Ghani in an earlier debate). A government written answer (23 Nov 2026, HL5012) said ministers would consider Cambridge's review findings "alongside any conclusions arising from the inquest" — i.e., as of late November 2026 the inquest had produced no conclusions.

5. Inquest status now (as of 27–28 Nov 2026)

- **Opened 26 August 2026; adjourned "to a date to be confirmed"** (Leigh Day; all opening coverage). **No resumption date, no pre-inquest review hearing, and no expected conclusion date has been**

published in any source checked, including the coroner's court's own website (whose only Arday item remains the 17 Aug 2026 notice) and November 2026 coverage of the Queen's clearance, which describes the inquest as still ongoing.

- The case remains formally **sub judice** (opened and adjourned) — the reason MPs were warned off discussing the circumstances of the death in Parliament in autumn 2026.
- **No cause of death has been published.** The only official characterisations remain: police — "unexpected, but is not believed to be suspicious"; coroner — reason to suspect an "unnatural death," investigation opened, reports awaited.

NOT IN THE PUBLIC RECORD (checked 27 Nov 2026)

1. **The name or relationship of the family member(s) who found him** — reporting says only "family members returning home."
2. **Any individual police officer's name** — no attending officer, detective, liaison officer, or named Met spokesperson appears in any coverage; no police station is named.
3. **A standalone London Ambulance Service statement** — LAS appears only via the Met's account (called police at 3.12pm) and the coroner's summary.
4. **Post-mortem details** — no pathologist named, no examination findings, date, or location published; only "further investigations" directed and "various reports" awaited.
5. **A named coroner's officer** for the case — the role is mentioned generically by the coroner; no individual is named.
6. **Any future inquest date** — no pre-inquest review or resumed hearing date has been published; the inquest stands adjourned with no date set.
7. **The street address of the property** — police gave only the postcode district "SW8"; press reports say "Battersea." (One low-credibility content site names a street; it is unsourced there and corroborated nowhere.)

RESEARCH PASS 3 — NATHAN COFNAS DOSSIER (researched 2026-11-27)

Scope: the man who made the Arday allegations public. This section reports **both** how Cofnas presents himself **and** how critics describe him. Labels such as "race realist" (his own preferred term) and "scientific racism" (his critics' term) are attributed throughout and are **not** adopted as this dossier's own characterisation. Where sources conflict, the conflict is noted.

3.1 Who he is — origins, nationality, current position

- **Nathan Cofnas, born 1987 in Chicago, Illinois, USA; American.** He was raised Jewish and grew up on the **Upper West Side of Manhattan**, attending the Ethical Culture school (his own account, in interviews; court judgment in *Cofnas v Emmanuel College*, [2026] EWCC 55, records: "Dr Cofnas was born in Chicago in 1987 and grew up in what he describes as a liberal Jewish community on the Upper West Side of Manhattan"). On his own website he writes: "People often assume I'm British, but in fact I was born in Chicago and grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan" (nathancofnas.com, About page).

- He told *The Times* (April 2024) he describes himself as **"a philosopher on the right"** and has said he voted twice for Donald Trump.
- He became interested in hereditarianism at about sixteen while taking courses at Columbia (his own account).
- **Current position (as of late Nov 2026): postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences at Ghent University, Belgium** (his own website; Ghent University statements; Reuters, 20 Aug 2026). His Ghent project is titled **"The Future of Liberalism"** (per Ghent's disciplinary letter, reported by Poets&Quants, 25 Aug 2026). The post is a **one-year postdoc**; after his August 2026 suspension was lifted he wrote that he would continue the project "for 60% of my working time for the remainder of my one-year postdoc" (Cofnas on X, 28 Aug 2026, via Inside Higher Ed). One sympathetic profile (Luke Ford) calls it a "visiting postdoctoral position"; his own site and Ghent call it a postdoctoral researcher post — the "visiting" qualifier is not confirmed by the university.
- He was living/working in Belgium when interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* in August 2026 ("speaking from Belgium"). His exact town of residence is not in the published record checked.

3.2 Education — he is a philosopher, not a sociologist

- **BA in Philosophy, Columbia University (Columbia College), 2011.**
- **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, 2012–2015** — he began doctoral work there (on philosophy of biology, "with a special focus on scientific and ethical issues connected to race," per the 2026 court judgment) but left in 2015 without completing that doctorate.
- **MPhil (Distinction) in History and Philosophy of Science, Darwin College, University of Cambridge, 2016.**
- **DPhil in Philosophy, Balliol College, University of Oxford.** Thesis: ***Evolutionary Explanations and the Debunking of Moral Beliefs*** (Oxford repository, dated 2020, doi:10.5287/ora-o0bny55d9); doctoral advisers **Guy Kahane** and **Andreas L. Mogensen**. Date note: the thesis is dated 2020 and most press give the DPhil as 2020; his own CV (August 2025) lists "DPhil in Philosophy, Balliol College, 2021," and the 2026 County Court judgment states he "graduated from Oxford in May 2021." The dossier records both; the discrepancy is between the thesis deposit year and the graduation year.
- **Field:** philosophy — specifically **philosophy of biology and ethics**. His CV lists research areas as: "Philosophy of science (especially biology), moral psychology, values in science, ethics, political theory." His own site: "I work in the philosophy of biology (very broadly construed) and ethics… I aspire to do philosophy that is continuous with science." He has never held a sociology post.

3.3 Career path and the Emmanuel College sequence (2022–2026)

- **2022–2025: Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge.** Appointed 1 September 2022 as a post-doctoral researcher funded by the Leverhulme Trust, for three years to 31 August 2025; his Leverhulme research topic was "the biological basis of moral norms" (court judgment). He taught philosophy of biology. The fellowship ran its full term and expired on

schedule in August 2025 — the University of Cambridge never dismissed him.

- **Emmanuel College:** In July 2023 Emmanuel College appointed him a **College Research Associate** (an unpaid, honorary affiliation for postdocs employed by University departments), effective 1 October 2023; he became a member of the College on 14 November 2023. The associateship was coterminous with his University post (court judgment; Project Ariadne fact-check).
- **5 February 2024 — the blog post.** Cofnas published **"A Guide for the Hereditarian Revolution: How to Win the Elites and Create a Better World"** on his own website/Substack. Its best-known passages: "In a meritocracy, Harvard faculty would be recruited from the best of the best students, which means the number of black professors would approach 0%"; "Blacks would disappear from almost all high-profile positions outside of sports and entertainment"; society should "accept that talent is not distributed equally within or across groups" and end "the war on nature" (wording as quoted in the court judgment, Varsity and the Telegraph).
- **February 2024 — the backlash.** A student petition for his removal gathered over 1,000 signatures; students protested outside the Philosophy Faculty on 29 February ("fire Nathan Cofnas"); **58 formal complaints** were made about the post (sources differ on whether lodged with the College or the University). Emmanuel's JCR condemned his views; Cambridge UCU's executive (17 Feb 2024) condemned "discredited, 'scientific', 'biological' understanding of 'race'" and called his claims "racist pseudoscience." Dr Bronwen Everill, director of the Centre of African Studies, told Varsity his presence was "like having a flat-earther on the physics faculty." Lord Simon Woolley, principal of Homerton College, told students: "I see it for what it is. Abhorrent racism, masquerading as pseudo-intellect… There is no place for bigots in institutions like this" (Varsity). Cofnas stepped down from teaching and examining duties amid the protests. Prominent academics including **Steven Pinker and Peter Singer** defended him on free-speech grounds; Singer wrote that Emmanuel's reasoning implied "freedom of expression does not include the freedom to challenge its DEI policies."
- **The College's shifting position:** On 16 February 2024 Emmanuel's Master, **Doug Chalmers**, wrote to students that the College retained "our commitment to freedom of thought and expression" and acknowledged Cofnas's "academic right, as enshrined by law, to write about his views."
- **5 April 2024 — termination letter; affiliation formally ended 2 July 2024.** Emmanuel's Fellowship Committee wrote (as reported by Varsity): "The Committee first considered the meaning of the blog and concluded that it amounted to, or could reasonably be construed as amounting to, a rejection of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI and EDI) policies… The Committee concluded that the core mission of the College was to achieve educational excellence and that diversity and inclusion were inseparable from that. The ideas promoted by the blog therefore represented a challenge to the College's core values and mission."
- **The University's separate process:** The University of Cambridge investigated the complaints under its disciplinary/free-speech processes. On **2 October 2025** it concluded the process, **dismissing all 58 complaints** and finding his published views did not breach the law or the University's free-speech regulations; no disciplinary action was taken (University of Cambridge, "Statement on Disciplinary Investigation (Dr Cofnas)," 2 Oct 2025; Alumni for Free Speech summary). One secondary summary (Wikipedia) phrases the outcome slightly differently — that some remarks "risked breaching" the

free-speech policy because they could encourage discrimination, though his conduct was not found to amount to discrimination or harassment. The Leverhulme Trust also investigated in 2024; **no published Leverhulme finding was located** (see Could Not Verify).

- **The lawsuit:** In August 2024, backed by the **Free Speech Union** and, per Wikipedia, **£85,000 in donations**, Cofnas sued Emmanuel College in the County Court for belief discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Trial: 28–30 January 2026. **Judgment, 13 March 2026 —* Dr Nathan Cofnas v The Master, Fellows and Scholars of Emmanuel College*, [2026] EWCC 55 (County Court at Cambridge, Recorder McAllister):**
- The court held that two of his beliefs **are protected philosophical beliefs** under s.10 Equality Act 2010: "(a) The hereditarianism belief, namely that it is morally and politically desirable to promote the empirical theory that genes play a non-trivial role in group difference, such as intelligence, and/or that hereditarianism should be researched and discussed even if controversial; (b) The 'anti-woke belief', namely that it is morally and politically desirable to promote knowledge of hereditarianism because it undermines the premise of 'woke' ideology…" (judgment, as summarised by his own solicitors, Doyle Clayton).
- But the claim was **dismissed**: the court found the College's procedure fair, its decision based on the *manner of manifestation* of the beliefs in the blog rather than the beliefs themselves, and the termination "an objectively justified and proportionate response" (Sweet & Maxwell EHRLR editorial summary of the judgment). Cofnas's own summary (CrowdJustice): "Despite the fact that I won on the most important point (hereditarianism and anti-wokism are protected), I lost the case."
- **Appeal:** Cofnas has been granted permission to appeal on the ground that the College's action may have been disproportionate, and was crowdfunding the appeal (target £15,000 for the permission stage; full appeal costs "may exceed £80,000") as of August 2026 (his CrowdJustice page).
- **Ghent, 2026:** Hired as a postdoc in early 2026; his appointment drew student protests and a petition of 2,000+ signatures calling for his dismissal; Ghent defended the appointment on academic-freedom grounds: "We oppose this attack on academic freedom. While we are not endorsing any specific claims Cofnas has made, we believe that academics must be able to put forward controversial or provocative claims without fear of losing their employment" (Ghent University statement, 2026, via Wikipedia). After Arday's death, on **20 August 2026** Ghent notified him of a **preliminary disciplinary investigation** and **suspended him as a precautionary measure**, saying Arday's death "should prompt reflection" and that the university "opposes discrimination, hatred and racism" (Ghent statement; Reuters, 20 Aug 2026). Ghent's letter (as reported) questioned whether his "race realism"/"hereditarian revolution" work was "fundamentally inconsistent with the contractual scope of your employment" (his Ghent mandate being "The Future of Liberalism") and cited his public remarks about Arday. On **28 August 2026** the suspension was lifted: Cofnas announced he would **not be fired** and thanked Rector Petra De Sutter; Ghent confirmed contact with the **US Ambassador to Belgium, Bill White**, who had publicly condemned the suspension and noted the administration would review US relationships with Ghent (Ghent holds two US Department of Defense grants totalling $869,000, per Politico via IHE). Conditions reported: remote work and no teaching while the investigation continues; Ghent states the disciplinary case is **"ongoing"** (IHE, 28 Aug 2026; Wikipedia). An open letter defending Cofnas drew **700–800+ academic signatories**; a counter-letter by Ghent researchers supporting the investigation

drew **4,500** (IHE; Wikipedia). In **September 2026**, Belgium's Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (**Unia**) announced it plans legal action against Cofnas alleging his public statements violated Belgian anti-racism laws (Wikipedia, citing Belgian press). On **17 November 2026** he spoke at Oriel College, Oxford ("An Evening with Nathan Cofnas: Is DEI Undermining Higher Education?"), amid hundreds of protesters and a 30,000-signature petition to cancel, with 170+ academics signing a letter backing the college for holding it (London Review; Hybrid Mag).

3.4 His published positions and stated agenda — in his own framing

Cofnas describes himself as a **"race realist"** and a proponent of **hereditarianism**: the theory that genes play a non-trivial role in average group differences in traits such as intelligence. He frames his project as (a) an empirical claim he regards as true and suppressed, and (b) a political campaign to break the taboo on it. Key texts:

- ***Reptiles with a Conscience: The Coevolution of Religious and Moral Doctrine*** (2012), his first book, published by the Ulster Institute for Social Research (Richard Lynn's race-and-intelligence think tank). Cofnas later **withdrew the book from publication**, hoping to reuse the material (Undark, 2018).
- **"Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy: A Critical Analysis of Kevin MacDonald's Theory,"* Human Nature *29(2), 2018** — a critique of the antisemitic evolutionary theorist Kevin MacDonald, arguing MacDonald's work "relied upon misrepresented sources and cherry-picked facts" and that the evidence favours Jewish high intelligence and geographic distribution as explanations of Jewish overrepresentation.
- **"Research on Group Differences in Intelligence: A Defense of Free Inquiry,"* Philosophical Psychology *33(1), 2020** (published online 2019) — his most-cited and most controversial paper, arguing that research on group differences should not be closed off and that dismissing hereditarianism carries moral risks. Nine academics replied in the same journal that the paper was below publishing standards, methodologically faulty, had "racist ideological undertones" and "can reasonably be read as pandering to proponents of scientific racism"; the journal's editor Cees van Leeuwen resigned over the affair and the editor-in-chief published a note conceding flaws in the review process.
- **"A Guide for the Hereditarian Revolution: How to Win the Elites and Create a Better World" (5 February 2024)** — his programmatic essay. Beyond the Harvard/meritocracy passages (§3.3), he calls for a "hereditarian revolution" against the "DEI devil" (Varsity's summary of the essay) and argues hereditarians should stop being timid: behaviour geneticist Eric Turkheimer's critical reading quotes Cofnas's ace argument — "But we should not forget that hard realists have an ace up their sleeve: the fact that hereditarianism is true!" — and notes Cofnas counts even Charles Murray among hereditarian scholars "timid about stating their views."
- **Telegraph profile, 17 October 2025** — headlined with his own description of his mission: to **"end the tyranny of wokeism"** (Ed Cumming, *The Daily Telegraph*).
- **"DEI Fraud and Cover-Up at Cambridge" (Substack, 21 July 2026)** — the Arday exposé (§3.6).
- **"How I Became the Scapegoat in the Jason Arday Affair,"* Wall Street Journal *op-ed (22 August 2026)** — his post-death self-defence (§3.6).
- He sits on the **editorial board of* Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences* (2025–present, per his CV).

His stated agenda, summarised in his own terms: hereditarianism is true; academia suppresses it because "woke" ideology requires the premise that group disparities are caused by white racism; therefore promoting hereditarianism both serves truth and undermines that ideology; DEI is built on the false premise of equal group talent and should be dismantled; and controversial ideas must be legally protected — the position he litigated to establish in *Cofnas v Emmanuel College*.

3.5 His critics' case — attributed

- **Wikipedia's lead** describes him as "known for controversies surrounding his advocacy of **scientific racism**" — the label his critics use and he rejects; he denies he is racist (WSJ, Aug 2026) and prefers "race realist."
- **Cambridge UCU executive (17 Feb 2024):** condemned his "discredited, 'scientific', 'biological' understanding of 'race'" and "racist pseudoscience," and said: "It is… deeply concerning that racist pseudoscience is being legitimised through association with the University of Cambridge."
- **Lord Simon Woolley** (Homerton principal): "Abhorrent racism, masquerading as pseudo-intellect… There is no place for bigots in institutions like this" (Varsity, 2024).
- **Dr Bronwen Everill** (Centre of African Studies director): his presence was "like having a flat-earther on the physics faculty" (Varsity, 2024).
- **Nine academics' reply in* Philosophical Psychology *(2020):** his flagship paper had "racist ideological undertones" and "can reasonably be read as pandering to proponents of scientific racism."
- **Eric Turkheimer** (behaviour geneticist, University of Virginia), in a long critique of the "Hereditarian Revolution" essay ("The Cofnas Manifesto," Aug 2026): the essay "is not a justification of race hereditarianism: it is an exploration of its social and political consequences, conditioned on an assumption that race-hereditarianism is true," and "the 'better world' he imagines is truly awful." Turkheimer has also published a direct scientific rebuttal ("Reply to Nathan Cofnas").
- **Byline Times investigation (Nafeez Ahmed, 18 August 2026), "The Peter Thiel-Linked Race Science Network that Penetrated Cambridge University and Targeted Jason Arday":** Ahmed describes Cofnas as an "anti-black racist" and states the campaign against Arday "began when academic and anti-black racist Nathan Cofnas raised claims of plagiarism"; the investigation argues Arday's "coordinated targeting by an explicitly anti-black race science network did not come out of nowhere," tracing the network's ideological centre to *Aporia* magazine, "the public-facing arm of the Human Diversity Foundation – now known as Polygenic Scores," itself "a rebranded and relaunched version of the Nazi-era Pioneer Fund," and reporting that Peter Thiel "cultivated ties to key actors in this network… and directly to Nathan Cofnas and Aporia senior editor Noah Carl." Byline Times also reported that Cofnas had used the terms **"retarded", "illiterate", and "mentally disabled"** to describe Arday. **Cofnas denied coordinating with any of these actors, and Byline Times does not report that Thiel paid Cofnas directly** (per Maya Rockeymoore Cummings's summary of the investigation). James Orr denied taking part in any campaign against Arday.
- **Jonathan Bailey** (Plagiarism Today / "Plagiarism Watch"), 28 July 2026: said the allegations against Arday were "politically and ideologically motivated" and had been weaponised against a Black, DEI-associated academic.

- **Arday's family and supporters:** the family's own statement (Aug 2026, in Pass 1/2 above) blamed "a campaign of misinformation" and "sustained abuse" generally; no family statement located names Cofnas individually. In the wider supporter commentary, Ibram X. Kendi published "The Media Lynched Jason Arday"; an Al Jazeera opinion piece was titled "Jason Arday's death is institutional murder"; London Mayor Sadiq Khan called Arday the victim of "a pernicious public shaming" (Project Ariadne claim summaries). Ghent's disciplinary letter, as reported, cited Cofnas calling Arday "mentally disabled" and a "worthless scholar" (Poets&Quants, 25 Aug 2026).
- **The Ghent counter-letter:** 4,500 academics signed a letter by Ghent researchers condemning Cofnas and supporting the university's investigation (Wikipedia).

3.6 His own account of the Arday matter

- **How he says he got the story:** Cofnas wrote in the 21 July 2026 post, and repeated to *Retraction Watch* and Reuters, that he **was contacted by a source at Cambridge** — an unnamed male Cambridge faculty member — who believed the University had not responded adequately to previous plagiarism allegations against Arday. He said he would not reveal the source (Reuters, 20 Aug 2026; Retraction Watch, 27 July 2026). Note: he was **not** the originator of the concerns — emeritus professor Dave Harris had raised thesis concerns from 2023, and THE journalist Jack Grove had prepared a 63-page report sent to Cambridge and LJMU before the THE story was spiked in 2025 (London Review, 18 Nov 2026; Pass 1 above).
- **What he says he did:** He ran Arday's thesis and eleven publications through the plagiarism-detection tool **Copyleaks**. In the post he wrote that in the thesis "many passages are lifted with minimal editing, sometimes retaining copy-editing mistakes from the original source" (quoted in Wikipedia). He also attacked Arday's biography: "If Cambridge administrators wanted a black professor to serve as a role model for underrepresented minorities, they could have found someone qualified. Instead, they grabbed a random black person with an unvetted fairytale backstory and almost nothing that even resembles genuine scholarship" (from the essay, as quoted by Hybrid Mag and Byline Times). Of Arday's own line — "Wouldn't it be the most ridiculous story ever told if the boy who couldn't read or write at 18 gets a PhD before he's 30" — Cofnas wrote: "Indeed the story of his metamorphosis from arguably the most disadvantaged person in the UK to elite scholar-athlete-philanthropist would make even Walt Disney raise an eyebrow" (per Plagiarism Watch's newsletter summary of the post).
- **The "cover-up" claim, specifically:** His charge was twofold: (1) that Arday had been hired by Cambridge in 2023 **"explicitly to advance the cause of racial diversity"** (his phrase, widely reported) — i.e., a DEI appointment made without proper vetting; and (2) that when plagiarism concerns were raised inside Cambridge, the University failed to act on them adequately — the position of his unnamed faculty source — so public exposure was the only route. Cambridge's response (statement to media, 2 August 2026) was procedural: "It is University procedure that investigations are carried out by the institution at which the research was undertaken… We have either advised complainants to approach the relevant institution or passed on complaints. Allegations of plagiarism regarding Professor Arday's thesis and some of his journal publications have been investigated by Liverpool John Moores University and the journals in question." (LJMU's panel in fact concluded in March 2026 — before Cofnas published — see Pass 1.)

- **After Arday's death — his statements:** In his *Wall Street Journal* op-ed (22 Aug 2026) and WSJ interview (21 Aug 2026):
- "Many people have asked me if I regret writing the Arday exposé. This is a tricky question to answer. **I set off a series of events that led to a death.** If I say I have no regrets, it sounds like I don't appreciate the horrific nature of the outcome. If I say I do regret it, it sounds like I'm accepting moral responsibility for what happened. **The lesson can't be that it's unacceptable to point out wrongdoing that implicates powerful public figures.** That's what I did when I exposed fraud and institutional corruption at Cambridge."
- "**I'm an easy scapegoat** because I hold views about race that are controversial and easily misunderstood"; he said he had been "flooded with death threats."
- To the WSJ news pages: "I was part of a series of causes that led to that outcome," but "you have to be allowed to criticize powerful people"; he said he **does not regret publishing**, while also saying Arday was "unfairly hounded by the press and let down by Cambridge University, which overpromoted him and then abandoned him when under scrutiny."
- In the op-ed he argued Arday was "an adult who was morally responsible for his actions," that "when Arday became an embarrassment, they signaled that they would no longer protect him," that Arday was "used as a pawn from beginning to end," and that two-thirds of the 249 UK articles about Arday appeared **after** his resignation.
- Wikipedia records that Cofnas "later joked that the Arday incident is 'what happened if you don't give Cofnas a job… After the revolution, I'll be the head of the department of eugenics and race science at Harvard'" — a remark critics circulated as evidence of callousness; the dossier notes it as reported by Wikipedia without independent primary-source confirmation in the sources checked.
- On his Ghent suspension (X, 20 Aug 2026): "I was just suspended by Ghent University. They will almost certainly fire me"; "I am under investigation by my university for discriminating against Arday"; he attributed the decision to "rector Petra De Sutter, a former leader of the Green Party." (The suspension was lifted on 28 Aug — §3.3.)

3.7 Funding and affiliations on record

- **Leverhulme Trust** — Early Career Fellowship, Cambridge Faculty of Philosophy, Sept 2022–Aug 2025 (his Cambridge salary funding). The Trust investigated his 2024 blog post alongside the University; no published outcome located.
- **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship** — Lingnan University, 2012–2015 (doctoral study funding).
- **Free Speech Union** — assisted him from February 2024 (per FSU), sponsored/supported his Emmanuel College litigation, and published his statements; Wikipedia reports the suit was supported by the FSU and **£85,000 in donations**. A separate CrowdJustice legal fund for the initial action raised £12,872 from 63 donations in its first days (Varsity, 2024); his 2026 appeal fund (CrowdJustice) seeks £15,000+ with full appeal costs possibly over £80,000. His legal team: Doyle Clayton (James Murray), Deshpal Panesar KC, and Professor Alan Bogg.
- **Ghent University** — one-year postdoc (2026), project "The Future of Liberalism," Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences.

- **Editorial board,* Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences* (2025–present, per his CV).
- **Network claims (attributed, disputed):** Byline Times (18 Aug 2026) places Cofnas within a "race science network" centred on *Aporia*/the Human Diversity Foundation (now Polygenic Scores) and reports Peter Thiel sought introductions to Cofnas and to *Aporia*'s Noah Carl. **Cofnas denied coordinating with any of these actors; no source checked reports any payment from Thiel to Cofnas.** His 2012 book was published by Richard Lynn's Ulster Institute for Social Research (§3.4) — a matter of publication record, not a funding claim. No grant or salary from Aporia, the Human Diversity Foundation, or any Thiel entity appears in the record checked.

COULD NOT VERIFY (Pass 3)

1. **Exact Ghent start date and whether the post is formally "visiting."** Belgian press coverage of the controversy dates from March 2026; his site says simply "postdoc." One sympathetic profile says "visiting postdoctoral position"; Ghent's own wording is "postdoctoral researcher."
2. **Outcome of the Leverhulme Trust's 2024 investigation** into the blog post. Varsity reported it as ongoing in April 2024; no published conclusion was located. The fellowship in any event ran to its scheduled end in August 2025.
3. **Ghent disciplinary case — final outcome.** As of the latest reporting checked (late Aug–Nov 2026), the preliminary investigation was "ongoing," the suspension lifted with remote-work/no-teaching conditions. No final determination located.
4. **Whether Unia's announced legal action (Sept 2026) was filed or proceeded.** Only the announcement was located.
5. **The "head of eugenics and race science at Harvard" joke** — carried by Wikipedia with a citation not independently opened in this pass; treat as reported, not primary-sourced.
6. **His current town of residence in Belgium** — not published in the sources checked (WSJ interviewed him "from Belgium").
7. **Any direct funding of Cofnas by Peter Thiel, Aporia, or the Human Diversity Foundation** — none reported even by Byline Times, which documents ties and introductions only; Cofnas denies coordination.
8. **DPhil year (2020 vs 2021)** — thesis deposited 2020; his CV and the court judgment point to graduation in May 2021. Both are recorded in §3.2 rather than resolved.

Principal sources (Pass 3)

Cofnas v Emmanuel College [2026] EWCC 55 (County Court at Cambridge, judgment 13 Mar 2026, via casenode.ai and legal summaries by Doyle Clayton, BFSP, and Sweet & Maxwell EHRLR); University of Cambridge, "Statement on Disciplinary Investigation (Dr Cofnas)" (2 Oct 2025); Varsity (April–May 2024, Emmanuel termination and legal challenge); Cambridge UCU executive statement (17 Feb 2024); Ghent University statements (2026) via Reuters (20 Aug 2026), The Times (Aug 2026), Inside Higher Ed (21, 25, 28 Aug 2026) and Poets&Quants (25 Aug 2026); Wall Street Journal news profile (Colchester & Deng, 21 Aug 2026) and Cofnas's WSJ op-ed (22 Aug 2026); Retraction Watch (27 July 2026); Byline Times, Nafeez Ahmed (18 Aug 2026, read via the Lemkin Institute reprint and the author's thread); Eric

Turkheimer, "The Cofnas Manifesto" (Aug 2026); The London Review, "What the Arday Case Does, and Doesn't, Tell Us About Racism in Universities" (18 Nov 2026); The Daily Telegraph profile (17 Oct 2025); Cofnas's own website and CV (August 2025); Wikipedia (used for leads, dates and the bibliography, with key facts cross-checked against the primary and press sources named).

RESEARCH PASS 4 — DANTE LEE, THE FACEBOOK POSTER (researched 2026-11-27)

Hakeem first encountered the Queen's-clearance story in a Facebook post by Dante Lee (read aloud, then pasted, 27 Nov 2026). This section identifies the post, tests whether Lee originated its text, and profiles Lee.

4.1 The post — found

- **URL:** https://www.facebook.com/dantelee/posts/pfbid02Gr7gjLaquhxWWnFkEMHbE9iTiPdCMhDjfy6BW5XRjEhZEAfdqMWueDqQ524cXJNDl
- **Account:** Dante Lee (@dantelee), https://facebook.com/dantelee — a professional-mode Facebook profile.
- **Posted:** 26 November 2026, 15:40:28 (per the indexed crawl of the post).
- **Format:** an IMAGE post — a news-style graphic with two photos of Arday and the headline "DR. JASON ARDAY HAS BEEN CLEARED AGAIN BY A SECOND UNIVERSITY OF ANY TYPE OF PLAGIARISM," branded at the foot "Black News." The caption is the text Hakeem pasted, ending "#blackexcellence #injustice #falseallegations." (Caveat: the crawler returned the graphic and engagement data but not the verbatim caption; the caption match rests on Hakeem's paste plus independent search summaries of the same post describing the same graphic and hashtags.)
- **Engagement at crawl:** ~30,932 likes / 1,317 comments (search snapshot said 31K likes, 2K comments); reactions included 17,300 like, 5,708 love, 6,062 care, 1,359 sad. Comment thread sharply polarized.
- **Timing check:** the BBC News NI story (Peter Coulter) was published 26 November 2026, 00:02 GMT. Lee's post followed the same day, ~15:40 — consistent with a same-day summary of the BBC report.
- **Spread:** the identical graphic was reposted by other accounts afterward, e.g. Facebook user Yemi Adebayo on 27 Nov 2026 with the same hashtags visible — i.e., Lee's graphic circulated beyond his own profile after his post.

4.2 Originator or repost? — analysis

- **No earlier copy of the caption text was found.** Searches for the post's distinctive sentences ("reignited conversations about racial bias, academic accountability"; "cleared of plagiarism allegations by a second university, months after his passing"; the hashtag trio with Arday) returned Lee's post and later reshares only — no earlier Facebook page, news site, blog, or X/Threads post carrying the same text.

- **It is not a copy of the BBC text.** The BBC News NI article (26 Nov 2026) opens: "Research by academic Jason Arday, who was accused of plagiarism before his death, has been cleared by one of the institutions that was investigating him," and quotes Queen's directly: "we are satisfied that the paper meets the appropriate academic standards and have no concerns regarding its publication." Lee's text paraphrases rather than quotes ("finding no grounds for concern regarding its publication"), compresses the whole affair into five sentences, and adds material the BBC NI piece does not lead with — the Taylor & Francis determination (reported by Byline Times in October 2026) and the 30,000-signature letter to the Prime Minister (the Good Law Project open letter of August 2026). Lee also rounds/adjusts figures ("more than 30,000 people signed a letter" vs. the 31,000+ reported for the petition).
- **Verdict:** the caption is best characterized as an **original condensed summary written for Lee's post, drawn mainly on the BBC News NI report plus background from wider coverage** — and, given that the post was flagged "AI content" on Facebook (per Hakeem), very plausibly AI-assisted in drafting, which would explain the paraphrase-style compression and the slightly off figure. There is no evidence he copied another page's post; his is the earliest appearance of this text found.
- **One parallel worth noting:** Nigerian blog Linda Ikeji's Blog ran the story the same day under the headline "Dr Jason Arday cleared by second university of any type of plagiarism" — nearly identical to the headline wording on Lee's graphic. Priority between the two could not be established (no precise timestamp for the blog post was retrievable); the overlap may reflect both drawing on the same "second university" framing rather than copying.

4.3 Who is Dante Lee? — the poster is the BlackPR.com founder

The @dantelee account is the public Facebook home of the known Black American media entrepreneur Dante Lee:

- **Identity link:** a May 2026 screenshot of the profile shows the name "Dante Lee (Black News Promoter)," bio: "I promote Black entrepreneurs, authors, speakers, influencers, etc. Submit your story at BlackPR.com." His own sites repeatedly direct readers to "follow him at Facebook.com/DanteLee" (BlackNews.com, BlackBusiness.com). The Arday graphic is branded "Black News" — the brand of his Black News Facebook page (@blacknews, ~1.6M followers), whose bio reads "Daily Black News, Black Excellence, Black History, and Black-Owned Businesses… (Curated by Dante Lee)… (Got news? Visit BlackPR.com)."
- **Reach:** the @dantelee professional profile showed **404,795 followers** at crawl (Nov 2026); a May 2026 screenshot showed 358K, so the audience is growing. His Black News page has ~1.6M followers; he claims "more than 1 million followers across all of his platforms" (BlackNews.com, 2022).
- **Bio:** born and raised in the Washington, DC area; Bowie State University (HBCU) graduate in Computer Science, said to be the only student in the institution's history to finish a 4-year program in three years. Founded his company in 2000 while still a student — Diversity City Media, now Dante Lee International — based in **Columbus, Ohio** (with an office in Manila, Philippines). It owns BlackPR.com (press-release distribution to 850+ Black media outlets), BlackNews.com, BlackStudents.com, BlackExperts.com, BlackSpeakers.com, BlackBusiness.com, BlackHistory.com, BlackJobs.com and other properties; co-founder of Lee Moss Media. Author of *Black Business Secrets* (SmileyBooks, 2010) and three other books; branding as "The Revenue Doctor™." Named to Ebony's

"Top 30 Young Leaders" (2006) and 2010 Young Entrepreneurs list; Black Enterprise Small Business Award finalist (2006); covered by MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, Black Enterprise.

4.4 His usual writing — topics and examples

Yes: his output centers Black achievement, Black business, and racial-uplift news, with social-justice stories folded into the same "Black News" frame. Representative items:

- **The Arday post itself** (26 Nov 2026) — racial bias / academic accountability framing, hashtags #blackexcellence #injustice #falseallegations.
- **"Black teen prodigy with a reported IQ of 199 graduated high school at 11 and earned a PhD by 17"** — Black News graphic bearing his name, recirculated June 2026; #blackexcellence #blackgirlmagic framing.
- **Personal post, 17 Jan 2026:** his stated goal for 2026 is to help 10,000 Black-owned businesses achieve viral exposure (480 likes, 130 comments).
- **Black News page, 8 May 2026:** promotion of a researched memoir tracing an African American family from enslavement to modern legacy (heritage/Black history).
- **Black News page, 13 Aug 2026:** a mother-and-son creative collaboration story (Black family/creativity uplift).
- **Opinion writing in his own name:** "Black People Are Not Sell Outs Just Because They've Sold Their Companies" (BlackNews.com, by Dante Lee) — commentary on Black business and community attitudes.
- **His core commercial beat:** viral promotion of Black entrepreneurs — e.g. "Yes, Black Women Own Trucking Companies Too!", "From Homeless and Incarcerated to Becoming a Super Chef That Owns Three Restaurants!", "Introducing Brooklyn's Newest Black-Owned Urgent Care Center" (BlackNews.com list of stories he has taken viral).

4.5 How he covers stories like this

- **Aggregator/promoter model, publicly evidenced:** BlackNews.com's About page states the company turns paid press releases submitted via BlackPR.com into articles published on BlackNews.com and distributed through its Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Threads accounts. His Facebook output follows the same pattern: a branded graphic + a short condensed caption + uplift hashtags.
- The Arday post fits that house style exactly — a "Black News"-branded graphic and a five-sentence summary caption — rather than original reporting or long commentary. His original-commentary mode exists but lives mainly in his business-advice posts and signed opinion pieces on his own sites.
- **AI use:** the only direct evidence is Facebook's "AI content" flag on the Arday post as seen by Hakeem; Lee has no located public statement about using AI to draft posts.

COULD NOT VERIFY (Pass 4)

1. The verbatim caption of the Facebook post from Facebook itself — the crawler exposed the graphic, timestamp, and engagement but not the caption text; identity of caption with Hakeem's pasted text is inferred from his paste + matching search summaries.

2. Priority between Lee's graphic headline and Linda Ikeji's Blog's near-identical headline (both 26 Nov 2026) — no retrievable timestamp for the blog post.
3. Whether Lee personally wrote the caption or a team member/AI tool did — only Facebook's "AI content" flag (per Hakeem) is evidenced.
4. The profile's full Facebook bio text as of Nov 2026 — the profile crawl returned account type and follower count only; the bio quoted above is from a May 2026 screenshot.
5. Whether the "5K followers" figure shown beside the post in one search snapshot refers to a friends count or a different metric — it conflicts with the profile's 404,795 followers and is not used.
6. Any X/Twitter or Threads presence for Lee carrying this story — none located; his evidenced channels are Facebook and his own sites.

Books by Dr. Hakeem Ali-Bocas Alexander

His Bookspace store carries the books in print-ready editions: https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium

- Sovereign Frequency — $6.35 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/sovereign-frequency
- Non-Consensual: The Secret Science of Human Programming — $5.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/non-consensual
- The Intrusion Vector — $6.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/the-intrusion-vector
- Beyond the Blue Planet — $6.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/beyond-the-blue-planet
- Down the Rabbit Hole: Olympus Has Fallen (Expanded & Annotated Edition) — $6.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/down-the-rabbit-hole-olympus
- The Eternality Axiom: A Compendium — $5.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/the-eternality-axiom
- The Human Signal (DTS Method) — $5.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/the-human-signal
- The Eternality Manuscript — $5.02 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/the-eternality-manuscript
- The Eternal Canon: Psalms and Proverbs of the Unified Field — $5.99 — https://bookspace.com/uniquilibrium/the-eternal-canon

His full Amazon book shop: https://amzn.to/4pqAAKG

Supporters Clubs

PhysioMeditation Supporters Club — $30/month. Join on Spreaker: https://www.spreaker.com/podcast/physiomeditation--7320294/support

World Reading Club Supporters Club — $9.99/month. Join on Spreaker — the World Reading Club show (show 5667160), with exclusive episodes and an ad-free experience.