Café Scientifique –
The coming of age of plastic electronics
Speaker's biography

Dr Radu Sporea
Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow,
Advanced Technology Institute, University of Surrey

This event is adapted from the Isambard Kingdom Brunel Award Lecture for Engineering, Technology and Industry, awarded to Radu Sporea by the British Science Association in 2015. Award Lecturers are nominated and selected for their cutting edge research in an area of societal interest and for their ability to communicate their research to a general audience.

Dr Radu Sporea is a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow at the Advanced Technology Institute, University of Surrey. Radu also holds Surrey's Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching and teaches undergraduate Electronics. Radu has a PhD in Electronic Engineering from the University of Surrey and a MEng in Computer Systems Engineering from 'Politehnica' University of Bucharest.

During his degree, Radu worked as a part time programmer at the National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics. He then went on to work in the semiconductor industry where he gained experience of integrated circuit design and testing.

Radu currently works on flexible, printed and cost-effective electronics. Flexible electronics would allow bendy consumer gadgets but their appeal goes far beyond this. There is potential for smart plasters for health monitoring, wireless shopping labels which could allow instant checkout, and more.

Radu actively engages the public with his work through a variety of channels. He has presented at previous British Science Festivals and the Cheltenham Science Festival. Following a school talk, Radu was described as a "a bit of a nutty geezer" who "radically changed my understand of engineering".

Radu has also spoken on the radio in the US, has been featured on PodAcademy, runs his own youtube channel and was a scientific advisor for the BBC4 series "Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity".

Outside of science, Radu enjoys travelling and photography.