Daniel James was born in rainy Manchester (within sight of Manchester United, the most successful sports team in recorded human history). He was educated at New College, Oxford (which, despite the name, was founded in 1379) and at The Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, where he earned his Ph.D. in Optics under the tutelage of Prof. Emil Wolf. After a period working at the Theoretical Division of Los Alamos National Laboratory, he became the Canada Research Chair in Atomic and Optical Physics at the University of Toronto in 2005. His scientific accomplishments include the first tomographic characterization of an entangled quantum state; the demonstration of quantum teleportation with atoms, and the implementation of a simplified version of the Shor factor-finding algorithm with entangled photons.