

RUNDOWN ON PROFESSOR JASON ARDAY

I/ Who was Jason Arday ?



British Jason Arday, 37, was the youngest black professor in Cambridge University's history. He was teaching in the department of Sociology .

At the age of 11 he was diagnosed as autistic and he claimed that he only learned to read and write at 18.

Cambridge proudly appointed him as a Professor so he became the poster child of diversity and inclusion.

II/ ALLEGATIONS AND RESIGNATION

In August 2026, Arday resigned from his position following accusations of plagiarism of his PHD thesis (pages allegedly copied from another female student from Brunei)

His various claims of honorary titles and sport achievements had also been the subject of suspicion, mockery and official refutations.

- Claims about holding academic titles proved false (the universities he mentioned had no trace of his existence or diplomas)
- He said he'd written a book yet the publishers had only received a proposal for one and not published it yet.
- Arday boasted to have run 30 marathons in 35 days (despite an injury) and to have run 600 miles in 6 days, a feat specialist are adamant is impossible to achieve.
- He also mentioned years of practice as a football player for Crystal Palace when he actually played for a team from the bottom non-league pyramid.
- About his charity work, he claimed to have raised £5m (not confirmed by any charity) and to have helped instal water pumps in poor countries, a claim denied by charity organisers who said they never send volunteers abroad.

III/ A TRAGIC OUTCOME

Citing the countless and unbearable racist and violent abuse he had been receiving, including death threats and a knife-wielding masked stalker on campus (CCTV could not spot him though) Arday chose to resign on 6 th August 2026.

Cambridge University accepted his resignation (they had been defending him so far)

A few days later, on the 14th he committed suicide.

IV/ ISSUES

The very sad case of Jason Arday raises many issues.

- To what extent was Arday the victim and scapegoat of racism and anti-wokism groups?
- Was his bullying part of the global anti-woke, anti DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion) movement ?
- Should the media be accountable for the smear campaign against him ? (including French media Le Figaro, le Point, Cnews)
- The Telegraph, The Daily Mail and The Times (all conservative) had been publishing scathing articles about Arday's persistent claims (which they called fraud and lies)
- Was Oxford Professor Nathan Cofnas – who first called the latter out on the plagiarism case- responsible for Arday's plight ?
- Does it matter that Cofnas advocates theories of **hereditarism** ? (= 1990's theory which links genetics and intelligence, contends that some race groups lack the same cognitive skills as others due to their heredity)
- Should Cambridge have fired Arday as soon as the first accusations came out ?
- Is the University's indulgence discrediting the DEI values ?
- Was Arday appointed and defended simply on the basis of his skin colour and autism?
- Is mental health an obstacle to academic achievement / high-end careers?