

CURRICULUM VITÆ

Marina Rejkuba

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Personal Data

Position: Associate astronomer, ESO User Support Astronomers Department Head

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ORCID: 0000-0002-6577-2787

Date and Place of Birth: November 3, 1972 in Zagreb, Croatia

Citizenship: Croatian and Italian

Languages: Native Croatian; fluent: English, Italian, Spanish; good: German, Slovenian

Degrees

Ph.D. in Physics, 2002: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC)

Thesis: “*Resolved stellar populations in the nearby galaxies NGC 5128 and WLM*”

B.Sc. in Physics, 1998: The University of Zagreb, Croatia

Thesis: “*Photometric and Spectroscopic research of the Symbiotic Star YY Her*”

Employment History

Mar 2005 – present: ESO Faculty astronomer (Assistant: 2005-2008, Associate 2008–)

Mar 2015 – present: ESO User Support Department Head

Jan 2012 – Feb 2015: ESO User Support Group Head

Mar 2005 – Dec 2011: User Support Astronomer at ESO User Support Department

Oct 2002 – Feb 2005: ESO Garching Fellow

Apr 2000 – Apr 2002: ESO studentship in Garching, Germany

Jun 1998 – Jul 2002: PhD student at PUC, Chile

Feb 1998 – Jun 1998: Research assistant at the Asiago/Padova Observatory, Italy

1996 – 1997: Undergraduate thesis research student at the Asiago Observatory, Italy

Honors and Awards

- Exceptional achievements award, ESO: 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2022, 2025
- ESO Science Director Discretionary Fund: 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023
- IAU Travel grant: 2015 - IAU GA in Hawaii
- Research and teaching grant from PUC, Chile: 1998–2000
- Studentship grant: 6th Vatican Obs. Summer School, Castel Gandolfo, Italy: 1997
- Studentship award from the International Physics Students Organization: 1996

Research interests

- **Observational astronomy:** optical and near-IR photometry and spectroscopy techniques, color-magnitude diagrams simulation
- **Keywords:** stellar populations, formation and evolution of galaxies, variable stars, globular clusters, globular cluster systems, distance indicators, cosmology

ESO roles and responsibilities

Current responsibilities at ESO:

- User Support Department Head: 10 astronomers, 3 scientists, 2 technical/administrative staff
- VLT/VLTI users support for proposals and observations preparation, La Silla Paranal Observatory telescopes schedule preparation and maintenance, Visiting Astronomers travel, support for Service Mode programme execution, status tracking and reporting, ESO Users Committee matters
- Project Scientist for the telescope scheduling software tools

Previous functional responsibilities:

- 2005 – 2015 User support astronomer and IOT member for VLT instruments FORS1/FORS2, FLAMES, VIMOS and VIRCAM@VISTA
- 2008 – 2015 Project Scientist for Observation Handling Software (P2PP3, p2, vOT, OT3)
- 2008 – 2020 Member of the ESO Survey Team
- 2009: OPTIMOS E-ELT Instrument Review Board Member
- 2016: Chair of the 4MOST Preliminary Design Review

Internal science committees:

- 2024 – 2026 Student Selection Committee Chair
- 2019 – 2022 ESO Scientific Personnel Committee (SPC) member
- 2016 – 2018 Student Selection Committee member
- 2015: Faculty working group on studentships at ESO (chair) and sabbaticals (member)
- 2015 – Ex-officio DDTc member (target checker)
- 2014 – 2018 DDT committee – reviewer
- 2010 – 2016 Munich Joint Astronomy Colloquia organising committee member
- 2006 – 2010 ESO Garching Fellows and Students Selection Committee Chair
- 2006 – 2010 ESO representative on the IMPRS on Astrophysics Executive Board
- 2003 – 2006 ESO Garching Visitor Selection Committee member

Professional Training and Experience

Telescope usage and observing experience:

- Experienced observer and PI/CoI on successful proposals for: HST, ESO VLT, NTT, 2.2m La Silla, LCO Magellan 6.5m, CFHT, CTIO 4m Blanco, Subaru, and LBT.
- ESO fellow duties: Paranal SciOps VLT-UT2 (2002-2005; ~170n): FLAMES, UVES, FORS1
- Service mode operations: VIMOS, VISIR and ISAAC at VLT-UT3 (2006–2012; >70 nights)
- 2003 - Science Verification team: FLAMES@VLT observer
- 2009 - Science Verification team: VIRCAM@VISTA observer

Professional Training:

- 2008: Project Management
- 2010: Sybase Course (SQL) "Fast Track to Adaptive Server Enterprise 15"
- 2012: Management Development Programme (MDP) Module I: Effective Performance Reviews, MDP Module II: Management Styles and Managing Change, MDP Module III: Interviewing Skills
- 2012: Time management, Effectively Managing Harassment
- 2014: Conflict Management, Difficult Conversations, Delegation Skills
- 2016: Providing Meaningful Feedback to Challenging Personalities
- 2017: Leadership training: From Telling to Coaching, Staff Motivation
- 2020: Purposeful Leadership, Remote Leadership, Conflict Competencies
- 2022: Management and health
- 2025: Career Development Conversations

Science activities

Astronomical Community service:

- 2012 – 2016: Lorentz Center Astronomy Board member
- Peer review referee for the journals: A&A, AJ, ApJ, MNRAS, PASA, JATIS, Science, Nature
- Telescope Allocation Committee Panel Member: OPTICON, HST Cycle 18 and 22
- 2014: Chair of the Gemini Fast Turnaround review committee
- Peer review of astrophysics research grant proposals for: NWO (The Netherlands), MZOS and Eureka (Croatia), CONICYT and Fondecyt (Chile), ARC and SMS (Australia), UK Research Council, Murdock Trust (USA), SNSF (Swiss)
- Professional societies membership: AAS, EAS and the IAU

Scientific Conferences organization:

• Scientific Organizing Committee:

- 2007: ESO Workshop “12 Questions on Star and Massive Star Cluster Formation”
2009 co-Chair: “Astronomy: A Common Ground for Sharing Humanity’s Concerns”, SuperVOSS, Sassone, Rome, Italy
2009: “The many faces of Centaurus A”, Sydney, Australia
2016: NEON ESO/Opticon Archive school on X-SHOOTER and KMOS, ESO Garching
2015 co-Chair: ESO Workshop “Baryons at low densities: the stellar halos around galaxies”
2015 co-Chair: ESO Workshop “Rainbows on the Southern sky: science and legacy value of the ESO public surveys”
2015: Vatican VVV Workshop “A new galactic survey”, Castel Gandolfo, Italy
2017: ESO Calibration Workshop: “the second generation VLT instruments and friends”, Chile
2017: “On the Origin (and Evolution) of Baryonic Galaxy Halos”, Galapagos, Ecuador
2017: “Reaching New Heights in Astronomy”, Garching, Germany
2018: EWASS 2018 Symposia and meetings selection
2019 co-Chair: “Light in the suburbs: structure and chemodynamics of galaxy halos”, Sexten, I
2023: “Dynamical Masses of Local Group Galaxies”, IAUS 379, Potsdam, Germany
2025 co-Chair: “Stellar Variability: Taking the Pulse of the Universe”, Pune, India

• Local Organizing Committee:

- 2002: ESO Workshop “Extragalactic Globular Cluster Systems”
2004: ESO Workshop “Planetary Nebulae beyond the Milky Way”
2010: MPA/MPE/ESO/USM Joint conf. “Galaxy clusters: observations, physics and cosmology”
2011: ESO workshop “Fornax, Virgo, Coma et al.”
2012 ESO workshop Chair “Science from the Next Generation Imaging and Spectroscopic Surveys”

Student supervision:

- **PhD students:** Teresa Sicignano (ESO student 2024-2026; Napoli), Marco Mirabile (ESO student 2024-2026; Teramo), Alonso Luna (ESO student 2021-2023; UNAB, CL), Tadeja Veršič (ESO student 2022-2023; Vienna Univ.), Silvia Martocchia (ESO student 2018-2020; Liverpool Univ.), Anupam Bhardwaj (ESO student 2016-2017; Delhi Univ.), Ivan Cabrera-Ziri (ESO student 2015-2017; Liverpool Univ.), Leo Huckvale (ESO student 2012-2013; Manchester Univ.), Oscar Gonzalez (ESO IMPRS student 2009-2012; LMU), Veronica Sommariva (ESO student 2007-2009; Padova Univ.)
- **Master students:** Emanuela Luongo (2023; Napoli), Nikolay Kacharov (2010-2011; Sofia)
- DGDF/SSDF/internship student projects: E. Luongo (2023), S. Taibi (2019), N. Kacharov (2011), M. Gullieuszik (2006/7), G. Raimondo (2003/4)

- **PhD committee member:** Prashant Nishad (IUCAA–India, 2025-), Shola Maria Wylie (MPE IMPRS, 2018-2022), Misa Aoki (ESO IMPRS, 2017-2020), Johanna Hartke (ESO IMPRS, 2015-2018), Francisco Surot (ESO IMPRS, 2015-2018), Carina Lagerholm (ESO IMPRS, 2010-2012), Lisette Sibbons (U. Hartfordshire, 2009-2010), Mariya Lyubenova (ESO IMPRS, 2005-2008)
- **Invited PhD examiner:** S. Sudarsanan Kartha (Swinbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 2015); R. Leaman (Victoria Univ., Canada, 2012); E. Bernard (Univ. La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, 2009)

Teaching:

2021: IMPRS Advanced Course on Stellar Populations (15h lecture course)
 2019 + 2021: ESO Summer School (lecture about stellar astrophysics and ESO)
 2018: Vatican Observatory Summer School (VOSS2018, 18h lecture course + hands-on exercises)
 2018: AHEAD X-ray and multi-wavelength survey school (MPE, lecture + research group lead)
 2004 + 2008: “The NEON Archive Observing School”, ESO (lecture + research group lead)
 2000: International Višnjan School of Astronomy, Croatia (lecture + research group lead)
 1998 – 2000 (4 semesters): PUC, Chile teaching assistant: physics lab; Stellar Astrophysics

Research projects and collaborations

- Variable stars and distance scale of the Universe
 - collaborators A. Bhardwaj, V. Ripepi, M. Marconi, S. Kanbur, S. Das
 - member of the ISSI-funded “EXPANDING Universe” collaboration
 - PhDs: T. Sicignano, A. Bhardwaj (2017); MSc: E. Luongo (2023), G. Raimondo (2004)
- Dwarf galaxies and low surface brightness stellar systems
 - collaborators M. Hilker, E. Iodice, M. Cantiello, G. Da Costa, O. Müller, K. Fahrion
 - member of the VEGAS/LEWIS collaboration
 - Euclid collaboration: Local Universe, Extragalactic globular cluster systems
 - PhDs: M. Mirabile, S. Taibi (2019), MSc: N. Kacharov (2011), M. Guilleuszik (2007)
- Nearby galaxies: baryonic stellar halos
 - collaborators L. Greggio, W.E. Harris, G.L.H. Harris, M. Arnaboldi, A. Lançon, M.-R. Cioni
 - Euclid collaboration: Magellanic Clouds, Resolved Stellar Peripheries
 - PhD: T. Versic (2023)
- Milky Way bulge structure and stellar populations
 - collaborators M. Zoccali, D. Minniti, O. Gonzalez, E. Valenti
 - VVV and VVVX collaboration
 - PhD students: A. Luna (2023), L. Huckvale (2013), O. Gonzalez (2012)
- Stellar clusters: multiple stellar populations
 - collaborators E. Pancino, M. Zoccali, N. Bastian, C. Lardo, M. Hilker
 - PhD: S. Martocchia (2020), I. Cabrera-Ziri (2017), V. Sommariva (2009)

Publications Summary

- 193 papers in refereed journals with > 9300 citations; 18 refereed papers as first author (84 as senior author), 3 as single author; highest cited paper as first and single author with 135 citations
- 125 ESO Messenger, SPIE, conference proceedings and other non-refereed publications
- 5 science and photo press-releases • ESO press conference on discovery of electromagnetic counterpart of Gravitational Wave Source GW170817