

Richard Alexander

School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leicester

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🌐 [rdalexander.github.io](https://github.com/rdalexander)

Employment

- 2009 – **Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leicester**
Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics (2019–)
Reader (Associate Professor) in Theoretical Astrophysics (2015–2019)
Lecturer in Theoretical Astrophysics (2009–2015)
STFC Advanced Fellow (2009–2015)
[Paternity leave: March–June 2012]
- 2007 – 2009 **Sterrewacht Leiden, Leiden University**
Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2005 – 2007 **JILA, University of Colorado**
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Education

- 2002 – 2005 **Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge**
PhD in Astrophysics
Supervisor: Prof. Cathie Clarke
- 1997 – 2002 **University of Edinburgh**
MPhys(Astrophysics) with First Class Honours

Research Supervision

- 2022 – [Simin Tong](#), PhD student
[Sahl Rowther](#), post-doctoral research associate (PDRA)
- 2019 – 2021 [Alison Young](#), PDRA
- 2019 – 2020 [Andrew Winter](#), PDRA
- 2018 – 2021 [Enrico Ragusa](#), PDRA
- 2017 – 2020 [Giulia Ballabio](#), PhD student (PhD awarded 2020)
[Rebecca Nealon](#), PDRA
[Cass Hall](#), PDRA (2017–18), Winton Exoplanet Fellow (2018–20)
- 2017 – 2019 [Giovanni Dipierro](#), PDRA
- 2014 – 2016 [Stephen Fendyke](#), PDRA
- 2012 – 2016 [Tom Hands](#), PhD student (PhD awarded 2016)
- 2010 – 2013 [Alex Dunhill](#), PhD student (PhD awarded 2013)
- 2010 [Sarah Crick](#) (née Smedley), SURE summer research student
- 2008 – 09 [Daniel Harsono](#), MSc research project (Leiden University; MSc awarded 2010)

Current Teaching & Lecturing

- 2022 – Lecturer & module lead (2023–) for 4th-year course *SMBHs & Large-scale Structure*
- 2021 – Departmental postgraduate tutor (i.e., PhD programme director)
Lecturer & module lead (2022–) for 3rd-year course *Quasars & Cosmology*

Current Teaching & Lecturing (continued)

- 2015 – Lecturer & module lead (2017–) for 1st-year core physics course *Waves & Quanta*
- 2011 – Module lead for postgraduate course *Formation of Planetary Systems*, University of Leicester & Midlands Physics Alliance Graduate School (MPAGS)

Research Grants (as Principal Investigator)

- 2022 – 2025 **Science & Technology Facilities Council (UK)**
PI of funded project (£525k) within departmental Consolidated Grant (£1.5M total)
- 2016 – 2021 **European Research Council (EU)**
Consolidator Grant (€1.95M, PI)
- 2014 – 2017 **The Leverhulme Trust (UK)**
Philip Leverhulme Prize (£70k, PI)
- 2013 – 2016 **Science & Technology Facilities Council (UK)**
PI of funded project (£154k) within departmental Consolidated Grant (£4.8M total)
- 2009 – 2015 **Science & Technology Facilities Council (UK)**
Advanced Fellowship (£498k, PI)

Service & Peer Review

- Grants panel membership: STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowships (2021–); PRACE–DECI (2020); NASA *Origins of Solar Systems* (2010, 2013)
- Referee for *Science*, *Nature*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*, *ApJS*, *MNRAS*, *AJ*, *A&A*, *New Astronomy Reviews*, *Space Science Reviews*: typically 4–6 articles per year.
- Review of grant applications for STFC, UKRI, Royal Society, RAS, Leverhulme Trust (UK), NASA (USA), NWO (Netherlands), FWF (Austria), CSCS (Switzerland), CONICYT (Chile).

Selected Invited Talks

- 2024 *Formation of the protosolar disk & its first planetesimals*, Collège de France, Paris, France (invited lecture)
- 2023 *Core-to-Disk III*, Saclay, France (keynote review)
- 2020 *The Solar-Stellar Connection*, Warwick, UK (summer school lecturer)
- 2018 *Where are the young planets?*, Madrid, Spain (keynote review)
- 2017 *The migration issue*, Cambridge, UK (conference-opening review)
- 2016 *Star formation 2016*, Exeter, UK (keynote review)
- 2014 *Protoplanetary disks and planets*, Santiago, Chile (keynote review)
- 2013 *Protostars & Planets VI*, Heidelberg, Germany (PI of review chapter)

Publication & Citation Summary

- 82 peer-reviewed papers (published or in press)
- 21 peer-reviewed papers as lead author
- 25 peer-reviewed papers lead-authored by students and postdocs under my supervision
- >4500 total citations; *h*-index of 38