

Emily L. Hunt – Curriculum Vitae

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Research Profile

Astronomer with interests in machine learning and statistics. Highly skilled programmer with 10+ years of programming experience. During my Ph.D., I used Gaia data and various machine learning techniques to create the largest ever catalogue of star clusters in the Milky Way. I am looking to work on applications of machine learning to large astronomical datasets such as Gaia, Vera Rubin, and JWST surveys.

Education & Employment

2025-29, Postdoc, University of Vienna, Austria

2025-25, Postdoc, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Germany

2023-24, Postdoc, Heidelberg University, Germany

Ph.D. 2023, Heidelberg University, Germany

Thesis: “Improving the census of open clusters in the Milky Way with data from Gaia”

Advisor: S. Reffert

M.Phys. 2019, University of Bath, United Kingdom

Thesis: “Inference of photometric galaxy redshifts with a mixture density network”

Advisor: S. Wuyts

Publications

ADS search 

First author

4. **Emily L. Hunt**, Tristan Cantat-Gaudin, Friedrich Anders *et al.* (2025). “The completeness of the open cluster census towards the Galactic anticentre”. [A&A, accepted](#)
3. **Emily L. Hunt** and Sabine Reffert (2024). “Improving the open cluster census. III. Using cluster masses, radii, and dynamics to create a cleaned open cluster catalogue”. [A&A, 686, A42](#)
(70 citations)
2. **Emily L. Hunt** and Sabine Reffert (2023). “Improving the open cluster census. II. An all-sky cluster catalogue with Gaia DR3”. [A&A, 673, A114](#)
(193 citations)
1. **Emily L. Hunt** and Sabine Reffert (2021). “Improving the open cluster census. I. Comparison of clustering algorithms applied to Gaia DR2 data”. [A&A, 646, A104](#)
(101 citations)

Co-author

4. Richard I. Anderson and **Emily L. Hunt** (2025). “A birds-eye view of stellar evolution through populations of variable stars in Galactic open clusters”. *A&A*, submitted
3. Sebastian Ratzenböck, João Alves, **Emily L. Hunt et al.** (2025). “Toward the fabric of the Milky Way: I. The density of disk streams from a local 250^3 pc^3 volume”. *A&A*, **694**, A307
2. Dane Spaeth, Sabine Reffert, **Emily L. Hunt et al.** (2024). “Non-radial oscillations mimicking a brown dwarf orbiting the cluster giant NGC 4349 No. 127”. *A&A*, **689**, A91
(2 citations)
1. Cameren Swiggum *et al.* (incl. **Emily L. Hunt**) (2024). “Most nearby young star clusters formed in three massive complexes”. *Nature*, **661**, 8019, p.49-53
(11 citations)

Selected Presentations

Talk , Bridging Scales – Matera, Italy	(upcoming) 2025
Invited talk , EAS (SS45) – Cork, Ireland	2025
Talk , EAS (S9) – Cork, Ireland	2025
Talk , EAS (S1) – Cork, Ireland	2025
Colloquium – ARI, Heidelberg, Germany	2025
Talk , Heidelberg-Harvard Star Formation Workshop – Heidelberg, Germany	2024
Seminar , Stars seminar – Geneva, Switzerland	2024
Talk , MW Methods Workshop – Ringberg, Germany	2024
Invited review , EAS (SS33) – Padova, Italy	2024
Talk , EAS (S4) – Padova, Italy	2024
Invited talk , SFML2024 – Budapest, Hungary	2024
Colloquium – University of Vienna, Austria	2024
Talk , From star clusters to field populations – Florence, Italy	2023
Seminar , CEFA – Teruel, Spain (online)	2023
Talk , .Astronomy 12 – Flatiron Institute, New York, NY, USA	2023
Colloquium , Königstuhl Colloquium – MPIA, Heidelberg, Germany	2023
Talk , National Astronomy Meeting – Coventry, England, UK	2022
Invited talk , EAS (SS34) – Valencia, Spain	2022
Talk , EAS (SS24) – Valencia, Spain	2022
Talk , EAS (SS15) – Valencia, Spain	2022
Talk , LGBTQ+ STEMinar – University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK	2022
Seminar , Galaxy group – ARI, Heidelberg, Germany	2021
Seminar , Astronomy group – University of Hertfordshire, England, UK	2021
Talk , Star Clusters: The Gaia Revolution	2021
Invited talk , EAS (SS32) – Leiden, Netherlands	2021

Talk , EAS (S15) – Leiden, Netherlands	2021
Seminar , SFB 881 – Heidelberg, Germany	2021
Seminar , Gaia group – University of Vienna, Austria	2021
Seminar , Astronomy group – University of Bath, England, UK	2020
Seminar , Milky Way group – MPA, Heidelberg, Germany	2020

Open-source software

Bluesky Astronomy feeds – lead developer of **astronomy community feeds** on Bluesky social network, which are used daily by hundreds of astronomers to interact
ocelot – lead developer of an upcoming **star cluster analysis Python package**

Teaching & Supervision

Machine learning* , MWGaia Dr. Schl., University of Coimbra, Portugal	2024
Astronomy Lab Course , Heidelberg University	2021
Introduction to Astronomy I , Heidelberg University	2020
Co-supervisor of MSc student , Heidelberg University	2020-2021

* = as a primary lecturer

Awards

Ernst Patzer Award for an excellent publication (press release)	€2000 – 2023
University of Bath IMI Undergraduate Research Internship	£2000 – 2018

Selected Outreach

Invited talk – OUTER SPACE, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy	2023
Interviewed for article – Space.com	2021
Interviewed for article – Thrillist.com	2020
Radio interview – Deutschlandfunk (public radio) & Neue Zürcher Zeitung	2020

Meeting organization & service

Co-Chair at EAS 2025: Symposium S3 (Cork, Ireland)	2025
SOC for Roman Galactic Plane Survey Workshop (online)	2025
SOC for .Astronomy 13 (Madrid, Spain)	2024
SOC for .Astronomy 12 (New York, NY, USA)	2023
Reviewer for A&A, AJ, MNRAS	ongoing

Workshops Attended

.Astronomy 13 – ESAC, Madrid, Spain	2024
.Astronomy 12 – Flatiron institute, New York, NY, USA	2023
CZS school on Scientific Machine Learning – Heidelberg, Germany	2023
GaiaUnlimited Community Workshop – Heidelberg, Germany	2022
..Astronomy – online	2020

Relevant expertise

Programming languages

Python: expert (e.g. numpy, tensorflow, emcee)
JavaScript: intermediate (Svelte, SvelteKit)
C/C++: intermediate
Java: basic

Tools and scripting languages

Git/GitHub: expert
LaTeX: expert
ADQL/SQL: expert
HTML/CSS: intermediate

Languages

English: native speaker
German: intermediate