

# GRIFFIN S FOSTER

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## EDUCATION

*D. Phil* 2009-2013 University of Oxford, St. Peter's College  
*Astrophysics*  
Thesis: *Large-N Correlator Systems for Low Frequency Radio Astronomy*  
Advisors: Prof. Steve RAWLINGS & Dr. Ian HEYWOOD

*Bachelor of Arts* 2003-2007 University of California, Berkeley  
*Physics* · College of Letters and Science  
*Astrophysics* · College of Letters and Science

## RESEARCH HISTORY

*University of Oxford - Astrophysics* Nov 2016–Present Post-doctoral Research Assistant  
Running observations and analysis of the ALFABURST FRB search instrument. Development and testing of SKA pulsar and FRB search pipelines. MeerKAT beamformer commissioning.

*University of California, Berkeley - Astronomy* Nov 2016–Present Visiting Scholar  
Development of machine learning-based anomaly detection methods for Breakthrough Listen SETI data. Design of pulsar and FRB detection pipelines for the high-time resolution data products.

*Square Kilometre Array South Africa* July 2013–Nov. 2016 Post-doctoral Research Fellow  
Development of novel algorithms for automated calibration and deconvolution imaging with radio interferometric arrays focused on low-frequency arrays and the Square Kilometre Array. Machine learning and modelling for automating large real-time data pipelines. FPGA-based beamformer firmware design for transient and pulsar event searches.  
PI: Prof. Oleg SMIRNOV

## TEACHING

*Teaching*

- NASSP 2017 Fundamentals of Radio Interferometry and Aperture Synthesis Masters' Course, University of Cape Town, South Africa – Lecturer
- NASSP 2016 Fundamentals of Radio Interferometry and Aperture Synthesis Masters' Course, University of Cape Town, South Africa – Course Organizer and Lecturer
- Synthesis Imaging Workshop 2015, North West University, South Africa – Lecturer
- RATT Interferometry Introductory Course 2015, Rhodes University, South Africa – Lecturer

*Advisors*

- University of Oxford - co-supervisor to a Master's student (in progress).
- Rhodes University - co-supervisor to two Ph.D students, two Master's students.

*Curriculum Development*

Developed NASSP Fundamentals of Radio Interferometry and Aperture Synthesis Masters' Course, lead author on python notebook-based book and problem sets.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

<i>Mathematics</i>	Digital Signal Processing, Linear Algebra, Statistics, Fourier Analysis, Multivariate-Calculus, Basis set decomposition and transforms, Discrete Mathematics
<i>Computing Languages</i>	Python, Matlab/Octave, SQL, PHP, HTML/CSS, C, BASH/shell scripting, $\lambda$ , $\LaTeX$
<i>Machine Learning</i>	Tensorflow, scikit-learn, SVM, Ensemble learning, PCA/SVD, Embedding and dimensionality reduction, Neural Networks (recurrent, convolutional), Gaussian Processes
<i>FPGA Design</i>	VHDL, Matlab/Simulink, Xilinx ISE, Altera Quartus
<i>Electronics and Mechanical Lab</i>	Digital hardware setup, board testing, analogue component testing, soldering, can operate lathes, mills, and presses

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Foster, G.**, A. Karastergiou, G. Golpayegani, M. Surnis, D. R. Lorimer, J. Chennamangalam, M. McLaughlin, W. Armour, J. Cobb, D. H. E. MacMahon, X. Pei, K. Rajwade, A. P. V. Siemion, D. Werthimer, and C. J. Williams. ALFABURST: a commensal search for fast radio bursts with Arecibo. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 474:3847–3856, March 2018.
- [2] J. E. Enriquez, A. Siemion, **Foster, G.**, V. Gajjar, G. Hellbourg, J. Hickish, H. Isaacson, D. C. Price, S. Croft, D. DeBoer, M. Lebofsky, D. H. E. MacMahon, and D. Werthimer. The Breakthrough Listen Search for Intelligent Life: 1.1–1.9 GHz Observations of 692 Nearby Stars. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 849:104, November 2017.
- [3] C. D. Nunhokee, G. Bernardi, S. A. Kohn, J. E. Aguirre, N. Thyagarajan, J. S. Dillon, **Foster, G.**, T. L. Grobler, J. Z. E. Martinot, and A. R. Parsons. Constraining Polarized Foregrounds for EoR Experiments. II. Polarization Leakage Simulations in the Avoidance Scheme. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 848:47, October 2017.
- [4] J. Hickish, Z. Abdurashidova, Z. Ali, K. D. Buch, S. C. Chaudhari, H. Chen, M. Dexter, R. S. Domagalski, J. Ford, **Foster, G.**, D. George, J. Greenberg, L. Greenhill, A. Isaacson, H. Jiang, G. Jones, F. Kapp, H. Kriel, R. Lacasse, A. Lutomirski, D. MacMahon, J. Manley, A. Martens, R. McCullough, M. V. Muley, W. New, A. Parsons, D. C. Price, R. A. Primiani, J. Ray, A. Siemion, V. Van Tonder, L. Vertatschitsch, M. Wagner, J. Weintraub, and D. Werthimer. A Decade of Developing Radio-Astronomy Instrumentation using CASPER Open-Source Technology. *Journal of Astronomical Instrumentation*, January 2017.
- [5] M. T. Atemkeng, O. M. Smirnov, C. Tasse, **Foster, G.**, and J. Jonas. Using baseline-dependent window functions for data compression and field-of-interest shaping in radio interferometry. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 462:2542–2558, November 2016.
- [6] **Foster, G.**, A. Akoto-Danso, M. Atemkeng, L. Bester, T. Blecher, R. Deane, J. Girard, T. Grobler, B. Hugo, G. Jozsa, E. Abebe Kassaye, J. Kenyon, S. Makhathini, M. Mitra, N. Norman, R. Nunhokee, S. Perkins, L. Richter, L. Sebokolodi, O. Smirnov, U. Mbou Sob, and K. Thorat. Fundamentals of radio interferometry, 2016. [https://github.com/griffinfooster/fundamentals\\_of\\_interferometry](https://github.com/griffinfooster/fundamentals_of_interferometry).
- [7] **Foster, G.**, A. Karastergiou, R. Paulin, T. D. Carozzi, S. Johnston, and W. van Straten. Intrinsic instrumental polarization and high-precision pulsar timing. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 453(2):1489–1502, 2015.
- [8] **Foster, G.**, J. Hickish, A. Magro, D. Price, and K. Zarb Adami. Implementation of a direct-imaging and fx correlator for the best-2 array. *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 439(3):3180–3188, 2014.
- [9] **Foster, G.** *Large-N Correlator Systems for Low Frequency Astronomy*. PhD thesis, University of Oxford, 2013.
- [10] A. P. V. Siemion, G. C. Bower, **Foster, G.**, P. L. McMahon, M. I. Wagner, D. Werthimer, D. Backer, J. Cordes, and J. van Leeuwen. The Allen Telescope Array Fly’s Eye Survey for Fast Radio Transients. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 744:109, January 2012.
- [11] A. P. V. Siemion, D. Werthimer, D. Anderson, H. Chen, J. Cobb, J. Cordes, T. Filiba, **G. Foster**, S. Gowda, E. Korpela, M. Lebofsky, A. Little, W. Mallard, L. Spitler, and M. Wagner. Developments in the radio search for extraterrestrial intelligence. In *General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, 2011 XXXth URSI*, pages 1–4, Aug 2011.
- [12] **Foster, G.** and K. Z. Adami. Design of a 96 element fx correlator for the lofar-uk station. In *General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, 2011 XXXth URSI*, pages 1–4, Aug 2011.
- [13] A. Siemion, G. Bower, M. Dexter, **Foster, G.**, W. Mallard, P. McMahon, M. Wagner, D. Werthimer, and Allen Telescope Array Team. Results from the Fly’s Eye Fast Radio Transient Search at the Allen Telescope Array. In *American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts #217*, volume 43 of *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*, page 240.06, January 2011.
- [14] A. Siemion, J. Von Korff, P. McMahon, E. Korpela, D. Werthimer, D. Anderson, G. Bower, J. Cobb, **Foster, G.**, M. Lebofsky, J. van Leeuwen, and M. Wagner. New SETI sky surveys for radio pulses. *Acta Astronautica*, 67:1342–1349, December 2010.

- [15] M. Ganeshalingam, W. Li, A. V. Filippenko, C. Anderson, **Foster, G.**, E. L. Gates, C. V. Griffith, B. J. Grigsby, N. Joubert, J. Leja, T. B. Lowe, B. Macomber, T. Pritchard, P. Thrasher, and D. Winslow. Results of the Lick Observatory Supernova Search Follow-up Photometry Program: BVRI Light Curves of 165 Type Ia Supernovae. *Astrophysical Journal*, 190:418–448, October 2010.
- [16] A. R. Parsons, D. C. Backer, **Foster, G. S.**, M. C. H. Wright, R. F. Bradley, N. E. Gugliucci, C. R. Parashare, E. E. Benoit, J. E. Aguirre, D. C. Jacobs, C. L. Carilli, D. Herne, M. J. Lynch, J. R. Manley, and D. J. Werthimer. The Precision Array for Probing the Epoch of Re-ionization: Eight Station Results. *Astronomical Journal*, 139:1468–1480, April 2010.
- [17] E. J. Korpela, D. P. Anderson, R. Bankay, J. Cobb, **Foster, G.**, A. Howard, M. Lebofsky, G. Marcy, A. Parsons, A. Siemion, J. von Korff, D. Werthimer, and K. A. Douglas. SETI with Help from Five Million Volunteers: The Berkeley SETI Efforts. In K. J. Meech, J. V. Keane, M. J. Mumma, J. L. Siefert, and D. J. Werthimer, editors, *Bioastronomy 2007: Molecules, Microbes and Extraterrestrial Life*, volume 420 of *Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series*, page 431, December 2009.
- [18] A. Siemion, G. Bower, J. Cordes, **Foster, G.**, W. Mallard, P. McMahon, J. van Leeuwen, M. Wagner, D. Werthimer, and Allen Telescope Array Team. Results from the Allen Telescope Array: The ATA Fly’s Eye Transient Search. In *American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts #214*, volume 214 of *American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts*, page 601.04, December 2009.
- [19] J. von Korff, A. Siemion, E. Korpela, D. Werthimer, P. McMahon, J. Cobb, M. Lebofsky, D. Anderson, B. Bankay, G. Bower, **Foster, G.**, J. van Leeuwen, W. Mallard, and M. Wagner. Astropulse and Fly’s Eye: SETI Searches for Transient Radio Signals Using Distributed Computing. In K. J. Meech, J. V. Keane, M. J. Mumma, J. L. Siefert, and D. J. Werthimer, editors, *Bioastronomy 2007: Molecules, Microbes and Extraterrestrial Life*, volume 420 of *Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series*, page 447, December 2009.