

# Eliezer Estrecho

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

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**FLEET:** ARC Centre of Excellence in Future Low-Energy Electronics Technologies

**Polariton BEC Group**, Nonlinear Physics Centre, Research School of Physics

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For my research outputs: [Google Scholar](#)

## EDUCATION

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**PhD Physics** 2018

*The Australian National University (ANU), Australia*

“Condensation of exciton–polaritons in complex potentials”

Supervisors: Prof Elena Ostrovskaya and Prof Andrew Truscott

**MSc Physics** 2012

*Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology, Philippines*

“Numerical Simulation of Polariton State Splitting with Stress in (001)-grown GaAs Microcavities”

Thesis advisor: Dr Ryan Balili

**BSc Physics, DOST RA 7687 Scholar (Year Awarded 2005)** 2009

*Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), Philippines*

Magna cum laude, class valedictorian

## AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS, AND GRANTS

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- Delegate (Australia), 69th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, 30 Jun–5 July 2019  
*Selected, after a global competition, to attend the gathering of around 40 Nobel laureates and 500 young scientists in Lindau, Germany*
- Best Poster Award (People’s Choice), FLEET Annual Workshop 2018, 5 Dec 2018
- Best Proposal, Idea Factory 2018, 8 Jun 2018
- Best Poster Award, PLMCN18, 14 July 2017
- IONS KOALA 2016 Travel Grant, Dec 2016
- Robert and Helen Crompton Award 2016, ANU, Aug 2016  
*Travel grant for my 3-month visit to our collaborators University of Pittsburgh, USA, Universität Würzburg, Germany, and RIKEN, Japan*
- Vice-Chancellor’s HDR Travel Grant, ANU, Aug 2015
- Postgraduate Research Scholarship, ANU, 2017-2018
- Tuition Fee Exemption Sponsorship, ANU, 2014-2018
- ANU PhD Scholarship, ANU, 2014-2018

- DOST-SEI Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program (ASTHRDP), 2010-2012
- DOST-SEI Science and Technology Scholarship, RA 7687, 2005-2009

## WHAT I LEARNED

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The DOST undergraduate scholarship is the catalyst for my career in physics. Without the scholarship, I would not have pursued pure science for my bachelor's degree, and would not be where I am today. I am grateful for the scholarship and would like to thank the friendly staff of DOST-IX for all the assistance during my undergraduate years.

One year after completing my undergraduate degree, I decided to further my academic career. During my master's program, which was also funded by DOST, I learned from several professors who have trained abroad for their doctorate studies. This has sparked my curiosity about the possible opportunities I could get if I was trained in international institutions. However, I was too scared to venture out of the country, mainly because of uncertainty and the feeling of inferiority.

When I finally secured a Ph.D. position in Australia, I made a big leap in my life while trusting everything to God. The feeling of uncertainty was gone and the opportunities given to me helped me conquer my inferiorities. I traveled the world alone, presented my work at several international conferences, and interacted with fellow researchers.

These experiences have mainly shaped who I am today. A career in science, especially in fundamental science that has no direct or immediate application to our daily lives, is a challenging one and is far from lucrative. Fortunately, like in my case, it is made easier by scholarship grants from DOST.

For the current and prospective science students, if you like doing science, go for it. Don't be afraid or feel inferior. Science transcends borders, races, and social classes, so it welcomes anyone who is interested. Use the opportunity provided by the DOST to help you realize your dream.