LEAH K. MORABITO

Durham University Assistant Professor

Oct 2019 - Present

Nationality: Italy, USA The Centre for Extragalactic Astronomy tel. $+44 (0)7449\,300244$ https://lmorabit.github.io/ South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE leah.morabito@physics.ox.ac.uk

Assistant Professor, Durham University

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Oct 2016 - Sep 2019	Hintze Fellow & PDRA in Galaxy Evolution, University of Oxford
Apr 2005 - Aug 2011	Air Battle Manager (highest rank: Captain), United States Air Force
	• Electronic Combat Officer (ECO) Sep 2008 - Aug 2011
	• Air Weapons Officer (AWO) Jun 2005 - Aug 2008
EDUCATION ———	
Sep 2012 - Sep 2016	Leiden University, Astronomy PhD Researcher
	Thesis: 'Radio Galaxies at Low Frequencies'
Sep 2009 - Apr 2012	University of Oklahoma, M.Sc. Astronomy (with Honours. 1 equiv.)

Thesis: 'AGN: From Supermassive Black Holes to Rare FeLoBALs'

University of Michigan, B.Sc. Physics & B.Sc. Astrophysics (2i equiv.)

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Sep 2001 - Apr 2005

- First spatially resolved maps of high redshift radio galaxies, 1" resolution at 55 MHz
- First extragalactic detection of low frequency carbon radio recombination lines, in M82
- Widest, deepest survey image at the time with low band Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) data
- Highest resolution radio images at low frequencies and low declination (in XMM-LSS field)

RESEARCH GOALS

My main goal is to answer fundamental questions on how super-massive black holes co-evolve with the galaxies in which they reside. I do this by using low frequency radio observations coupled with multi-wavelength data. Over the next five years, I will lead the use of high-resolution, wide-field radio imaging at low frequencies to clearly distinguish two main components in galaxy evolution: star formation, and processes associated with active galactic nuclei. This unique approach will help change our view of how active galactic nuclei help shape galaxy evolution.

LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP ————————————————————————————————————	
Co-leadership of Long Baseline Working Group. Co-leadership and train-	2016 - present
ing of 10+ postdocs, PhD, and MSc students working on technical challenges	
for high-resolution imaging with LOFAR.	
President of Oxford Women in Physics Society. Leadership of committee	Jan 2018 - present
of 10+ women, focused on providing a supportive network for women in Physics	
at Oxford, from the undergraduate to the faculty level.	
Member of Department Equality & Diversity Committee. Contributing	Jan 2018 - present
member of committee as President of Oxford Women in Physics Society, heading	
up mentoring programme reform.	
Galaxies Coffee Organizer. Weekly journal club meeting of about 10 - 15	Oct 2017 - present
active participants.	
Head of AWACS PEX Implementation. Spearheaded transition to new	Apr - June 2011
program tracking training and flying hours for 1,800 aircrew (largest implemen-	
tation in the Air Force).	
Chair of Electronic Support Team. Led and trained a team of 15 to prepare	Jan - Sep 2009
for, support and conduct electronic combat in a deployed location. Won team	
award at highest level for all organisations at deployed location. This work	

improved intelligence databases across entire Air Force.

Package Commander for Command, control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaisance (C2ISR). Led collection of aircraft providing C2ISR functions for multiple large training exercises (total of 100+ air assets on average).	Feb - Mar 2009
Operations Group Commander. Designed and conducted entire training	Sep - Dec 2004
programme for corps of 150+ US Air Force cadets.	_
Co-Founder/President, Society of Women in Physics (SWiP). Wrote	Sep 2004 - Apr 2005
constitution, secured University funding, and started program focused on men-	
torship of younger women undergraduate students, and promoting women and	
girls in STEM fields.	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lorentz Centre Workshop: High Resolution Surveying with LOFAR.	Mar 2018
Main organiser: including writing proposal and securing funding.	
LOFAR Long Baseline Workshops. Helped with and then co-led developing	2015 - present
the LOFAR long baseline data reduction pipeline, and training of new users.	
LOFAR Low Band Antenna Busy Week. Led first busy week exclusively	Mar 2016
devoted to working on challenges for the LOFAR Low Band Antenna.	
LOFAR Commissioning Busy Weeks. Participated in 10 busy weeks to	Jul 2012 - present
commission software for low-frequency, wide-field imaging.	
Chair of Local Organising Committee, LOFAR Busy Week 21. Work-	Jan 2013
shop with specialized talks / training for new users; 40+ global participants.	
Evaluator/Instructor Electronic Combat Officer (ECO), USAF, Capt.	Aug 2008 - Aug 2011
Operated Passive Detection System on E-3 Airborne Warning And Control Sys-	
tem (AWACS). Culminated career as Chief Evaluator / subject matter expert.	
Air Weapons Officer, USAF, 1Lt. Controlled tactical aircraft from AWACS.	Jun 2005 – Aug 2008
Deployed in support of combat missions in southwest Asia.	

Indicators of esteem

- Viva examiner. MSc thesis, Emmanuel Bempong-Manful, Univ. of Hertfordshire. (February 2018)
- Member of LOFAR 2.0 Science Advisory Panel. Expert on using LOFAR international stations for high resolution imaging. (2018 present)
- Referee for papers in peer-reviewed journals. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy. (2018 present)
- **Technical review of observing proposals**. The Low Frequency Array and the Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope. (2017 present)
- Resident Shared Risk Observing, JVLA. Granted telescope time as an expert user and assessed P-band spectroscopic utility on-site with staff at National Radio Astronomy Observatory. (Apr 2015)
- Early upgrade to ECO instructor. Hand-picked based on performance and ability to teach to become an instructor after only 8 months (minimum requirement 1 year).

FUNDING A	AWARDS —
Mar 2018	Lorentz Center workshop: High-Resolution Imaging with LOFAR (10,985 Euro)
	• RadioNet funding to support early-career researchers (2,000 Euro)
	• Funding from ASTRON to support minority researchers (1,000 Euro)
	• Lorentz Center support for workshop (7,985 Euro)
Dec 2017	Grant for 100 TB disk for working on data, Christ Church Research Centre (8,580 GBP)
Oct 2017	Millard & Lee Alexander Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Christ Church, 2 year room & board
Jun 2014	Leids Kerkhoven-Bosscha Fonds grant for travel to international conference (1,000 Euro)
Nov 2013	Award for contribution to successful NWO-TOP1 grant (total grant 4 million Euro)
Sep 2001	Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship (approximately 120,000 USD)
May 2001	University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship (3,000 USD)

Top 5% of applicants for L'Orèal-UNSECO For Women in Science Awards
Electronic Combat Officer of the year
'Exceptionally Qualified' Rating (top 1%), Initial Electronic Combat Officer Evaluation
Distinguished Graduate, Instructor Electronic Combat Officer Training
Distinguished Graduate, Electronic Combat Officer Training (perfect exam score average)
Air Medal (Oak leaf cluster), for flying combat hours
Air Force Achievement Medal, for leadership of Deployed Electronic Support Team
Air Medal, for flying combat hours
Distinguished Graduate, Initial Air Weapons Officer Qualification Training
Top Scope Award, Undergraduate Air Battle Management Training
College of Literature, Science & the Arts 'Angell Scholar'

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Aug 2018 – present	Junior member of International Astronomical Union
$Jan\ 2018-present$	Oxford Society of Women in Physics, President
Feb 2017 – present	Member of Royal Astronomical Society, by election
$Oct\ 2016-Jan\ 2018$	Oxford Society of Women in Physics, Outreach Officer
Sep 2011 - Dec 2015	Member of American Astronomical Society
$Apr\ 2005-present$	Member of Sigma Pi Sigma, National Physics Honors Society, by election
2004 - 2005	Co-President/founder of Society for Women in Physics, University of Michigan

LARGE SURVEY MEMBERSHIP

• Member of: LOFAR Surveys Key Science Project, SKA Extragalactic Continuum Surveys Working Group, WEAVE-LOFAR, HETDEX, MIGHTEE, AGES-XL, RadioNet RINGS

Allocation of Telescope time

- LOFAR: 150+ hours PI projects; 250+ hours co-I projects; 1500+ hours for LOFAR Surveys
- JVLA: 17 hours PI projects; 230+ hours co-I projects
- VLBA: 450 hours co-I project (JWST NEP field)
- GMRT: 116 hours co-I projects
- INT: 12 nights co-I projects

Observing Experience

- GMRT radio telescope, Pune, India, 5 nights
- INT 2.5 m optical telescope, Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, 18 nights
- MDM 2.4 m Hiltner optical telescope, Tucson, AZ, USA, 7+ nights

COMPUTING SKILLS

- **High Performance Computing:** TORQUE and slurm queuing systems, PBS scripting, processing hundreds of TB of data simultaneously
- Data interfacing: Implemented Google Earth for intelligence fusion used during combat flights
- Operating systems: Linux, Mac, Windows, and standard packages therein
- Programming Languages: R, Python, IDL, Bash, FORTRAN
- Data pipelines: Written end-to-end pipelines for LOFAR data (high resolution / ultra low frequency)
- Astronomical Software: LOFAR software, AIPS, CASA, ParselTongue, HEASOFT, PIMMS, XSE-LECT, IRAF, CIAO, SHERPA, XSPEC, FTOOLS, STILTS

Teaching Experience	
LOFAR Data School. Invited lecturer and subject matter expert in high	Sep 2018
resolution imaging (50 students). Lecturer, Oxford Prospects Programme. Lecturer on the topic of astro-	2017 - present
physics for groups of about 50 students, 2 week programme repeated 3x per year	2017 - present
for Chinese students.	
Unit 2 & 3 DARA training at HartRAO. Delivered lectures, tutorials, and	Apr 2018
an invited talk as part of Development in Africa with Radio Astronomy (DARA)	Apr 2016
course at Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory, South Africa.	
Teaching Assistant, Radio Astronomy MSc class. Developed tutorials	Jan - Jul 2015
and practical project for 14 students, supervised hands-on sessions, organized	Jan - Jul 2015
and conducted field trip to Dutch radio observatories.	
Instructor, Initial Electronic Combat Officer Training. Primary instruc-	Sep 2009 - Aug 2011
tor for 4 month lecture/practical course, repeated every 5 months for 4-8 stu-	5cp 2003 11ug 2011
dents. Delivered lectures, led discussions, and helped students with simulated	
missions to learn critical tasks.	
ECO Syllabus Review Conference. Led ECO training syllabus review	Jul 2010
amongst instructors/evaluators, identified 50 updates to the Training Task list.	3 til 2010
Squadron ECO continuing education program. Designed and imple-	Feb 2009
mented squadron ECO continuing education program, adopted by two other	100 2000
squadrons.	
Electronic Support Fundamentals Class. Designed curriculum, coordi-	Jun 2011
nated guest speakers, and taught 5-day course to correct training deficiencies.	0 dii 2011
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STUDENT SUPERVISION —	
Supervision of students. Formally supervised 3 MSc and 3 summer students	Sep 2013 – present
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SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

Total of 45 talks, 17 of which were invited. Yearly highlights only are given.

2019

- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, Atronomy Colloquium (Invited), Sheffield, UK 12 Jun
- The Low Frequency Array and the power of radio surveys, Multi-messenger astronomy with SKA precursors and pathfinders, a capacity building workshop (Invited), Aveiro, PT 13 May
- LOFAR Science: broad absorption line quasars and the path to high resolution imaging, SPARCS IX, Lisbon, PT 6 May
- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, JBCA Colloquium (Invited), Manchester, UK 1 May

2018

- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, Astronomy Colloquium (Invited), ASTRON, NL 25 Oct
- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, Astronomy Group Seminar (Invited), University of Southampton, UK 16 Oct
- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, Astronomy Colloquium (Invited), University College Dublin, IE 4 Oct
- A Low Frequency Radio Perspective on AGN, Astronomy Colloquium (Invited), Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, SE 12 Jun
- My Journey in Science, Oxford Scientist launch event (Invited), University of Oxford, UK 2 Jun

2017

- High-redshift radio sources in MIGHTEE, MIGHTEE Continuum Working Group Meeting, Oxford, UK 20 Sep
- LOFAR to SKA: an observer's perspective, Astronomy and Science from the Moon (Invited), Paris Observatory, FR 22 Jun
- A Low Radio Frequency Perspective on Galaxy Evolution, Astronomy Colloquium (Invited), University
 of Sussex, UK 26 May
- Introduction to LOFAR Long Baselines, Long Baseline Workshop, Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy, NL 9-13 Jan

2016

- Long Baseline Imaging (aka VLBI with LOFAR), LOFAR Surveys Key Science Project Meeting, Bologna, IT 29-31 Oct
- Radio Galaxies at Low Frequencies: high spatial and spectral resolution studies with LOFAR, General Astronomy Colloquim, University of Leiden, NL 6 Sep
- High Resolution Studies of 4C 43.15 with International LOFAR, LOFAR Community Science Workshop, Zandvoort aan Zee, NL 4-7 Apr

2015

- Studying the ultra-steep spectra of high redshift radio galaxies with LOFAR, Lunch Talk (Invited), University of Hertfordshire 13 Nov
- Low-frequency Views on the Cold Neutral Medium and High Redshift Radio Galaxies, Galaxy Evolution Seminar (Invited), University of Oxford, UK 12 Nov
- LOFAR Survey of Spatially Resolved Ultra-Steep Spectrum Sources, The Many Facets of Extragalactic Radio Surveys, Bologna, IT 20-25 Oct
- Low frequency radio astronomy with LOFAR: spectroscopy and long baselines, Lunch talk (Invited), Carnegie Observatory, CA 24 Jul
- Low frequency radio astronomy with LOFAR: spectroscopy and long baselines, Lunch talk (Invited), IPAC/Caltech, US 22 Jul

2014

• Spatially Resolved Studies of (Extragalactic Jets in) High-z Radio Galaxies at Low Frequencies, IAU 313: Extragalactic Jets from Every Angle, Galapagos, EC 17 Sep

- Discovery of Carbon Radio Recombination Lines in M82, IAU 309: Galaxies in 3D, University of Vienna, AT 11 Jul
- Discovery of Carbon Radio Recombination Lines in M82, LOFAR Community Science Workshop, Amsterdam, NL 8 Apr

2013

- LOFAR: Radio Recombination Lines and High Redshift Radio Galaxies, Special Seminar (Invited), University of Oklahoma, USA 16 Dec
- High Redshift Radio Galaxies and the Advent of LOFAR, Google Tech Talk (Invited), Google office, Munich, DE 11 Oct
- Radio Recombination Lines and Long Baselines on 4C41.17, Astronomy, Radio Sources and Society, Leiden, NL 10-14 Jun

2012

- Active Galactic Nuclei: from Supermassive Black Holes to Rare FeLoBALs, Lunch Talk (Invited), National Radio Astronomy Observatory, New Mexico, USA 25 Jul
- X-ray Observations of Broad Absorption Line Quasars, Cosmology Seminar, University of Oxford 22 Nov

Publication Record

9 first-author, 3 second-author, and 32 co-author peer-reviewed publications; also 8 conference proceedings. Total of 788 citations as of 30 Sep 2019.

First Author

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