Dr Maria-Theresia Walach

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Academic Posts & Education:

Since 03/2017: Senior Research Associate, Lancaster University, UK; Line Manager: Dr. Adrian Grocott

Undertaking of original research on the NERC-funded project "Time Variability of the ionospheric electric field: solar wind driving and atmospheric feedback" (2017-2020) and "SD-WACCM: Predicting the Upper Atmospheric Response to Extremes of Space Weather Forcing" (2020-2023):

- Processing and archiving of 22 years of raw data (> 30 TB) from the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN)
- Co-author of **7 papers** and **7 open-source software packages** (downloaded more than 45 times)
- **Seminar coordinator** for the Space and Planetary Physics Group (organisation of external speakers and management of **~£1k budget**)
- Co-organiser of the RAS Discussion meeting on "The Global Response of the Terrestrial Mangetosphere during Storms and Substorms" and LOC member for National Astronomy Meeting 2019 and STFC Advanced Summer School in Space Plasma Physics (Sept. 2019)
- Participant in national outreach competition I'm a Scientist Get me out of here and active participant in Physics department outreach programme
- Leader of widening-participation project with 10 A-Level students from rural Lancashire

2013–2017: PhD studying Solar wind-magnetosphere driving at Earth, University of Leicester, UK; Supervisors: Prof. S. E. Milan & Dr. T. K. Yeoman

- Analysis using spacecraft data, magnetometers, radars and numerical modelling
- 3 first author papers: Using physics-based model to test understanding of ionospheric flows with spacecraft and radar data [Walach et al., 2017a]; Comparative studies of magnetospheric responses to solar wind driving [Walach and Milan 2015, Walach et al., 2017b]
- Active participation of group's outreach programme

2009–2013: 1st class Honors from the MPhys course in Physics, University of Leicester, UK.

Masters dissertation on auroral observations of substorms

Summer 2010: Research Assistant with Prof. J. Remedios & Dr. H. Sembhi in the Earth Observation Group, University of Leicester, UK.

• **Developing improved cloud flagging procedures** for Envisat data above water to estimate sea surface temperatures

Grants & Prizes:

2019:

- NERC Standard Grant (£704k FEC): Researcher Co-Investigator
- Royal Astronomical Society Small Grant Scheme (£1.4k): Funding for discussion meeting
- Runner-up in the Seaborgium zone of I'm a Scientist Get me out of here

2016-

• Shortlisted for the University of Leicester Research Images Competition

2015:

- Royal Astronomical Society Small Grant Scheme (~£1k): Funding to attend AGU Fall Meeting (San Francisco, US)
- Best Student Talk: Rishbeth Prize at the National Astronomy Meeting

2014:

• Joint First Place: 3-Minute Wonder Competition, Institute of Physics, Midlands Division

Publication Record (Highlights):

- 6 first author publications in Journal of Geophys. Res., Space Weather and A&G:
 - M.-T. Walach, G. Hunt, A. R. Fogg, A. Bader (2020), Autumn MIST 2019, Astronomy & Geophysics, 61 (4), 4.26–4.28, doi: 10.1093/astrogeo/ataa056.
 - M.-T. Walach, and A. Grocott (2019), SuperDARN scatter during geomagnetic storms and geomagnetically active times, J. Geophys. Res.: Space Physics, 124, 5828-5847, doi: 10.1029/2019JA026816.
 - M.-T. Walach, S. E. Milan, K. R. Murphy, J. A. Carter, B. A. Hubert, and A. Grocott (2017), Comparative study of large-scale auroral signatures of substorms, steady magnetospheric convection events, and sawtooth events, J. Geophys. Res.: Space Physics, 122, 6357–6373, doi: 10.1002/2017JA023991.
 - M.-T. Walach, S. E. Milan, T. K. Yeoman, B. A. Hubert, and M. R. Hairston (2017), Testing nowcasts of the ionospheric convection from the expanding and contracting polar cap model, Space Weather, 15, 623–636, doi:10.1002/2017SW001615.
 - M.-T. Walach, S. E. Milan (2016), The Irregular Pulse of the Magnetosphere, Astronomy & Geophysics, vol. 57 (1): 1.34-1.36, doi: 10.1093/astrogeo/atw041.
 - M.-T. Walach, and S. E. Milan (2015), Are Steady Magnetospheric Convection Events Prolonged Substorms?. J. Geophys. Res.: Space Physics, 120, 1751–1758, doi: 10.1002/2014JA020631.
- 12 co-author publications in Space Sc. Rev., J. of Geophys. Res., Space Weather, A&G.
- Co-author of 7 software packages published on Zenodo/Github.

Invited Talks:

- Invited talk: 14th International Conference on Substorms, 03/10/2019, Tromsø, Norway.
- Invited seminar talks:

Ground Induced Currents & Machine Learning Group (US), 05/05/2020, virtual.

University of Southampton, 30/04/2019, Southampton, UK.

Mullard Space Science Laboratory (UCL), 19/03/2019, Surrey, UK.

University of Leicester, 16/01/2019, Leicester, UK.

Lancaster University, 18/03/2017, Lancaster, UK.

Swedish Institute of Space Physics Uppsala, 03/02/2016, Uppsala, Sweden.

Community Leadership:

- **Elected member** of the **MIST** (Magnetosphere, Ionosphere and Solar-Terrestrial) **Community Council** since August 2019 (see www.mist.ac.uk).
- **Session convener** at the SuperDARN workshops in 2015 and 2018, the National Astronomy Meeting in 2019, and the 14th International Conference on Substorms in 2019.
- Reviewer for Nature Astronomy (since 2020); Annales Geophysicae (since 2019); Journal of Geophysical Research Space Physics (since 2014).

Scientific Collaboration:

- Member of SuperDARN Data Standards Working Group and Spacecraft Scheduling Working Group and Data Analysis Working Group.
- Member of the Whole Atmospheric Modelling Extention led by Prof. D. Jackson (Met Office).
- Member of the Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionospheric Link Explorer (SMILE) ESA/CAS mission consortium and member of Ground-based support mission team.
- External examiner for the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

Public Engagement:

- Presenting Journey across the Solar System, Light Up Lancaster, 2017.
- Outreach talk, explaining research to the public, Pub-hD talk, Leicester, UK: 2015.
- Setting up & talking to visitors at the **Stargazing Live Event**, Leicester, UK.
- **2015**: ionospheric & magnetospheric phenomena; **2014**: Space Weather; **2013**: Supernovae, Gamma Ray Bursts & SWIFT.
- Outreach talk, explaining research to the public, Pub-hD talk, Leicester, UK: 2015.
- 3 Minute Presentation to a non-specialist audience explaining my research, **3 Minute Wonder Competition**, organised by the Institute of Physics: **2014 & 2015**.