

# Pedro Figueira | Curriculum Vitae

Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía

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My research focuses mainly on **extrasolar planet detection and characterization**, followed by the study of **stellar physics** and the development of **astronomical instrumentation**. During my career I have gathered considerable experience on astronomical observations and team coordination.

## Professional & Academic background

### Positions

- **Post-Doc for the *THIRSTEE* ERC project**  
*Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía* *Since Oct 2025*
- **Research and Teaching Assistant & Euler Telescope Coordinator**  
*University of Geneva* *Mar 2022-Sep 2025*
- **Staff Astronomer & Instrument Scientist**  
*ESO Chile, Paranal Observatory* *Feb 2018-Feb 2022*
- **Invited Assistant Professor**  
*University of Porto* *Oct 2015-Jul 2017*
- **Investigador FCT**  
*IA/CAUP* *Jan 2014-Jan 2018*
- **Post-Doc for the *ExoEarths* ERC project**  
*CAUP* *May 2010-Dec 2013*

### Academic Background

- **Phd in Astrophysics, supervised by Prof. Michel Mayor and Prof. Francesco Pepe**  
*University of Geneva, Observatory of the University of Geneva* *2006–2010*
- **BSc in Physics, with specialization in Astronomy & Astrophysics**  
*University of Lisbon* *2002–2005*

## Research Summary

### Publications

- **231 Publications in refereed journals, 16 of which as first author (h-index of 62, 13k+ citations);**
- Contributed to **47 non-refereed conference proceedings, book chapters, or white papers;**
- Scientific Editor for the **Handbook of Exoplanets** (Springer, 2018, 2026).

### Scientific Communications & Meetings

- 71 talks at conferences and institutes, 16 of which invited/review talks at international conferences;
- Organization as SOC/LOC member of four international conferences/meetings.

### Observing Experience

- Extended observing experience gathered during four years of work at ESO Paranal observatory as Staff Astronomer, and on 25 observing missions in state-of-the-art observatories as visiting observer;
- PI or Co-I of 57 accepted ESO/OPTICON observing proposals (regular, GTO, DDT, TOOs).

## Coordination & Management

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### Scientific Coordination

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- Working Group (WG) coordinator for **ESPRESSO**'s Guaranteed Time of Observations (GTO) (2018-2021): I was responsible for the WG dedicated to the instrument's primary scientific goal of detecting an Earth-mass planet orbiting inside the habitable zone around a G, K, or M star. As a team, we started and executed most of the GTO program with several breakthrough scientific results;
- Head of the Portuguese **SPIRou** team (2010-2021): Returning to Portugal after my PhD thesis, I coordinated a team of researchers from several scientific fields (star formation, exoplanets, stellar physics) and together we secured funding for our institutional participation in the SPIRou instrument consortium;
- Co-PI of the **HELIOS** solar telescope and Co-Project Scientist of the **NIRPS** spectrograph;
- Institutional project funding: I was PI of 3 funded projects (for a total of 300K€) and Co-I of 8 others awarded by the Portuguese national funding agency *Foundation for Science and Technology* (FCT).

### Team management

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- **ESPRESSO instrument scientist at ESO** (2018-2021): I headed a team with approximately 20 researchers, engineers, computer scientists, and other colleagues of varied expertise. Together we put in operations the state-of-the-art ESPRESSO spectrograph while keeping a remarkably low technical downtime of  $\sim 1\%$ ;
- **Euler Telescope Coordinator** at Observatory of Geneva (since 2022): I am overseeing approximately 40 observers from two institutes across 10 different observing programs.

## Evaluation Panels and Refereeing

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- Evaluation of observing proposals for the ESO OPC and external advisor for OPTICON & NASA;
- Evaluation of project funding for six national agencies and the European Research Council (ERC);
- member of the ESO hiring committee for Fellows and Ph.D students (FSSC);
- member of several hiring committees for Ph.D.s and Post-Docs at Institute of Astrophysics (IA, Portugal);
- Frequent referee requests for the major journals; *PASP* award of Outstanding Reviewer in 2017.

## Teaching & Supervision

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- lecturer at 2 universities, plus regular invited classes at a third one;
- supervisor of four Ph.D thesis and co-supervisor of four other;
- supervisor of two M.Sc. thesis, two M.Sc.-level fellowships, and co-supervision of a third one;
- supervisor of three undergraduate student projects;
- supervisor of one Post-Doc grant.

## Science Communication

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*In my understanding, Science Communication is a central responsibility of every researcher, and I do my best to reach out and connect to the non-scientific community.*

- Authorship of the book *Astro Homus*, a Portuguese Directorate-General of Arts-funded project;
- Co-author of five ESO Messenger and one CAP journal articles;
- Participation in two books, two documentaries, and six TV shows;
- Frequently invited to talks, round tables, and discussions on Exoplanets.