

# 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

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### Positions

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

### Academic Background

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

## Research Summary

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### Publications

- **231 Publications in refereed journals, 16 of which as first author (h-index of 62, 12k+ 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, TOO).

## **Coordination & Management**

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### **Scientific Coordination**

- 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**

- **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 ~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 four 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.