

# Richard Alexander

School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leicester

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🌐 [rdalexander.github.io](https://rdalexander.github.io)

## Employment

2009 – . . . .	<b>School of Physics &amp; Astronomy, University of Leicester</b> Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics (2019–) Reader (Associate Professor) in Theoretical Astrophysics (2015–2019) Lecturer in Theoretical Astrophysics (2009–2015) STFC Advanced Fellow (2009–2015) [Paternity leave: March–June 2012]
2007 – 2009	<b>Sterrewacht Leiden, Leiden University</b> Postdoctoral Fellow
2005 – 2007	<b>JILA, University of Colorado</b> Postdoctoral Research Associate

## Education

2002 – 2005	<b>Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge</b> PhD in Astrophysics Supervisor: Prof. Cathie Clarke
1997 – 2002	<b>University of Edinburgh</b> MPhys(Astrophysics) with First Class Honours

## Research Supervision

PhD students	<a href="#">Simin Tong</a> (2022–); <a href="#">Giulia Ballabio</a> (2017–20); <a href="#">Tom Hands</a> (2012–16); <a href="#">Alex Dunhill</a> (2010–13)
Postdocs	<a href="#">Sahl Rowther</a> (2022–26); <a href="#">Alison Young</a> (2019–21); <a href="#">Andrew Winter</a> (2019–20); <a href="#">Enrico Ragusa</a> (2018–21); <a href="#">Rebecca Nealon</a> (2017–20); <a href="#">Cassandra Hall</a> (2017–20); <a href="#">Giovanni Dipierro</a> (2017–19); <a href="#">Stephen Fendyke</a> (2014–16)
Pre-doctoral	<a href="#">Sarah Crick</a> (née Smedley), SURE summer research student (2010); <a href="#">Daniel Harsono</a> , MSc research project (Leiden University; 2008–09)

## Current Teaching & Lecturing

2022 – . . . .	Lecturer & module lead (2023–) for 4th-year astrophysics course <a href="#">SMBHs &amp; Exoplanets</a>
2021 – . . . .	Departmental postgraduate tutor (i.e., PhD programme director) Lecturer & module lead (2022–) for 3rd-year astrophysics course <a href="#">Quasars &amp; Cosmology</a>
2015 – . . . .	Lecturer & module lead (2017–) for 1st-year core physics course <a href="#">Waves &amp; Quanta</a>
2011 – . . . .	Module lead for postgraduate course <a href="#">Formation of Planetary Systems</a> , University of Leicester & Midlands Physics Alliance Graduate School ( <a href="#">MPAGS</a> )

## Research Grants (as Principal Investigator)

2022 – 2026	<b>Science &amp; Technology Facilities Council (UK)</b> PI of funded project (£525k) within departmental Consolidated Grant (£1.5M total)
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## Research Grants (as Principal Investigator) (continued)

2016 – 2021	<b>European Research Council (EU)</b> Consolidator Grant (€1.95M, PI)
2014 – 2017	<b>The Leverhulme Trust (UK)</b> Philip Leverhulme Prize (£70k, PI)
2013 – 2016	<b>Science &amp; Technology Facilities Council (UK)</b> PI of funded project (£154k) within departmental Consolidated Grant (£4.8M total)
2009 – 2015	<b>Science &amp; Technology Facilities Council (UK)</b> Advanced Fellowship (£498k, PI)

## Large Facility Awards

- Competitively-allocated large awards on the [NCSA](#) (USA), [NCF](#) (Netherlands) and [DiRAC](#) (UK) high-performance computing facilities, totalling over 60 million CPU hours. Recent highlights include PI awards on DiRAC in 2021, 2023 & 2025.
- More than 20 competitively-allocated observing time awards on international telescopes. Recent highlights include large programmes on the [ESO Very Large Telescope](#) and the [Hubble Space Telescope](#) (*Odysseus*), and projects on [JWST](#) and [ALMA](#).

## Service & Peer Review

- Grant panels: Royal Society University Research Fellowships (2025–); RAS Fellowships (2026); STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowships (2020–2024); PRACE-DECI (2020); NASA *Origins of Solar Systems* (2010, 2013)
- Referee for *Science*, *Nature*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*, *ApJS*, *MNRAS*, *AJ*, *A&A*, *New Astronomy Reviews*, *Space Science Reviews*: typically 4–6 articles per year.
- Review of grant applications for STFC, UKRI, Royal Society, RAS, Leverhulme Trust (UK), NASA (USA), NWO (Netherlands), FWF (Austria), CSCS (Switzerland), CONICYT (Chile).

## Invited Talks (selected)

2024	<i>Formation of the protosolar disk &amp; its first planetesimals</i> , Collège de France (invited lecture)
2023	<i>Core-to-Disk III</i> , Saclay, France (keynote review)
2020	<i>The Solar-Stellar Connection</i> , Warwick, UK (summer school lecturer)
2018	<i>Where are the young planets?</i> , Madrid, Spain (keynote review)
2017	<i>The migration issue</i> , Cambridge, UK (conference-opening review)
2016	<i>Star formation 2016</i> , Exeter, UK (keynote review)
2014	<i>Protoplanetary disks and planets</i> , Santiago, Chile (keynote review)
2013	<i>Protostars &amp; Planets VI</i> , Heidelberg, Germany (PI of review chapter)

## Publication & Citation Summary

- 91 peer-reviewed papers (published or in press)
- 21 peer-reviewed papers as lead author
- 29 peer-reviewed papers lead-authored by students and postdocs under my supervision
- >5000 total citations; *h*-index of 40