

THOMAS MACHON

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Employment

- May 2018 – **Lecturer**
School of Physics, University of Bristol.
- May 2016 – May 2018 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania.
Supervised by Randall. D. Kamien.
- Oct 2015 – Apr 2016 **Early Career Fellow**
Institute for Advanced Study, University of Warwick.

Education

- 2016 **PhD**, Physics and Complexity Science, University of Warwick, UK
Thesis: *Aspects of Geometry and Topology in Liquid Crystalline Order*
Supervisors: Gareth P. Alexander and Miha Ravnik (University of Ljubljana).
Science Faculty PhD Thesis Prize.
- 2013 **MSc**, Complexity Science, University of Warwick, UK (Distinction)
Theses: *Swarming and phase transitions in Danio Rerio*
and *Knotted Defects in Nematic Liquid Crystals*.
- 2011 **MPhys**, Physics, University of Warwick, UK (1st class)
Highest mark in graduating class.

Awards and Prizes

- 2018 Glenn H. Brown Prize, International Liquid Crystal Society.
- 2016 Science Faculty PhD Thesis Prize, University of Warwick, UK.
- 2015 IAS Early Career Fellowship, University of Warwick, UK.
- 2012 Chancellor's International Scholarship, University of Warwick, UK.
- 2011 Jersey Bursary, States of Jersey, Channel Islands.
- 2011 Styles Prize for Excellence (ranked 1st in graduating class), Department of Physics, University of Warwick, UK.

Teaching

- 2017 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania.
Lecturer: 611, Statistical Mechanics.

Publications & Preprints

10. T. Machon, *Equilibrium Description of Absorbing States in the Manna Model*, Submitted (2018).
9. T. Machon, *Contact Topology and the Structure and Dynamics of Cholesterics*, New J. Phys. **19**, 113030 (2017).
8. H. Aharoni, T. Machon and R.D. Kamien, *Composite Dislocations in Smectic Liquid Crystals*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 257801 (2017).
7. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Global Defect Topology in Nematic Liquid Crystals*, Proc. R. Soc. A **472**, 20160265 (2016).
6. T. Machon, R.E. Goldstein, A.I. Pesci and G.P. Alexander, *Instabilities and Solitons in Minimal Strips*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 017801 (2016).
5. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Umbilic Lines in Orientational Order*, Phys. Rev. X **6**, 011033 (2016).
4. D.A. Beller, T. Machon, S. Copar, D.M. Sussman, G.P. Alexander, R.D. Kamien and R.A. Mosna, *Geometry of the Cholesteric Phase*, Phys. Rev. X **4**, 031050 (2014).
3. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knotted Defects in Nematic Liquid Crystals*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **113**, 027801 (2014).
2. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knotted Nematics*, ArXiv:1307.6819 (2013).
1. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knots and non-orientable surfaces in chiral nematics*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **110**, 14174 (2013).
Also featured in Liquid Crystals Today **22**, 72 (2013).

Manuscripts in Preparation

Singularity Theory and the Structure of Defects in Smectics (with H. Aharoni, Y. Hu and R.D. Kamien).

Nematic Chainmail and the Abelian Sandpile Model (with G.P. Alexander).

Contact Topology and Berry's Phase (with Y. Hu).

Invited Presentations

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| January 2018 | IMA Workshop on Liquid Crystals, Soft-matter Packing, and Active Systems <i>University of Minnesota</i> |
| July 2017 | SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i> |
| July 2017 | Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Bristol</i> |
| October 2016 | Topology Workshop <i>Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania</i> |
| October 2015 | Applied Topology Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Bristol</i> |
| September 2014 | CECAM Workshop on Knots in Soft Condensed Matter <i>University of Vienna</i> |
| May 2013 | Physics Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana</i> |

Contributed Presentations

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| March 2018 | APS March Meeting <i>Los Angeles</i> |
| June 2017 | GRC on Liquid Crystals (poster) <i>University of New England, Maine</i> |
| March 2017 | APS March Meeting <i>New Orleans</i> |
| September 2016 | Knots and Links in Biological and Soft Matter Systems (poster) <i>ICTP</i> |
| April 2014 | The Physics of Soft and Biological Matter Conference <i>Homerton College, University of Cambridge</i> |
| May 2013 | The Mathematics of Liquid Crystals Workshop (poster) <i>Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge</i> |

References

Randall D. Kamien

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Gareth P. Alexander

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