

# Curriculum Vitæ

Florent Leclercq  
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- Personal Information** Born on January 17th, 1988 in Neuilly-sur-Seine (Hauts-de-Seine, France).  
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ORCID ID [0000-0002-9339-1404](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9339-1404) | [ARXIV](#) | [NASA ADS](#) | [Inspire HEP](#) | [RESEARCHGATE](#)
- Research interests** **Cosmology** – The large-scale structure of the Universe: reconstruction and analysis of the morphology and formation history of the cosmic web, as probed by galaxy surveys; non-linear cosmological structure formation; weak gravitational lensing; Bayesian and information-theoretic methods in cosmology; link with high energy physics.
- Academic Employment** 2017–. **Imperial College Research Fellow** – [Imperial Centre for Inference and Cosmology](#), [Imperial College](#), London, UK.  
2015–2017. **Senior Research Associate** – [Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation](#), [University of Portsmouth](#), Portsmouth, UK.  
2012–2015. **PhD Student** – [Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris](#) (IAP, UMR 7095 CNRS–Sorbonne Université), Paris, France.  
Postgraduate education from [École Doctorale d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique d’Île-de-France](#) (ED 127), Paris, France, and [Université Pierre et Marie Curie](#), Paris, France.  
**Thesis:** *Bayesian large-scale structure inference and cosmic web analysis*.  
**Advisor:** [Benjamin Wandelt](#), professor and international chair of theoretical cosmology at the UPMC/Sorbonne Université  
**Graduation date:** 24 September 2015.  
**Defence committee:** [Bertrand Laforge](#) (*président*), [Benjamin Wandelt](#) (*directeur de thèse*), [Oliver Hahn](#) (*rapporteur*), [Alan Heavens](#) (*rapporteur*), [Ofer Lahav](#) (*examineur*), [Will Percival](#) (*examineur*), [Rien van de Weijgaert](#) (*invité*), [Matías Zaldarriaga](#) (*invité*).  
**Post-master courses:** complementary education in various specialised topics including astro-statistics, theoretical cosmology, numerical simulations and high-performance computing.
- Education** 2011–2012. [École polytechnique](#), Palaiseau, France and [ETH](#), Zürich, Switzerland  
Postgraduate degree (Master 2): *High Energy Physics* joint master program (Ranked first, GPA: 4.29)  
Theoretical and experimental education in high energy physics: theoretical and observational cosmology, particle and astroparticle physics, the standard model of electroweak interactions and its supersymmetric extensions, strong interactions and quantum chromodynamics, general relativity and quantum gravity (string theory), tools and methods of experimental physics.  
2008–2011. [École polytechnique](#), Palaiseau, France  
“*Ingénieur Polytechnicien*” program: high-level multidisciplinary scientific education, with specialisation in particle physics and astrophysics. A human, military and sportive training forms an integral part of the curriculum.  
• 2010-2011, Third year: “From particles to stars” master program (GPA: 3.93)  
• 2009-2010, Second year (GPA: 3.54)

- 2008-2009, First year (GPA: 4.03)

2005–2008. [Lycée Henri IV](#), Paris, France

Classes préparatoires aux Grandes Écoles, voie MP: preparatory years for nationwide competitive examination to the elite French *Grandes Écoles* for scientific studies.

2005. [Baccalauréat Scientifique](#). French secondary school diploma in sciences.

Diploma awarded with very high honours.

### Research Internship Projects

02/2012–08/2012. [Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris](#), Paris, France

Project: *Approaching Non-Linear Cosmic Structure Formation*, under the supervision of [Benjamin Wandelt](#).

Resulting publications: [F. Leclercq](#), [J. Jasche](#), [H. Gil-Marín](#), [B. Wandelt](#), *One-point remapping of Lagrangian perturbation theory in the mildly non-linear regime of cosmic structure formation*, [JCAP](#) **11**, 48 (2013), [arXiv:1305.4642](#); [F. Leclercq](#), [J. Jasche](#), [B. Wandelt](#), *One-point statistics of the Lagrangian displacement field* (Addendum to *One-point remapping of Lagrangian perturbation theory in the mildly non-linear regime of cosmic structure formation*), [JCAP](#) **4**, 26 (2015), [arXiv:1507.08664](#)

04/2011–07/2011. [Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris](#), Paris, France

Project: *Dark Matter and Stars*, under the supervision of [Fabio Iocco](#).

Resulting publication: [F. Iocco](#), [M. Taoso](#), [F. Leclercq](#), [G. Meynet](#), *Main Sequence Stars with Asymmetric Dark Matter*, [Physical Review Letters](#) **108**, 061301 (2012), [arXiv:1201.5387](#)

### Grants & Fellowships

2019. [UK Research and Innovation – Science and Technology Facilities Council](#).

Associate investigator of the STFC *Imperial College Astrophysics Consolidated Grant* (ST/S000372/1, April 2019–March 2022, PI: [Andrew Jaffe](#), £ 1.5M), currently funding post-doctoral research associate [Natalia Porqueres](#).

2017. [Imperial College Research Fellowship](#). Total value: approx. **£ 210k**, including a research and travel grant of **£ 28k**.

Individual fellowship awarded among **21 in all disciplines in 2017**, including 2 in physics.

2016. [Agence Nationale de la Recherche](#).

Co-investigator of the ANR project *BIG4* (ANR-16-CE23-0002, January 2017–December 2020, PI: [Guilhem Lavaux](#), 316 k€).

2015. Senior Research Associate appointment (2015–2018). Value: approx. **£ 105k**.

Position funded by the European Research Council grant *Darksurvey* (ERC 614030, June 2014–May 2020, PI: [Will Percival](#), 2.1 M€).

2015. [CITA National Fellowship](#) (declined).

2012. [Lagrange PhD Thesis Fellowship](#) (2012–2015). Value: approx. **10 k€**.

Title and research grant (travel, equipment) awarded by the Institut Lagrange de Paris.

2012. [AMX PhD Student Fellowship](#) (2012–2015). Value: approx. **100 k€**.

Grant specifically aimed at former École polytechnique “*Ingénieur*” alumni. 40 fellowships awarded among all disciplines in 2012.

### Awards & Honours

2015. Very honourable mention for my PhD thesis and defence. Unanimous congratulations from the jury for the “exceptionally strong scientific content of this PhD, which pushes forward the state of the art”.

2011. Very honourable mention for my involvement in the year-long student seminar on Quantum Field Theory at the [Centre de Physique Théorique](#) (CPHT, UMR 7644 École polytechnique–CNRS), directed by [Christoph Kopper](#).

2010. Second prize for the scientific project (*Projet Scientifique Collectif*) of the École

polytechnique, out of 80 projects.

## Research Supervision Experience

Formally recognised as an [Assistant Supervisor](#) by Imperial College in [October 2018](#). Currently Assistant Supervisor of 3 PhD students.

[10/2019–](#). Primary Supervisor and mentor within the [Aquila Consortium](#), James Prideaux-Ghee (PhD student co-supervised by [Alan Heavens](#) at [Imperial College](#)).

PhD project: *Cosmic velocity fields*.

[06/2018–06/2019](#). Supervisor, Mariem Magdy Ali Mohamed (master student in the [MSc Physics with Extended Research](#) at [Imperial College](#)).

Project: *A predictive numerical implementation of the galaxy perturbative bias expansion* (duration: 1 year).

[05/2018–](#). Assistant Supervisor, George Kyriacou (PhD student co-supervised by [Alan Heavens](#) & [Andrew Jaffe](#) at [Imperial College](#)).

PhD project: *Hierarchical Bayesian inference of galaxy redshift distributions*.

[02/2018–](#). Assistant Supervisor, Arrykrishna Mootoooloo (PhD student co-supervised by [Alan Heavens](#) & [Andrew Jaffe](#) at [Imperial College](#)).

PhD project: *Gaussian process emulator for weak lensing cosmology*.

[06/2017–05/2018](#). Mentor, Wolfgang Enzi (master student supervised by [Jens Jasche](#) at the [Excellence Cluster Universe](#), Garching).

Project: *The Approximate Bayesian Computation of power spectrum reconstruction with galaxy surveys* (duration: 1 year).

[03/2017–07/2017](#). Supervisor, Baptiste Faure (research intern, third-year student at the [École polytechnique](#), equivalent to French master level M1).

Project: *Cosmological simulations: toward a massively parallel algorithm* (duration: 4 months).

## Teaching Experience

[05/2019](#). [Astrophysics Group, Imperial College, London, UK](#).

*Bayesian statistics and information theory*: advanced lectures for PhD students (9 hours).

[03/2017](#). [Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK](#).

*Cosmology with Bayesian statistics and information theory*: advanced lectures for PhD students (6 hours).

[2012–2013](#). [Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France](#)

Teaching assistant in the [department of physics](#) (72 hours):

- Experimental wave optics
- Physics lectures (thermodynamics and wave physics) for biologists

[2011–2012](#). [École polytechnique, Palaiseau, France](#)

Teaching assistant in the [department of physics](#) (60 hours). In charge of tutoring undergraduate students in Quantum Mechanics.

[10/2008–04/2009](#). [Inspection académique des Pyrénées-Orientales, Perpignan, France](#)

Eight-month pedagogy and leadership training, a part of the [École polytechnique](#) curriculum. In charge of the development and coordination of the scientific training of primary school teachers. In charge of helping teachers to develop good practice examples for teaching science.

## Academic Service

### Peer reviewing

Referee for [A&A](#) (2016–), [Galaxies](#) (2016–), [JCAP](#) (2017–), [ApJ](#) (2017–) & [MNRAS](#) (2019–). Grant reviewer for the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#), 2019).

## Committees

2019. Member of the Organising Committee of the [Euclid UK meeting 2019](#) (16–17 December 2019, [Royal Astronomical Society](#), London, UK).

2018–2020. Member of the Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) of the conference [The Cosmic Web in the Local Universe](#) (27–31 January 2020, [Lorentz Center](#), Leiden, the Netherlands).

2017–2018. Member of the Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) of [COSMO21: Statistical Challenges in 21st Century Cosmology](#) (23–25 May 2018, Valencia, Spain).

## Institutional activities

2017–. Representative of Imperial College Astrophysics at the [London Institute of Cosmology](#).

2014–2015. Representative of PhD students at the IAP Laboratory Council.

## Meeting organisation

2019. Organiser of the [Aquila Consortium](#) autumn 2019 meeting (21–25 October 2019, [Imperial College](#), London, UK).

2017–. Organiser of the monthly [London Cosmology Discussion Meeting \(LCDM\)](#).

2014. Organiser of the weekly meeting between students and the IAP seminar speaker (*student pre-seminar*).

2012–2013. Organiser of the weekly student seminar at the Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris ([YMCA@IAP](#)).

## Memberships International collaborations

2018–. [Euclid Consortium](#):

- Galaxy Clustering science working group (GC SWG): lead of the standard project (SP) “galaxy clustering with likelihood-free inference” (GC-LFI) and involved in work packages “Likelihood fitting” and “Additional probes”,
- Weak Lensing science working group (WL SWG): involved in work package “Forward modelling”,
- Cosmological Theory science working group (TH SWG): involved in work package “Initial conditions”.

2016–. [Aquila Consortium](#) for Bayesian large-scale structure inference – founding member, lead responsible for the “cosmic web” and “weak gravitational lensing” programmes.

## Scientific societies

[Société Française d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique \(SF2A\)](#)

[European Astronomical Society \(EAS\)](#)

[Royal Astronomical Society \(RAS\)](#) – elected as Fellow in December 2018.

[International Astrostatistics Association \(IAA\)](#)

## Public Engagement Press releases and media coverages

2020. Media coverage of [Leclercq et al. 2020](#):

- Author of an article in *The Conversation France* (“[Vers une simulation de l’Univers sur un téléphone portable](#)”).
- Main contact for the press release from Imperial College London (“[Misfolded proteins and simulating the Universe: News from the College](#)”).

2017. Media coverage of [Leclercq et al. 2017](#):

- Main contact for the press release from the University of Portsmouth (“[Cosmologists produce new maps of dark matter dynamics](#)”), covered by [phys.org](#) among others.
- Author of the announcement on the website of INSU (“[De nouvelles cartes des flots de matière noire dans notre voisinage cosmique](#)”, in French).
- Featured in *Discover* magazine (“[Charting the unseen sky](#)”), Pan European Networks (“[A light in the dark](#)”), and *Science & Vie* (“[5 télescopes à l’assaut de la toile cosmique](#)”, “[La Voie lactée se trouverait au milieu du plus grand vide de l’Univers](#)”).
- Main contact for the science highlight of the Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris

(“*The origin of the large-scale structure of the Universe and dark matter flows in our cosmic neighborhood*”).

2012. Media coverage of [Iocco et al. 2012](#):

- Involved in a press article featured by PhysOrg.com (“*Stars containing dark matter should look different from other stars*”).

### Diffusion of scientific knowledge and scientific communication

2012–. Regular participant in outreach events and science festivals (Fête de la science, Stargazing Live, etc.).

2020. Invited speaker at the conference “[Cosmology and Exoplanets: Both Sides of the Nobel Prize](#)” organised by the student’s Physics Societies of ICL, UCL & QMUL.

2017–2018. Contributor to [Entropy](#), a collaboration of artists and scientists organising outreach demonstrations telling the cosmic story of creation: in charge of the translation of the script into French.

**Languages** French: native

English: fluent (C2)

Spanish, Japanese: basic notions (A1)

**Computer Skills** Operating systems: Linux (Ubuntu), Windows

Software: most common office software products, image processing

Programming: C, C++, Python, Java, HTML, PHP, SQL

Parallel and GPU programming: OpenMP, MPI, CUDA

Scientific tools:  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Beamer, Matplotlib, GNUPlot, Mathematica, TensorFlow

Astrophysical and cosmological simulations

Statistical methods for inference in high dimensional parameter spaces, Markov Chain Monte Carlo techniques for sampling, processing of large data sets

**Interests & Activities** **Sports:** fencing (12 years’ experience), artistic fencing, and hiking

Member of an artistic fencing and theatrical company, *les Corsaires de La Ciotat*. Regularly organising and participating in artistic fencing shows. Former president of the association for artistic fencing at the École polytechnique.

Former member of the École polytechnique fencing team.

President of the 18th International Fencing Challenge of the École polytechnique (200 competitors, 3 days, budget 25 k€): in charge of an organising team of about 30 students.

**Literature:** interested in fantasy and historical fiction.

**Creative writing**

**Travels:** [35 countries](#) visited in the world.