

Curriculum vitae et Studiorum

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gioia Rau

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JOB EXPERIENCE

Dec 2019 – Present

Research Assistant Professor – The Catholic University of America & NASA/GSFC

I am currently working at NASA/GSFC as a [CUA Research Assistant Professor](#), and am involved in several projects using data from worldwide interferometric facilities (VLTI, NOAO, CHARA, ALMA), the Hubble Space Telescope, and other NASA missions such as K2/TESS, and modelling them with the latest 3D and 1D state-of-the-art models for cool evolved stars. I also teach Astronomy to undergrad students.

[Parental Leave February–May 2020](#)

Nov 2017 – Present

Research Scientist – NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

Currently my research at NASA/GSFC focuses on studying cool, evolved stars in the Galaxy. I analyse their structure combining high-resolution spectroscopic data from the Hubble Space Telescope/STIS and GHRS instruments (see **(Rau et al. 2018)**, Carpenter et al. 2018), with high-angular resolution interferometric data from the CHARA/VEGA instrument, the Very Large Telescope Instrument (VLTI)/GRAVITY, and VLTI/MATISSE **(Rau et al. in prep)**, **see also observing run below**. I also study the evolution of these cool, evolved stars using evolutionary tracks. The **novelty** of these studies resides in the observational and modeling approach. Indeed my work combines ESO/VLTI and CHARA/VEGA high-angular resolution interferometric observations, with high-resolution spectroscopic HST ones, to unravel the role of the, until now ignored, chromospheric layer, in of cool, evolved stars, and of the upper atmosphere in general.

Apr 2017 – Jun 2017

Visiting scientist – European Southern Observatory (ESO) HQ

[Visiting position](#) during my short postdoc at the University of Vienna (see below). At ESO I worked with Dr. Markus Wittkowski on resolving the atmospheric structure of the Oxygen-rich Mira star R Peg. I reduced the **extremely new Science Verification GRAVITY data** GRAVITY of R Peg. We determined its molecular extension by resolving its atmospheric layers with the newest VLTI/GRAVITY instrument (see Wittkowski, **Rau et al. 2018** below), and we model its atmosphere by comparison with the CODEX dynamic model atmospheres. This study represents the **first characterization** of the phase lags between Mira angular sizes in continuum and molecular bands and the lightcurve.

Jan 2016 – Jul 2017

Postdoc – University of Vienna

Short postdoc at the University of Vienna, Institute of Astrophysics, during which I spent three months at ESO HQ (Garching) as a visiting scientist, working with Markus Wittkowski (see above). A project I have been working on include extending the comparison between dynamic model atmospheres and spectro-photometric and interferometric observations, to a grid of dynamic models without the assumption of small particle limit (see also Rau et al., PhD thesis), which will help to shed new light on the process of mass loss in C-rich stars. This might be of special relevance for the semi-regular variable stars, which have been proved by Rau et al. (2017) to have a more compact structure than Mira stars.

EDUCATION AND
TRAININGOct 2012–Oct 2016 **Ph.D. With honors University of Vienna**

Thesis Title: *“Atmospheres of evolved C-rich stars - from observations to models, and back”*.

Supervisors: Ao. Prof. Dr. F. Kerschbaum & Dr. J. Hron

My PhD research focused on the study of cool, evolved carbon-rich stars, investigating their intriguing atmosphere, and the processes happening in there, such as: pulsation, mass loss and stellar winds, and, in the outer envelope, the formation of molecules and dust. Indeed AGB stars are one of the most important contributors to the enrichment of the interstellar medium, via their mass loss, with heavy elements produced in their core, and with the dust produced in their envelope. I developed a joint use, **for the first time in a consistent way** of spectro-photometric and interferometric measurements of AGB stars in synergy, and compared them to the predictions of different kinds of modelling approaches (radiative transfer code such as Mode of Dusty, hydrostatic model atmospheres such as COMARCS models, and self-consistent state-of-the-art dynamic model atmospheres such as DARWIN models), and geometric model fitting tools such as GEMFIND. My first paper as first author focused on one test-star: the carbon-rich Mira RU Vir (**Rau et al., 2015**). In my second paper as first author I applied the same methodology to a set of C-rich stars for comparison (**Rau et al., 2017**). I was also involved in a publication with the Vienna exoplanets group (Bazzo et al., 2017) and with other VLT/MIDI data (Paladini et al., 2017). **I have been the PI of observations** made at ESO/VLT with the MIDI instrument in April 2014 (ID 093.D-0708.A), and Co-I of several other VLT projects (see below). I have established several international collaborations (Italy, Belgium, Sweden). [My PhD thesis is published at this link.](#)

Nov 2011–Sep 2012 **Post-Master – Università di Roma La Sapienza**

Planck satellite data reduction code development. 2011-2012; Advisor: Dr. A. Melchiorri. I developed numerical codes in preparation of the forthcoming data analysis of the Planck satellite mission.

Feb 2011–May 2011 **“Borsa per la Tesi all'estero” – CalTech & NASA/JPL**

[Fellowship to develop my Master Thesis abroad](#)

For having the highest grade average, I won one of the 4 fellowships of the entire Faculty of Natural Science of Università La Sapienza, with which I developed my Master Thesis research at California Institute of Technology (CalTech), & NASA/JPL.

My Master thesis focused on the analysis of the secondary anisotropies in the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB). I presented the innovative analysis conducted at NASA/JPL of the secondary anisotropies in the CMB and foregrounds, particularly taking into account the contributions of the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich-effect and DSFG (Dusting Star Forming Galaxies). For this purpose I developed a numerical analysis and implemented numerical codes (IDL), in order to verify the good agreement between the calculated values of the cosmological parameters and those of the Standard Cosmological Model. MCMC were used to obtain samples of cosmological parameters in the phase space. My work included the dataset of the WMAP team, ACT, and ACBAR instruments.

Nov 2009–Oct 2011 **Master degree in Astrophysics Summa Cum Laude**
Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza, Facoltà di Fisica

- Title: *Secondary anisotropies in the Cosmic Microwave Background*
- Supervisors: Dr. Graça Rocha (CalTech), Dr. Alessandro Melchiorri (La Sapienza)
- Description: An analysis of the secondary anisotropies of the Cosmic Background Radiation, their influence on the cosmological parameters, and their correlations (see point above).

Oct 2006–Oct 2009 **Bachelor degree in Physics and Astrophysics**
Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza, Facoltà di Fisica

A compact overview of the physical origin of the Dark Energy and a description of the correlation between dark energy and the age of the Universe.

GRANTS &
AWARDS

Grants

- 2020 Co-I of the successful Step A NIAC proposal
- 2017 PI of Schrödinger Fellowship, Austrian Science Fund (FWF) - “Cool stars winds and chromospheres” – Grant Amount: 164,000 € (**Declined**)
- 2017 PI of PSL Fellowship, Paris/Meudon – Grant Amount: 150,000 € (**Declined**)
- 2017 Nasa Postdoctoral Fellowship (pending), NASA/Goddard – Grant Amount: ~ \$400,000.

Awards

- 2020 Nomination for the “2020 Italian Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Award”
- 2018 NASA/GSFC “Science Nuggets”: my work was selected by the NASA/GSFC Science Division in the month of August, to present to Center management (the Center Director and his Executive Council) to highlight my research as one of the greatest being done in the Division.
- 2016 “Abschlussstipendium der Universität Wien”: Selected and fully sponsored as one of the 12 best PhD students out of about 10,000 of all the PhD students of the University of Vienna, for exceptional research and merit.
- 2011 “Borsa di studio per tesi all'estero”: selected and fully sponsored on the basis of the best GPA as one of the 4 Master students out of about 112,000 of all the Master students of the Natural Science Faculty of the Università di Roma La Sapienza, to develop my Master Thesis abroad - 3,000 €.

Travel Grants

- 2018 Travel grant IAU 2018 - 500 €.
- 2016 Travel grant award sponsored by the Austrian Astronomical Society (OeGAA) to attend the conference “Blowing in the wind” - 350 €.
- 2016 Travel grant award sponsored by University of Vienna under the program “Dissemination”, to attend the conference “Blowing in the wind” - 600 €.
- 2016 Travel grant award sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) to attend the conference “Blowing in the wind”. - 1,700 €.
- 2016 Travel grant award sponsored by Observatoire de Paris & CNRS, to attend the conference “Blowing in the wind” - 1,000 €.
- 2016 Travel grant award sponsored by the European Astronomical Society (EAS), to attend EWASS 2016 - 800 €.
- 2015 Travel grant award sponsored by the Austrian Astronomical Society (OeGAA) to attend the conference IAU-GA - 350 €.
- 2015 Travel grant award from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) to attend the conference IAU-GA - 1,700 €.
- 2015 Travel grant award sponsored by ESO (European Southern Observatory) to attend the ESO STEPS conference - 800 €.
- 2015 Travel grant award sponsored by the competitive contest from the University of Vienna under the program “Dissemination”, to attend the conference EWASS 2015 - 300 €.
- 2012 Winner of the grant to develop my PhD thesis at the University of Vienna.
- 2010 One of the 10 winners of MITO award contest, among the whole department of Physics of the University of Rome La Sapienza (see Academic Experiences).
- 2005 Local winner of the High-School Mathematics and Physics Italian Olympiads.

Observing Proposals
PI ~ 30 hours
Co-I ~ 220 hours

- 2020 Co-I of the observing runs at IRAM/NOEMA – 16 h
- 2019 PI of the scheduled observing runs at ESO/VLTI with the MATISSE instrument (ID:0105.20BT) – 9 h
- 2019 Co-I of the observing runs at ESO/VLTI with the MATISSE instrument (ID:) – 18 h
- 2019 Co-I of the monitoring proposal at ESO/VLTI with the GRAVITY instrument, spanning 4 periods: 105-106-107-108 – 54 h
- 2019 PI of the scheduled observing runs at ESO/VLTI with the MATISSE instrument (ID:0104.D-0279) – 12.5 h
- 2019 Co-I of the accepted Cycle 7 ALMA proposal 2019.1.00796.S
- 2019 Co-I of the accepted ALMA DDT proposal 2018.A.00026.S
- 2018 Co-I of the observing run at VLTI/GRAVITY (ID: 0102.D-0197) - 24h
- 2018 Co-I of the observing run at VLTI/SPHERE and VLTI/GRAVITY (ID: 0102.D-0240) - 20h
- 2017 Co-I of the observing run at VLTI/GRAVITY (ID: 0101.D-0616) - 31h
- 2014 PI of the observing runs at ESO/VLTI with the MIDI instrument (ID: 093.D-0708) - 6 h
- 2014 Co-I of the observing run at ESO/VLTI with the MIDI instrument (ID: 092.D-0152) - 9 h
- 2013 Co-I of the observing run at ESO/VLTI with the MIDI instrument (ID: 092.D-0665) - 7.5 h

ACADEMIC
EXPERIENCES &
DUTIES

Editor • 2019-ongoing Editorial board member of the IAU's AGB Newsletter

Referee • 2019 MNRAS journal
• 2018 MNRAS journal
• 2018 A&A journal
• 2016 IBVS ("Information Bulletin on Variable Stars")

Panel reviews • 2020 Confidential Invitation
• 2019 HST
• 2019 TESS
• 2018 CHANDRA
• 2018 K2
• 2018 ESO/DPR
• 2018 NASA/Science Mission Directorate

Service & Management • 2020 NASA/GSFC Hiring and Promotion Working Group
• 2020 NASA/GSFC Summer Interns Working Group
• 2020 NASA/GSFC Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Working Group
• 2020 Proposer, organiser, and leader of the panel "*What's Next?*" on career for NASA/GSFC interns
• 2019 NASA/GSFC Summer Interns Working Group
• 2019–Ongoing [Organising Committee of the IAU Working Group on Red Giants and Supergiants](#)
• 2018–Ongoing Proposer and leader of the two-monthly 'HARIM' (High-Angular Resolution Interferometric Meeting) meeting at NASA/GSFC
• 2017–Ongoing Inviting scientists to lab seminar: Rachael Rottenbacher (2018), Miguel Montarges (2018), Geoff Clayton (2019)
• 2017 LOC at the symposium "Environments of Terrestrial Planets Under the Young Sun: Seeds of Biomolecules 2018" at NASA/GSFC
• 2015 Chair of the IAU 2015 Focus Meeting 7 conclusive session "Stellar Physics in Galaxies throughout the Universe"
• 2012-2014 Organizer of the weekly "Dust meeting" at the Institute of Astrophysics in Vienna

Visiting positions • 2018 Visiting scientist ESO HD (Garching) 1 week, to work with Dr. Markus Wittkowski
• 2017 Visiting scientist ESO HD (Garching) 5 months, to work with Dr. Markus Wittkowski
• 2011 Visiting student at CalTech University & NASA JPL 3 months, to develop my Master Thesis research

Summer schools • 2013 VLT Summer School - High angular resolution for stellar astrophysics September 2013 (Barcelonnette, France).
• 2010 Educational Excursion at Testa Grigia Observatory, MITO Telescope, for an observational campaign headed by Prof. Marco de Petris to test the atmospherical spectrometer CASPER2, in the contest of studying the SZ effect (Breuil-Cervinia, Italy).
• 2010 Cosmology Summer School: The CMB at High Angular Resolution 5-10 July 2010 (IESC, Cargese, Corsica, France).
• 2010 One-day visit at the LNGS, with Prof. Di Domenico

TALKS & POSTERS

Invited Conference Talks

- Jan 2020 **Invited** conference talk, AAS 2020 Special Session: [“Imaging Stars A Century of Advances in High Angular Resolution Astronomy”](#)
- Nov 2018 **Invited** conference talk at the CRESST II retreat, Baltimore
- Mar 2018 **Invited** conference talk at the conference [“Imaging of stellar surfaces”](#)

Invited Seminar Talks

- Dec 2020 Yale University
- Apr 2019 University of Vienna, Institute for Astrophysics
- Feb 2019 The Catholic University of America
- Dec 2018 INAF/OAR (Observatory of Rome)
- Dec 2018 ESO HQ in Garching
- Dec 2018 Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian (CfA)
- Nov 2018 Macquarie University
- Nov 2018 University of Melbourne
- Sept 2018 Nice observatory (OCA)
- Aug 2018 NASA/Goddard SED director series
- May 2016 Budapest Astronomical Observatory (Host: Prof. Maria Lugaro)
- Apr 2016 University of Padova - Starkey meeting (Host: Prof. Paola Marigo)

Contributions as first author

- Jan 2019 Contributed poster at the AAS 2020
- Jan 2019 Contributed poster at the AAS 2019
- Aug 2018 Contributed poster at EWASS 2018
- Aug 2018 Contributed poster at the IAU-GA Symposium “Why Galaxies Care About AGB Stars”
- Mar 2018 Contributed talk at the conference “Imaging of stellar surfaces”
- Jul 2017 Contributed talk at the conference “Physics of evolved stars”
- Jun 2017 Contributed talk at the conference “EWASS 2017”
- Aug 2016 Contributed talk at the conference “Blowing in the Wind” (Quy Nhon, Vietnam)
- Jul 2016 Contributed talk at EWASS 2016
- Aug 2015 Contributed talk at the IAU XXIX General assembly Focus Meeting 7
- Jun 2015 Contributed talk at EWASS 2015
- Jul 2015 Poster contribution at ESO STEPS, ESO/Garching
- Jul 2014 2 Poster contribution at “Why Galaxies Care About AGB Stars III” Vienna, Austria
- Jan 2014 Poster contribution at “VLT community days” Grenoble, France
- Sep 2013 Poster contribution at VLT summer school, Barcelonnette, France
- Jul 2012 Participation Marcel at the Grossmann 13th conference, Stockholm, Sweden

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

- 2020–Ongoing Supervision of one PhD Student and one postdoc
- 2019 Stellar Astrophysics module of the Fall Astronomy course for Undergrads at The Catholic University of America – Invited Guest lecturer of Prof. Duilia de Mello
- 2019 Supervision of the teaching assistant of Prof. De Mello

PUBLICATIONS

Editorial Pieces • **Rau 2020** [“On the role of Chromospheres in cool, evolved stars”](#)

Refereed Journals

- Montarges et al., 2020, submitted to Nature “The inhomogeneous surface of Betelgeuse during its Great Dimming event”
- Sciluna et al., 2020, submitted to MNRAS “The Nearby Evolved Stars Survey II: Constructing a volume-limited sample and first results from the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope”
- Morris et al., 2020, ApJ, 892, 2, L23 **Letter** “CO, Water, and Tentative Methanol in Carinae Approaching Periastron”
- **Rau et al., 2019, ApJ, 882, 37** “Constraining stellar parameters and atmospheric dynamics of the carbon AGB star V Oph”
- Dharmawardena et al., 2019, MNRAS, 489, 3218 “The Nearby Evolved Stars Survey: I. JCMT/SCUBA-2 Sub-millimetre detection of the detached shell of U Antliae”
- **Rau et al., 2018, ApJ, 869, 1** “HST/GHRS Observations of Cool, Low-Gravity Stars. VI - Mass-Loss Rates and Wind Parameters for M Giants”
- Carpenter et al., 2018, ApJ, 869, 157 “The Advanced Spectral Library (ASTRAL): Reference Spectra for Evolved M-Stars”
- Wittkowski, **Rau et al.** 2018, A&A, 613L, 7 **Letter**: “VLTI-GRAVITY measurements of cool evolved stars I. Modeling R Peg”
- Brunner et al., 2018 A&A, 621, 50 “ALMA observations of the “fresh” carbon-rich AGB star TX Piscium: The discovery of an elliptical detached shell”
- **Rau et al., 2017, A&A, 600, 92** “The adventure of carbon stars. Observations and modeling of a set of C-rich AGB stars”
- Cikota et al., 2017, MNRAS, 471, 2111 “Common continuum polarization properties: a possible link between proto-planetary nebulae and Type Ia Supernova progenitors”
- Bazso et al., 2017, MNRAS, 466, 1555 “Dynamics and habitability in circumstellar planetary systems of known binary stars”
- Paladini et al., 2017, A&A, 600, 136 “A joint venture in the infrared: the MIDI+VISIR+Herschel view on the mass loss of evolved stars. I. The inner scales as seen by MIDI”
- **Rau et al., 2015, A&A, 583, A106** “Modelling the atmosphere of the carbon-rich Mira RU Vir”

White Papers

- **Rau et al., 2019 BAAS, 51(3), 241**, “Cool, evolved stars: results, challenges, and promises for the next decade”
- Monnier, **Rau**, et al., 2019 BAAS, 51c, 514M, “The Future of Exoplanet Direct Detection”
- Monnier, **Rau**, et al., 2019 BAAS, 51c, 498M “Imaging the Key Stages of Planet Formation”
- Monnier et al., 2019 BAAS, 51g, 153M “A Realistic Roadmap to Formation Flying Space Interferometry”
- Monnier et al., 2019 BAAS, 51g, 133M “Setting the Stage for the Planet Formation Imager”
- Carpenter et al., 2019 BAAS, 51c, 12K “Stars at High Spatial Resolution”
- Airapetian et al., 2019 BAAS, 51c, 564A “Reconstructing Extreme Space Weather From Planet Hosting Stars”
- Checlair et al., 2019, BAAS, 51c, 328R “A Statistical Comparative Planetology Approach to Maximize the Scientific Return of Future Exoplanet Characterization Efforts”
- Rackham et al., 2019, BAAS, 51c, 241R “Constraining Stellar Photospheres as an Essential Step for Transmission Spectroscopy of Small Exoplanets”
- Roettenbacher et al., 2019, BAAS, 51c, 56C “High Angular Resolution Astrophysics: Resolving Stellar Surface Features”
- Kopparapu et al. 2018 BAAS, 51(3) 012 “Exoplanet Diversity in the Era of Space-based Direct Imaging Missions”, arXiv180303812K

Selected
Proceedings

- **Rau 2020** "Atmospheres of Evolved Stars at Optical and Infrared Wavelengths", AAS #35, id. 319.06, BAAS, Vol. 52, No. 1
- Rau et al., 2020 "Sailing the winds: exploring the mechanisms driving the winds in carbon-rich AGB Stars", AAS #35, id. 301.01, BAAS, Vol. 52, No. 1
- Carpenter et al., 2020 "Stellar Imager (SI) — A UV/Optical Interferometer to Observe the Universe in High Definition", AAS #35, id. 301.02, BAAS, Vol. 52, No. 1
- Wittkowski et al., 2019 "Precision Monitoring of Cool Evolved Stars: Constraining Effects of Convection and Pulsation", Msngr, 178, 34
- Rau et al., 2019 "AGB star atmospheres modeling as feedback to stellar evolutionary and galaxy models", Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union, Volume 343, pp. 491-492
- Carpenter & Rau, 2019 "The Impact of Dust/Gas Ratios on Chromospheric Activity in Red Giant and Supergiant Stars", Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union, Volume 343, pp. 365-367
- Carpenter et al., 2019 "M-Giant Mass-Loss Rates and Wind Parameters from UV Emission Line Profiles", AAS Meeting #233, id.365.06
- Paladini et al., 2017, Msngr, 168, 28 "To be or not to be Asymmetric? VLT/MIDI and the Mass-loss Geometry of AGB Stars"
- Rau 2018, iss, confE, 29R Modeling of Red Giant and AGB Stars Atmospheres: Constraints from VLT and HST Observations
- Carpenter & Rau 2018, iss, confE, 4C Imaging the Surfaces of Stars from Space
- Rau et al., 2016 "The dynamic atmospheres of carbon rich giants: constraining models via interferometry". Conference proceedings of "Cool Stars 19", id.111
- Rau et al., 2016 "Modelling A Set Of Carbon-Rich Agb Stars At High-Angular Resolution ". Conference proceedings of "Cool Stars 19", id.110
- Rau et al., 2015 "Modelling Carbon-rich AGB stars". Astronomy in Focus, as presented at the IAU XXIX General Assembly, 2015. Proceedings of the IAU, Volume 29B, 2016, pp. 160-161
- Rau et al., 2015 "Modelling a set of C-rich AGB stars: the cases of RU Vir and R Lep". MmSAIt, 87, 260
- Rau et al., 2014 "Into the modelling of RU Vir". ASPC, 497, 137
- Paladini et al., 2014 "VLT/MIDI Large Program: AGB Stars at Different Spatial Scales". ASPC, 497, 97

In preparation

- (Rau et al. in prep.) "RADMC3D simulations of spectro-interferometric data of RU Vir and V Oph"
- (Rau et al. in prep.) "Modeling C-rich AGB stars atmospheres without the small particle limits approximations"

PRESS RELEASES,
MEDIA &
OUTREACH

Press Releases

- 2020 [ESO press release on Betelgeuse](#)
- 2020 [CUA major news webpage on my participation in the study on Betelgeuse](#)
- 2020 NASA communication [Twitter account post](#) on my participation in the study on Betelgeuse
- 2020 Facebook [CUA/News account](#) press release on my participation in the study on Betelgeuse
- 2020 Facebook [CUA/Physics account](#) press release on my participation in the study on Betelgeuse
- 2018 NASA/GSFC communication accounts, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), on my 2018 first-author publication
- 2017 [Press release of my grant at the University of Vienna](#)

Media

- 2020 [WTOP article interview on Betelgeuse](#)
- 2020 Two radio interviews on Betelgeuse for WTOP
- 2020 [Interview for the prestigious Italian journal "Civiltà delle Macchine"](#)
- 2019 Interview for the major Italian Newspaper "il Giornale", published on Saturday July 13th 2019
- 2019 [Interview for the major Italian Newspaper "La Repubblica"](#), published on January 21st 2019
- 2018 Interview for RaiNews24, which has been featured in the news on December 28th, 2018, and in 2019 in the the "Rubrica Societa' di RaiNews24: Non solo 8 Marzo", for Italian talented women.
- 2018 Interview for the Australian Triple R radio station (from minute 36 [here](#))
- 2018-2019 Three video interviews for RaiNews24, featured: (1) on the news; (2) in the column for Italian talented women [Rubrica Societa' di RaiNews24: Non solo 8 Marzo](#); (3) in the column ["Futuro 24" \(here from min. 8:29\)](#)

- Outreach**
- 2020 [Talk with >3,400 views](#) on the Facebook outreach page *Passione Astronomia*
 - 2019 NASA Media Training
 - 2019 [Invited public talk at the Italian Embassy in the USA](#)
 - 2019–Ongoing Collaboration and review work for [“Art of the Cosmos”](#)
 - 2018 Invited conclusive talk, as NASA expert, for the virtual exchange program, organised by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ Collaboratory, between three schools in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Pistoia, Italy, to increase knowledge in the field of exoplanets (see those three pages: [first](#), [second](#), and [third](#)).
 - 2018–Ongoing Scientist behind the [“Ask a NASA Scientist”](#)
 - 2012-2017 Contributing in various outreach activities at the University of Vienna (e.g. “Nachts auf der Sternwarte”)
 - 2014 Collaborating with the association “TEDxVienna” (2014 conference)
 - 2015 **Invited** public talk [“We are all Stardust”](#) at the University of Vienna.
 - 2011-2012 Scientific guide and teacher in Planetarium and astronomical museum of Rome, and for ATA (Associazione Tuscolana di Astronomia).
 - 2009-2010 Several outreach events at University of Rome La Sapienza.
 - 2010 Scientific guide with the portable planetarium in schools and public events in Rome.
 - 2009 Scientific guide of the exhibition “Expo Astri e Particelle” at Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome.
 - 2009 Scientific explainer at the Festival of Science: “L’ Universo”, Rome
 - 2009 Scientific explainer for the event “XLuna” (40th anniversary of the moon landing)
 - 2009 Scientific explainer for the Research week - Frascati Scienza
 - 2008-2010 Permanent public outreach laboratory at Planetarium of Rome
 - 2008 - 2009 Training course at Planetario di Roma.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue Italian

Other languages

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C2	C2	C2	C2
German	B1	B1	B2	B2	B1
Spanish	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1
French	A2	A1	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2: Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference \(CEF\) level](#)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & KEY COMPETENCES

- Observations** UV high-resolution spectroscopy. Optical/IR and sub-mm interferometry at high angular resolution, spectroscopy, photometry. Observational proposal writing (VLTI/MIDI, ALMA, see below).
- Modeling** Modeling stellar chromospheres, atmospheres, dust, circumstellar environments. Using stellar evolutionary models. Computing synthetic spectra, synthetic photometry, and interferometric visibilities.
- Data handling** Dealing with: UV data, IR spectroscopic, photometric and interferometric data. Interferometric data reduction (EWS and MIA routines for VLTI/MIDI, and ESO/REFLEX pipeline for VLTI/GRAVITY).

- Communication skills**
- Ability to work independently and in team environment.
 - Organising and problem-solving skills. Communication & interpersonal skills. Public outreach.
 - Team work: I have worked in 4 different nations, with different cultures and various types of research teams
 - Leadership skills: leading several proposals, projects, and working groups
 - Intercultural skills: I am experienced at working in a European and American dimension
- Organisational / managerial skills**
- I am currently organizing the meeting series “HARIM” (High-Angular Resolution Interferometric Meeting)
 - During my PhD I organised a seminar series called “Dust meeting”
 - Time management: always concluded on time the studies and projects in which I was involved.
- Computer skills**
- Languages: IDL, C, f90, AWK, bash, Python
 - Text Editing: \LaTeX
 - OS: Mac OS X, Linux
- Professional Memberships**
- Sigma Xi honorary society – nomination for outstanding achievements
 - International Astronomical Union (IAU)
 - American Astronomical Society (AAS)
 - European Astronomical Society (EAS)
 - Società Italiana di Fisica (SIF)
- Other**
- Lover of Nature, Space, philosophy. I believe that sport is life; my favourites are: volleyball, skiing, hiking, climbing, and running. I enjoy writing, and always carry with me a book. Occasionally I play guitar and learn piano.

Last update: November 20th, 2020