

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

name: Alexander Westphal
born: April 20th 1977
addresses: DESY, Theory Group, Notkestraße 85, D-22603 Hamburg, Germany
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Professional Career

since 01/19 co-PI of the Excellence Cluster “Quantum Universe”
since 02/15 *ERC Consolidator Grant* holder
since 09/14 DESY Theory Group senior staff (*tenured*)
01/11 - 06/18 PI of the project C6 “Scalar Fields in Cosmology:
Inflation, Dark Matter, Dark Energy” in the Collaborative Research Center 676
“Particles, Strings, and the Early Universe” by the DFG
since 10/10 DESY Theory Group staff member
& *Helmholtz Fellow (tenure track)*, Helmholtz Research Group Leader
10/07 - 09/10 Postdoc at Stanford University, USA (’07-’09 Humboldt *Feodor Lynen* Fellow)
10/05 - 09/07 Research associate at SISSA/ISAS, Trieste, Italy
07/05 - 09/05 Research associate at DESY, Hamburg, Germany

Awards and Fellowships

2015 - 2021 *ERC Consolidator Grant* “Inflation in String Theory
- Connecting Quantum Gravity with Observations”
2015 *J. Hans D. Jensen-Prize* of the University of Heidelberg
and the Klaus-Tschira-Foundation
2010 - 2015 *Helmholtz Fellow* of the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres
2007 - 2009 *Feodor-Lynen Fellowship* by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
2005 - 2007 Research Fellowship by the INFN, Italy
2002 *Otto-Haxel-Award* ”For an Outstanding Diploma Thesis” by the
Faculty of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Heidelberg, Germany
1998 - 2002 Scholarship by the ”Evangelisches Studienwerk Haus Villigst e.V.”, Germany

Supervision of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

2010 - 2023 6 graduate students, 11 postdoctoral fellows
(2 of them have since successfully moved to a tenured faculty position)

Teaching Experience

August 2019 Helmholtz International Summer School “Cosmology, Strings, New Physics”:
“Aspects of String Cosmology”, Dubna, Russia
summer term 2018 Master & PhD Course: “Introduction to Cosmology”, Hamburg University
summer term 2014 Master & PhD Course: “Introduction to Cosmology”, Hamburg University
October 2012 XXIX Heidelberg Physics Graduate Days:
“Aspects of Inflationary Cosmology”, Heidelberg University
winter term 2012 PhD Course: “Theoretical Cosmology”, Hamburg University
October 2011 CP3-Origins/DESY/Göttingen Autumn School on Particle Physics
and Cosmology: “Inflation”, DESY
summer term 2011 Master & PhD Course: “Introduction to Cosmology”, Hamburg University

Organisation of Scientific Meetings

2017 organizing committee member: workshop “DESY Theory Workshop 2017”, DESY
2017 Chair: workshop “New Ideas in String Phenomenology”, DESY
2016 Chair: workshop “XXVIII Workshop Beyond the Standard Model”,
Physics Center, Bad Honnef
2014 program committee member: workshop “Inflation after Planck”, DESY
2013 program committee member: conference “String Phenomenology 2013”, DESY
2012 program committee member: workshop “Implications of the Early LHC
for Cosmology”, DESY

Institutional Responsibilities

since 09/2014 *tenured* senior staff at DESY
since 2011 theory group coordinator for the DESY Summer Student Programme
since 10/2010 tenure-track junior staff at DESY
since 10/2010 PI and Young Investigator Research Group Leader
of the independent *Helmholtz Young Investigator Research Group*
“String Theory and Cosmology – An Interface for Testing
Fundamental Theories”, group size: PI, 1 postdoc & 2 PhD students
grant-ID: HZ-NG-603

Membership of Scientific Societies

- since 01/11 Co-PI of the project C6 “Scalar Fields in Cosmology: Inflation, Dark Matter, Dark Energy” in the Collaborative Research Center 676 “Particles, Strings, and the Early Universe” by the DFG, joint responsibility for 1 postdoc
- since 1998 Membership in the DPG (German Physical Society)

Further Professional Experience

- since 2007 referee: for PRL, JHEP, JCAP, Physical Review D, Physics Letters B, European Physical Journal C, Foundations of Physics

Public Outreach

- 2005 - 2017 public talks at Rotary Club & Lion’s Club in Germany, public lecture at a German high-school summer student program, public lectures at Hamburg University and ‘Planetarium Hamburg’, lecture at SETI Institute about the ‘String Theory Landscape’ on YouTube, OmegaTau podcast on ‘String Theory’

Education and University Studies

- 08/02 - 07/05 Ph. D. at the University of Hamburg and DESY (1.0)
title of thesis: *Higher-Dimension Operators in Higher-Dimensional Field Theories*
supervisor: Prof. Dr. Arthur Hebecker
- 02/02 Diploma at the University of Heidelberg (with distinction)
- 12/00 - 07/01 Diploma thesis
title of thesis: *Quantum Mechanics and Gravitation*
supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hartmut Abele
- 08/99 - 09/99 Trainee programme at the Institute of Max Laue and Paul Langevin (ILL), Grenoble, at the experiment *Search for Gravitational Levels*
- 10/97 - 02/02 Study of physics at the University of Heidelberg
- 07/96 - 08/97 Civil service in a retirement home
- 1983 - 1996 Primary school and German high school (Gymnasium)
graduation: German Abitur (1.0)

Hobbies and Private Interests

classical music: extensive listening, active choir member,

Jazz & classical music on the trombone

amateur astronomy

philosophy (in particular, epistemology
and philosophy of Science) and neuro sciences

books & movies, in particular Science Fiction & Fantasy genre,
as well as Comics

spending time with my kids