

# Curriculum Vitae

## Personal Details

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

since 02/15 *ERC Consolidator Grant* holder  
since 09/14 DESY Theory Group senior staff (*tenured*)  
since 01/11 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 - 2020 *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 - 2018 4 graduate students, 8 postdoctoral fellows  
(2 of them have since successfully moved to a tenured faculty position)

## Teaching Experience

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)