

Prof. Ofer Lahav

CONTACT

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Citizenship: British and Israeli

PROFILE

Research Focus: Observational Cosmology, in particular, probing and characterising Dark Matter and Dark Energy from large galaxy surveys; Data Intensive Science and AI in Astronomy

Current Position: Perren Chair of Astronomy, Department of Physics & Astronomy, UCL

Other Current Roles:

- Vice-Dean (International), Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, UCL
- Co-Director, Centre for Data Intensive Science & Industry (including the STFC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT), UCL
- Chair of the UK consortium of the Dark Energy Survey (DES)
- Chair of the UK consortium of the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI)
- Visiting Professor, Physics Department, University of Oxford
- Visiting Professor, University of Kent

EDUCATION

PhD in Astronomy - (Supervisors: Prof G Efstathiou, Prof D Lynden-Bell), University of Cambridge 1988
MSc in Physics - 1985 (Supervisor: Prof. J Bekenstein), Ben-Gurion University: 1985
BSc in Physics BSc, Tel-Aviv University 1980

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2011-2015: Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, UCL
2004-2011: Head of Astrophysics, Physics & Astronomy Department, UCL
2000-2003: Reader in Cosmology, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University
1998-1999: on leave as Associate Professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem
1990-2000: Senior Assistant in Research, Assistant Director of Research, Lecturer, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University
1989: Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
1988-2003: Research Fellow (1988-91) and then Official Fellow (1992-2003), St Catharine's College, Cambridge

VISITING POSITIONS

Munich LMU (2011), Weizmann Institute of Science (2009,2013-), Fermilab/Chicago (2008), Sydney (1997), Jerusalem (1990, 1995), Kyoto (1991), the University of Kent (2012-2020, 2022-), Paris Observatory (2018), École Normale Supérieure, Paris (2019), Oxford (2021, 2022-)

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Elected Visiting Professor, Physics Department, Oxford (2022-)
- Elected Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford (Jan-June 2021)
- Royal Astronomical Society Award: 2020 George Darwin Lecture (delivered on 9 Oct 2020)
- Elected Member of the Academia Europaea (2019)
- Lahav@60 conference, Windsor (8-10 April 2019)
- Royal Astronomical Society Award: Gerald Whitrow Lecture (2014)
- Visiting Professorship, Weizmann Institute of Science (2013)
- Visiting Professorship, University of Kent (2012-2020, 2022-)
- European Research Council Advanced Grant (2012-2018)
- Royal Society Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship (2011-2012)
- Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society (2010-12)
- Wempe Lecture (on the occasion of the Wempe Award to Y. Hoffman), Potsdam (2010)
- Erna & Jakob Michael Visiting Professorship, Weizmann Institute of Science (2009)
- Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award (2008-2013)

- Elected Fellow of the Institute of Physics (2008-)
- Royal Astronomical Society Group Award to the 2dFGRS team (2008)
- Thomson ISI 'highly cited author' (2007-)
- Rosseland Lecture, Oslo University (2005)
- Elizabeth Spreadbury Lecture, UCL (2004)
- PPARC Senior Research Fellowship (2003-2006)
- Isaac Newton Studentship, Cambridge (1985-1988)
- Rothschild Fellowship (1985-1986)

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Approximately 460 research articles in refereed journals, authored invited review articles and book chapters; h-factor 130 on Google Scholar; co-author of book chapters; initiator and lead-editor of the book "The Dark Energy Survey: The Story of a Cosmological Experiment" (World Scientific, 2020).

List of publications (via UCL IRIS): <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=OLAHA60>

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS COLLABORATIONS

- The Dark Energy Survey (DES): PI of STFC grant for DES optics; Chair of DES:UK including scientists from 7 Universities in the UK, Co-chair of the international DES Science Committee (2007-2016), coordinating over 400 scientists from 7 countries in 13 working groups; Chair of the DES Advisory Board (2016-2020) and a "DES Builder" status.
- Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI); chair of DESI:UK; Member of the Executive Committee and previously co-chair of the Publication Policy Committee, chair of the Press Committee, and chair and member for selection committees for spokespersons.
- Rubin-Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Dark Energy Collaboration; Previously co-chair of the Photometric Redshift Working Group, member of the Publication Board
- Euclid ESA space mission: a "Euclid Founder" status
- Hubble Space Telescope CLASH Multi-Cycle Treasury (completed)
- 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (completed)
- 6dF Galaxy Survey (completed)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF CURRENT AND RECENT MAJOR GRANTS

- STFC-supported Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Data Intensive Science, UCL (renewal for 2022-2028): £1.3M (co-Director)
- Newton Fund for 'Capacity Building in Data Intensive Science in the Middle East' (2019-2023): £300k
- STFC-CG grant 'Exploiting the full Dark Energy Survey' (2018-2022): £460,325
- STFC-CG grant 'First Science from the Dark Energy Survey' (2015-2019): £122,431
- STFC-supported Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Data Intensive Science, UCL (2017-): £2.1M (co-PI)
- PPARC/STFC 'Optical Corrector for DESI', UCL: £2.4M (co-I)
- European Research Council Advanced Grant (2012-2018): 2.4M Euro
- UCL Astrophysics STFC Consolidated Grant with 19 Col's (2011-2014): £1.8M
- Royal Society Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship (2011-2012): £46K
- STFC DESpec R&D (2011-): £141K
- STFC 'Cosmology from surveys', UCL (2011): £468K
- Leverhulme grant for an Artist in Residence (Katie Paterson) at UCL (2010): £12.5K
- STFC 'Cosmology rolling grant', UCL (2008-2011): £839K
- Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award (2008-2013): £100K
- PPARC/STFC 'Optical Corrector for the Dark Energy Survey', UCL (2006-): £1.763M
- PPARC/STFC 'Cosmology with Photometric Redshift Surveys', UCL (2006-2009): £186K
- PPARC Senior Research Fellowship (2003-2006): £111K
- Leverhulme 'Quantitative Cosmology', Cambridge (2001-2004): £275K

MENTORING

I have supervised and co-supervised about 30 PhD students (40% female), 30 Post-docs and 20 MSc students
Examples of achievements by recent former students:

Chris Lintott (Oxford) - Professor
Manda Banerji (Southampton) – ERF, URF and Associate Professor
Antonella Palmese (Pittsburgh) – Einstein Fellow, Assistant Professor at CMU Pittsburg
Niall Jeffrey (Paris and UCL) – winner of CIUK 2021 Jacky Pallas Award

EDITORIAL AND REFEREEING

Member of the Editorial Boards of:

- *The Journal of Cosmology and Astro-particle Physics* (2005-)
- *New Astronomy* (2021-2023)
- *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* (2006-2008)
- Refereeing for MNRAS, ApJ, A&A, JCAP, STFC, and ERC grant proposals.
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LEADERSHIP ROLES – NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL (RECENT SELECTION)

- Member of a Visiting Committee to APC Paris (2023)
- Member of a NASA evaluation panel for the Roman space mission (2023)
- Chair of Strategic Research Review Committee, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge (2018)
- Chair (and previously a member) of the visiting committee, Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University (2019-)
- Chair of the search committees for DES Director (2010, 2018) and the DESI Spokesperson (2020)
- Chair of the DES Advisory Board (2016-)
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Astro-particle Physics European Consortium (2018-)
- Member of STFC 21st Century Challenges (2018-)
- Member of the STFC Science Board (2016-2019) and chair of Computing and Particle Physics panels
- Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society (2010-2012) and Council Member (2009-2012)
- Chair of the Awards and International Committees of the Royal Astronomical Society (2010-2011)

INVITED PLENARY TALKS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (RECENT SELECTION)

- Invited talk, Action Dark Energy, Annecy (November 2023)
- Invited talk, RESCEU (in honour of Y. Suto), Tokyo U. (October 2023)
- Plenary talk, Astronomical Society of India, Indore (March 2023)
- Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics and Cosmology, Hebrew University (December 2022)
- Plenary talk, IAU Symposium 368, and invited talk at an IAU Executive Committee Working Group session, South Korea (August 2022)
- Invited 'Discoveris' Lecture, Technion (April 2022)
- Virtual /Hybrid seminars and Colloquia during Covid period:
Torino U. (October 2020); Milan U. (December 2020); Ben-Gurion U. (October 2020);
Hebrew U. (March 2021); All Souls College Oxford (March 2021);
Oxford Astrophysics Colloquium (May 2021); ESCAPE summer school (June 2021);
Kazakhstan (September 2021), IoA Cambridge (March 2022),
- The Cosmic Web, Leiden (January 2020)
- Discussion Panel, Kavli 10th Anniversary Symposium, Cambridge (September 2019)
- The correlated universe, South Korea (April 2019)
- Heavens@60, London (March 2019)
- Vittorio@65, Rome (January 2019)
- Model-independent searches in Cosmology and HEP, Edinburgh (February 2019)
- Cambridge Cosmology conference, workshop summary talk (June 2018)
- The Netherlands Astronomical Meeting, Groningen (May 2018)
- Israel Physical Society, Technion (December 2017)
- International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA) seminar, Ottawa (November 2017)
- Conference on Neutrinos and Nuclear Physics, Catania (October 2017)
- A dialogue with Geoge Efstathiou, an evening event at the Euclid conference, London (June 2017)
- Joseph Katz's memorial conference, Jerusalem (May 2017)
- CosKASI Symposium, South Korea (April 2017)
- Kavli Symposium, Oslo (September 2016)
- Bekenstein's Memorial Event, The Israeli Academy (July 2016)

LEARNED SOCIETIES

- Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS)
- Fellow of the Institute of Physics (FInstP)
- Member of the Academia Europaea (MAE)
- Member of the International Astronomical Union
- Member of the Astronomical Society of India
- Member of the American Astronomical Society

PUBLIC OUTREACH (RECENT SELECTION)

- Live Interview in Aljazeera TV about the ESA's Euclid launch (1st July 2023) and quotes in Science magazine and Scientific American (June 2023)
- 'DES dark matter map' on BBC1 TV News at Six and Ten, BBC Online, Guardian first page, Nature report (May 2021)
- DESI 'First Light' on BBC1 TV News at Six and Ten, BBC radio world Service and BBC Online (October 2019)
- 'The 1919 Eclipse' symposium, The Open University, Israel (November 2019)
- Round table discussion on space exploration at TRT TV (July 2019)
- Panel discussion at the Edinburgh Science Festival (April 2018)
- Astrofest-2018, London (February 2018)
- Interviews on BBC Radio 4 (PM programme), BBC Online and BBC World Service (live) on the DES cosmology results (August 2017)
- Q&A after the screening of the Star*Men film (Bloomsbury Nov 2015, Kent U. Feb 2016)
- Featured in the DES movie (released in 2015)
- Episode in 'Science is Everything', The Guardian online (July 2015)