

# Curriculum Vitae

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## Oliver Kevin Pfuhl

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 01.07.1982

Nationality: German

### • EDUCATION

- 2012            PhD (grade: top score “summa cum laude”), Astronomy department, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany  
“Development of the light injection and beam stabilization subsystems of the GRAVITY interferometer & Star formation history of the Milky Way’s Nuclear Star Cluster”  
Supervisor: [Reinhard Genzel](#)
- 2008            Diplom Physik (passed with distinction)  
Physics department, Technical University Munich, Germany  
“Optimization of PRIMA for the Observation of the Galactic Center”

### • CURRENT POSITION

- 2012 –today    Senior Postdoctoral fellow & Instrumentation scientist  
Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Infrared group, Garching, Germany

### • PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2015 – 2016    Associate researcher, responsible for the commissioning of the GRAVITY instrument in Chile and the training and consulting of ESO staff at the Paranal observatory.  
European Southern Observatory, Santiago, Chile
- 2008 – 2012    Graduate researcher  
Ludwig Maximilian University & Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Germany

### • FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016            **MERAC Prize** in New Technologies awarded by the European Astronomical Society, for the “innovative design of two subsystems for the VLTI instrument GRAVITY: the fibre coupler and the guiding system” (€20,000).
- 2012            **Universe PhD award** for the best dissertation awarded by the Excellence Cluster Universe, Garching, Germany (€3,000)
- 2007 – 2007    ERASMUS scholarship, Physics department, Gothenburg University, Sweden

### • SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

- 2012 – 2018    (Co)-supervision of PhD students (Annemieke Janssen, Magdalena Lippa, Felix Widmann, Sebastian von Fellenberg)  
Astronomy department, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Germany
- 2017 – 2018    Supervision of master and bachelor students (Martina Karl, Daniela Penka)

Physics department, Technical University Munich, Germany

- **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

2014 – present Assistant lecturer – “Introduction to astrophysics”, Technical University Munich, Germany

2014 – present Assistant lecturer – “High Angular Resolution Astronomy: Telescopes, Adaptive Optics, Interferometry”, Technical University Munich, Germany

- **REVIEWING ACTIVITIES**

2018 External reviewer for NAOMI Adaptive optics upgrade for the Auxiliary Telescopes, Preliminary acceptance review board, ESO, Germany

2015 External reviewer for GRAV4MAT instrument upgrade, Phase A review board, ESO, Germany

- **MAJOR COLLABORATIONS**

2008 – present GRAVITY consortium: Deputy to the Principal Investigator in all instrument related matters including the coordination of the instrument consortium and the coordination of missions. Furthermore, I have led a significant part of the assembly and integration efforts in Europe and at the observatory in Chile. The instrument was built by MPE/LESIA/IPAG/University Cologne/MPIA/ESO, Germany, France, Portugal

2008 – present MPE Galactic Center team: Worked on star-formation and stellar multiplicity in the Galactic Center; Regular observer for the team; Responsible for GRAVITY data analysis

2015 – present BlackHoleCam project, Work-package responsible for GR tests with stellar orbits, ERC synergy grant No. 610058, Netherlands, Germany, USA

- **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

2011 - Expert referee for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Astronomical Journal

2015 – 2016 Co-lead of the assembly and integration of the GRAVITY instrument at the observatory in Chile and of the instrument commissioning activities. I was responsible for the training of the local observatory staff and to prepare the early science operation. Overall, I spent 160+ nights at the observatory as part of the technical activities.

- **INVITED GUEST LECTURES**

2014 Invited guest lecturer on dual-field interferometry, fringe-tracking and astrometry at Santander PhD summer school, Santiago, Chile

2018 Invited guest lecturer on science with the GRAVITY instrument, VLTI PhD summer school, Lisbon, Portugal

2018 Special plenary lecture at the IAU General Assembly in Vienna on the detection of the gravitational redshift in the orbit of S2.

- **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

2011 – present I have given 30+ talks on international conferences incl. 15 invited talks and two plenary talks at major conferences. This includes a plenary talk at the at EWASS

conference 2016 in Athens and the Opening Talk of the IAU General Assembly in Vienna

- **OBSERVING TIME**

2012 - Awarded +90 nights VLT NACO/SINFONI, 100h VLTI GRAVITY of open observing time as PI or a core member of the proposal writing team. Awarded an additional 90h APEX, 40h PACS/Herschel and 13.5h VLT VIMOS observing time as Co-I and as a member of the MPE Galactic Centre team.

- **PRESS COVERAGE**

My work was featured in numerous press releases and popular news articles. Here is a sample:

“Land of the giants”, New Scientist, 01/2019

“The Milky Way's Monster, Unveiled”, Scientific American, 10/2018

“Trolling the Monster in the Heart of the Milky Way”, New York Times, 10/2018

“Ritt über dem Ereignishorizont”, Spektrum der Wissenschaft, 10/2018

“First Successful Test of Einstein’s General Relativity Near Supermassive Black Hole”, ESO press release, 7/2018.

“Albert Einstein’s Supermassive Black Hole Theory Confirmed By Scientists”, Huffington post, 7/2018

“Milky Way’s black hole provides long-sought test of Einstein’s general relativity”, Nature, 7/2018

“Milky Way's Black Hole Provides Long-Sought Test of Einstein's General Relativity” Scientific American, 7/2018

“Successful First Observations of Galactic Centre with GRAVITY,” ESO press release, 6/2016.

“First Light for Future Black Hole Probe,” ESO press release, 1/2016.

“Gas cloud in the galactic centre is part of a larger gas streamer”, MPE press release, 11/2014

“A Black Hole's Dinner is Fast Approaching”, ESO press release, 12/2011