

# Curriculum Vitae – Anna Lisa Varri

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## Positions

### University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

- 08/2023 – *present* Reader (Associate Professor) — School of Mathematics and School of Physics and Astronomy  
05/2021 – 07/2023 Lecturer (Assistant Professor)  
05/2019 – *present* UKRI Future Leaders Fellow (Phase 1: 2019 – 23, Phase 2: 2023 – 26)  
10/2015 – 10/2018 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, then Research Associate — School of Physics and Astronomy (SoPA)  
09/2012 – 09/2015 Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 Fellow — School of Mathematics (SoM)

### Visiting research appointments

- 11/2018 – 11/2019 JSPS - Royal Society Fellow — Dept. of Astronomy, University of Tokyo, JP  
08/2012 – 08/2013 The Gruber Foundation - IAU Fellow — Dept. of Astronomy, Indiana University Bloomington, IN, USA  
09/2010 – 07/2011 Fulbright Visiting Graduate Student Researcher — Dept. of Physics, Drexel University, PA, USA

## Education

Università degli Studi di Milano, IT — Dept. of Physics

- 01/2009 – 07/2012 Ph.D. in Theoretical Astrophysics, January 2013 — Thesis: “Dynamics of globular clusters”  
10/2005 – 04/2008 Master’s degree in Theoretical Physics, with highest honours (110/110 *cum laude*)  
09/2002 – 09/2005 Bachelor’s degree in Physics, with highest honours (110/110 *cum laude*)

## Fellowships and awards

- 2022 Future Leaders Fellowship (Phase 2), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)  
2019 Caroline Herschel Prize Lectureship, William Herschel Society and Royal Astronomical Society [video] [citation]  
Future Leaders Fellowship (Phase 1), UKRI - *One of the twelve inaugural case studies* [video] [GOV.UK press]  
2018 Research Fellowship, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Royal Society [case study] [JP press]  
2015 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, European Commission [EU CORDIS press]  
2012 Research Fellowship, Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851  
The Gruber Foundation Young Scientist Award, International Astronomical Union [citation]  
2011 Research Fellowship for Theoretical and Particle Physics, Angelo Della Riccia Foundation  
International Award for faculty and doctoral candidates, Drexel University  
2010 “All Disciplines” Research Fellowship, US-Italy Fulbright Commission  
2008 “Open Topic” National Doctoral Fellowship, Italian Ministry of Education

## Invited research visits and programmes

- 2024 KITP Program: “Interconnections between Physics of Plasmas and Self-gravitating Systems” Santa Barbara, USA  
2020 KITP Program: “Globular Clusters at the Nexus of Star and Galaxy Formation” (online) Santa Barbara, USA  
2018 Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris (Lagrange Visitor, Aug.) Paris, FR  
Johns Hopkins University, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy (TIPAC Visitor, Mar.) Baltimore, USA  
2017 Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Natural Sciences (Astrophysics Visitor, Dec.) Princeton, USA  
2015 Max Planck Institute fuer Astronomie (SFB Visitor, Aug.) Heidelberg, DE  
2014 Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics (KSPA, formerly ISIMA): “Gravitational Dynamics” CITA, Toronto, CA  
2012 Cambridge University, Institute of Astronomy (IoA Visitor, Aug.) Cambridge, UK  
2009 KITP Program: “Formation and Evolution of Globular Clusters” (Junior Member, Jan.) Santa Barbara, USA

## Funding history

2023 – 2026	PI	Future Leaders Fellowship Grant, Phase 2 (MR/S018859/1, FEC), UKRI	707,988 GBP
2019 – 2023	PI	Future Leaders Fellowship Grant, Phase 1 (MR/S018859/1, FEC), UKRI	800,735 GBP
2020 – 2024	Co-I	Project de Recherche Collaborative: SEGAL, ANR (PI: C. Pichon)	627,000 EUR
2018 – 2020	PI	Research Grant-in-Aid, JSPS (KAKENHI-18F18787, relinquished)	1,800,000 JPY
2018 – 2020	PI	International Standard Fellowship Grant, JSPS (relinquished)	8,888,000 JPY
2017 – 2018	Co-I	International Team Grant, ISSI Bern (PIs: V. Hénault-Brunet, M. Gieles)	~20,000 CHF
2016 – 2019	Co-I	Research Project Grant, Leverhulme Trust (RPG-2015-408; PI: D. C. Hoggie)	174,630 GBP
2016 – 2017	PI	Research Incentive Grant, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland	6,768 GBP
2015 – 2017	PI	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (NESSY, MSCA-IF-EF-RI-658088), EU H2020	183,455 EUR
2015	Co-I	Visitors to Scotland Grant, Royal Society of Edinburgh (PI: D. C. Hoggie)	900 GBP
2012 – 2015	PI	Research Fellowship Grant, 1851 Royal Commission (2012–13 <i>in absentia</i> )	102,000 GBP
2012 – 2013	PI	IAU Research Fellowship Grant, The Gruber Foundation	50,000 USD
2012	PI	Research Grant, Angelo Della Riccia Foundation	3,600 EUR
2011	PI	International travel grants, Drexel University	1,000 USD
2010 – 2011	PI	Fellowship and Travel Grant, US-Italy Fulbright Commission	11,500 USD

## Selected professional activities

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**Organiser, invited SOC member, or session chair** for KITP program (kinetics24), 6 large international conferences, several workshops and local seminar series. – since 2015.

**Participant upon nomination** - Interdisciplinary research fora (with nominating bodies): UK-Japan Frontiers of Science 2019 (The Royal Society and JSPS), European Research Night (EURAXESS Japan and JSPS), Nobel Prize Dialogue 2019 (JSPS).

**External panelist** - UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College (2023 – 25), STFC DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee, Astronomy and Cosmology Sub-Panel (2023 – 24), Royal Society International Exchanges Committee (2022 – 24), RAS Library Committee (2020 – ).

**Internal panelist** - [Flora Philip Fship](#) (2023, 2022, SoM), [Elizabeth Gardner Fship](#) (2022, SoPA), ACM Lectureship (2022, SoM), Higgs Senior Fship, Higgs Lectureship (2021, SoPA), Whittaker Fship (2019, SoM), and 4 PDRA hiring exercises.

**PhD external examiner** [8] - Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center, CZ (2023), Indiana Univ., USA (2023), Observatoire de Strasbourg, FR (2022), Institut d’Astrophysique Paris, FR (2020, 2023), Univ. Bologna, IT (2016, 2023), Sterrewacht Leiden, NL (2015). PhD internal examiner [1]: ACM (2023).

**PhD admission examiner** - Martingale Foundation (ACM, 2023), MAC MIGS CDT (ACM, 2020 – 23).

**Reviewer** - Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK Research and Innovation Peer Review College, National Science Centre Poland, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, European Commission Research Executive Agency, National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research in Chile, American Astronomical Society – since 2013.

**Referee** - PRL, PASA, A&A, ApJ/L, MNRAS/L – since 2012.

## Research supervision & Teaching

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*P = Physics; AP = Astrophysics; TPMP = Theoretical Physics & Mathematical Physics; ACM = Applied & Computational Maths*

**Postdoctoral activities** [4] - Simon Rozier (2023 – 25, Royal Society Newton Fship) • Pete Kuzma (2020 – 23, UKRI FLF) • Philip Breen (2016 – 19, with D. C. Heggie, Leverhulme RPG) • Alice Zocchi (2016, Carnegie RIG).

**PhD theses** [3] - Samuel Bonsor (ACM 2020 – 24, with J. Vanneste) • Frederika Phipps (AP 2018 – 22, with S. Khochfar; RSE Saltire Early Career Fship) • Maria Tiongo (AP 2012 – 18, with E. Vesperini; 2016 AAS Duncombe Prize for Dynamics).

**Postgraduate projects** [12] - Alex Livernois (AP, 2018 – 23, with E. Vesperini) • Verónica Vázquez Aceves (2018 – 20, with P. Amaro Seoane) • Simon Rozier (2018 – 20, with C. Pichon) • Ian Claydon (2015 – 19, with M. Gieles) • Paolo Bianchini (2015 – 16, with G. van de Ven; 2014, with F. Renaud) • Kathryne Daniel (2014 – 16, with D. C. Heggie) • Ben Bar-Or (2014 – 15, with D. C. Heggie) • Filippo Contenta (2014 – 15, with D. C. Heggie) • Maxwell Cai (2014 – 15, with M. Gieles, D. C. Heggie) • Rosemary Shanahan (2014, with M. Gieles) • Maria Cordero (2012 – 13, with C. Pilachowski) • Owen Boberg (2012 – 13, with E. Friel).

**Master’s theses** [7] - Syaza Izzati (MScR ACM 2024, with M. Ruffert) • Lucy Arditi (MPhys TPMP 2022) • Hexuan Zhao (MSc TPMP 2021) • Marine Demarty (MSc TPMP 2020, with J. A. Peacock) • Sarah Heinzelmann (MSc TPMP 2018, with S. Khochfar) • Paolo Bianchini (MSc P 2012, with G. Bertin) • Alice Zocchi (MSc P 2010, with G. Bertin).

**Bachelor’s theses, Senior Honours, Summer projects** [10] - on topics in P, AP, TPMP, ACM; individual and small groups; including summer scholarships competitively awarded by Carnegie Trust and SoPA Career Development Fund.

**Postgraduate** - Invited lecturer: International Alpine School of Mathematics and Physics (Domodossola, IT, 2023, declined for medical leave); STFC Introduction to Astronomy (2022, Dundee, UK), Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics (Toronto, 2014).

**Undergraduate** - Developer and lecturer of “Mathematics of galaxies” (Yr4/5, SoM, 2023, ~ 60 stdnts), lecturer and tutor for Yr1 core courses in Mathematics (SoPA, 2019 – 23, ~ 250 stdnts; SoM 2014 – 15) and Astronomy (2016 – 18), external assessor of ACM/AP/TPMP projects, member of Board of Examiners for Pre-honours Mathematical Physics (SoPA, 2019 – 23).

## Diversity & Outreach highlights

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**Service** - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee (SoM 2022 – ; SoPA, 2020 – 22), UoE Research Culture Forum (2021 – ). Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics Management Committee: Coordinator of EDI (2023 – ), Outreach (2020 – 23).

**Mentorship** - External: Martingale Foundation (2023 – ), Aurora Leadership Programme (2023 – ), NHS Mental Health First Aider (2022) • Internal: Informal Mediator and Liaison Officer for bullying and harassment complaint cases, Maxwell Institute Graduate School - Confidential Pastoral Contact, Instigator of ‘Professional Wellbeing’ workshops (2022 – ), SoPA Graduate School Pastoral Team (2020 – 22), • Talks: “Yes, it’s worth it! (not a shampoo reference)” ([Piscopia’s PiForum](#) 2022), “How to get a Fellowship?” (SoM 2022 – , SoPA 2018 – 19) • Invited IAD case study on ‘Resilience’ (2017) [[article](#)].

**Key public initiatives and lectures** - E. Gardner Lecture Series in Theoretical Physics (2023 – ) • Higgs Summer Forum: “Carer/Parent/Physicist” (2023) • RSE Curious: “Space junk, biomaterials, and green computers” (2022) • Higgs Centre “Idea Collection” [[videos](#)] (2021) • “Edinburgh’s first women physicists and mathematicians” [[gallery](#)] (2021) • ROE lecture “Women in Astronomy at ROE and around the world” [[video](#)] (2020) • “Reaching for the stars” at Audacious Women Festival [[video](#)] (2020 – 21) • Mini-event: “Inclusive Astronomy” [[video](#)] (ROE, 2020) • “My Science, Our Dialogue” at European Research Night (Tokyo, JP, 2019) • NASA ‘Astro4girls’ High School Program [[prezi](#)] (Carmel, USA, 2013).

**Media & Press** - Aspen KDNK Radio: interview with high schoolers [[podcast](#)] (2022) • “Women in Science & Music” [[podcast](#)] (2021) • Profile in “[The Nature of Play](#)” children’s book on creativity, Fanny & Alexander (2019) • Magazine “Astronomy”: “Motion of stars” [[article](#)] • RAS: “Ski or jump? How neutron star kicks can break up clusters” [[press](#)] (2015) • Several SoPA/SoM promotional videos and interviews/media projects by UoE undergraduates, since 2013.