

---

## Prof. Ofer Lahav: Curriculum Vitae

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University College London (UCL)  
Gower Street  
London WC1E 6BT

United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0) 20 7679 3473

Mobile: +44 (0) 7738848597

E-mail: o.lahav@ucl.ac.uk

Web: [www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucapola/](http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucapola/)

Home address: 3 Monks Close  
Canterbury CT2 7ET

---

### Current position

Perren Chair of Astronomy  
Department of Physics & Astronomy, UCL

### Other current roles

Co-Chair of the Science Committee of the international Dark Energy Survey  
Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, UCL  
Holder of a European Research Council Advanced Grant (2012-2017)

---

**Date and Place of Birth:** 5 April 1959; Tiberias, Israel

**Citizenship:** Israeli and British

---

### Education

University of Cambridge: Astronomy Ph.D., 1988

(Supervisors: Prof. G. Efstathiou and Prof. D. Lynden-Bell)

Ben-Gurion University: Physics M.Sc., 1985

(Supervisor: Prof. J. Bekenstein)

Tel-Aviv University: Physics B.Sc., 1980

---

### Positions

2004- Perren Professor of Astronomy, UCL

2011- 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, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem

1990-2000 Member of staff, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University

(Senior Assistant in Research, Assistant Director of Research, Lecturer)

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)

### Awards and Distinctions

Royal Astronomical Society Award: Gerald Whitrow Lecture (2014)

Visiting Professorship, Weizmann Institute of Science (2013-)

European Research Council Advanced Grant (2012-2017)

Royal Society Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship (2011-2012)  
Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society (2010-12)  
Visiting Professorship, University of Kent (2012-)  
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)  
First prize, annual science competition, Weizmann Institute of Science (1977)

---

### **Research and Publications**

Over 200 research articles in refereed journals, including 8 invited review articles and book chapters. Thomson ISI 'highly cited author', *h*-factor 68.

---

### **Recent and current collaborations**

- The Dark Energy Survey (DES):  
PI of a £1.7M STFC grant for DES optics, Chair of DES:UK (including UCL, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Portsmouth, Sussex and Nottingham Universities) and Chair of the international DES science committee, coordinating over 200 scientists from the US, UK, Spain, Brazil, Germany and Switzerland in 12 working groups.
  - Hubble Space Telescope CLASH Multi-Cycle Treasury (ongoing)
  - Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, DESI (planned)
  - LSST (planned)
  - Euclid ESA space mission (planned)
  - 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (completed)
  - 6dF Galaxy Survey (completed)
- 

### **Mentoring**

Currently (academic year 2013-2014) mentoring 7 Post-docs, 3 PhD students and 2 MSc students. Over the years supervised (as primary supervisor) 18 PhD students and 11 MSc students in Cambridge and in UCL.

### **Editorial and refereeing**

Member of the Editorial Boards of *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* (2006-2008) and *Journal of Cosmology and Astro-particle Physics* (2005- )  
Refereeing for MNRAS, ApJ, A&A, JCAP and for STFC and ERC grant proposals.

---

### **Organisation (since 2004): national and international**

Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society (elected 2010)  
Member of the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society (elected 2009)  
Chair of the International Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society (2010-2011)  
Chair of the Awards Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society (2011)  
Member of the Post-doctoral Fellowships panel, the Royal Astronomical Society (2012, 2013)

Member of appointment committee for Lectureships P&A/UCL (2012)  
Member of appointment committee for a Lectureship, MSSL/UCL (2013)  
Member of appointment committee for Chairs, JM Liverpool (2012)  
Member of appointment committee for a Chair, Imperial College (2011)  
Member of visiting Committee, IFAE, Barcelona (2009- )  
Member of the STFC Planck Oversight Committee (2008- )  
Chair of the DES Membership Policy Document (2008-9)  
Member of appointment committee, Lisbon (2008)  
Member of evaluation committee, DFG, Germany (2007)  
Member of IAU Commission 47 (Cosmology), Division VIII (2007-)  
Chair (previously co-Chair), Science Committee of the Dark Energy Survey (DES) (2006-)  
Chair of DES:UK Consortium (2005-)  
Co-Chair of the Search Committee for DES Director (2009)  
Chair of the DES Membership Policy (2007-8)  
Member of the international DESI Steering Committee (2013-)

---

### **Organisation (since 2004): UCL**

Head of the Astrophysics Group 2004-2011 (overseeing 20 faculty, 20 post-docs, 35 PhDs, 13 support staff).  
Led as the Head of Astrophysics the appointment of 10 new members of staff.  
In June 2011 appointed as Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (coordinating research in 8 Departments).  
Served as member of half a dozen selection committees for faculty appointments at UCL, including for two Chairs.  
Co-founder and member of the steering committee (and since 2012 chairing it as Vice-Dean), UCL's Institute of Origins, and co-coordinator of the neutrino physics theme.

---

### **Invited plenary talks at International Conferences (since 2004, partial list)**

*Philosophy of Cosmology*, Tenerife (September 2014)  
*Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences*, Madrid (August 2014)  
*Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics*, Budapest (June 2014)  
*NAM2014*, Portsmouth (June 2014)  
*Research Festival*, University of Kent (May 2014)  
*Cosmology school, Natal*, Brazil (May 2014)  
*Galaxy surveys*, Durham (April 2014)  
*HST conference*, Rome (March 2014)  
*Cosmo13*, Cambridge (September 2013)  
*Science with DESI*, LBL (Berkeley) USA (July 2013)  
*Cosmic Probes Conference*, Lausanne, Switzerland (July 2013)  
*Cosmology Conference*, Sao Paulo, Brazil (February 2013)  
*ICIC Inaugural Conference*, Imperial College (August 2012)  
*Cosmo-bias*, Marseilles (May 2012)  
*The Quantum Universe*, Groningen (April 2012)  
*Avishai Dekel's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday conference*, Jerusalem (December 2011)  
*Bulk Flows*, Technion, Haifa (December 2011)  
*Dark Matter*, Heidelberg (October 2011)  
*Future Perspectives in High-Energy Physics*, ICFA, CERN (October 2011)  
*Euclid collaboration meeting*, Bologna (September 2011)  
*Dark Matter*, Space Telescope Science Institute (May 2011)

*StatPhys11*, CERN (January 2011)  
*Wempe Lecture*, IAP, Potsdam (November 2010)  
*Co-motion*, Australia (September 2010, by video-con)  
*Darkness Visible*, Cambridge (August 2010)  
*The Cosmic Enigma* (Weizmann:UK) (June 2010)  
*Cosmology conference*, Ioannina (June 2010)  
*Galaxy Surveys*, Marseilles (April 2010)  
*Tsvi Piran's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday conference*, Jerusalem (December 2009)  
*CosmoStat09*, Ascona (July 2009)  
*Dark Energy*, IPMU Tokyo (June 2009)  
 Chairing a panel discussion at the *National Astronomy Meeting* in Hertfordshire (April 2009)  
*Neutrinos*, Minnesota (October 2008)  
*SDSS conference*, Chicago (August 2008)  
*Neutrino masses*, Aarhus (September 2007)  
*Michael Rowan-Robinson 65<sup>th</sup> birthday*, Imperial College (July 2007)  
*Cosmology conference*, Imperial College (March 2007)  
*Cosmology conference*, Tokyo University (November 2006)  
*Annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of Brazil* (July 2006)  
*Bernard Jones 60<sup>th</sup> birthday*, Valencia (June 2006)  
 Summary talk, *Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy IV*, Penn State University (June 2006)  
 Inaugural lecture, UCL (February 2006)  
*Nearly normal galaxies in a CDM Universe*, celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blumenthal, Faber and Primack, Santa Cruz (August 2005)  
*Solvay Conference*, Brussels (May 2005)  
*6dF workshop*, Sydney, Australia (April 2005)  
*NAM05* Birmingham (April 2005)  
*Surveying the Sky*, Obergurgl, Austria (February 2005)  
*Rome L'Aquila ISAPP School* (July 2004)  
*Neutrinos 04*, CdF Paris (June 2004)  
*Nearby LSS and the Zone of Avoidance*, Cape Town (March 2004)

In addition, about 4-5 seminars/colloquia per year at Astronomy/Physics Departments (e.g. in 2014: Weizmann, TAU, Technion, Paris IAP, Cambridge, Amsterdam) and 3-5 Public Outreach talks in the UK and abroad.

---

### **Organisation of International Conferences (partial list)**

SOC member, *Astro-statistics*, London (December 2014)  
 LOC chair, *CLASH meeting*, London (September 2013)  
 SOC Member, *Galaxy Formation*, Marseilles (July 2013)  
 Co-organiser, *Astro-statistics*, BIRS, Banff (March 2013)  
 Main Organiser, DESpec workshop, London, (March 2011)  
 SOC member, *Darkness Visible*, Cambridge (August 2010)  
 Main Organiser of the Cosmic Enigma Weizmann: UK conference, London (June 2010)  
 The DES international collaboration meeting, UCL (2007)  
 Colloquium Director of UCL's Cumberland Lodge conference (2005)  
 London Cosmology Discussion Meetings (LCDM) (since 2004)  
 SOC member, *Nearby LSS and the ZoA*, Cape Town (March 2004)  
 Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) Cosmology meetings (2000-2003)

Royal Astronomical Society Discussion meetings, London (1993, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2005)  
Cosmology sessions at NAM96 (Liverpool), NAM01 (Cambridge), NAM09 (Hertfordshire)  
The 36th Herstmonceux conference, 'Gravitational Dynamics', Cambridge (August 1995)

---

### **Learned Societies**

Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS)  
Fellow of the Institute of Physics (FInstP)  
Member of the International Astronomical Union  
Member of the Astronomical Society of India

---

### **Principal Investigator of recent major grants**

European Research Council Advanced Grant: 2.4M Euro  
UCL Astrophysics STFC Consolidated Grant with 19 Col's: £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  
UCL CIF for a Robotic Telescope at the Mill Hill Observatory (2008): £30K  
Royal Society incoming visitor (2008) £3.5K  
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

In addition, I was a Co-I on PPARC theory and observational rolling grants, IoA Cambridge (1990-2003) and a Co-I on several other STFC grants, including design studies of Euclid R&D Phase A at UCL (£364K, 2009; £303K, 2010), WFMOS at UCL (£18K, 2008), Astro-Grid and a Leverhulme grant (£112K, 2005-2008).

### **Public Outreach (since 2006, partial list)**

- Live interview on Al-Jazeera TV news (Arabic) about the IceCube neutrino experiment (December 2013)
- Interviewed on The Today Programme BBC Radio 4 (September 2013)
- STFC Press Release on the DES first season of observations (September 2013)
- Talk at 'Wonderments of the Cosmos', cross-departmental science & humanities, UCL (June 2013)
- Public Lecture at the Royal Institution (June 2013)
- Interview on ITV about the ELT (February 2013)
- Live interview on Al-Jazeera TV news (English) about asteroids (February 2013)
- Lecture at King's School Canterbury (January 2013)
- Lecture to Jewish Rabbis, Mill Hill Observatory (January 2013)
- STFC Press Release on the DES First Light and coverage in national press (September 2012)
- Interviewed by The Economist (article and video online, February 2012)
- Public Lecture IoP Sheffield
- Interviewed on The Today Programme BBC Radio 4 (radio and BBC online, October 2011)
- Public lecture to UCL Alumni and AstroClub, Tel Aviv University (December 2011)

- Awarded a grant from the Leverhulme Trust to host Artist in Residence Katie Paterson (2011)
- Speaker at a joint event UCL-French Embassy (June 2011)
- Lecture to the Oxford Physics Society (May 2011)
- RAS lunch-hour public lecture (April 2011)
- After-dinner talk to the Physical Society Dining Club, IoP, London (February 2011)
- Lecture to the IoP South-East branch and the S-E Kent Astronomical Society (February 2011)
- Public Lecture at Ben-Gurion University, Israel (December 2010)
- Lunch-hour lecture open to all at UCL (November 2010)
- Lecture at the Institute of Physics London (October 2010)
- Press release on neutrino mass and reports on BBC online and other websites (June 2010)
- Lecture at the Whitstable Art Festival (summer 2010)
- Public Lecture at Tel-Aviv University, Israel (December 2009)
- Guardian Science Weekly Podcast (November 2009)
- Lecture at Tate Britain (March 2009)
- Press release on the galaxy map from the 2MASS redshift Survey (2008)
- Press release on the DES huge lenses (June 2008)
- Interviewed live on The Today Programme BBC Radio 4 (October 2008)
- Hosted a visit at the University of London Observatory by the actor Simon Russell Beale who played Galileo at the National Theatre (2007)
- Featured in *the Book of Space* of the Observer Magazine (2007)
- Press release on 3D galaxy map of Luminous Red Galaxies and interview on Radio 4 (2006)