

Curriculum Vitae – Bert Vercoocke

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full name: Bert Simon Emiel Vercoocke
Birth date: 10 Feb 1984
Nationality: Belgian
Personal: Married, 2 children (♀ 2010, ♂ 2012)

EDUCATION

2010 Ph.D, Physics, **KU Leuven** – Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Antoine Van Proeyen
Dissertation title: *Hidden Structures of Black Holes*
2006 MSc, Physics, KU Leuven (Summa Cum Laude with congratulations)
2004 BSc, Physics, KU Leuven (Summa Cum Laude)

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Oct 2018 Assistant Professor (tenure-track), **KU Leuven**
2016-2018 Postdoctoral researcher, **KU Leuven**
2013-2016 Postdoctoral researcher, **University of Amsterdam**
2014 Postdoctoral researcher, **Stanford University**, (5 months)
2010-2013 Postdoctoral researcher, **CEA/Saclay**

FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDING

2018 *Odysseus Type II grant* (5-year grant, F.W.O. – Flemish Research Foundation) at KU Leuven
2014 *Delta-Institute for Theoretical Physics*-grant for organization of 3-day workshop “Black Objects Beyond Supersymmetry”, Utrecht
2014 *Fulbright Scholarship* at Stanford U.
2014 *Honorary Fellowship* of the Belgian American Educational Foundation, Stanford
2013 *Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship* at Amsterdam U.
2007 *Predoctoral studentship Marie Curie training*, 3 months at Edinburgh U.
2006 *Aspirant-scholarship* from F.W.O.–Vlaanderen (Flemish Research Foundation) scholarship for PhD research (4 years)

AWARDS

2016 *Netherlands National Winner of FameLab*, the world’s largest science communication competition
2013 *Triennial Academische Stichting Leuven Award* for best PhD thesis in Science, Technology and Engineering at KU Leuven
2012 *Prize of the Research Council* for outstanding young researchers, KU Leuven
2006 *Kanunnik Desmedt-prize* for best graduating physics master student, KU Leuven

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

PhD students: 1 done, 3 ongoing
Informal supervisor of other PhD students in pd career, most notable below.

- grad. 2023 (expected) Vasko Dimitrov, PhD student, KU Leuven
- grad. 2022 (expected) Rob Tielemans, PhD student, KU Leuven
- grad. 2020 (expected) Tom Lemmens, PhD student, KU Leuven, co-supervision with Thomas Hertog
- grad. 2019 Diego Cohen-Maldonado, PhD student, University of Amsterdam, co-supervision with Alejandra Castro
- grad. 2015 Daniel Mayerson, PhD student, University of Amsterdam, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan U.: informal supervisor (official supervisor: J. de Boer)
- grad. 2013 Andrea Puhm, PhD student, CEA/Saclay, now CNRS faculty in Paris after postdocs in UCSB and Harvard: informal supervisor (official supervisor I. Bena)
- Master students graduated: 3.
- grad. 2020 Aaron Van Poecke (KU Leuven)
- grad. 2020 Andreas Luydts (KU Leuven)
- grad. 2015 Tasos Bouzikas (Utrecht University)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2018-... Responsible for Bachelor theses in Theoretical physics
- 2017-2020 BSc course at KU Leuven “Conceptuele Natuurkunde met Technische Toepassingen”, 2nd year students Business Economics: Business Engineering
- 2016 MSc Teaching Assistant: MSc course Relativity
- 2015 PhD Lecture in Amsterdam-Brussels-Geneva-Paris PhD school, (Cosmology)
- 2015 BSc course at Amsterdam University College, “Life, Evolution, Universe” (Cosmology for 1st year science Physics, Biology, Chemistry students)
- 2013 MSc course at Amsterdam U., “Group Theory in Physics”
- 2009 MSc mini-course at KU Leuven, “Introduction to string theory”
- 2009 Lectures for two editions of Modave PhD School, Belgium “Symmetric spaces in supergravity” and “Scattering amplitudes in string theory”
- 2006-2010 Teaching assistant at KU Leuven: 4 one-semester courses (BSc courses)

INTERNATIONAL FUNCTIONS

- Reviewer for Journal of High Energy Physics, Classical and Quantum Gravity, European Physical Journal C...
- 2017-... COST network “CA16104–Gravitational waves, black holes and fundamental physics”, Substitute member of management committee for Belgium

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2016-... Journal club organizer “Quantum Gravity and Observations” at KU Leuven
Webmaster of ‘website Gravitational Wave Center
- 2015-2016 Member of PhD Committee for Daniel Mayerson (2015), Paul de Lange (2016)
- 2014-2016 Seminar organizer and journal club organizer of the String Theory Group at Amsterdam U.
- 2011-2013 Co-organizer of weekly string seminar and string journal club at CEA/Saclay
- 2007-2010 Member of the advisory committee on teaching in the science faculty, KU Leuven

ORGANISATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SCHOOLS

- 2019 member of organizational committee of pre-strings 2019, Leuven, July 2019.
- 2017 Organizer 6th Belgian-Dutch Gravitational Wave Meeting, 8 March 2017, Leuven
- 2014 Organizer workshop “Black Objects Beyond Supersymmetry” at Utrecht U.
- 2008-2009 Co-organizer of IV and V Modave Summer School in Mathematical Physics

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

I have been invited for **over 40** talks in international conferences and institutions. Recent invited plenary talks at the following international conferences (2-3/year):

- “*Gravitational Wave Probes of Fundamental Physics*”, first meeting of European Consortium of Fundamental Physics, Amsterdam, 11-13 November 2019
- “*Multi-messenger astronomy in the 2030s*”, Bergen (Alkmaar), Feb 7-8 2019 “*Fundamental Physics with Einstein Telescope*,” “Einstein Telescope Conference and 9th COSPA meeting, University of Liege 31 January 2018
- “*Cosmic Origin and Cosmic Fate - From Big Bang to Dark Energy*”, Gordon Research Conference on String Theory and Cosmology, Tuscany, 28 May - 2 June 2017
- “*Supergravity, the next 10 years*”, Galileo Galilei Institute, Firenze, 05 Sep–28 Oct 2016
- “*Black Holes and Emergent Spacetime*”, Nordita Stockholm, 8 Aug–2 Sep 2016
- “*Microstructures of Black Holes*”, YITP, Kyoto University, 23-27 Nov 2015
- “*The String Theory Universe*” 21st European string workshop), KU Leuven, 7-11 Sep 2015
- “*de Sitter and Microstate Landscapes in String Theory*”, IPhT Saclay, 16-19 June 2015
- “*Fine-tuning, Anthropic, and the String Landscape*”, IFT Madrid, 8-10 Oct 2014
- “*Black Holes and Quantum Information*” 12-17 Jan 2014, Weizmann Institute,
- “*Quantum Aspects of Black Holes*”, CQUeST, Seoul, South Korea, 7-12 Jan 2013

In addition, I have been invited for over **30** talks in international institutions and other workshops and conferences since 2008 in: Amsterdam, Brussels (2), NBI Copenhagen, Chalmers Gothenburg, CERN, Corfu, Crete, Ecole Polytechnique (Paris), Edinburgh, Granada (2), Groningen (3), Imperial College, LMU Munich, Orsay, MPI Potsdam, FZU Prague, IPhT Saclay, Nordita Stockholm, Southampton, Turin, Uppsala, University of Michigan, Utrecht (3), Zürich.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Over my entire career, I have co-authored with over 25 researchers, from a wide range of institutes in North and South America, Europe and India. My current international collaborations are:

- **Cosmology and supersymmetry breaking:** Andrei Linde and Renata Kallosh (Stanford U.), Jan Pieter van der Schaar (Amsterdam U.)
- **Flux compactifications and de Sitter vacua:** Johan Blaback (Tor Vergata, Rome), Diego Gallego (Tunjia, Colombia), David Marsh (Cambridge U.), Timm Wrase (TU Vienna)
- **Black holes:** Iosif Bena (CEA/Saclay), Andrea Puhm (E. Polytechnique, Orsay), D. Mayerson (Michigan)
- **Mathematical aspects of supergravity solutions:** Souvik Banerjee (CEA Saclay), Amitabh Virmani (Bhubhaneswar and Mumbai, India), Mario Trigiante (Turin U.)

OUTREACH

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I am a passionate and experienced science communicator. I highlight my main recent activities:

- Since 2017: coordinator and coach of a 4-person outreach team at Institute for Theoretical Physics. (Lectures at schools, public workshops on basic and theoretical physics, “cosmology” at the yearly “Ladies@Science” event at KU Leuven. . .

- 2017:
 - Lectures at high schools “Gravitational Waves” (in Dutch),
 - Invited public appearance at yearly Nijmegen science festival “Gravitational Waves in a cup of coffee” (in Dutch)
- 2016:
 - Winner *FameLab Netherlands*, world-leading competition for science communication
 - Invited speaker at the European Youth Event, European Parliament
 - Invited speaker at the official Opening of the Academic Year Amsterdam.

My past activities include radio interviews; public talks on poetry nights and science festivals; lectures on GW science, cosmology and string theory at the University Open Day, the Science Week, in high schools and evening education.

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

- 2017-2018 Communication advisor for Blip.org, a grass-roots platform to promote social initiatives.
- Since 2014 *Organizer* ”*Otlet Salons*”, discussion platform at interface of academia & society.
- Since 2014 Member of Parent’s Association of GBS de Waterleest, my kid’s school. I’m in charge of several yearly events organized at the school.