

Clara C. Wanjura

Curriculum Vitae

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light | Staudtstraße 2 | 91058 Erlangen | Germany

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Academic Background

November 2022 – present	Postdoctoral fellow, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light Working with Prof. Florian Marquardt Topics: neuromorphic computing; phenomena associated with non-Hermitian topology
October 2018 – July 2022	PhD Student, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge Member of Trinity College, Winton Scholar Thesis: <i>Non-Hermitian Topology and Directional Amplification in Driven-Dissipative Cavity Arrays</i> Supervisor: Prof. Andreas Nunnenkamp, University of Cambridge
October 2017 – March 2018	Visiting Student, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge Research project as a part of the master's thesis
October 2016 – July 2018	Master's Studies in Physics, Ulm University Overall grade 1.0 (very good with distinction) Master's thesis 1.0 (very good) Thesis: <i>Structural Evolution in Quasi-Static Flow of Dense Granular Matter</i> Supervisors: Prof. Othmar Marti, Ulm University Prof. Rafi Blumenfeld, University of Cambridge
October 2013 – October 2016	Bachelor's Studies in Physics, Ulm University Overall grade 1.3 (very good) Bachelor's thesis 1.0 (very good) Supervisor: Prof. Othmar Marti, Ulm University

Recent Academic Awards, Scholarships and Prizes

March 2024	Winner of the DPG SAMOP Thesis Prize for outstanding scientific research selected as winner from four finalists who presented their work at the DPG March Meeting's Prize Symposium
June 2023	Sam Edwards Thesis Prize (£200) awarded annually by the TCM Group of the IOP for the PhD thesis in the UK that contributed most strongly to the advancement of theoretical condensed matter physics
June 2022	CSAR PhD Students Award (£1,000) awarded by the Cambridge Society for the Application of Research (CSAR) to recognise outstanding research with real world application and to assist students to pursue their research or careers
November 2020	Cavendish PhD Prize in Theoretical Physics (£500) awarded annually by the Department of Physics at the University of Cambridge to recognise outstanding work by PhD students
October 2018 – March 2022	Winton Scholarship (ca. £14,777 p.a.) at the University of Cambridge additional travel/ conference allowance of £5,000
October 2018 – present	EPSRC fees-only stipend (£8,094 p.a.) additional travel/ conference allowance of £3,000
October 2017 – March 2018	International Scholarship, Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (2,225 €) for a research project at the Cavendish Laboratory
October 2017 – March 2018	Erasmus+ Traineeship (2,059 €) for a research project at the Cavendish Laboratory
December 2013 – July 2018	Scholarship of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (3,600 € p.a.)

Selected Conferences, Workshops, and Talks

Most relevant talks are highlighted with ★

Upcoming: March 2024	Invited seminar at University of Basel
March 2024	★ Prize talk at the DPG SAMOP Meeting (Freiburg)
March 2024	★ Invited talk at the APS March Meeting (Minneapolis)
March 2024	Contributed talk at APS March Meeting (Minneapolis)

January 2024	Invited seminar at Institute of Fundamental Physics, Madrid (online, available on YouTube)
November 2023	Invited seminar at the University of Birmingham
November 2023	Invited seminar at the University of Warwick
September 2023	Poster at 'Frontiers of Neuromorphic Computing' (Erlangen)
August 2023	Contributed talk at 'Non-Hermitian Topology: from Classical Optics to Quantum Matter' (Dresden)
July 2023	★ Invited talk at META Conference (Paris)
June 2023	Seminar at the Theory of Condensed Matter Group (Cambridge)
June 2023	★ Prize talk at the Cambridge Society for the Application of Research (Cambridge) CSAR prize winner (available on YouTube)
June 2023	★ Prize talk at the Theory of Condensed Matter Day (Warwick) Sam Edwards Thesis Prize Winner
January 2022	Invited seminar at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light (Online)
June 2021	Poster at Topology meets Quantum Optics (online)
May 2021	★ Invited UniKORN Frontiers Talk (online, available on YouTube)
November 2020	★ Prize talk at the Cavendish Graduate Conference, Cambridge (online) Cavendish PhD Prize in Theoretical Physics
November 2020	Invited seminar at the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics (online)
January 2020	★ Invited talk at the OMT-HOT 2019 Annual Conference (Saanen, Switzerland)
November 2019	Invited seminar at the Institute for Complex Quantum Systems, Ulm University
September 2019	★ Invited talk at ECT* Workshop (Trento, Italy)
August 2019	Contributed talk at CCPQ Workshop (Windsor, United Kingdom)
July 2019	Poster at HOT 2019 Conference (Ascona, Switzerland)
May 2019	Poster at Workshop Synthetic Topological Matter (Dresden)

Work and Research Experience

April 2018 – September 2018	Research Assistant (Institute of Quantum Physics, Ulm University)
June 2015 – October 2018	Research Assistant (Institute for Experimental Physics, Ulm University)

Teaching Experience

April 2023 – present	External Master Supervisor and Second Examiner (Ulm University)
October 2020 – November 2021	Assistant Master Supervisor (Ulm University)
October 2018 – March 2020	Undergraduate Supervisions (University of Cambridge) Supervisions in <i>Theoretical Physics 2</i> , and <i>Advanced Quantum Physics</i>
June 2018 – September 2018	Assistant Bachelor Supervisor (Ulm University)

Academic Service

January 2023 – September 2023	Workshop Co-Organiser: 'Frontiers of Neuromorphic Computing' (website)
January 2023 – present	Member of the Selection Committee for the CSAR Student Awards (Cambridge Society for the Application of Research)
December 2022 – present	Founder and organiser of an online seminar series on non-Hermitian physics More information available on our website and our YouTube Channel
August 2022 – present	Reviewer for <i>Physical Review A</i> , <i>Physical Review Letters</i> and <i>Nature Communications</i>
October 2021 – July 2022	Member of the UniKORN Organizing Committee

Further Interests

- Piano (playing since 1999; since 2001 a student of Igor Beketov; various concerts in Ulm, Germany, and Cambridge, UK; repertoire includes works by Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Chopin, and Khachaturian).
- Sports; in particular, triathlon (regular training since 1999, multiple competitions) and surfing.
- Photography (my work on [flickr](#); recent prize: [finalist in a category of IGPTY 14](#)).
- Scientific illustrations (e.g., the illustration in this [press release on SkyNews](#)).
- Art and graphic design (recent project: illustration of a picture book in the Art Class of Ulyana Gumeniuk-Parker, Trinity College, Cambridge (2021)).