

CURRICULUM VITAE – SASCHA P. QUANZ

(AS OF JANUARY 2025)

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EMPLOYMENT

01 / 2024 – PRESENT	Full Professor for Exoplanets & Habitability; ETH Zurich, Department of Physics
06 / 2019 – 12 / 2023	Associate Professor for Exoplanets & Habitability; ETH Zurich, Department of Physics
06 / 2014 – 05 / 2019	Senior Scientist & Lecturer; ETH Zurich, Department of Physics
09 / 2011 – 05 / 2014	Senior Research Associate (Oberassistent); ETH Zurich, Department of Physics
08 / 2009 – 08 / 2011	Post-doctoral Researcher (Assistant); ETH Zurich, Department of Physics
09 / 2007 – 07 / 2009	Associate / Senior Associate management consultant; McKinsey & Company, Frankfurt, Germany

EDUCATION

04 / 2004 – 07 / 2007	PhD in Astronomy (summa cum laude – with distinction) Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA), Heidelberg, Germany
04 / 1999 – 03 / 2004	Diploma in Physics; University of Heidelberg, Germany

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES

(SELECTED)

12 / 2023 – PRESENT	Delegate of the President of ETH Zurich for Faculty Appointment Procedures
12 / 2023 – PRESENT	Associated Professor at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, ETH Zurich
08 / 2023 – PRESENT	Member of the Department Management Board, ETH Zurich & President of Strategy Commission of the Physics Department
09 / 2022 – PRESENT	Deputy director at the ETH Centre for Origin and Prevalence of Life (https://copl.ethz.ch)
01 / 2022 – PRESENT	Deputy Head of Institute, Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics, ETH Zurich
01 / 2020 – PRESENT	Associated professor at the ETH AI Center (https://ai.ethz.ch)
06 / 2018 – PRESENT	Associated member at the Max Planck ETH Center for Learning Systems (https://learning-systems.org)
09 / 2022 – 09 / 2023	Co-lead of ETH Zurich Space, a platform to foster and coordinate space activities at ETH Zurich

INSTRUMENTATION /

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

01 / 2019 – PRESENT	Principal Investigator (PI) of LIFE, a space-based mid-infrared nulling interferometer mission designed to search for signatures of life in the atmospheres of extrasolar planets (www.life-space-mission.com)
12 / 2017 – PRESENT	Co-Investigator (Co-I) for METIS, the mid-infrared (3–13 μm) 1 st generation instrument for the future Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) (http://metis.strw.leidenuniv.nl)
01 / 2020 – PRESENT	Co-Investigator (Co-I) for ERIS a second generation 1–5 μm AO-assisted imager and spectrograph for the Very Large Telescope (VLT) (https://www.eso.org/public/teles-instr/paranal-observatory/vlt/vlt-instr/eris/)
05 / 2014 – 08 / 2024	Consortium Project Scientist for ELT/METIS

LARGE SCIENCE

COLLABORATIONS

(SELECTED)

2022 – PRESENT	International Collaborator in the Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe at the University of Cambridge (https://www.lclu.cam.ac.uk)
2020 – PRESENT	International Collaborator on a 5-yr "NASA Interdisciplinary Consortia for Astrobiology Research" program "Alternative Earths – How to Build and Sustain a Detectable Biosphere" (PI: Prof. Timothy Lyons, University of California at Riverside)
2018 – PRESENT	Project leader and Board member within the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) "PlanetS" an interdisciplinary, inter-institutional exoplanet program funded through Swiss National Science Foundation SNF (http://nccr-planets.ch)

HONORS / AWARDS

(SELECTED)

11 / 2019	"Golden Owl" for exceptional teaching awarded by the Association of Students at ETH Zurich (VSETH)
03 / 2013 – PRESENT	Liaison professor and mentor for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (www.fes.de/studienfoerderung)
02 / 2013	Lecturer for the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (www.studienstiftung.de)
07 / 2007	PhD awarded with distinction (summa cum laude)
10 / 2004 – 07 / 2007	Full PhD scholarship from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for excellent students

COMMUNITY SERVICE

(SELECTED)

01 / 2024	Co-Chair for conference "Rocky Worlds III", ETH Zurich (https://zurich2024.rockyworlds.org/zurich-2024)
11 / 2022	Team Lead for Keck Institute for Space Studies (KISS) workshop "Exploring Exoplanets with Interferometry", Pasadena, USA (https://kiss.caltech.edu/workshops/Interferometry/Interferometry.html)
09 / 2022	Co-convenor for EXOA5-session "Devolatilization During Rocky (Exo)planet Formation: Mechanisms, Simulations, and Observations" at the Europlanet Science Congress 2022
09 / 2022	SOC Co-Chair and main organizer of the international Latsis Symposium 2022 "Origin and Prevalence of Life", Zurich, Switzerland (https://latsis-origin-of-life.ethz.ch)

01 / 2021	SOC member for “COSPAR 2020” scientific assembly exoplanet event: “Exoplanet detection and characterisation: current research, future opportunities and the search for life outside the solar system”, Sydney, Australia (and virtual)
2010 – PRESENT	Referee for Science, Nature Astronomy, Astrophysical Journal (Letters), Astronomical Journal, Astronomy & Astrophysics, Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan, and Astronomy & Computing
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ROLES (MOST RECENT)	
03 / 2023 – 12/2024	Chair of the Switzerland Hub of the Europlanet Society (https://www.europlanet-society.org)
01 / 2021 – PRESENT	Member of the Swiss Committee on Space Research (CSR) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences
01 / 2021 – PRESENT	Swiss representative in the Scientific Council of the European Interferometry Initiative (EII)
MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES	
2019 – PRESENT	Member of the European Geosciences Union
2013 – PRESENT	Member of the Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy (SSAA)
2013 – PRESENT	Member of the European Astronomical Society (EAS)
2012 – PRESENT	Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU)
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS	
2006 – PRESENT	>170 refereed articles published in internationally recognized 1 st -tier journals; >100 major non-refereed publications and conference contributions; total ADS citation count : >9600, H-index: 57
TALKS (SELECTED)	
01 / 2025	Invited speaker at “Horizons for Optical Long Baseline Interferometry”, Meudon site of Paris Observatory, France (https://horizons-olbin.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en)
09 / 2024	Invited speaker at the Astrophysics colloquium at the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Groningen, The Netherlands
06 / 2024	Invited speaker at the Astrophysics colloquium at the Institute for Astrophysics, Vienna, Austria
10 / 2023	Invited keynote speaker at “ESA Brainstorming on Astrobiology” workshop, ESA/ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands (https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/exoplanetworkinggroup/esa-brainstorming-on-astrobiology)
09 / 2023	Invited speaker at the “Life in the Universe II” meeting of the Origin Federation, Boston, USA
09 / 2023	Invited speaker at Annual Meeting of the German Astronomical Society (“Exploring the diversity of Exoplanets” splinter session); Berlin, Germany
09 / 2023	Invited speaker at the Astrophysics colloquium at ISAS/JAXA, Tokyo, Japan
09 / 2023	Invited speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Japan, Nagoya, Japan
07 / 2023	Invited speaker at lunch seminar, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, USA
07 / 2023	Invited lecture “Exoplanet science with interferometry”, 2023 Sagan Exoplanet Summer Workshop , Pasadena, USA
07 / 2023	Invited speaker at the University of Göttingen “Astrophysical colloquium”, Göttingen, Germany
06 / 2023	Invited speaker at the “ Breakthrough Discuss 2023 ” meeting organized by Breakthrough Foundation, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, USA
06 / 2023	Invited speaker at the RSAA / ANU astrophysics colloquium, Canberra, Australia (virtual)
06 / 2023	Invited speaker at the French Society of Astronomy & Astrophysics Annual Meeting, Strasbourg, France
04 / 2023	Invited speaker at the Space Community Days Switzerland 2023 , Bern, Switzerland
04 / 2023	Contributed talk at the EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria
03 / 2023	Contributed talk “The LIFE initiative - atmospheric characterization of terrestrial exoplanets in the mid-infrared with a large space-based nulling interferometer”, PLANET ESLAB Symposium , ESA/ESTEC
01 / 2023	Invited speaker at the IPAG/IRAM astrophysics colloquium in Grenoble, France
RELEVANT OUTREACH (SELECTED)	
01 / 2025	Panel member at <i>RETHINKING Exploration</i> organized by ETH Zurich during WEF 2025 in Davos (https://ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/global/events/2023/rethinking-exploration.html)
10 / 2024	Interview in <i>Tagesanzeiger – Das Magazin</i> “Glauben Sie an Aliens, Herr Quanz?” “Ja, aber...” (https://www.tagesanzeiger.ch/aliens-eth-forscher-quanz-sucht-nach-ausserirdischen-im-all-408367404933)
06 / 2024	Interview in <i>Horizonte Magazin</i> “Teleskope spüren Ausserirdische auf” (https://www.horizonte-magazin.ch/2024/06/06/teleskope-spueren-ausserirdische-auf/)
03 / 2024	Interview in <i>NZZ</i> “Der Wüstenplanet aus dem Kinofilm «Dune» wäre bewohnbar – gilt das auch für echte Exoplaneten?” (https://www.nzz.ch/wissenschaft/mit-klimamodellen-kann-man-neben-der-erde-auch-planeten-ausserhalb-unseres-sonnensystems-simulieren-oder-den-planeten-aus-dune-ld.1821127)
12 / 2023	Invited guest commentary in <i>NZZ</i> “Ein Hoch auf das Leben” (https://www.nzz.ch/nzz-live-veranstaltungen/ein-hoch-auf-das-leben-sind-wir-allein-im-universum-ld.1768175)
12 / 2023	Invited panel discussion “Wer sind wir? – Der Mensch ist ein Bewohner vieler Welten” organized by <i>NZZ</i> Podium (https://live.nzz.ch/de/events/nzz-podium-schweiz/wer-sind-wir-der-mensch-ist-ein-bewohner-vieler-welten)
12 / 2023	Invited panel discussion “Switzerland in Space” by the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce (https://shorturl.at/jAZ69)