

# Marco Ajello

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## Research Interests

High energy astrophysics, cosmology and particle astrophysics

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## Appointments

- 2014 – present Assistant Professor at Clemson University
- 2012 – 2013 Research Scientist at Berkeley University
- 2008 – 2012 Research Associate at Stanford University
- 2007 – 2008 Postdoctoral Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics

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## Professional Experience

- 2011 – present Convener of the AGN scientific working group of the *Fermi* Collaboration
- 2011 – present Reviewer for the NASA Postdoctoral fellowship program (NPP)
- 2011 – present Reviewer for NASA guest investigators programs
- 2010 – present Member of the *NuSTAR* Collaboration
- 2008 – present Member of the *Fermi* Collaboration
- 2007 – present Reviewer for ApJ, A&A, MNRAS
- 2004 – present Member of the *Swift* Collaboration

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## Education

- 2004 – 2007 PhD in Astrophysics at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics and at the Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany, *Summa cum Laude with Distinction*
- 2001 – 2003 M.S. in Particle Physics at the University of Trieste Italy, *Summa cum Laude with Distinction*
- 1995 – 2001 M.S.+ B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Palermo Italy, *Summa cum Laude with Distinction*

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## Honors and Awards

- 2010 Top Young Fellowship of the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA, declined)
- 2008 Otto-Hahn medal awarded by the Max-Planck Society for the PhD theses. Prize of 5000 euros.
- 2007 PhD awarded by the Technische Universität München (Germany) with maximum score (1.0, *summa cum laude* and *distinction*)
- 2007 NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
- 2003 Fellowship of the International Max Planck Research School
- 2003 Dean award for the best diploma thesis in Particle Physics. Trieste, Italy
- 2001 Dean award for the best diploma thesis in Mechanical Engineering. Palermo, Italy

- 2001 Dean award for the best academic career in Mechanical Engineering (class 1995-2001).  
Palermo, Italy

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### Successful Scientific Proposals (as PI)

- 2014 Swift GI-10: BL Lac Objects at the highest redshifts  
2013 Chandra GO-15: The Largest Complete Sample of Local AGN  
2012 Fermi GI-5: BL Lacertae objects at high redshift  
2011 Chandra GO-13: BAT, Chandra, NuSTAR and the Origin of the X-ray Background  
2010 Fermi GI-3: Understanding the Origin of the Extragalactic Gamma-ray Background  
2010 Fermi GI-3: Hunting high-redshift Fermi-LAT sources  
2010 Swift GI-6: Swift/XRT Follow-up observations of the faintest hard X- ray sources  
2008 XMM-Newton GO-7: XMM-Newton observations of the most absorbed AGN in the Swift-BAT survey  
2007 XMM-Newton GO-6: XMM-Newton observations of candidate Swift/BAT Compton-thick AGN  
2006 ESO : 6 nights at NTT for An all-sky survey at hard X-rays for absorbed type-2 AGN  
2006 INTEGRAL GO-5: The Ultra-deep INTEGRAL legacy hard X-ray survey  
2005 INTEGRAL GO-4: A high-energy study of the enigmatic Blazar PKS 0537-286

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### Grants (Selected)

- 2013 PI: 37 k\$ NASA proposal ID 9120037  
2012 PI: 140 k\$ NASA contract ID NNX12AP34G  
2011 PI: 75 k\$ Chandra proposal ID GO2-13164X  
2011 co-PI: 140 k\$ NASA proposal N. 41248  
2010 PI: 300 k\$ NASA contract ID NNH09ZDA001N  
2010 PI: 100 k\$ NASA contract ID NNH09ZDA001N  
2010 PI: 38 k\$ NASA contract ID NNXIOAK42G  
2009 PI: 45 k\$ NASA contract ID NNX09AR23G

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### Invited Seminars and Colloquia (Selected)

- 2013 Colloquium at KICP, Chicago : *EBL and Blazars*  
2013 Colloquim at Pittsburg University, PA: *The Imprint of the EBL in the spectra of blazars*  
2013 Vulcano Workshop 2013: Invited Review on *Blazars and EBL*  
2013 APS April 2013 meeting, Denver Colorado: Invited talk on *Diffuse gamma-ray background from AGN*  
2013 HEAD April 2013 meeting, Monterey, CA: Invited talk on *The imprint of the Extragalactic background light*  
2012 220<sup>th</sup> AAS meeting, Anchorage: Contribution of BL Lac to the Extragalacti Background  
2011 JENAM 2011, St. Petersburg : Review talk on *Growth and Evolution of AGN*  
2011 Vulcano Workshop, Vulcano: Review talk on *Non-thermal Components in Galaxy Clusters*  
2011 Fermi Symposium, Rome: Review talk on *The origin of the isotropic gamma-ray background*

- 2011 Beamed and Unbeamed Gamma-rays from Galaxies, Muonio: Review talk on *Blazars at high energies*
- 2011 Colloquium at Caltech, USA: *Highlights from Fermi*
- 2011 Colloquium at UBC, Vancouver, CA: *Highlights from Fermi*
- 2011 Seminar at MPE, Munich, Germany: *The Origin of Cosmic Backgrounds*
- 2010 Colloquium at CCAPP, Ohio State, Columbus, OH: *The Cosmic Diffuse Gamma-ray Background*
- 2010 Japanese Physical Society, Kyushu, Japan: *The Cosmic Diffuse Gamma-ray Background*
- 2010 JAXA Colloquium, Tokyo: *Cosmic Puzzles: Unveiling the Origin of Cosmic Diffuse Backgrounds*
- 2010 Colloquium at KIAA, Beijing China: *Cosmic Diffuse Backgrounds*
- 2010 Colloquium at SSL, Berkeley, USA: *The past, the present and the future of extragalactic hard X-ray surveys*
- 2010 Fermi meets Jansky, Bonn, Germany: *Blazars and Cosmic Backgrounds*
- 2009 Vulcano Workshop, Vulcano: Review talk on *Clusters of Galaxies from the Swift/BAT all-sky surveys*
- 2009 Accretion and Ejections in Astrophysics, Como, Italy: *The Evolution of Swift/BAT blazars and their contribution to the MeV background*
- 2009 Colloquium at KITP, Santa Barbara: *Fermi-LAT observations of AGN and their cosmological evolution*
- 2009 Swift Mission Conference, Penn State: *The role of Swift in all-sky surveys*
- 2008 Colloquium at Observatory of Brera, Milano: *X- ray Background and AGN studies with Swift/BAT*
- 2008 Colloquium at Dr. Karl Remeis-Observatory, Bamberg: *Studies of AGN in the hard X-ray band*
- 2008 Colloquium at Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tübingen: *The X-ray background and the lack of Compton-thick AGN*
- 2008 GLAST Lunch Talk, Stanford, USA : *X-ray Background and AGN studies with Swift/BAT*
- 2008 Gentner Colloquium for Astroparticle Physics, Heidelberg: *Unveiling the hard X-ray sky with Swift/BAT: AGN, clusters of galaxies and much more*
- 2008 INTEGRAL 5th Anniversary Workshop, Copenhagen: *The peak region of the Extragalactic X-ray Background*
- 2007 Highlight Seminar, Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrische Physics: *Cosmic X-ray Background and Earth Albedo spectra with Swift/BAT*

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## Mentoring and Teaching Experience

- 2011-present Co-Supervision (with Prof. Funk) of the work of Dr. F. Massaro
- 2011-present Co-Supervision (with Prof. Funk) of the work of Dr. M. Sanchez Conde
  - 2011 Supervision of the summer student B. Harris
- 2008–2011 Co-Supervision of the PhD work of D. Burlon
  - 2008 Supervision of the summer student N. Woods
  - 2008 Co-Supervision of the diploma thesis work of J. Brunschweiger

2005–2006 Professorial Assistant: School of Engineering of the Technische Universität München

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## Managerial Responsibilities

- 2011 – 2012 Financing and Managing the postdoc positions of Dr. Massaro and Dr. Sanchez-Conde
- 2013 Organizer of the ‘On the detection of the Extragalactic Background Light’ meeting part of the 2013 HEAD meeting in Monterey, CA
- 2012 Organizer of the Gamma-ray Background sub-meeting as part of the 220<sup>th</sup> AAS meeting
- 2008 – 2010 Organizer of the Astrophysics Colloquium Series at Stanford USA
- 2009 Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee of the “Extreme Sky” workshop, Otranto, Italy

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## Hardware Experience

- 2006 – 2008 GEANT Simulations for the Swift Burst Alert Telescope
- 2007 – 2008 Calibration of the Anti-Coincidence system of the MEGA prototype
- 2003 Calibration of the Silicon tracker of the AGILE satellite

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## Press Releases

- 2012 NASA press release: *Fermi Measures Cosmic ‘Fog’ Produced by Ancient Starlight*
- 2011 NASA press release: *Swift finds missing Active Galactic Nuclei*
- 2010 NASA press release: *Massive black holes “switch on” due to galaxy collision*
- 2010 NASA press release: *Fermi probes “Dragons” of the gamma-ray sky*

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## References

- Prof. Hasinger Director of the Institute for Astronomy, 2680 Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822-1839, USA. Email Address: [hasinger@ifa.hawaii.edu](mailto:hasinger@ifa.hawaii.edu)
- Dr. Greiner Head of the Gamma-ray group at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, GiessenbachStrasse 1, 854748 Garching, Germany. Email Address: [jcg@mpe.mpg.de](mailto:jcg@mpe.mpg.de)
- Prof. O. Reimer Professor at Leopold Franzens Universität Innsbruck Technikerstrasse 25/8, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria. Email Address: [Olaf.Reimer@uibk.ac.at](mailto:Olaf.Reimer@uibk.ac.at)
- Dr. Gehrels Principal Investigator of the Swift mission and Chief of the Astroparticle Physics Laboratory, NASA/GSFC, Code 661, Astroparticle Physics Laboratory, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA. Email Address: [gehrels@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:gehrels@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov)
- Prof. Funk Professor at Stanford University and Head of the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope group at the SLAC National Laboratory, 2575 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA Email Address: [funk@slac.stanford.edu](mailto:funk@slac.stanford.edu)
- Dr. Dermer U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC 20375-5352, USA. Email Address: [charles.dermer@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:charles.dermer@nrl.navy.mil)
- Prof. Romani Professor at Stanford University, Physics and Astrophysics Bldg., Stanford, CA 94305, USA. Email Address: [rwr@astro.stanford.edu](mailto:rwr@astro.stanford.edu)
- Prof. Blandford Head of Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, 2575 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA Email Address: [rdb3@stanford.edu](mailto:rdb3@stanford.edu)