

CALLUM WITTEN

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Kavli Institute for Cosmology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Education

2021–2024	PhD, Astronomy Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge New insights into primeval galaxies in the era of JWST Supervisors: Prof Debora Sijacki and Dr Nicolas Laporte
2017–2021	MPhys, First class, Physics with Astrophysics University of Bath

Research Experience

2026–Present	Postdoctoral Researcher , University of Cambridge Kavli Institute for Cosmology, Roberto Maiolino
2024–2026	Postdoctoral Researcher , University of Geneva Observatory of Geneva, Pascal Oesch

Summary of Publications

Publications: 36 total (8 first author), of which 27 refereed (7 first author). [ADS link](#).

Bibliometrics: 1,886 total citations (282 first author), h -index of 21. Last updated 14/10/2026.

Collaboration Memberships

Lumina simulations protocluster lead · VLT/MOONS extragalactic GTO team · ELT/MOSAIC science team · GTC/EMIR commissioning team

Summary of Observing Time

Four PI (nineteen Co-I) proposals, total of ~ 100 hrs on *JWST* and the VLT.

Accepted PI Proposals

2024	VLT P114 · XSHOOTER Spectroscopy C. WITTEN · 275V · THE FIRST STRUCTURES IN THE UNIVERSE: UNVEILING THE PROPERTIES OF THE MOST DISTANT IONISED BUBBLE AT $z = 7.9$ · 25 HOURS
2024	VLT P113 · KMOS Spectroscopy C. WITTEN · 26CO · THE PROPERTIES OF GALAXIES RESIDING WITHIN AN IONISED BUBBLE AND PROTOCLUSTER AT $z \sim 7$ · 24.5 HOURS
2023	JWST Cycle 2 · NIRC2 WFSS C. WITTEN · 4043 · UNVEILING THE BUILD-UP OF LARGE SCALE STRUCTURE IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE · 19.9 HOURS
2023	VLT P112 · KMOS Spectroscopy C. WITTEN · 25RJ · THE PROPERTIES OF GALAXIES RESIDING WITHIN AN IONISED BUBBLE AND PROTOCLUSTER AT $z \sim 7$ · 24.5 HOURS

Awards and Funding

(converted to USD)

2026	SNF Grant Awarded to facilitate the Miracles of the early Universe II conference	\$18,400
2025	Murdin Prize Best publication by a PhD student	\$700
2024	JWST Grant Funding Program 4043	\$69,800
2024	IoA Summer Internship Bursary Funding to host a summer intern	\$4,700
2023	Wolfson Research Grant Award to attend conferences	\$1,600
2021–2024	STFC PhD Studentship Competitively awarded by the IoA, Cambridge	\$84,000

Supervision and Teaching Experience

2026	Guest lecture GALAXIES AND COSMOLOGY · <i>Cosmic Microwave Background</i>
2025–2026	Supervision of a Master's research project (full-time duration: 9 months) Corentin Meuwly (GENEVA) · <i>Unveiling the lifecycle of the earliest galaxies in the Universe with JWST</i>
2025	Supervision of a Master's research project (full-time duration: 2 weeks) Parker Fairfield (GENEVA) · <i>Deciphering the origins of the UV emission from the enigmatic Little Red Dots</i>
2025	Lecture SAAS-FEE WINTER SCHOOL · <i>JWST workshop</i>
2023–2024	Supervision of a Master's research project and summer internship Billy Hayes (CAMBRIDGE) · <i>Hunting for evidence of the first galaxies hidden in JWST data</i>
2021–2023	Supervision of Master's and Bachelor's student problem classes 26 STUDENTS · <i>Formation of Structure in the Universe, Stellar Dynamics and Structure of Galaxies</i>

Conferences and Seminars

Twenty-two contributed and five invited talks (plus one upcoming) at prestigious conferences.

Talk Highlights

May 2027	Sendai, Japan · Panoramic Views of Galaxy Cluster Assembly <i>Invited talk (upcoming)</i> · DEVELOPMENT OF COSMIC STRUCTURES FROM INITIAL FLUCTUATIONS TO THE PRESENT-DAY CLUSTERS
August 2026	Santander, Spain · Collaborative Frontiers in Extragalactic Astronomy <i>Invited talk</i> · RESOLVING THE OVERABUNDANCE OF PROTOCLUSTERS IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE
December 2025	Marseille, France · Seminar <i>Invited talk</i> · EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE
July 2025	Heidelberg, Germany · Quo Vadis Galaxy Evolution? <i>Contributed Talk</i> · PROTOCLUSTERS IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE: POWERHOUSES BEHIND IONISED BUBBLES AND EVOLVED GALAXIES

April 2025	Oxford, UK · First Galaxies: Building blocks of galaxies across cosmic time <i>Contributed Talk · AN EVOLVED PROTOCLUSTER IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE</i>
August 2024	Ascona, Switzerland · Observing and Simulating Galaxy Evolution in the Era of JWST <i>Contributed Talk · EVIDENCE OF OLD STELLAR POPULATIONS AND REJUVENATION EVENTS IN THE VERY EARLY UNIVERSE</i>
July 2023	Sesto, Italy · The James Webb Space Telescope turns one: the birth and growth of galaxies <i>Contributed Talk · UNVEILING THE DRIVERS OF LAEs AT $z > 7$</i>

Professional Service

2026	SOC Chair NAM 2026 SESSION: FORGING STARS AND GALAXIES IN THE FIRST BILLION YEARS
2026	SOC Chair EAS 2026 SPECIAL SESSION: FROM MOLECULAR CLOUDS TO GALAXY CLUSTERS: TOWARDS A UNIFIED UNDERSTANDING OF STOCHASTIC STAR FORMATION IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE
2026	SOC & LOC Chair MIRACLES OF THE EARLY UNIVERSE II CONFERENCE, 50 PEOPLE IN GENEVA
2026	LOC Member BEYOND HUBBLE 2026 CONFERENCE
2025	SOC & LOC Chair MIRACLES OF THE EARLY UNIVERSE CONFERENCE, 40 PEOPLE IN GENEVA
Since 2025	Referee FOR NATURE ASTRONOMY
Since 2025	Referee FOR A&A
Since 2023	Referee FOR APJ
Since 2023	Referee FOR MNRAS

Press Releases and Outreach

May 2026	A&A Cover Image VOLUME 709
July 2024	New Scientist Article ZOMBIE GALAXY CAME BACK TO LIFE AFTER 20 MILLION YEARS
Spring 2024	Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society INVITED TO SPEAK TO A PUBLIC ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ABOUT RESULTS FROM JWST
January 2024	New Scientist Article GALAXY SMASH-UPS MAY EXPLAIN STRANGE LIGHT FROM EARLY UNIVERSE
January 2024	ESA Press Release WEBB REVEALS THAT GALAXY MERGERS ARE THE SOLUTION TO EARLY UNIVERSE MYSTERY
January 2024	Nature Research Briefing GALAXY MERGERS CAN EXPLAIN THE UNEXPECTED HYDROGEN EMISSION IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE
August 2022	Buckland Primary School, Oxfordshire ASTRONOMY ENGAGEMENT TALK FOR 10-11 YEAR OLD SCHOOL CHILDREN
