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Simulating the chemical enrichment of the intergalactic medium

Wiersma, R.P.C.

Citation

Wiersma, R. P. C. (2010, September 22). *Simulating the chemical enrichment of the intergalactic medium*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/15972>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Curriculum Vitae

I was born on October 25th, 1978 in Collingwood, Canada. After spending my formative years living in Whitby and Pickering, Canada, I pursued a Bachelor of Science in Honours Physics at the University of Waterloo. In my final year, fate decided that Astronomy, rather than Quantum Mechanics was to be the focus of my research project. For this I focused on gravitational lensing with Dr. Michael Hudson, graduating in 2002.

From there I moved on to the Master of Science program in Physics and Astronomy at McMaster University. I worked with Dr. Allison Sills studying pre-main sequence stellar evolution and star cluster dynamics. While this period whetted my appetite for research, I took a 6 month hiatus to test smoke stacks for environmental compliance in the Kitchener area.

While I applied mainly to PhD positions in star cluster dynamics, a long dormant interest in cosmology prompted me to also consider the Universe on larger scales. I have been pursuing my PhD here at Leiden University since 2005, and under the guidance of Dr. Joop Schaye I have slowly transformed into a cosmologist. During this time, I have been able to go to present my work at conferences in France, Germany, Greece, Spain, and the Netherlands. I have had the pleasure of assisting with serving drinks after the colloquia as well as assisting with the teaching of Prof. Dr. Vincent Icke's "Numerical dynamics" course and Mr. Rudolf Le Poole's "Observational Techniques 2" course.

After my promotion I will continue working as post-doctoral fellow at the Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, with Dr. Benedetta Ciardi.

Nawoord

SIGH. A thesis like this does not come about without much blood, sweat, and tears. It is however, greatly rewarding, especially when operating in an environment such as I have found here in Leiden.

Naturally I have to thank all those who keep the observatory operating without noticeable interruption. David, Aart, Erik, and Tycho you have always been a phone call or email away, often outside of working hours. Then of course there is the often unnoticed work of the administration, namely, Jeanne, Kirsten, Anita, and Liesbeth. I very much appreciated Jan's help whenever some financial issue came up. Finally the generous financial contributions from the Leids Kerkhoven Bosscha Fonds and the European Union Marie Curie program were essential.

Many thanks to all of my fantastic (ex-)groupmates, Alan, Craig, Freeke, Marcel, Olivera and especially the other two of the original three, Andreas and Claudio, thanks for all of your help and useful discussions. Thanks to all co-authors on the papers that are included in this thesis, you have made it much better. Thanks also to my office mates Demerese and David who have endured all of my idiosyncrasies. To the AA-Awesome members not already listed, Rik, Malin, and Hendrik, make sure you book time for the reunion tour. Also much gratitude to those at MPA who have made the 'home stretch' that much better - in particular Thom and Thom.

This completion of this thesis would also not have been possible without the encouragement of the folks at the International Church of Leiden and Munich International Community Church. Mark and Dirk, I am very grateful for your insights and friendship.

My extended family in the Netherlands were very helpful and supportive and made the transition to Europe more amicable. To my brothers and sister, you all have influenced me and mentored me in your own unique ways, this thesis certainly would not have been same without you. Mom and Dad, thank you for all of your love, support, and encouragement, not to mention all of the valuable life lessons and good times you've provided for me.

Orion and Perseus, you are the lights of my life and remind me this is all worth it. Esther, I can only say that I hope in earnest to plot a future where we chase our dreams hand-in-hand.

Finally, I must deflect any glory and honour due from this work to God who saved me through his son, Jesus Christ.

