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Merging galaxy clusters: probing magnetism and particle acceleration over cosmic time

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1. **Di Gennaro**, van Weeren, Cassano, Brunetti, Brüggen, Hoeft, Osinga, Botteon, Cuciti, de Gasperin, Röttgering, Tasse. *A LOFAR-uGMRT spectral index study of distant radio halos*, to be submitted, A&A.

2. **Di Gennaro**, van Weeren, Rudnick, Hoeft, Brüggen, Ryu, Röttgering, Forman, Stroe, Shimwell, Kraft, Jones, Hoang. *Downstream depolarization in the Sausage relic: a 1–4 GHz Very Large Array study*, 2021, ApJ, 911, 3.

3. **Di Gennaro**, van Weeren, Brunetti, Cassano, Brüggen, Hoeft, Shimwell, Röttgering, Bonafede, Botteon, Cuciti, Dallacasa, de Gasperin, Domínguez-Fernández, Ensslin, Gastaldello, Mandal, Rossetti, Simionescu. *Fast magnetic field amplification in distant galaxy clusters*, 2021, Nat. Astron., 5, 268.

4. **Di Gennaro**, van Weeren, Andrade-Santos, Akamatsu, Randall, Forman, Kraft, Brunetti, Dawson, Golovich, Jones. *Evidence for a merger induced shock wave in ZwCl 0008.8+5215 with Chandra and Suzaku*, 2019, ApJ, 873, 64

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Contributed author

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CURRICULUM VITAE

I was born on 16 July 1992 in Mugnano di Napoli, nearby Naples, in Italy. Since I was young I was fascinated by the starry sky, despite the large amount of light pollution in the metropolitan area of Naples. However, I never dreamt about being a scientist. I enjoyed writing, short stories and football articles, and for a period I thought to become a journalist. I started to get engaged with maths thanks to a book, *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure*, which explained mathematical problems through tricks and games.

During the last year of my high school with scientific subjects, I realised that I wanted to study pure science, and to pursue a path of studies in Astronomy. I therefore moved to Bologna, one of the two cities in Italy with a Bachelor program in Astronomy, where I enrolled at the ALMA Mater Studiorum University of Bologna. I received my Bachelor degree on 18 July 2013, and the Master degree in Astrophysics and Cosmology on 18 March 2016. During these years, I gained interests in radio astronomy and the physics of the largest structures in the Universe. I started my research experience by studying the properties of the radio galaxy population in several galaxy clusters located in a supercluster, the Shapley Concentration, using GMRT observations, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Daniele Dallacasa and Dr. Tiziana Venturi. This work led to a publication, and it was presented with a poster at the "Galaxy Environment and Evolution 4" and "Active Galactic Nuclei 12: a Multi-Messenger perspective" conferences. After my graduation, I was selected to participate at the Leiden/ESA Astrophysics Program for Summer Students (LEAPS), where I worked on low-frequencies (P-band, 230–470 MHz) VLA observations of M87 under the supervision of Dr. Francesco de Gasperin and Dr. Huib

Intema.

I started my PhD in October 2016, where I studied the physics of particle acceleration and magnetic field amplification in merging galaxy clusters, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Huub Röttgering and Dr. Reinout van Weeren. I spent the first two years of my PhD working at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian in Cambridge (MA), USA, as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow. There, I had the chance to work with the major experts in cluster X-ray analysis, such as Dr. William Foreman and Dr. Christine Jones. At the same time, I improved my skills in radio analysis. During these two years, I mostly worked with *Chandra* and VLA data, and I realised the importance of combining among the farthermost wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum to get new insights in cluster astrophysics. At the end of the two years, I was invited to present my work at the internal High Energy Seminar. I moved to Leiden in October 2018, where I started to work also with LOFAR data. My work on diffuse radio emission in clusters at high redshift, published in *Nature Astronomy*, was shared with the non-astronomical community through several press releases, and got a great impact in online scientific blogs and magazines. For this project, I was also interviewed by the Italian podcast *Co.scienza*. Since 2019, I have been participating with the outreach website "She speaks science" (`http://www.shespeaksscience.com`) to translate science-related stories and experiences from female scientists from English to Italian. The aim of this outreach association is to increase the science engagement by inspiring young people into STEM, and to make STEM inclusive by promoting women and minority scientists. During 2019, I also co-supervised the project of a Master student at Leiden Observatory, whose results has become part of a peer-reviewed publication. During the four years as PhD candidate at Leiden Observatory, I have led several successful observing proposals, and I have started collaborations with researchers outside my working group, both in the LOFAR and in international collaborations. I shared the results of my work at several conferences and workshops, in Italy, Germany, USA, India, Netherlands, and Vietnam. I have also been invited to present my work at the next European Astronomical Society (EAS) meeting, occurring in June-July 2021.

Starting from September 2021, I will be a von Humboldt Fellow at the Hamburg Observatory, Germany, and a member of the Quantum Universe – Cluster of Excellence. I will continue my work on the physics of particle acceleration and magnetic field amplification in the largest structures in the Universe.

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It takes a village...

I strongly believe that working in a group, and being surrounded by supporting people, is essential to successfully finish your PhD. During these years I have been lucky to find a wonderful village, who supported me both academically and personally.

I would like to thank the amazing people I found at, and because of, the CfA. To all the people in the High Energy group, and especially Bill and Christine, for the always stimulating scientific discussions (also, cakes and coffee at the group meetings were highly appreciated!). Alessandro, Anna, Cecilia, Elena, Fabrizio, Federica, Felipe, Francesca, Gerrit, Lorenzo, Malgosia, Rafael, Raffaele, Sofia, Susanna, Vincenzo, and all the people who

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I strongly believe that (watching and playing) sport makes you forget about all the issues you may have. To "my" Inter, a huge metaphor of life: going through (several) failures and disappointments before reaching (few) moments of joy and satisfaction: thank you for constantly forging my strength, for being crazy and never boring. I am extremely thankful to everyone at the LUSV for the games, training, pub crawling and borrels we had. To all the girls in the Ladies 3 and 1 teams: Ana, Annalise, Arthur, Carmen, Debbie, Emily, Faye, Floor, Ib, Jorike, Kim, Kirsty, Louise, Lotti, Marjan, Myrenka, Ratima, Rosanne, Sabine, Salma, Satu, Sifra, Yaël, Wypkie. Playing basketball and hanging out with you was so fun. To my (almost entirely) Dutch family, Aydin, Debbie, Giac, Jessie, Leon, Luuk, Marco, Marlon, Sandy. Thank you for keeping me mentally sane during the lockdown, and reminding me that age is just a number (unless you are older than 27, then apparently all the troubles start). I have so many gezellinge *memories of you*. Jess, having you around made me extremely lucky, and proves that opposites attract. Thank you for your emotional support, the continuous encouragement, the silly moments and serious conversations, and the late drinking nights: everything was incredibly important to me. I am extremely happy to be your Gabber.

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Aan iedereen: dank je wel[1].

[1]Thanks Jess for double checking this, as my Dutch skills stop at: *Ik heb een glas wijn nodig.*

Dicette o pappice vicino a' noce, ramm' o tiemp' ca te spertose.

The warm said to the nut, give me time and I'll break you.