

Kristian Zarb Adami

PhD

Astrophysics Researcher
University of Oxford
Speciality : Telescope engineering

Personal Profile

Kristian is the eldest son of Noel and Adriana Zarb Adami. His younger sister Raina is a surgeon also working in the UK. Kristian was brought up in Attard, Malta and attended St Edward's school in Bormla. He then went on to study Maths and Physics at the University of Malta, before going on to study for his PhD in Cambridge University, UK on algorithmic development for Astronomical imaging. He has worked in Industry in Malta and Scotland, improving the function of digital cameras and presently works at the University of Oxford where he collaborates with many other organisations as part of an international radio telescope consortium consortium.



Research Profile

Kristian's research has centred on the analysis and amelioration of images. It aims to subtract background and therefore improve the images acquired by digital cameras and telescopes alike. He has worked in industrial product management as well as in academia.

An example of how this works would be to imagine a picture hanging on a wall behind a light coloured curtain.

Since the colour of the curtain all over is the same, if the colour of the curtain is subtracted all over, this will give a much clearer image of the picture hanging on the wall.

Similar problems effect the ways telescopes view images in space – so subtracting the general “background” helps improve telescope images.

His presence involvement in Oxford is in the development of the SKADS telescope which may be sited in the Australian desert. This multinational collaboration will combine the functions



of multiple radio telescopes around the world to detect better radio signals from space.

Radio signals are emitted from different objects in space. If signals are picked up in quiet regions (such as deserts) with low levels of background – earth-generated radio waves - they can give very sensitive information regarding heavenly bodies.



Other interests.

Kristian is a keen sportsman and has participated regularly in Maltese national league waterpolo. He is also a keen yachtsman and has actively taken up rowing since his time in Cambridge

Relevant Links or info

Further information about Kristian's research interests can be found at <http://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/astro/people/KristianZARB%20ADAMI.htm>

Further information about the development of the SKADS radio telescope array can be found on <http://www.skads-eu.org/>

