

CURRICULUM VITAE ✎ GEMMA DE LES COVES

(My former name is Gemma De las Cuevas)

CONTACT DETAILS

ICREA Research Professor
Departament d'Enginyeria, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)
Tànger 122, 08018 Barcelona, Catalonia

Campus del Poblenou. Edifici Tànger. Office 55.202
Phone: +34 93 542 2229
Email: gemma.delescoves@upf.edu
Personal website: <https://www.gemmadelescoves.com>
Google Scholar page
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0977-7727>

EMPLOYMENT

10/2024–Present	ICREA Research Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Barcelona
09/2024	Lecturer at Departament d'Enginyeria, UPF (tenure-track)
03/2023–08/2024	Associate Professor at the University of Innsbruck (tenured)
2018–02/2023	Assistant Professor at the University of Innsbruck (tenure-track)
2018–Present	Group leader of the De les Coves group
2018	Offered a position as Lecturer in Quantum Physics at the University of Sydney
2016–2018	Elise Richter Fellow at the Institute of Theoretical Physics of the University of Innsbruck
2011–2016	Postdoc at the Theory Division of the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics (MPQ) led by Prof. J. Ignacio Cirac (2012–2013 as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

2024	Acreditació de Recerca (Professora agregada) de l'Agència per a la Qualitat del sistema Universitari (AQU)
2022	Habilitation in Theoretical Physics entitled <i>Quantum Theory: From the Whole to the Parts, Magic Squares & Shadows of Infinity</i>
2007–2011	PhD in Theoretical Physics at the University of Innsbruck supervised by Prof. Hans J. Briegel (“1.0 mit Auszeichnung” and PhD Prize of the German Physical Society of 2012)
2006–2007	Master Thesis at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona supervised by Prof. Jordi Farauo in collaboration with Sepmag (“Matrícula d'Honor”)
2002–2007	“Llicenciada” in Physics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

HONORS

- 2024 Visiting Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Catalonia)
- 2021 – 2024 Visiting Fellow at the [Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics](#) (Canada)
- 2021 Member of the [Young Academy of the Austrian Academy of Sciences](#) ([UIBK news](#))
- 2020 START Prize of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) ([UIBK news](#), [Der Standard](#), [Falter Heureka](#))
- 2016 – 2017 [Emmy Noether Visiting Fellow](#) of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics (Canada)
- 2012 PhD Prize ([SAMOP-Dissertationspreis](#)) of the German Physical Society ([IQOQI news](#), [MPQ news](#))
- 2005 First prize to a literary creation related with Physics and publication:
[Ser i res](#). Gemma de las Cuevas i Millan. *Revista de Física* **3**, 20 (2006)

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

- 2020 START Prize of the FWF (1 042 k€)
- 2020 Stand Alone Project of the FWF for 4 years (324 k€)
- 2016 Elise Richter Fellowship of the FWF for 4 years (302 k€)
- 2012 [Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship for PostDoctoral Researchers](#) for 2 years (79 k€)
- 2006 Undergraduate student fellowship from the Spanish National Research Council (neglected)

PUBLICATIONS & PREPRINTS

- ▷ Author order conventions: In Physics, indicated underlined, the first author did most of the work and the last author directed the project. In Mathematics, indicated dashed underline, authors are sorted alphabetically.

1. The Structure of Emulations in Classical Spin Models: Modularity and Universality
Tobias Reinhart, Benjamin Engel and Gemma De les Coves
[arXiv:2407.13428](#) (2024)
2. Epistemic Horizons From Deterministic Laws: Lessons From a Nomic Toy Theory
Johannes Fankhauser, Tomáš Gonda and Gemma De les Coves
[arXiv:2406.17581](#) (2024)
3. An Invitation to Universality in Physics, Computer Science, and Beyond
Tomáš Gonda and Gemma De les Coves
[arXiv:2406.16607](#) (2024)
4. Positive Moments Forever: Decidable and Undecidable Cases
Gemma De les Coves, Joshua Graf, Andreas Klingler and Tim Netzer
[arXiv:2404.15053](#) (2024)
5. Universality and Complexity in Natural Languages: Mechanistic and Emergent
Gemma De les Coves, Bernat Corominas-Murtra and Ricard Solé
[Preprint 202402.1330](#) (2024)
6. Tensor decompositions on simplicial complexes with invariance
Gemma De las Cuevas, Matt Hoogsteder Riera and Tim Netzer
Journal of Symbolic Computation **124**, 102299 (2024). [arXiv:1909.01737](#)

7. Beyond Operator Systems
Gemma De les Coves, Mirte van der Eyden and Tim Netzer
[arXiv:2312.13983](#) (2023)
8. A Framework for Universality in Physics, Computer Science and Beyond
Tomáš Gonda, Tobias Reinhart, Sebastian Stengele and Gemma De les Coves
[Compositionality](#) (to appear, 2024). [arXiv:2307.06851](#)
9. Border Ranks of Locally Positive and Invariant Tensor Decompositions: Applications to Correlations
Andreas Klingler, Tim Netzer and Gemma De les Coves
[arXiv:2304.13478](#) (2023)
10. Many bounded versions of undecidable problems are NP-hard
Andreas Klingler, Mirte van der Eyden, Sebastian Stengele, Tobias Reinhart and Gemma De las Cuevas
[SciPost Physics](#) **14**, 173 (2023). [arXiv:2211.13532](#)
11. Magic squares: Latin, semiclassical and quantum
Gemma De las Cuevas, Tim Netzer and Inga Valentiner-Branth
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **64**, 022201 (2023). [arXiv:2209.10230](#)
12. Classical spin Hamiltonians are context-sensitive languages
Sebastian Stengele, David Drexel and Gemma De las Cuevas
[Proceedings of the Royal Society A](#) **479**, 20220553 (2023). [arXiv:2006.03529](#)
13. The grammar of the Ising model: A new complexity hierarchy
Tobias Reinhart and Gemma De las Cuevas
[arXiv:2208.08301](#) (2022)
14. Halos and undecidability of tensor stable positive maps
Mirte van der Eyden, Tim Netzer and Gemma De las Cuevas
[Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical](#) **55**, 264006 (2022). [arXiv:2110.02113](#)
15. Why can the brain (and not a computer) make sense of the liar paradox?
Patrick T. Fraser, Ricard Solé and Gemma De las Cuevas
[Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution](#) **9**, 802300 (2021). [Preprint 202111.0524](#)
16. Polynomial decompositions with invariance and positivity inspired by tensors
Gemma De las Cuevas, Andreas Klingler and Tim Netzer
[Linear Algebra and its Applications](#) **698**, 537 (2024). [arXiv:2109.06680](#)
17. Quantum Information Theory and Free Semialgebraic Geometry: One Wonderland Through Two Looking Glasses
Gemma De las Cuevas and Tim Netzer
[Internationale Mathematische Nachrichten](#) Nr. 246 (2021). [arXiv:2102.04240](#)
18. Cats climb entails mammals move: preserving hyponymy in compositional distributional semantics
Gemma De las Cuevas, Andreas Klingler, Martha Lewis and Tim Netzer
[Journal of Cognitive Science](#) **22**, 311 (2021). [arXiv:2005.14134](#)
Accepted as a talk for [SemSpace2020](#).
19. Approximate tensor decompositions: disappearance of many separations
Gemma De las Cuevas, Andreas Klingler and Tim Netzer
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **62**, 093502 (2021) (Editor's pick). [arXiv:2004.10219](#)

20. On the use of direct-coupling analysis with a reduced alphabet of amino acids combined with super-secondary structure motifs for protein fold prediction
Bernat Anton, Mireia Besalú, Oriol Fornes, Jaume Bonet, Alexis Molina, Ruben Molina-Fernandez, Gemma De las Cuevas, Narcís Fernández-Fuentes and Baldo Oliva
[NAR Genomics and Bioinformatics](#) **3**, Issue 2, lqab027 (2021). [BioRxiv:10.1101/406603](#)
21. Quantum magic squares: Dilations and their limitations
Gemma De las Cuevas, Tom Drescher and Tim Netzer
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **61**, 111704 (2020) (Featured by the Editor). [arXiv:1912.07332](#)
See [AIP Scilight](#), [UIBK news](#), [El Periodico](#), the related [Quanta magazine article](#) and my article for [El Pais](#)
22. Generalized ansatz for continuous Matrix Product States
Maria Balanzó-Juandó and Gemma De las Cuevas
[Physical Review A](#) **101**, 052312 (2020) (Editor's suggestion). [arXiv:1908.09761](#)
23. Mixed states in one spatial dimension: decompositions and correspondence with nonnegative matrices
Gemma De las Cuevas and Tim Netzer
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **61**, 041901 (2020). [arXiv:1907.03664](#)
24. Optimal bounds on the positivity of a matrix from a few moments
Gemma De las Cuevas, Tobias Fritz and Tim Netzer
[Communications in Mathematical Physics](#) **375**, 105 (2020). [arXiv:1808.09462](#)
25. Separability for mixed states with operator Schmidt rank two
Gemma De las Cuevas, Tom Drescher and Tim Netzer
[Quantum](#) **3**, 203 (2019). [arXiv:1903.05373](#)
26. Continuum limits of Matrix Product States
Gemma De las Cuevas, Norbert Schuch, David Perez-Garcia and J. Ignacio Cirac
[Physical Review B](#) **98**, 174303 (2018). [arXiv:1708.00880](#)
27. Irreducible forms for Matrix Product States: Theory and Applications
Gemma De las Cuevas, J. Ignacio Cirac, Norbert Schuch and David Perez-Garcia
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **58**, 121901 (2017) (Editor's Pick). [arXiv:1708.00029](#)
28. Energy as a detector of nonlocality of many-body spin systems
J. Tura, G. De las Cuevas, R. Augusiak, M. Lewenstein, A. Acín and J. I. Cirac
[Physical Review X](#), **7**, 021005 (2017). [arXiv:1607.06090](#)
See [UIBK news](#)
29. Fundamental limitations in the purifications of tensor networks
G. De las Cuevas, T. S. Cubitt, J. I. Cirac, M. M. Wolf and D. Pérez-García
[Journal of Mathematical Physics](#) **57**, 071902 (2016) (Editor's Pick). [arXiv:1512.05709](#)
30. Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics
Gemma De las Cuevas and Toby S. Cubitt
[Science](#) **351**, 1180 (2016). [arXiv:1406.5955](#)
See [Piece by Adrian Cho](#), [Perspective by Stephanie Wehner](#), [MPQ news](#), [Phys.org](#)
31. Reducing spacetime to binary information
Silke Weinfurter, Gemma De las Cuevas, Miguel Angel Martín-Delgado and Hans J. Briegel
[Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical](#) **47**, 095301 (2014). [arXiv:1210.5182](#)

32. Purifications of multipartite states: limitations and constructive methods
Gemma De las Cuevas, Norbert Schuch, David Pérez-García and J. Ignacio Cirac
[New Journal of Physics](#) **15**, 123021 (2013). [arXiv:1308.1914](#)
33. A quantum information approach to statistical mechanics
Gemma De las Cuevas
[Journal of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics](#) **46**, 243001 (2013). [arXiv:1312.6007](#)
34. Projective simulation for artificial intelligence
Hans J. Briegel and Gemma De las Cuevas
[Scientific Reports](#) **2**, 400 (2012). [arXiv:1104.3787](#)
See [Der Standard](#), [Die Presse](#)
35. Quantum algorithms for classical lattice models
G. De las Cuevas, W. Dür, M. Van den Nest and M. A. Martin–Delgado
[New Journal of Physics](#) **13**, 093021 (2011). [arXiv:1104.2517](#)
36. The U(1) Lattice Gauge Theory Universally Connects All Classical Models with Continuous Variables, Including Background Gravity
Ying Xu, Gemma De las Cuevas, Wolfgang Dür, Hans J. Briegel and Miguel Angel Martin–Delgado
[Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment](#) P02013 (2011). [arXiv:1010.2041](#)
37. Mapping all classical spin models to a lattice gauge theory
G. De las Cuevas, W. Dür, H. J. Briegel and M. A. Martin–Delgado
[New Journal of Physics](#) **12**, 043014 (2010). [arXiv:0911.2096](#)
38. Unifying All Classical Spin Models in a Lattice Gauge Theory
G. De las Cuevas, W. Dür, H. J. Briegel and M. A. Martin–Delgado
[Physical Review Letters](#) **102**, 230502 (2009). [arXiv:0812.3583](#)
39. Completeness of classical spin models and universal quantum computation
G. De las Cuevas, W. Dür, M. Van den Nest and H. J. Briegel
[Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment](#) P07001 (2009). [arXiv:0812.2368](#)
40. Low-Gradient Magnetophoresis through Field-Induced Reversible Aggregation
G. De las Cuevas, J. Faraudo and J. Camacho
[Journal of Physical Chemistry C](#) **112**, 945 (2008).

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Quantum Theory: Ideals, Infinities and Pluralities
Gemma De les Coves
To appear in *Open Systems: Physics, Metaphysics, and Methodology*
Edited by Michael E. Cuffaro and Stephan Hartmann
Oxford University Press (2024).
2. *Ser humà: La ferida de l'infinit. Una trobada íntima de la ciència i la cultura*
Gemma De les Coves
A camp obert. Pràctiques culturals contemporànies
A cura de Josep Ramoneda and Raül Garrigasait
Institut Ramon Llull & Arcàdia (2024).

English edition:

Being human: The wound of infinity. An intimate encounter of science and culture

Gemma De les Coves

In an Open Field. Contemporary Cultural Practices

Curated by Josep Ramoneda and Raül Garrigasait

Institut Ramon Llull & Arcàdia (2024).

OTHER ARTICLES

1. ¿Qué es el arte?
Gemma De les Coves
[La Maleta de Portbou Nr. 61 \(2023\)](#).
2. La magia matemática que se esconde en la Sagrada Familia
Gemma De las Cuevas
[El Pais](#), May 4, 2022.
3. What is reality?
Gemma De las Cuevas
[Conscious\(ness\) Realist](#), Blog by Larissa Albantakis, Apr 7, 2022.
4. ¿Qué es la realidad?
Gemma De las Cuevas
[La Maleta de Portbou Nr. 51 \(2022\)](#).
5. Magic Squares: A children's puzzle meets quantum physics
Gemma De las Cuevas, Tom Drescher and Tim Netzer
[The Science Breaker \(2022\)](#).
6. Universalität und Unentscheidbarkeit gehen Hand in Hand¹
Gemma De las Cuevas, Sebastian Stengele and Tobias Reinhart
[Der Standard](#), Oct 27, 2021.
7. Universality Everywhere implies Undecidability Everywhere
Gemma De las Cuevas
[Undecidability, Uncomputability, and Unpredictability Essay Contest](#), organized by FQXi (2020).
8. La unificación de los modelos de espín
Gemma De las Cuevas
Investigación y Ciencia N. 482, Nov 2016. (This journal no longer exists).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

66. *Quantum Theory: Ideals, Infinities and Pluralities*. [New Approaches to the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics](#) Vadstena Monastery, Sweden. Nov 27 to 30, 2024.
65. *Lectures on Quantum Information* (5 hours). [School on Selected Topics in Quantum Groups, Quantum Information and Operator Algebras](#). Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge, UK. Nov 4 to 8, 2024.
64. *Universality in physics, computer science and beyond*. Colloquium at the Johannes Kepler University (hosted by [Johannes Kofler](#)), Linz, Austria. Feb 19, 2024.

¹Universality and undecidability go hand in hand.

63. *Universality in Physics, Computer Science and Beyond*. DTIC, UPF, Barcelona. Oct 27, 2023.
62. *Universality, Lawvere's Theorem & Unreachability*. Hot Topics: $MIP^*=RE$ and the Connes Embedding Problem, Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute, Berkeley, California. Oct 20, 2023.
61. *Què és l'art?* Palau Macaya, Barcelona. With Josep Ramoneda, Jaume Casals, Genoveva Martí, Ricard Solé, Ramon López de Mántaras, Pol Guasch, Carolina Ciuti and Mireia Sallarès (see [this video of our debate](#) at Caixaforum+). Jun 14 to 15, 2023.
60. *Universality & Unreachability*. New Directions in the Foundations of Physics. Viterbo, Italy. May 27, 2023.
59. *No system can talk about itself—Yet here we are. On why the brain can make sense of the liar paradox*. Wigner's Friends: Theory Workshop. San Francisco, California. Dec 2, 2022.
58. *Universality, undecidability and Wigner's friend*. Wigner's Friends: Theory Workshop. San Francisco, California. Dec 1, 2022.
57. *What is the reach of universality & undecidability?* Measurement-Based Quantum Computation, Agency and Learning (In honor of Hans Briegel's 60th birthday). Obergurgl, Austria. Aug 30, 2022.
56. *Quantum Theory: From the Whole to the Parts, Magic Squares, and Shadows of Infinity*. Habilitation Talk at the UIBK. Jul 7, 2022.
55. *What is the reach of universality & undecidability?* Quantum Information workshop. Seefeld in Tirol, Austria. Jun 27 to Jul 1, 2022.
54. *Universality & Undecidability*. Solstice of Foundations (Summer School). ETH Zürich. Jun 21, 2022.
53. *What is the reach of universality & undecidability?* Quantum Natural Language Processing 2022. Oxford, UK. May 30, 2022.
52. *What is the reach of universality & undecidability?* First Lie–Størmer Colloquium. Rosendal, Norway. May 26, 2022.
51. *What does universal mean? And what is the scope of universality & undecidability across disciplines? Entangled states of matter*. Berlin, Germany. May 2 to 9, 2022.
50. *What does universal mean? An exploration at the intersection of physics, linguistics and beyond* (In Catalan) Roger Martin Lecture at the UAB. Mar 10, 2022. (Virtual)
49. *Quantum theory: From the whole to the parts, magic squares, and shadows of infinity*. Center for Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (hosted by Remigiusz Augusiak). Feb 24, 2022. (Virtual)
48. *Quantum Theory: From the Whole to the Parts, Magic Squares, and Shadows of Infinity*. Theory Colloquium at the UIBK. Dec 15, 2021. (Virtual)
47. *Physics & Computer science: The Actual & the Possible*. Philosophy Colloquium at the University of Konstanz (hosted by Thomas Müller), Germany. Dec 1, 2021.
46. *From simplicity to universality and undecidability*. VQC Colloquium, Vienna. Nov 22, 2021. (Virtual)
45. *Què és la realitat?* Palau Macaya, Barcelona. With Josep Ramoneda, Tomàs Marquès, Jaume Casals, Jordi Camí, Carolina Ciuti, Ana-Carolina Gutiérrez-Xivillé and Sergi Valverde. Oct 27 and 28, 2021.
44. *From simplicity to universality and undecidability*. DIPC Donostia (hosted by Román Orús). Oct 15, 2021. (Virtual)

43. *From simplicity to universality and undecidability*. [New York City Category Theory Seminar](#) (hosted by [Noson Yanofsky](#)). Oct 7, 2021. (Virtual)
42. *General decompositions with invariance, positivity and approximations*. [Geometry and Optimization in Quantum Information](#). Oberwolfach, Germany. Oct 6, 2021. (Virtual)
41. *Classical spin Hamiltonians are context-sensitive languages*. Science Day of the Young Academy of the ÖAW. Vienna. Sep 23, 2021. (Virtual)
40. *General decompositions with invariance, positivity and approximations*. Minisymposium on geometric aspects of tensor networks at [SIAM AG21](#). Texas A&M, USA. Aug 19, 2021. (Virtual)
39. *From simplicity to universality and undecidability*. Workshop on Quantum Entanglement and Emergent Phenomena, Tsung-Dao Lee Institute. Shanghai, China. Aug 18, 2021. (Virtual)
38. *Positivity wants to break free*. [Tensor Networks: Quantum Physics, Geometry and Applications](#), CIRM workshop, Levico, Trento. Jul 26 to 28, 2021.
37. *Computational complexity for physicists*. [DK ALM](#) Summer school, Achensee, Austria. Jul 13, 2021.
36. *From simplicity to universality*. Physics Colloquium at Johannes Kepler University (hosted by [Kurt Hingerl](#)), Linz, Austria. Jun 21, 2021.
35. *From simplicity to universality*. [TEDx FHKufstein](#). Kufstein, Austria. Jun 2021.
34. *The unbearable lightness of universality and undecidability*. Miniworkshop with [Tom Sterkenburg](#) entitled "Universality and Undecidability in Physics and Machine Learning" at the [Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy](#). Apr 21, 2021. (Virtual)
33. Dialogue with [Wolfram Hinzen](#) and the Grammar and Cognition Lab (UPF Barcelona) on W. Hinzen's and M. Sheehan's book *The Philosophy of Universal Grammar*. Apr 6, 2021. (Virtual)
32. *Universality everywhere: From spin models to automata and beyond*. [Quantum Information Group](#) at the UAB. Mar 11, 2021. (Virtual)
31. *Universality everywhere: From spin models to automata and beyond*. [SFB BeyondC](#) Winter Workshop. Innsbruck. Feb 16 and 17, 2021. (Virtual)
30. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks and beyond*. Physics Colloquium at Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria. Dec 9, 2020. (Virtual)
29. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks and beyond*. Philosophy Colloquium at the University of Konstanz (hosted by [Thomas Müller](#)), Germany. Dec 3, 2020. (Virtual)
28. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks, and beyond*. [Institute of Cross-disciplinary Physics and Complex Systems](#) (hosted by [Tobias Galla](#)), Mallorca. Oct 21, 2020. (Virtual)
27. *Universality in spin models, automata and neural networks*, Quantum Natural Language Processing. Oxford, UK. Sep 21, 2020. (Virtual)
26. *Universality Everywhere: From spin models to automata*. [ISTA, Vienna](#). Jan 16, 2020.
25. *Local descriptions of mixed states*. University Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier. Dec 12, 2019.
24. *Universality: From spin models to automata*. [Quantum Natural Language Processing](#). Oxford, UK. Dec 5 to 6, 2019.
23. *Local descriptions of mixed states*. Focus week on tensor networks. [ICMAT](#), Madrid. Sep 17 to 20, 2019.

22. *Local descriptions of mixed states.* [Analytical and Combinatorial Aspects of Quantum Information Theory](#). ICMS, Edinburgh, Scotland. Sep 9 to 13, 2019.
21. *Mixed states: Challenges & New results.* [Quantum Simulation: Gauge fields, Holography and Topology](#). Bilbao. Jul 10, 2019.
20. *Mixed states with tensor networks: Challenges & New results.* [SFB-FoQus International Conference](#). Innsbruck. Feb 9, 2019.
19. *On the concept of universality: Ubiquity and limitations.* [Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Logic and the Philosophy of Science](#). Lugano, Switzerland. Sep 22, 2018.
18. *An introduction to tensor networks.* [Introductory Course on Quantum Information](#). UIBK. Jul 11, 2018.
17. *Matrix Product States: Continuum limits and irreducible forms.* [QuICS, University of Maryland, USA](#). May 2, 2018.
16. *On the concepts of universality in physics and computer science.* [Algorithmic Information, Induction and Observers in Physics](#). Perimeter Institute, Canada. Apr 9 to 13, 2018.
15. *Matrix Product States: Irreducible Forms and Continuum limits.* [Quantum Innovators in Computer Science and Mathematics](#). IQC, Waterloo, Canada. Sep 18 to 21, 2017.
14. *An Introduction to Tensor Networks.* [Introductory Course on Quantum Information](#). UIBK. Jul 12 to 14, 2016.
13. *Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics.* [Last Frontiers in Quantum Information Science 4](#). Juneau, Alaska, USA. Jun 20 to 24, 2016.
12. *Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics.* [Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany](#). May 20, 2016.
11. *Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics.* [Quantum simulations: Theory meets experiment – A workshop for young researchers](#). Oxford, UK. Oct 30 to 31, 2015.
10. *Which states have a continuum limit?* [Perimeter Institute, Canada](#). May 11 to 17, 2015.
9. *Which discrete states have a continuum limit?* [Coogee Workshop](#). Sydney, Australia. Jan 21 to 23, 2015.
8. *Simple universal models capture all spin physics.* [Quantum Information workshop](#). Seefeld in Tirol, Austria. Jun 29 to Jul 4, 2014.
7. *Universal Hamiltonian simulators: the full characterization.* [Perimeter Institute, Canada](#). Nov 11, 2013.
6. *Bounding the purification rank of mixed states.* [Perimeter Institute, Canada](#). Feb 25, 2013.
5. *Reducing spacetime to binary information.* [6th AFI Symposium on Gravitational Puzzles](#). Innsbruck. Dec 7, 2012.
4. *A quantum information approach to statistical mechanics.* [DPG Frühjahrstagung](#). Stuttgart, Germany. Mar 12, 2012.
3. *A quantum information approach to statistical mechanics.* [El Escorial Summer School 2011: Quantum Information meets Statistical Mechanics](#). El Escorial, Madrid. Jul 11 to 15, 2011.
2. *A quantum information approach to discrete quantum gravity.* [Utrecht University, The Netherlands](#). May 30, 2011.

1. *Unifying all classical spin models using a quantum formalism*. [Workshop on Quantum Algorithms, Computational Models, and Foundations of Quantum Mechanics](#). University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Jul 23 to 25, 2010.

TALKS IN CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

18. *Universalities in natural languages*. [SemSpace 2021](#). Jun 16, 2021. (Virtual)
17. *Cats climb entails mammals move: preserving hyponymy in distributional semantics*. [SemSpace 2020](#). Aug 7, 2020. (Virtual)
16. *On Open and Closed Quantum Systems*. Symposium on Open quantum systems, held together with [Michael E. Cuffaro](#), [Stephan Hartmann](#) and [Jos Uffink](#). [British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference](#). Oxford, UK. Jul 5 and 6, 2018.
15. *Representing continuum limits of matrix product states*. [Optimising, Renormalising, Evolving and Quantising Tensor Networks](#). Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, Dresden, Germany. Jun 18 to 20, 2018.
14. *Continuous limits of matrix product states*. MPQ Theory Group Workshop. Ötz, Austria. May 2 to 4, 2016.
13. *Lower bounds on the purification rank, and perturbations of the separation*. Open problems workshop. [Institute of Advanced Studies, TUM](#), Garching, Germany. Apr 13, 2015
12. *Progress report of the MPQ Theory Division*. [SIQS 2015 Workshop](#). ICFO, Barcelona. Mar 18 to 20, 2015.
11. *Fundamental limitations of purification problems*. [Quantum Computation, Quantum Information and the Exact Sciences](#). LMU, Munich, Germany. Jan 30, 2015.
10. *Which discrete states have a continuum limit?* MPQ Theory Group Workshop. Passau, Germany. Nov 27, 2014.
9. *Purifications of multipartite states: limitations and constructive methods*. [Quantum Information Processing \(QIP\)](#), Barcelona. Feb 3 to 7, 2014.
8. *Triggering Markovianity of Quantum Channels*, MPQ Theory Group Workshop. Kitzbühel, Austria. Dec 11 to 14, 2013.
7. *Mixed states decomposition: Tensor networks and beyond*. Joint MPQ – ICFO workshop. Barcelona. May 22 to 24, 2013.
6. *On Matrix Product Density Operators*. MPQ Theory Group Workshop. Friedrichshafen, Germany. Sep 12 to 14, 2012.
5. *Mappings of the partition function using a quantum formulation*. Fifth International Workshop DICE2010. Castiglioncello, Italy. Sep 13 to 17, 2010.
4. *Unifying all classical spin models in a lattice gauge theory*. [SFB FoQuS](#) meeting. Vienna. Apr 24, 2009.
3. *Unifying all classical spin models in a lattice gauge theory*. [DPG Frühjahrstagung](#). Hamburg, Germany. Mar 2 to 6, 2009.
2. *Completeness of classical spin models and universal quantum computation*. The mathematical foundations of quantum control and quantum information theory. Madrid. May 26 to 30, 2008.

1. *Completeness of classical spin models and universal quantum computation*. DPG Frühjahrstagung. Darmstadt, Germany. Mar 10 to 14, 2008.

SEMINARS

45. *Universality and Complexity in Natural Languages: Mechanistic and Emergent*. Seminar for the [Computational Linguistics group](#) in Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Feb 19, 2025.
44. *Universality in Physics, Computer Science and Beyond*. [Centre for Brain and Cognition](#), hosted by Gustavo Deco. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Catalonia. Dec 4, 2024.
43. *The grammar of machines and spin models*. Seminar for [Bernat Corominas-Murtra's](#) group at the University of Graz, Austria. May 7, 2021. (Virtual)
42. *Universality everywhere: From spin models to automata, and beyond*. Seminar for [Manlio De Domenico's](#) group in Trento. Mar 3, 2021. (Virtual)
41. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks, and beyond*. Seminar for [Lídia del Rio](#), [Nuriya Nurgalieva](#) and the [Quantum Information Group](#) at ETH Zürich, Switzerland. Nov 23, 2020. (Virtual)
40. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks, and beyond*. Seminar for the [Computer Science Department of the UIBK](#). Nov 19, 2020. (Virtual)
39. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks and beyond*. Seminar for [Hans Briegel's](#) group at the UIBK. Nov 11, 2020. (Virtual)
38. *Universality in spin models, automata, neural networks and beyond*. Seminar for [Roger Melko's](#) Group at the University of Waterloo & Perimeter Institute, Canada. Oct 27, 2020. (Virtual)
37. *A different logic for the assumptions of the world*. Joint group retreat of the [Algebra Group](#) and [Our Group](#). [Maria Waldrast](#), Austria. Feb 21, 2020.
36. *Non-axiomatic formal systems?* Joint group retreat of the [Algebra Group](#) and [Our Group](#). [Maria Waldrast](#), Austria. Feb 21, 2020.
35. *Universality: From spin models to automata*. Seminar for the [Complex Systems Lab](#) hosted by Ricard Solé. PRBB, Barcelona. Nov 4, 2019.
34. *Local descriptions of mixed states*. Seminar for [Časlav Brukner's](#) group. IQOQI Vienna. Aug 13, 2019.
33. *On decompositions of quantum states and nonnegative matrices*. Seminar for [Hans Briegel's](#) group. UIBK. Mar 20, 2019.
32. *The positivity problem in quantum many-body systems*. Seminar for [Časlav Brukner's](#) group. IQOQI Vienna. Oct 8, 2018.
31. *The positivity problem in quantum many-body systems & Universality in physics and computer science*. Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics at the UIBK](#). Sep 17, 2018.
30. *Universality in spin systems*. [QuICS, University of Maryland, USA](#). May 2, 2018.
29. *Matrix Product States: Irreducible forms and Continuum limits*. Seminar hosted by [Aske Plaata](#) at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. Jan 25, 2018.
28. *Matrix Product States: Irreducible forms and continuum limits*, Seminar for the [Quantum Information Group](#) of the UAB, Bellaterra, Catalonia. Dec 18, 2017.

27. *Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics*. Seminar for [Alejandro Lage Castellano's group](#) at the University of Havana, Cuba. Nov 2, 2017.
26. *Some open problems in representing mixed states with tensor networks*. Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics at the UIBK](#). Oct 5, 2016.
25. *Simple universal models capture all classical spin physics*. ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Jul 18, 2016.
24. *Which discrete states have a continuum limit?* Seminar for [Simone Montangero's group](#) at Ulm University, Germany. Nov 5, 2015.
23. *Which discrete states have a continuum limit?* Seminar for the [Quantum Information Group](#) of the UAB, Bellaterra, Catalonia. Sep 29, 2015.
22. *On positivity and tensor networks*. Seminar for [Tobias Osborne's group](#) at the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany. Jul 16, 2015.
21. *Which discrete states have a continuum limit?* Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics at the UIBK and IQOQI Innsbruck](#). Jun 17, 2015.
20. *Purifications of multipartite states: Limitations and constructive methods*. Seminar for [Ulrich Schollwöck's group](#) at the LMU Munich, Germany. Oct 22, 2014.
19. *Purifications of multipartite states: Limitations, constructive methods and connections to other fields*, Seminar at the [Centre for Quantum Information and Foundations](#) at the University of Cambridge, UK. Oct 9, 2014.
18. *Purifications of multipartite states: Limitations and constructive methods*. Seminar for [Miguel Angel Martin-Delgado's group](#) at the Complutense University of Madrid. Apr 9, 2014.
17. *On universal Hamiltonian simulators*. Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics at the UIBK and IQOQI Innsbruck](#). Mar 3, 2014.
16. *Purifications of multipartite states: Limitations and constructive methods*. Seminar for [Ronald de Wolf's group](#) at CWI Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Feb 10, 2014.
15. *Purifications of multipartite states: Limitations and constructive methods*. Seminar for the [Quantum Information Group](#) of the UAB, Bellaterra, Catalonia. Oct 29, 2013.
14. *Part I: Mixed state decompositions: Tensor Networks and beyond. Part II: NP-hard spin models can simulate any other model*. Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics at the UIBK](#). Jun 12, 2013.
13. *Reducing spacetime to binary information*. Seminar for [Miguel Angel Martin-Delgado's group](#) at the Complutense University of Madrid. Oct 16, 2012.
12. *A quantum information approach to statistical mechanics*. Seminar at the MPQ, Garching, Germany. May 29, 2012.
11. *A quantum information approach to statistical mechanics*. Seminar for [Antonio Acín's group](#) at ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Apr 16, 2012.
10. *Undecidability: A sketch of Gödel's proof*. Seminar at the MPQ, Garching, Germany. Mar 28, 2012.
9. *Quantum algorithms for classical lattice models*. Seminar for [Miguel Angel Martin-Delgado's group](#) at the Complutense University of Madrid. Feb 21, 2012.
8. *A quantum information perspective to statistical mechanics*. Seminar for [David Perez-Garcia's group](#) at the Instituto de Ciencias Matemáticas (ICMAT), Madrid. Feb 21, 2012.

7. *A quantum information perspective to statistical mechanical problems*, Seminar for [Ignacio Cirac's group](#) at the MPQ, Garching, Germany. Oct 15, 2010.
6. *Quantum formulations of the partition function and approaches to quantum gravity*. Seminar for [Hans Briegel's group](#) retreat. Maria Waldrast, Austria. Sep 28, 2010.
5. *Unifying classical spin models using a quantum formalism*. Seminar for [Bill Unruh's Gravity group](#) at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Jul 19, 2010.
4. *Unifying all classical spin models in a lattice gauge theory*. Seminar for [Ignacio Cirac's group](#) at the MPQ, Garching, Germany. Aug 25, 2009.
3. *Unifying all classical spin models in a lattice gauge theory*. Seminar at the [Institute for Theoretical Physics of the UIBK](#). Feb 4, 2009.
2. *Completeness of classical spin models and universal quantum computation*. Seminar for [Miguel Angel Martin-Delgado's group](#) at the Complutense University of Madrid. Jul 31, 2008.
1. *Magnetic separation of nanoparticles*. IQOQI Innsbruck, Austria. Mar 10, 2007.

Additionally presented 14 posters in conferences or workshops, and attended 14 other conferences.

RESEARCH VISITS

48. University of Konstanz, Germany. Dec 1 and 2, 2021.
47. Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. Jun 23, 2021.
46. IST Austria, Vienna. Jan 16 to 17, 2020.
45. Laboratoire de Physique Théorique in Toulouse, France. Dec 11 to 13, 2019.
44. Quantum Group, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford, UK. Dec 2 to 3, 2019.
43. Complex systems Lab, PRBB & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Nov 4 to 5, 2019.
42. IQOQI Vienna, Austria. Aug 12 to 14, 2019.
41. IQOQI Vienna, Austria. Oct 8 and 9, 2018.
40. Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics (MPQ), Garching, Germany. May 17 and 18, 2018.
39. University of Maryland, USA. Apr 30 to May 4, 2018.
38. Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, Canada. Apr 9 to 13, 2018.
37. LIACS and LION, University of Leiden, The Netherlands. Jan 24 and 25, 2018.
36. Grup d'Informació Quàntica, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Dec 18, 2017.
35. Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, Canada. Feb 12 to 25, 2017.
34. KITP Santa Barbara, USA. Oct 17 to 28, 2016.
33. Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, Canada. Sep 5 to 30, 2016.
32. ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Jul 18, 2016.
31. Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. May 18 to 20, 2016.

30. ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Apr 11 to 15, 2016.
29. University of Innsbruck. Nov 16, 2015.
28. Institute for Complex Quantum Systems, Ulm University, Germany. Nov 5 to 6, 2015.
27. UAB and ICFO. Sep 28 to 29, 2015.
26. ICFO, Barcelona. Aug 17 to 21, 2015.
25. Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Hannover, Germany. Jul 14 to 17, 2015.
24. University of Innsbruck, Austria. Jul 17, 2015.
23. University of Innsbruck, Austria. Mar 27, 2015.
22. University of Sydney, Australia. Jan 8 to 9 and 19 to 20, 2015.
21. Center for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK. Oct 6 to 10, 2014.
20. Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, UC Berkeley, California, USA. Apr 20 to May 1, 2014.
19. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Apr 7 to 11, 2014.
18. IQOQI and University of Innsbruck, Austria. Mar 3 to 5, 2014.
17. CWI Amsterdam, Netherlands. Feb 10 to 12, 2014.
16. Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, Canada. Nov 11 to 17, 2013.
15. ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Oct 31, 2013.
14. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Catalonia. Oct 28 to 30, 2013.
13. IQOQI and UIBK, Innsbruck, Austria. Jun 11 to 12, 2013.
12. Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, Canada. Feb 25 to Mar 1, 2013.
11. Physikzentrum der RWTH Aachen, Germany. Nov 5 to 7, 2012.
10. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. Oct 15 to 19, 2012.
9. SISSA, Trieste, Italy. May 23 to 26, 2012.
8. ICFO, Barcelona, Catalonia. Apr 16 to 17, 2012.
7. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. Feb 13 to 24, 2012.
6. Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Trieste, Italy. Feb 21 to 25, 2011.
5. MPQ, Garching, Germany. Oct 11 to 15, 2010.
4. Gravity group, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Jul 17 to 31, 2010.
3. MPQ, Garching, Germany. Aug 23 to 26, 2009.
2. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. 28 Jul to Aug 1, 2008.
1. Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI), Innsbruck. Mar 10 to 13, 2007.

TEACHING

2023 [Zertifikat Lehrkompetenz](#) (Certificate of Teaching Competence) at the University of Innsbruck.
Thesis: *Beyond praise or rebuke: Teaching encouragement — An Adlerian philosophy for teaching*

Selection of lectures held:

- Theory of Information and Codification (Lecture and Exercises), 3rd trimester 2023/24, UPF (in Catalan and English).
- Mathematics and Computation (Lecture), Winter term 2022/23, UIBK (in English).
- Paradoxes (Lecture), Summer term 2022 (in English).
- Computational complexity for physicists (Lecture), Winter term 2020/21 and 2021/22, UIBK (in English).
- Mathematical Methods for Physicists for future teachers (Lecture), Summer term 2020, UIBK (in German).
- Mathematical Methods I (Exercises), Summer term 2019 and 2021, UIBK (in German).
- Theoretical Quantum Information (Lecture+Exercises), Winter term 2018/19 and 2019/20, UIBK (in English).
- Theoretical Physics II–Quantum Physics (Exercises), Summer term 2009, UIBK (in German).
- Theoretical Physics I–Classical Mechanics (Exercises), Winter term 2008/09 and 2010/11, UIBK (in German).

SUPERVISION

All theses were completed with the best grade (1.0) and supervised at University of Innsbruck.

- PhD Theses:
 - Tobias Reinhart (since 2021). *Universality in theoretical physics computer science and general complex systems*.
 - Andreas Klingler (2020–2024). *Tensor approximations with invariance, positivity and approximations*.
 - Mirte van der Eyden (2020–2024). *Where tensors meet positivity: A computational complexity perspective*.
- Master Theses:
 - Benjamin Engel (2022–2024).
 - Inga Valentiner-Branth (2020–2022, de facto co-supervised with [Tim Netzer](#)).
 - Joshua Graf (2019–2021, de facto co-supervised Tim Netzer).
 - Anna Lina Vandr  (2019–2020, de facto supervised by [Marcelo Terra Cunha](#)).
 - David Drexel (2019–2020).
 - Andreas Klingler (2019–2020, de facto co-supervised with Tim Netzer).
 - Matt Hoogsteder Riera (2018–2020, de facto co-supervised with Tim Netzer).
 - Maria Balanz -Juand  (2017–2018).

SERVICE

- Program Committees
 - [SemSpace'21](#) Program Committee member, held online, Jun 9 to 12, 2021.
 - [TQC'20](#) Program Committee member, held online from Riga, Jun 9 to 12, 2020.
 - [QIP'15](#) Program Committee member, held in Sydney, Jan 12 to 16, 2015.
 - [Quantum Computation, Quantum Information and the Exact Sciences](#) Program Committee member, held in Munich, Jan 30 to 31, 2015.
- Organisation
 - [Analytical and Combinatorial Methods in Quantum Information Theory II](#), Edinburgh, organised with Hamza Fawzi, Ivan Todorov and Andreas Winter. Jul 24 to 28, 2023.
 - [Què és l'art?](#) Palau Macaya, Barcelona, organised with Josep Ramoneda. Jun 14 to 15, 2023.
 - [Measurement-Based Quantum Computation, Learning and Agency](#), conference in honor of Hans Briegel's 60th birthday, [Obergurgl](#), Austrian Alps, organised with Vedran Dunjko, Wolfgang Dür and Robert Raussendorf. Aug 29 to Sep 2, 2022.
 - [Random Tensors and Related Topics](#), [CIRM Marseille](#), organised with Stephan Dartois, Cécilia Lancien, Luca Lionni and Ion Nechita. Mar 14 to 18, 2022.
 - Joint group retreat of the [Algebra Group](#) and [our group](#) in [Maria Waldrast](#). Feb 20 to 22, 2020.
 - MPQ Theory Workshop 2014 in Passau, Germany. Nov 26 to 29, 2014. And MPQ Theory Workshop 2013 in Kitzbühel, Austria. Dec 11 to 14, 2013.
- Member of 13 Master Thesis committees, 1 PhD Thesis committee, 2 Habilitation committees and 1 Hiring committee at the University of Innsbruck.
- Referee for Quantum, Physical Review X, Physical Review A, Journal of Statistical Physics, New Journal of Physics, Scientific Reports, Journal of Physics A, Quantum Information Processing.

OUTREACH & OTHERS

- [XIII Fòrum FemCAT: Quina Catalunya projectem pel 2044?](#) Taula per la Innovació i Emprenedoria, amb Àngels Fitó, Ramon Pastor i Israel Ruiz. Petit Palau de la Música, Barcelona. Nov 12, 2024.
- Our group participated in the [Tag der Physik](#) (2024, 2023 and 2022) and the [Lange Nacht der Forschung](#) (2022) with a stand entitled *Haben alle schwere Probleme eine effiziente Lösung? A million dollar question!*
- Proud member of [Think MINT – Mädchen wollen wissen!](#)
- Dialogue with [Prof. Anna Sanpera](#) (ICREA & UAB), [Barcelona Alumni Global Summit](#), organised by [SciTech DiploHub](#). Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Barcelona. Dec 27, 2019.
- [Young Science Botschafterin](#) of the Young Science Zentrum, Austria.