CV

The nominal steps

- 2004 - 2010: Physics at RWTH Aachen, Germany (Diploma)
- 2008 - 2012: Business and Economics at RWTH Aachen (MBA)
- 2010 - 2014: PhD in Astrophysics at Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 2015 - 2018: Postdoc and DFG Fellow at University of California, Irvine, USA
- 2018 - 2019: Emmy-Noether Research Group Leader,
  HU Berlin, Germany
- Since 2019: Professor of Astroparticle Physics,
  FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, Staff scientist at DESY

- Other things:
  - Married since 2015
  - Two children (2 and 6 years old)

CV

The story behind the CV

- Really didn't know what to study. Luxury problem, graduated top of my high school so I had all the options.
- Settled for physics, because it seemed like a challenge. Went to Aachen, because I didn't like to go to Bavaria. (I am from the North)
- Did my Master's in Exotic Physics with the Pierre Auger Observatory, because I thought the professor was one of the 'good guys'. (I was head of the student union, I knew too many 'bad guys'.)
- Went to an Auger collaboration meeting with my Master thesis, had 3 PhD position offers after that. Went to Nijmegen with Jörg Hörandel because I liked the spirit of the group. Worked on radio detection of air showers, despite being told: "Don't go into radio, they always fight and don't know if it works."
- Turns out it works, and I have a very successful PhD, with many publications
- Wanted to continue with radio, but thought neutrinos were coolers. Met a guy in Erice who talked about ARIANNA, I was skeptical, but intrigued. Colleague put me in contact with Steve Barwick, visited California, liked the place. Wrote three grant applications, got one. Declined "job in the real world"
- Got married, because I convinced my husband to go to the US with me, but you need to be married

CV

The story behind the CV

- Applied all my PhD knowledge to ARIANNA, learned a lot of new things, but also taught the neutrino community something. Wrote the current standard tool for radio neutrino simulations.
- Went to Antarctica. Didn't go a second time, because I was pregnant. Any time is as bad as any other time.
- Went to 2 faculty interviews (4 and 7 months pregnant), handed in my Emmy-Noether Grant (5 years, 1.5 Mio EUR, 8 months pregnant). Defended my Emmy-Noether with a baby of 3 months. Got all three.
- DESY offered a tenured position to keep me in Germany with FAU Erlangen as university partner.
  The key people to come up with that packet all attended a very nice workshop at Weizmann with me at 5 months pregnant. (Which was also the venue where the MM school was cooked up, the first steps towards a large radio neutrino detector, … pretty good workshop ;))
- Moved to Berlin, started RNO-G together with Abby Vieregg, had child number 2, got involved in IceCube-Gen2, …
- Was involved in 6 grant applications that were declined, 3 granted, 4 still pending.

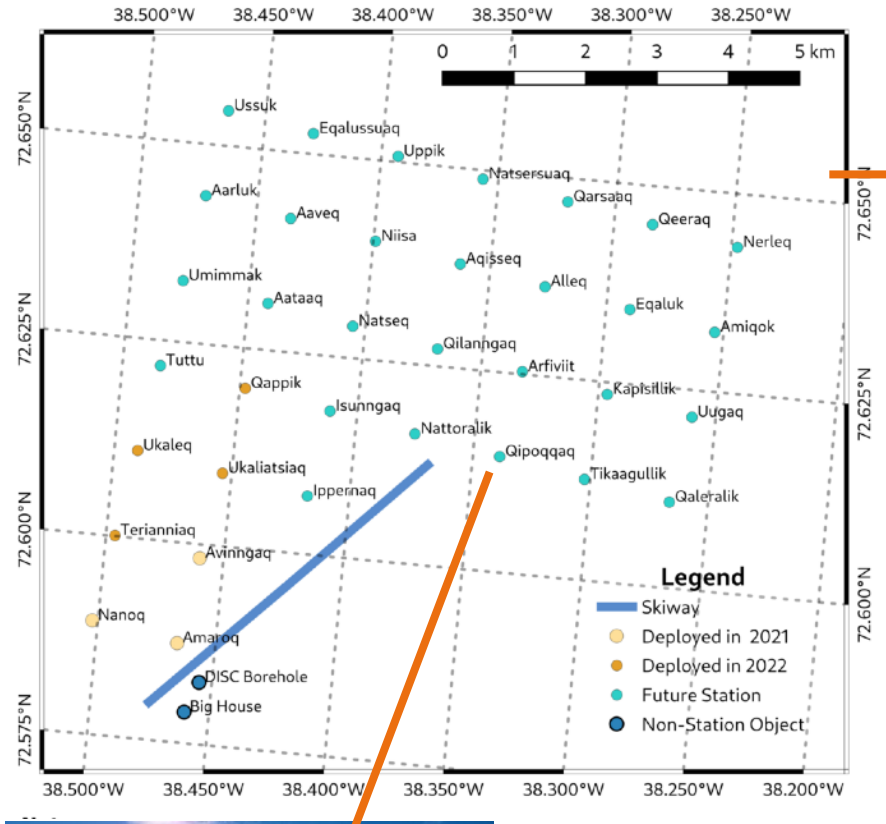
What do you do exactly?

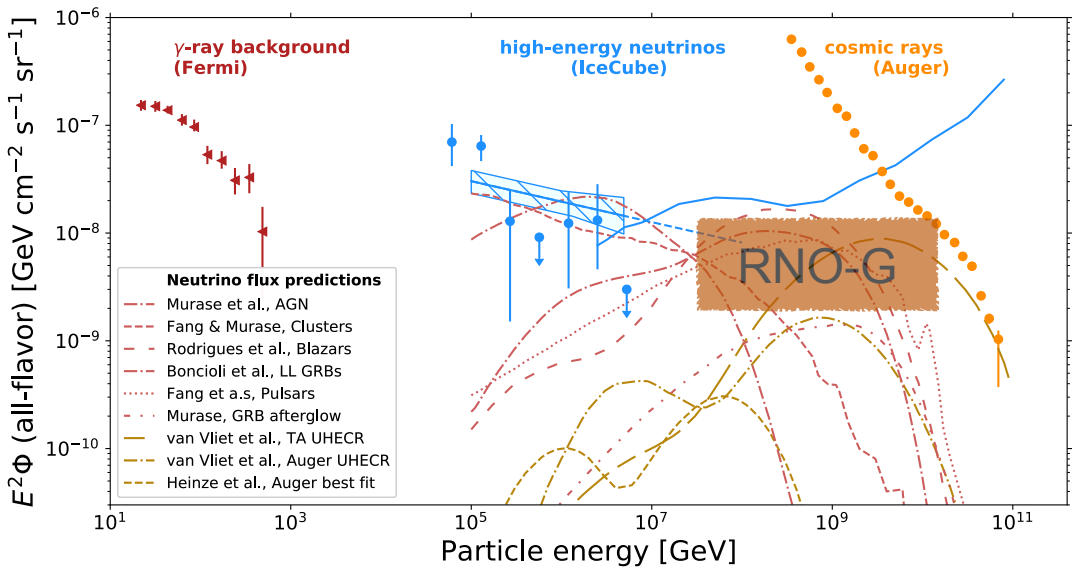
(that is a question that I was given), roughly ranked in order of time spent

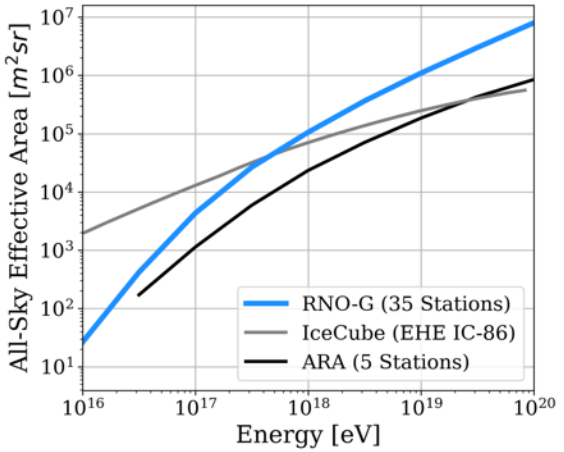
- Lead the radio group (currently 4 PhD students, 2 postdocs, 5 undergraduates)
  - Talk to people, think along in their scientific questions, advise, help write papers, …
- Lead the effort to build the Radio Neutrino Observatory Greenland (RNO-G)
  - Organize the collaboration calls, make sure that we are not dropping the ball on anything, write proposals and papers, project documentation, talk to people, …
- Work on getting IceCube-Gen2 funded
  - Lead the Radio Working Group (organize work and calls), L2 manager, write project documents
- DESY ‘duties’
  - Serve in committees (prizes, searches, strategy), be in staff meetings, attend seminars
- Teach: Every year teach 6 months at Erlangen University (e.g. Intro to Astroparticle Physics)
- Work on my side projects, LOFAR, SKA, …
- Give Talks: Colloquia, at conferences, at workshops, political meetings

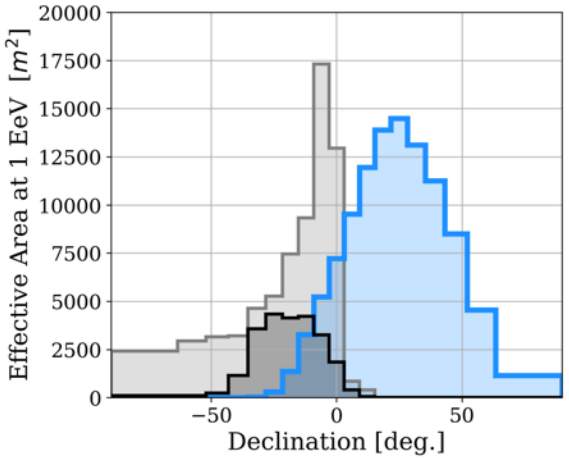
Main project: Build Radio Neutrino Observatory-Greenland

Find Neutrinos > 10 PeV









Name 3 things you like and 3 you don’t like of your current job

Not sure that I can stick to 3

- I get to work with smart people, who are always critical and informed — this makes for exciting lunch conversations, as well as good science
- I get to build instruments that will teach us about the Universe
- I work internationally, I have colleagues and friends all over the globe

- I am not always in charge of my own agenda, too many meetings that you have to attend
- The international work means that lots of evenings are spent in phone calls with the US — it does interfere with personal time
- All those smart people have an opinion about everything and tend to be perfectionists — so it is sometimes incredibly difficult just to wrap something up that is at 90%

Which skills you acquired during your PhD are still relevant for your job?

(soft-skills/technical skills)

- **Technical skills**
  - Statistics
  - Programming (at least general structuring of software and software planning, not the actual programming in a specific language)
  - All my accumulated knowledge about how to build, calibrate and analyze data from a radio detector

- **Soft-skills**
  - Project/People organization
  - People/Conflict management
  - How to give an exciting talk, aka how to not bore people
  - Self-organization

Which new skills you developed since your PhD?

List the most important ones

- Being the ‘boss’ of people is different when you are actually one instead of learning about it in a seminar
- Know when to still be as impatient like I was during my PhD and when to exercise mature patience
- How to do grant reporting, do finance planning, estimate costs of things that I don’t have a clue about

Any suggestion you would like to give?

Application process (CV hints, dos and don’ts in interviews), networking, career advices,...

- Do not work with people that you don’t like / respect as a person / wouldn’t mind being in a car for an hour with / …
- Be yourself! People that interview you will (often) know if you pretend to be someone you are not and you won’t be happy somewhere where you cannot be yourself.
- Science is great, but it is also not the greatest job in the world.
- At every career step, consider all options and never settle for some scientific position that you don’t feel strongly about that it is the right move just because it is in science.