



?



**ETH**

My transition to industry  
by Sebastian Daemgen (Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH)

**ZEISS**

**I am happy**

# Me 4 years ago...

Postdoc with 3+2 years experience

Observational astronomer

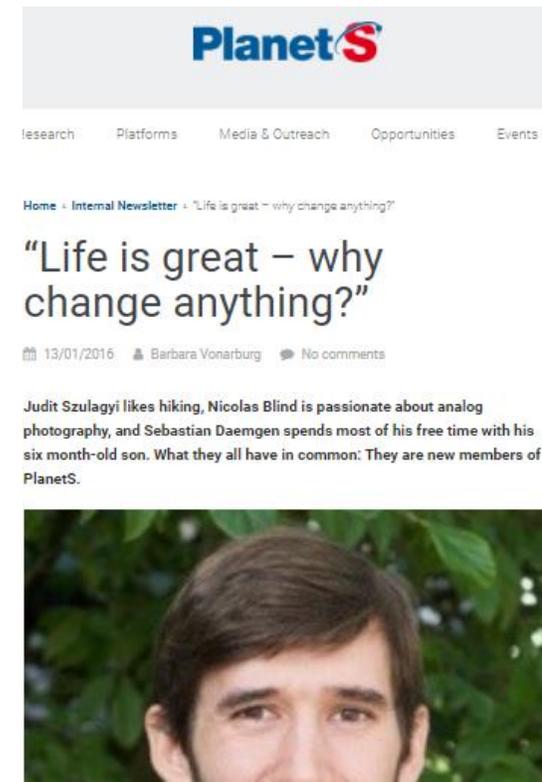
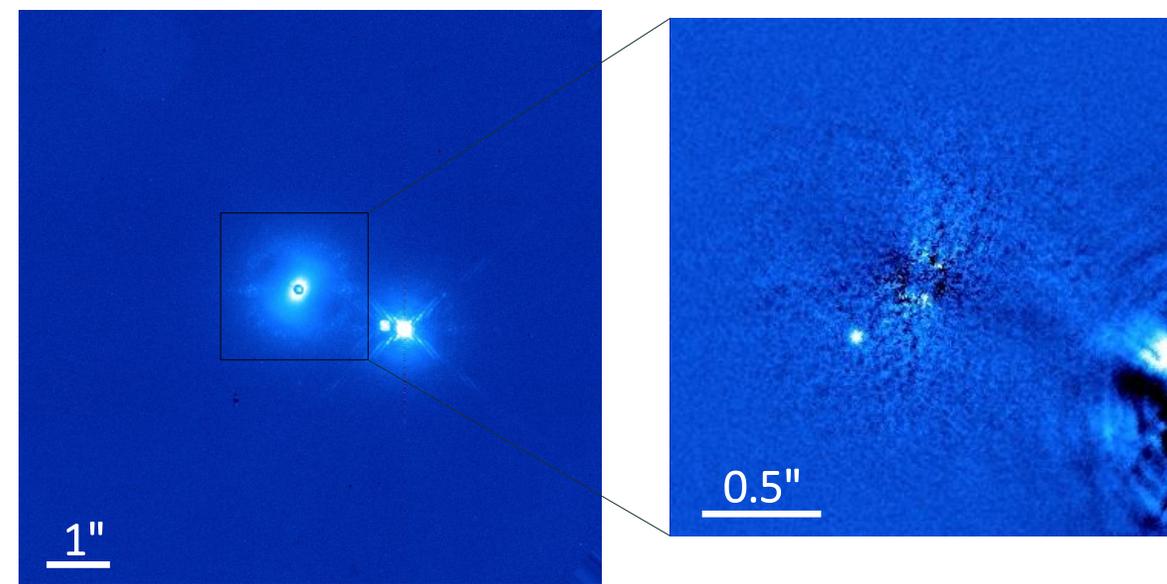
Infrared + sub-mm at high-angular resolution

Direct imaging of exoplanets and protoplanetary disks in binary stars

Adaptive optics, angular differential imaging, IFU spectroscopy

PI of a promising long-term project (ViBES)

Contributing to a productive exoplanet collaboration (SHINE)



# Me 4 years ago...

Lived in Heidelberg, Tucson, Munich, Toronto, Zürich

Married to a biologist

Expecting my 2nd child

Working nights, weekends, frequent international travel

Ideals:

Research scientists work together to advance knowledge  
good results count more than self-marketing



# Where do I put my energy?

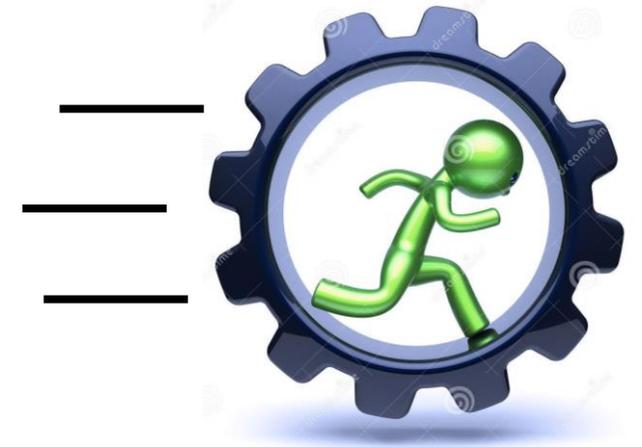
Fit into the system



Change the system



Leave the system



**Can I imagine doing  
something different?**

**→ absolutely!**

# Getting prepared



Start early

>1 year for self-reflection  
and market research



Consider your options

What am I looking for?  
~~Who would be interested in hiring me?~~  
What are my fallback options?



Look around

Online portals  
Career fairs  
Ask friends with industry experience



Prepare

Translate skills to industry lingo / CV check  
Linkedin / webpage  
Networking / Mentor from industry

**“Just because you made a  
good plan, doesn’t mean  
that’s what’s gonna happen.”**

**Taylor Swift**

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# Me, 4 years later

Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH

Developing metrology for EUV Lithography optics

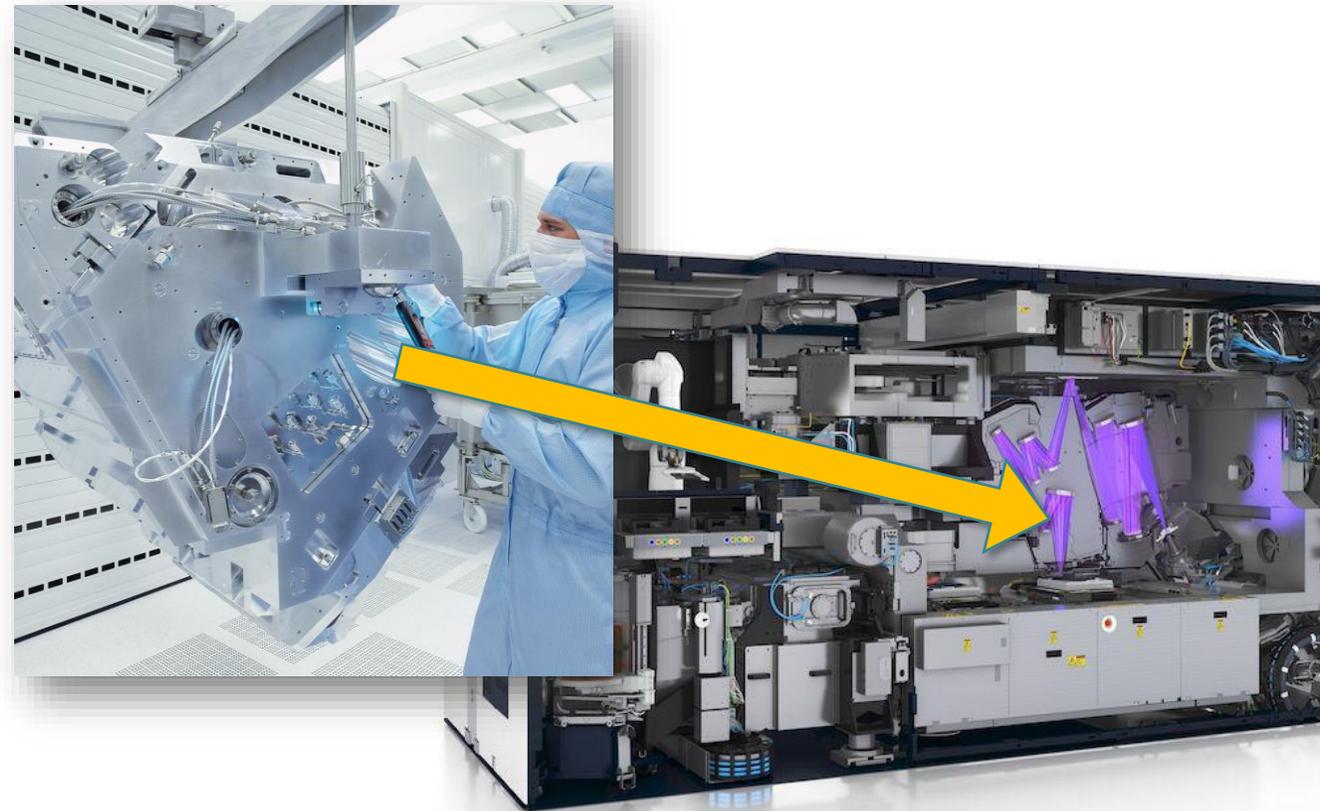
Work package leader for data processing

Most used skills:

- Image processing with Matlab

- HPC computing

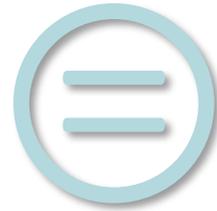
- Project management



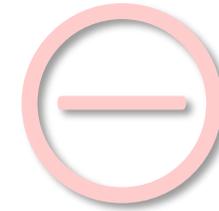
# What was better before, what's better now?



Projects = project managers + members + common goals  
Healthy life/work balance  
Better pay  
Limited travel



Highly motivated super-smart people around me  
Inspiring technology  
Demanding and diverse day-to-day work



I neither choose goals nor tools  
Less responsibility  
Small town (→commute)  
Limited travel

I have no conclusions for you

