



?



ETH

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



I am happy

Me 4 years ago...

Postdoc with 3+2 years experience

Observational astronomer

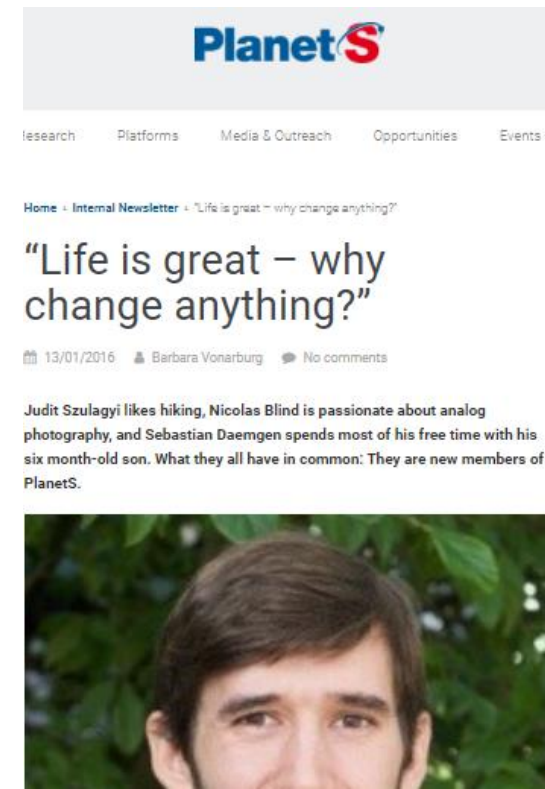
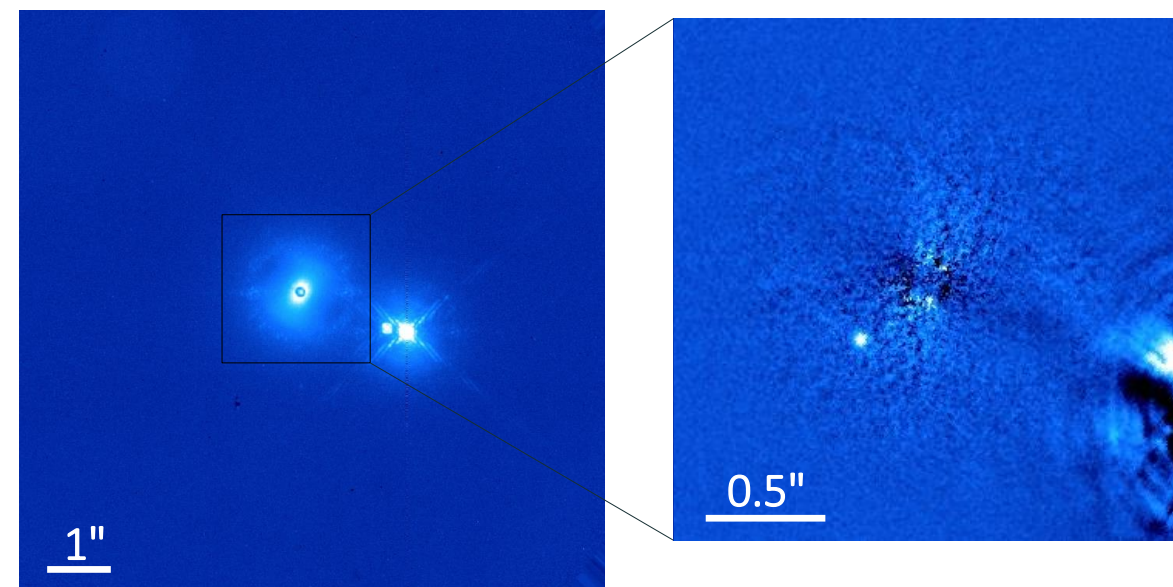
Infrared + sub-mm at high-angular resolution

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?

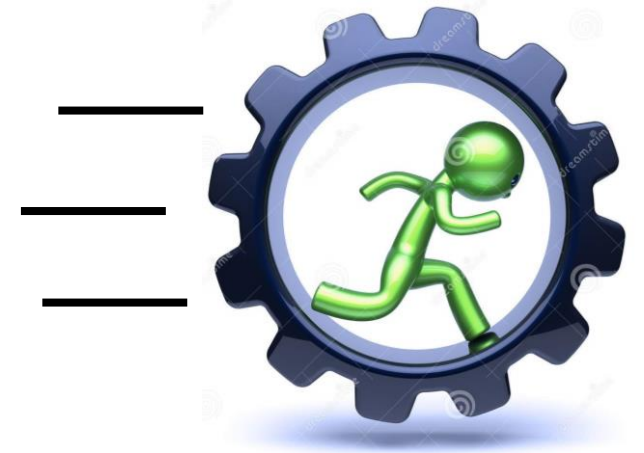
Fit into the system



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

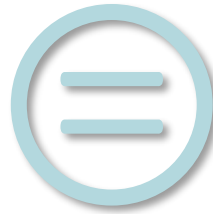
- Project management



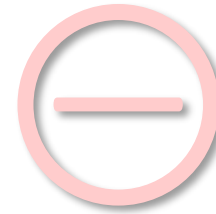
What was better before, what's better now?



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 