

David Wake, Ph.D., UNC-Asheville Lecturer and Lookout Observatory Director

David Wake is an astrophysicist who studies galaxy formation and the growth of structure in the Universe. Much of his research focuses on how the properties of galaxies are governed by their relationship to their host dark matter halos and how that changes over time. David specializes in analyzing data from large surveys of many thousands to hundreds of thousands of galaxies as well as designing such surveys.

After his Ph.D., David worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Durham University in the UK, before moving to Yale University as a Research Scientist. He then moved back to the UK to take up a senior research fellowship at the Open University before moving to UNC Asheville in 2017.



At UNCA David continues his research alongside undergraduate teaching and community education. His main research projects at the moment are focusing on data from the Hubble Space Telescope and the MaNGA part of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV. He teaches introductory astronomy to students from across the university, as well as upper-level classes that make up the astronomy minor, and he mentors students in independent research projects. As Lookout Observatory Director, he oversees all operations of UNCA's on-campus observatory, including coordinating student docents in the delivery of public science programs that bring over 2,000 members of the wider Asheville community to campus annually.

Education

- Ph.D., Liverpool John Moores University 2004
- M.Sc., Queen Mary University of London 1999
- B.Sc., University of Nottingham 1996