

Biography



Giuseppe Mercurio was born in Cinquefrondi (Reggio Calabria, Italy) in 1984. He studied Physics Engineering at Politecnico di Milano where he obtained Bachelor and Master of Science. He carried out his Master Thesis at the Department of Physics of Politecnico di Milano with Prof. G. Consolati studying the specific free volume of polymeric materials (in particular their nanovoids) and its relation to the glass transition temperature, by means of dilatometry and positron annihilation lifetime spectroscopy. This work was published in *Chemical Physics Letters*. For his Ph.D. Giuseppe Mercurio moved to Forschungszentrum Jülich in the group of Prof. F. S. Tautz. His research focused on the investigation of the interfaces between organic molecules and single-crystalline metal surfaces by means of the normal incidence x-ray standing wave (NIXSW) technique. During his Ph.D. he performed experiments at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble. Giuseppe Mercurio improved the analysis of NIXSW data in order to obtain a more detailed geometry of the adsorbed molecules and thereby a deeper insight into the interactions at the molecule/metal interfaces. The study of two prototypical molecular switches that are good candidates for functionalized surfaces was published in *Physical Review Letters* and *Chemical Physics Letters*. Two more publications were recently submitted and five additional ones based on his Dissertation are currently being prepared. He also developed a free and open-source program *Torricelli* for NIXSW data analysis. His work was presented in several national and international conferences. Giuseppe Mercurio received his Ph.D. with Distinction from RWTH Aachen University in July 2012. In September 2012 he was awarded the Max Auwärter Prize for his Ph.D. Thesis. Presently, he is working as a Postdoc in Forschungszentrum Jülich in the group of Prof. F. S. Tautz.