Clara Saraceno was born in Argentina in 1983 and studied at the Institut d’Optique in Palaiseau, France. After completing her studies she first went into industry from 2007 to 2008, working for a laser manufacturer (Coherent Inc.) in the USA. She then continued her academic training in Switzerland, completing a doctorate in Physics at ETH Zurich in 2012 which brought her, amongst others, the 2013 QEOD Thesis Prize, awarded by the Electronics and Optics Division of the European Physical Society. After graduation, Saraceno has worked at ETH Zurich and the University of Neuchatel as a postdoctoral researcher. Most recently, her research work on high-power ultrafast lasers earned her the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2015). In 2016, she was appointed as Professor in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology in the Ruhr University Bochum, where she currently works on ultrafast laser physics and terahertz technology.