Prof. dr. Alessandro Laio is full professor in Statistical and Biological Physics at the International School for Advanced Studies (Sissa), Trieste, and is the president of CECAM, Lausanne.

He took a master degree in nuclear engineering in Torino, and then, in 1999, a PhD in condensed matter physics. His research work is mainly focused on the development of techniques aimed at simulating rare events and metastability in complex many body systems (for example phase transitions, chemical reactions, protein folding). One of his most important contribution in the field is metadynamics, an approach which allows estimating efficiently the free energy in many dimensions.

He is also working on the development of techniques for analyzing complex data landscapes. In this field he has recently developed Density Peak Clustering, an approach which has become in a short time a popular data analysis tool. He has published 120 papers, which received more than 15,000 citations. His h-index is 48.