

Curriculum Vitae of Prof. Dr. Amina Helmi
Kapteyn Astronomical Institute
University of Groningen
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Date and place of birth: 6/10/1970, Bahia Blanca (Argentina)
Nationality: Argentina/Netherlands

Education

PhD in Astronomy (2000), The formation of the Galactic halo Leiden University (“Cum Laude”)
MSc in Astronomy (1994), specialization in Theoretical Physics, University of La Plata (9.94/10)

Work experience since completing PhD

Professor Dynamics, Structure and Evolution of the Milky Way, U. Groningen	2003 – to-date
NOVA Postdoctoral Fellow, U. Utrecht:	2002 – 2003
Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Inst. for Astrophysics:	2001 – 2002
Postdoctoral Fellow, U. La Plata:	2000

Research Interests: Milky Way; Galactic archaeology; dwarf galaxies; dark matter

Honours and prizes

Dirk Brouwer Career Award, 2021
Knight in the Order of the Dutch Lion, 2021
Spinoza Prize, 2019
Suffrage Science Award, Physical Sciences and Engineering, 2019
Member, Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW, elected in 2017)
Member, Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities (KHMW, elected in 2016)
VICI research grant (Innovation Scheme, NWO) 2015
Pastoor Schmeits prize, 2010
ERC Starting Grant (European Science Foundation) 2009
Member, The Young Academy, Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (2007-2011)
Member, International Astronomical Union
Christiaan Huygens Prize, 2004
VIDI research grant (Innovation Scheme, NWO) 2003
CJ Kok prize, University of Leiden, 2000
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award, 1995 and 1997

Distinguished Lectureships

Halley Lecture, Oxford, 2022; Biermann Lecturer, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, 2022
Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture, 2021; Merle Kingsley Distinguished Visitor at Caltech (2020*); Boris Garfinkel Lecture, Yale (2020*); Niels-Bohr Lecture, Copenhagen, 2020 (*postponed due to Covid19)

Research output ([Link to publication list ADS](#))

Author or co-author of 268 refereed publications in international journals.
Author or co-author of more than 190 conference proceedings and other academic publications.
Approximately 65,800/74,800 citations and H-index 102/112 according to ADS/Google Scholar.

Invited reviews and colloquia

Total number of invited reviews given worldwide since 2003: 79
Total number of colloquia given worldwide since 2003: 34

Teaching experience

Lecturer of more than 8 different courses in the Bachelor and MSc of Astronomy
Supervision of 20 BSc students’ theses and 10 MSc students’ theses

Grants, scholarships and prizes

A total of 22 grants and prizes received for more than 28 MEUR (with more than 7,1MEUR as PI)

International academic activities (most important)

Committees:

- Member, ERC Selection Panel PE9 for Starting Grants
- Member search committee next ESO DG (2025)
- Scientific representative for the Netherlands at ESO Council, 2018 – 2024
- Senior Advisory Committee 'Voyage 2050' member, ESA, 2019 – 2021
- Co-Chair, ESO's OPC, Galaxies panel, 2012 – 2013
- Member, Science Advisory Group to ING director, 2012 – 2015
- Member, Astronomy Working Group, ESA, 2007 – 2010
- Member, ESO/ESA Working Group on the Milky Way, 2007 -2008
- Member, ASTRONET European Science Vision working group, panel B (Galaxies)

Projects:

- PI of the LR Halo Survey, and member of Science Steering Comm., 4MOST, 2011 – 2022
- Lead of "Validation of multi-D Gaia data" work packages, CU9, Gaia, 2013 – to-date
- Member, Science team of WEAVE project, 2012 – to-date
- Member, RAVE Executive Board, 2003 – 2018
- Co-lead, Milky Way Science Working Group, Euclid Mission, 2011 – 2013
- Member, 'Chemical Tagging working group' (seeds for WEAVE and 4MOST), 2007

Other:

- SOC member of more than 20 international meetings, incl. IAU JD/Symposia
- Referee for grant allocation for UK, US, Canada, Germany, Japan, Argentina, Chile, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, ERC Starting, ERC Advanced and ERC Synergy Grants
- Referee of Nature, Science, ApJ, ApJL, AJ, MNRAS, A&A, PASA, PRD, PRL, Phys. Lett. A & B, JCAP
- Referee of PhD thesis in Oxford, Leiden, Groningen, Potsdam, Bologna, Barcelona, Tenerife

National activities (most important)

Administration:

- Management Team of the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, 2025 -
- Scientific Director NOVA (Netherlands Top Research School for Astronomy), 2022 - 2023
- Deputy Scientific Director NOVA (Netherlands Top Research School for Astronomy), 2019 –2020
- Leader "Sectorplan" Astronomy (resulted in permanent funding for NOVA from 2023 onwards)
- Chair NOVA Research Committee, 2017 – 2018
- Research Coordinator of Network 1: "Cosmology and Galaxies" for NOVA, 2013 – 2018

Service membership:

- Management Board of the Domain Exact and Natural Sciences, KNAW: 2025-
- Advisory Board Leiden Observatory, 2026 -
- Selection Committee new members KNAW (Domain Exact and Natural Sciences): 2018 – 2022
- Christian Huygensprize Jury, Astronomy Chair: 2018 -
- Grant Assessment Committee for Astronomy, NWO: 2004 –
- Jury member of the 'Nationale Wetenschapsagenda', KNAW: 2015
- University Committee for Academic Practice, representative of the Fac. of Science (2014–2016)

Academic staff supervised

Former PhD students (20): E. Wempe, O. Koop, E. Dodd, A. Vishwanathan*, H. Koppelman, J. Hagen, P. van Oirschot*, H. Tian, T. K. Starkenburg, J. T. Buist, G. Monari, M. Breddels, C. Vera-Ciro, E. Starkenburg*, F. Gomez, Y. S. Li, A. Villalobos, G. Battaglia*, M. Williams*, P. Re-Fiorentin* (*shared)

Current PhD students (2): H. Woudenberg, E. Benitez-Walz

Former Postdocs (14): T. Callingham, T. Matsuno, E. Balbinot; S. Khanna, T. Ruiz- Lara, D. Massari, L. Posti, J. Veljanoski, M. Breddels, S. Jin, R. Sanderson, M. T. Antoja, L. Sales, M. Smith, E. Ripamonti*

Current Postdocs (1): E. Ceccarelli

Outreach activities (incomplete summary of the last 5 years)

- Regular appearances in the media:
 - Personal interviews: NRC, de Volkskrant, Algemeen Dagblad, Trouw, Dagblad van het Noorden, Elsevier Weekblad (*Dutch*); El Pais, El Mundo, Clarin (*Spanish*); Sky and Telescope, Scientific American (*English*); Der Spiegel (*German*); GEO (*German*)
 - TV: Nieuwsuur (NPO2, prime national), OOG (local), NHK Cosmic Frontier (Japan), BBC (UK)
 - Several podcasts and videos (e.g. wetenschap.nu; ESA TV; Kosmos series, Chinese bilibili.com)
 - Radio: Nieuws en co (NPO1), BNR, Onderweg naar morgen (NPO1), OOG Radio, BBC
- Public Lectures: typically more than 5 requests per year, of which I honour 2-3, some highlights include Fundación BBVA (Madrid), KNAW, KNG, Gala van de Astronomie, Paradiso