

2021 Alison Levick Lecture

Speaker Bio

Catherine Heymans



Catherine Heymans is the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the GCCL Institute at the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. She specialises in observing the dark side of our Universe using deep sky observations to test whether we need to go beyond Einstein with our current theory of gravity. Catherine has co-authored over 200 articles in scientific journals and written the popular science book “The Dark Universe”. Catherine shares her research with the public, both virtually through a Massive Open Online Course ‘AstroTech’ which has attracted over 40,000 students worldwide, and in person through a wide range of events including Art, Music and Science Festivals. In recognition of her work she was awarded the 2017 Darwin Lectureship from the Royal Astronomical Society and the 2018 Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award.

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