Royal Astronomical Society

Dr Hannah Wakeford – Fowler Award (A)

Dr Hannah Wakeford is a world-leading exoplanet researcher who has made significant contributions to the understanding of exoplanet atmospheres through both observational programmes and theoretical studies.

By combining theoretical understanding with observational programmes and data analysis, Dr Wakeford has significantly advanced the field of exoplanet atmospheres, based on observations of hot Jupiter-type planets such as WASP-39b. This work on the composition of exoplanet atmospheres and of the properties of their clouds has resulted in data analysis techniques that are widely used in the field.

Dr Wakeford has been successful in obtaining observing time on both the Hubble and JWST, leading to groundbreaking discoveries, including the first measurements of the compositions of clouds in transiting exoplanet atmospheres. Publications include several definitive works on the transmission spectra of the atmospheres of a number of exoplanets, most recently the discovery of quartz clouds in the atmosphere of WASP-17b.

These significant contributions to the advancement of our knowledge of exoplanet atmospheres are backed up by a commitment to supporting and encouraging younger researchers, and to communicating science to the wider public through books, podcasts, and radio and TV appearances.

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