

Citation for the 2018 RAS 'A' Fowler Award: Dr Amelie Saintonge

The 2018 Fowler Award for Astronomy is awarded to Dr Amelie Saintonge.

Dr Amelie Saintonge is a leading observational astronomer and has made invaluable contributions to our understanding of the cycling of gas in and out of galaxies, and the relation between the gas content and star formation. Over the past few years, she has led the scientific interpretation of the largest systematic study of the atomic and molecular gas content in galaxies.

Using these datasets, she demonstrated that high redshift galaxies have high star formation rates because of their large gas content, rather than because of high merger rates. More recently she produced the definitive census of the molecular and atomic gas content of galaxies across the entire local galaxy population. This led to the derivation of fundamental scaling laws of gas and star formation, providing the benchmark tests for theorists and observers to compare with; work which has been transformative for the field.

Dr Saintonge is a recognised leader in the field of gas and star formation in galaxies. She has also taken a leading role in assuring UK commitment to the JCMT telescope as both a member of the JCMT executive committee and through her leadership of the JINGLE survey of dust and molecular gas in the nearby Universe. Her insightful interpretation of the wealth of results from the COLD GASS survey has led to her playing a fundamental role in reshaping the currently favoured picture for galaxy evolution.

For these reasons, Dr Saintonge is awarded the Fowler Award.