

+ Researchers

More women astronomers who have contributed to our knowledge of galaxies:



Françoise Combes
(France, 1952)

An Astronomer at the Paris Observatory, Combes is an expert in galactic dynamics and the effects of gravitational interaction between them. Her models have made it possible to explain a number of aspects of their formation and evolution. She has been a member of the French Academy of Sciences since 2004.



Claudia Megan Urry
(United States)

Director of Yale University's Physics Department in the United States, her work has focussed on active galaxies, which have an extraordinarily bright nucleus produced by the accretion of material towards a super massive black hole at their centre.

Guinevere Kauffman
(United States, 1968)

American astrophysicist working at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. Her research has found connections between the predictions of theoretical models of galaxy formation and structures in the Universe and observable properties of galaxies.



Beatrice Tinsley
(England, 1941-
New Zealand, 1981)

A pioneer of the theoretical study of the evolution of galaxies, she created models for computing how different groups of stars in a galaxy age and the effect that they have on observable properties. Despite her brief career (she died at 40), she published over 40 articles and received international recognition for her original contributions to the theory of galaxy evolution.



Margaret Brubidge
(England, 1919)

Amongst her most noteworthy contributions are her model for reproducing the synthesis of elements heavier than hydrogen, helium and lithium in the nucleus of stars in a series of nuclear reactions known as nucleosynthesis. She was the first female Director of the Greenwich Royal Observatory (England). She played a fundamental role in developing key projects and instrumentation for the Hubble space telescope.



SHE ASTRONOMER

Millions of suns together

A galaxy is a system of stars, gas clouds, planets, dust, dark matter and perhaps dark energy.

They are very varied in form: they can be ellipses, spirals or irregularly shaped and the number of stars they contain varies greatly. There are dwarf galaxies with a few thousand million stars and giants that contain over a billion.

There is evidence to suggest that at the centre of many galaxies there is an enormously massive black hole.

Specifically, the Milky Way, the galaxy in which our Solar System is located, seems to have a black hole at its nucleus with a mass of four million solar masses.

