

BIO-PROFILE (232 words)

Dr Lucyna Kedziora-Chudczer was born in Poland, where she studied astronomy at the Jagellonian University in Krakow. After receiving her Master of Astronomy Degree, she moved to Australia, where she completed a PhD on the radio variability of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) at the University of Sydney in 1999.

Soon after obtaining her PhD, Dr Kedziora-Chudczer was awarded an AAO/ATNF Research Fellowship at the Anglo Australian Observatory, where she studied the polarization properties and intraday variability of quasars. In 2003 she was offered the Harry Messel Research Fellowship at the University of Sydney, where she continued her work on the polarization of compact radio sources, while also working on the properties of our local Galactic Interstellar Medium. During this time, she also taught undergraduate courses and supervised PhD projects. In 2009 she moved to the University of New South Wales, where she accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research in planetary and exoplanetary science using spectroscopy and polarimetry. While at UNSW she was involved in the design and construction of the High Precision Polarimetric Instrument (HIPPI), in use at the Anglo Australian Telescope to observe exoplanets and bright stars. She has been a Program Manager with Astronomy Australia Limited since 2019.

Dr Kedziora-Chudczer is a member of the Australian Centre for Astrobiology, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Southern Queensland. She is the Secretary of the Women in Space Chapter.

ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Where do you work, and what is your occupation / position?

I am a Program Manager at Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL). I oversee AAL-funded astronomical research infrastructure projects, including management of the consortium that funds the operations of the Anglo-Australian Telescope.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

The most exciting part of my job is to contribute to our understanding of the universe, by securing funding and developing strategies that help the Australia astronomical community to access cutting-edge instrumentation, and to allocate observing time for new and exciting projects.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The best part of my job is staying connected with the astronomical community and supporting telescope instrumentation projects that lead to new discoveries. It feels good to read news about discoveries that our company helped to enable.

How did you become...

I always wanted to become an astronomer and applied to study astronomy at the Jagellonian University in Krakow. After completing my Master of Astronomy Degree, I moved to Australia and started working part-time at the Anglo Australian Observatory on the analysis of data from Supernova 1987A. I was accepted into a PhD program at the University of Sydney after completing the Master of Science Degree. I researched the radio variability of Active Galactic Nuclei, and completed my PhD in 1999. After working almost 20 years as a researcher in academia, I recently embarked on a new adventure in management.

Any other interest

I am an avid learner and love doing new things. I was always interested in the “big questions”: about the Universe, the origin of life, and its future. I am studying astrobiology and researching extrasolar planets with polarimetry. In my spare time I play with Arduino software, build simple robots, enjoy dancing and playing electric guitar, and listen to metal and operatic rock music.