

BIO-PROFILE (131 words)

Associate Professor Katarina Miljkovic is a planetary scientist with expertise in impact physics, currently holding an ARC DECRA Fellowship at Curtin University. She leads the only Australian research group that is working on the current InSight mission to Mars.

Dr Miljkovic graduated in Astrophysics from the University of Belgrade in Serbia in 2006, and was awarded her PhD from the Open University in the UK in 2010. She then held postdoctoral research positions at MIT in USA, the Institut de Physique du Globe (IPGP) in Paris (France), and Imperial College London in UK, before joining Curtin University (WA) in 2015 as Curtin Research Fellow.

She was awarded the Australian L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science fellowship in 2018 and was named the WA Tall Poppy Young Scientist of the Year in 2019.

ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

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

I am Associate Professor at Curtin University School of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Space Science and Technology Centre.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

I love to work with space missions! Being part of international science teams and tackling cutting edge unknowns in space exploration is very exciting!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Solving puzzles on a daily basis is at the core of my job. I love pushing the boundaries of science and helping to understand how space around us works, how it has evolved, and what its structure is. I study impact events, when rocks from space hit planetary surfaces. This geologic process can tell us about how planetary surfaces formed and how they evolved. Impacts are fun to study and they can also be used as a tool to look into surface and subsurface geology and geophysics of Mars, the Earth and the Moon, and all other solid surfaces in the Solar System.

How did you become...

I was always impressed by the sky above, the Sun and the Moon and the stars. I wanted to learn how the world works, not necessarily limiting my knowledge to the Earth. This is how I got interested in astrophysics, and later on decided to focus on the Solar System.

Any other interest

I enjoy spending time with my little boy and showing him the world we live in.