

REINHARD GENZEL

Curriculum Vitae

Date of Birth: 24th March 1952
Place of Birth: Bad Homburg v.d.H., Germany
Nationality: German
Residence: Munich, Germany and Berkeley, USA
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Present Positions

Director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching, Germany, and Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society
Professor of the Graduate School, Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
Honorary Professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany.

Main Research Interests

Cosmological Formation and Evolution of Galaxies, Massive Black Holes, Star Formation in Galaxies, The Galactic Center, Infrared, Submillimeter and Millimeter Spectroscopy and High Resolution Imaging, Adaptive Optics, Radio and Infrared Spatial Interferometry, Development of Infrared Instrumentation for Ground-Based and Space Telescopes.

Educational Background

1970 Abitur at Bertold Gymnasium in Freiburg, Germany
1975 Diploma in Physics, Physics Department, University of Bonn, Germany
1978 Ph.D. (Dr. rer. nat.) in Physics, University of Bonn: Ph.D. thesis in radio astronomy (interstellar masers) at the Max Planck Institute for Radioastronomy, Bonn, Germany (under Prof. Peter Mezger)

Employment Background

1978-80 Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
1980-82 Miller Fellow University of California, Berkeley, USA
1981-85 Associate Professor, Department of Physics, and Associate Research Astronomer, Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, USA
1985-86 Full Professor of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, USA
since 1986 Director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching, and Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society, Munich, Germany
1987-1999 Visiting Professor, Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, USA
since 1988 Honorary Professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany
1999-2016 Full Professor (25%), Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, USA
since 2017 Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Awards and Honors

- 1970 Alfred Maul Medal, Bertold Gymnasium, Freiburg, Germany
- 1973 Scholarship of the "Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes", Germany
- 1980 Otto Hahn Medal of the Max Planck Society for the Year 1978, Germany
- 1980 Miller Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- 1984 Presidential Young Investigators Award, USA
- 1985 Fellow, American Physical Society, USA
- 1986 Newton Lacy Pierce Prize, American Astronomical Society, USA
- 1990 Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation (DFG), Germany
- 1998 Foreign Member, Académie des Sciences, Paris, France
- 2000 de Vaucouleurs Medal, University of Texas, Austin, USA
- 2000 Foreign Associate, US National Academy of Sciences, USA
- 2000 Janssen Prize, Société Astronomique de France, Paris, France
- 2002 Member of the German Academy of Natural Sciences Leopoldina, Halle, Germany
- 2002 Member of the European Academy of Sciences, Liège, Belgium
- 2003 Stern Gerlach Medal of the German Physical Society (DPG), Germany
- 2003 Member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Munich, Germany
- 2003 Balzan Prize for 'Infrared Astronomy', Bern, Switzerland/Italy
- 2005 Petrie Prize, Canadian Astronomical Society, Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA), Victoria, Canada
- 2007 Einstein Medal, Albert Einstein Society (AEG), Bern, Switzerland
- 2008 Shaw Prize, The Shaw Prize Foundation, Hong Kong, China
- 2009 Premio Galileo, Fondazione Premio Galileo 2000, Firenze, Italy
- 2010 Honorary Doctorate, Leiden University, Leiden, Netherlands
- 2010 Foreign Corresponding Member, Real Academia de Ciencias (Royal Spanish Academy), Madrid, Spain
- 2011 Karl Schwarzschild Medal, German Astronomical Society (AG), Germany
- 2012 Crafoord Prize in Astronomy, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden
- 2012 Tycho Brahe Prize, European Astronomical Society (EAS), Switzerland
- 2012 Foreign Member, Royal Society, London, UK
- 2013 Order pour le Mérite (OPLM), Bonn, Germany
- 2014 Herschel Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, UK
- 2014 Great Cross of Merit (with Star) of Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 Honorary Doctorate (Dr. h. c.), Paris Observatory (OPSPM), Paris, France
- 2014 Harvey Prize in Science and Technology, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
- 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics, jointly with Andrea Ghez, for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
- 2021 Bavarian Maximilian Order for Science and Art
- 2022 Heinrich Hertz Visiting Professorship, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2023 Honorary Doctorate (Dr. h. c.) Université Grenoble Alpes, France
- 2025 Rector's Medal, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Prize Lectures

- 1987 Spring Lecturer, Princeton University, USA
- 1998 Kingsley Professor, Caltech (California Institute of Technology), USA
- 1998 Lyman Spitzer Lecturer, Princeton University, USA
- 2000 Sackler Lecturer, Princeton University, USA
- 2000 Oort Professor, University of Leiden, NL
- 2004 Iben Lecturer, University of Illinois, USA
- 2005 Rossi Lecturer, Arcetri (Astrophysical Observatory), Italy
- 2005 Grubb Parsons Lecturer, University of Durham, UK
- 2005 Wolfgang Pauli Lecturer, 100 years 'annus mirabilis', ETH Zürich, Switzerland
- 2006 Celsius Lecture, University of Uppsala, Sweden

- 2006 Invited Discourse, 26th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2007 George Darwin Lecture, Royal Astronomical Society, London, UK
- 2008 Bishop Lecture, Columbia University, USA
- 2008 Einstein Lecturer, Free University, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany
- 2008 Sackler Lecture, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2009 Svein Rosseland Lecture, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- 2010 Cecelia Payne-Gaposhkin Lecture, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, USA
- 2010 Jansky Lecturer, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, USA
- 2011 West Lecturer, Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
- 2011 Littrow Lecturer, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 Crafoord Prize Lecture, Kungl. Vetenskaps Akademien, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- 2014 Kavli Lecturer, Norwegian Academy of Sciences, Oslo, Norway
- 2015 Harvey Prize Lecturer, Technion, Haifa, Israel
- 2015 Thomas Gold Lectureship in Astronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
- 2015 Solvay Lecturer, The Solvay Institutes, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 Rosenblum Memorial Lecture, University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
- 2020 Nobel Lecture in Physics, Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2021 Hans-Jensen Lecture, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
- 2021 Lindau Public Lecture, Lindau Nobel Laureate Conference, Lindau, Germany
- 2021 Jean Henley Memorial Lecture, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Anasthesiologie and Intensive Medicine, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 ESO celebrating the Nobel Prize of Physics 2020, Chile
- 2023 Bernhard Bolzano Lecture, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Memberships

Academia Europaea (AE)
 Académie des Sciences (Institut de France), Foreign Member
 American Astronomical Society (AAS)
 American Physical Society (APS)
 European Astronomical Society (EAS)
 German Astronomical Society (AG)
 German Physical Society (DPG)
 International Astronomical Union (IAU)
 Royal Society, London (Foreign Member)
 Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences (Real Academia de Ciencias, Foreign Corresponding Member)
 USA Academy of Sciences (NAS), International Member
 Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) Academician Member
 European Academy of Sciences (EurASC) Honorary Member
 Bundesverband mittelständische Wirtschaft e.V.(BVMW)
 Deutsches Museum Munich, Board Member
 Albert Einstein Discovery Center Ulm e.V., Honorary Member

Current Service

Vice Chancellor, Order pour le Mérite (OPLM), Bonn, Germany (since 6/2021)
 Chairman of the Board of Adjudicators, The SHAW Prize Foundation, Hong Kong, China (since 04/2022)
 Chair, SHAW Prize Committee in Astronomy & Member, Board of Adjudicators, Hong Kong, China (-2021)
 Member, IRAM Executive Council, Grenoble, France
 Member of various Visiting Committees
 Member, Advisory Board MPWG-History-MPG, Berlin, Germany
 Member Advisory Board, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
 Member, Advisory Board JAXA-SPICA, Tokyo, Japan

Member, several hiring committees of the Max Planck Society, Germany

Member, LBT Board, USA

Reviewer, Astrophysical Journal, Astronomy & Astrophysics, German Science Foundation (DFG), Nature, US National Science Foundation, NOVA (The Netherlands), German Academy Leopoldina, Swiss National Fond., Smithsonian Institution, Swedish Research Council, Australian Research Council

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley, Dept. of Physics

International Research School for Astrophysics at the University of Munich (IMPRS)