



Postdoctoral Research Fellows and Associates in “Galaxies and Cosmology” at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg (Reference number 09-10)

The Max-Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg is seeking five ambitious, highly qualified post-doctoral researchers for the opportunity to pursue a wide range of topics in the field of galaxies, their dynamics and evolution, in observational cosmology, in theoretical interpretation and modelling of such data, and in instrumentation development.

Areas of particular research focus at the institute include: the internal structure, dynamics, populations and ISM of nearby galaxies including our own Milky Way; the gas content, star formation, and black hole growth in AGNs; optical near-infrared surveys to understand the drivers of galaxy and AGN evolution; gravitational lensing; quasar absorption lines, the intergalactic medium and reionization history of the Universe. However, outstanding candidates in all areas of extragalactic astrophysics will be given full consideration.

At present, the 'Galaxies and Cosmology' department at MPIA is pursuing a wide range of astrophysical research along these lines, encompassing large observing programs, instrument development and theoretical modelling. MPIA researchers have privileged access to the twin 8.4 meter Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona, the 2.2 m MPG telescope on La Silla, the 2.2 and 3.5 m telescopes on Calar Alto, and access to all ESO facilities, including the Very Large Telescope (+ Interferometer) in Chile. In addition to these facilities, MPIA astronomers extensively use (sub-)millimeter observatories such as the IRAM facilities and APEX. A number of exciting new research opportunities are available to MPIA, including the PanSTARRS1 Survey and guaranteed time and key programs with the HERSCHEL spacecraft. MPIA is actively preparing data processing software for the GAIA mission. The institute is also leading the building and science planning of LINC-NIRVANA, an innovative interferometric imaging instrument for the LBT. For more information see www.mpia.de.

Applicants should have a PhD in astronomy, astrophysics, or a closely related field. The appointment will be for an initial period of two years with a likely extension to a total of three years. The MPIA provides a stimulating work environment and funds for publications, computing, travel, etc. The available positions range from independent work within the broad research direction of the “Galaxies and Cosmology” department to more project-oriented positions.

Candidates should send a single pdf file containing their application materials for this reference number, including curriculum vitae and a brief statement of research interests to the E-mail address below by December 1, 2009, and arrange for three letters of reference to be sent separately to that address by the same date. Please note that receipt of reference letters will not be acknowledged. For further inquiries, please contact Hans-Walter Rix (rix@mpia.de).

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The Max Planck Society is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women, disabled people and minority groups are particularly welcome. The MPIA supports its employees in their search for suitable child care.

