

Curriculum Vitae

Contact information

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Education

1983–1988: Undergraduate research at the Astronomical Institute “Anton Pannekoek” of the University of Amsterdam under supervision of Prof. E.P.J. van den Heuvel. Received a ‘doctoraal’ degree (equivalent to MA, ‘cum laude’) in October 1988, on the basis of a thesis titled “Massive X-ray binaries, Observations of One and Theory on All” (list of publications 1 and 2).

1988–1993: Appointment at the Astronomical Institute “Anton Pannekoek” of the University of Amsterdam for PhD research with Prof. van Paradijs. Received PhD in November 1993, on the basis of a thesis titled “The mass of Vela X-1, the nature of Cygnus X-3, the character of Be stars” (list of publications 5, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19, and 24).

Employment

1988–1993: ‘Assistent in Opleiding’ (PhD student) at the University of Amsterdam.

1993–1997: Hubble Fellow at the California Institute of Technology.

1997–1998: Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, Institute of Astronomy.

1998–2001: ‘Docent/Onderzoeker’ (tenured assistant professor) at Utrecht University.

1998–2002: Supported by a fellowship of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

2001–2002: ‘Senior Docent/Onderzoeker’ (associate professor) at Utrecht University.

2003– : Full professor at the University of Toronto.

Research areas

Compact objects, stars and binaries, their structure, formation and evolution, and their use to infer fundamental physical properties.

Teaching experience

Toronto: undergraduate classes ‘Stars and planets’ and ‘Introduction to astrophysics,’ two large ‘astronomy for poets’ classes, a first-year lecture series, and mini-courses for graduate students on statistics and star formation.

Utrecht: senior undergraduate class on stellar evolution and part of a class on star and planet formation; also part of a class for retirees; received formal teaching qualification in 2001.

PhD students

1998–2002: Rubina Kotak (Lund), Inside pulsating white dwarfs: Clues from time-resolved spectroscopy.^{53, 54, 57, 65}

1998–2003: Ferdi Hulleman (Utrecht), Anomalous X-ray pulsars at visible and infrared wavelengths.^{38, 40, 47, 66}

2002–2006: Martin Durant (Toronto), Magnetars: distances, variability, and multi-wavelength obs.^{70, 73, 81, 83, 84, 85}

2002–2006: Cees Bassa (Utrecht, primary supervisor Frank Verbunt), Optical studies of compact binaries in globular clusters and the Galactic disk.^{63, 78, 80}

2005–2009: Duy Nguyen (Toronto, joint with Ray Jayawardhana), multiplicity of young stars.^{102, 103}

2009– : Kelly Lepo, Progenitors of type Ia supernovae.

Observing experience

Optical observations with telescopes on Calar Alto (1.2m, 2.2m), La Palma (WHT), La Silla (1m, CAT, ESO 1.5m, NTT, ESO 3.6m), Paranal (Antu), Mauna Kea (UKIRT, Keck, CFHT), Palomar Mountain (200”), and Cerro Tololo (Magellan), as well as with HST. Pulsar searches with Arecibo and Parkes. Analysis of data from IUE, EXOSAT, ROSAT, Chandra, and XMM.

Organisational experience

Organised Monday Tea Talks at Caltech and colloquia in Utrecht and Toronto. Organised the 2000 Dutch Astronomers Conference. Member of the review committee for astronomy of NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), of the ESO TAC for stars, of the NFRA TAC (Westerbork, ING, JCMT), and of the Canadian TAC (CFHT, Gemini). Served on the HST panel for binaries in cycle 7. Served as member and chair of the Joint Committee for Space Astronomy.