

INVITATION
THE 2018 ARTHUR BLEKSLEY LECTURE

Highlights from the Cassini spacecraft mission to Saturn and its moons

Professor Michele Dougherty CBE FRS

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2018

VENUE: WSS5 (Science Stadium, West Campus)

TIME: 7pm

Abstract

In September 2017, the NASA/ESA Cassini-Huygens spacecraft mission ended its 20 years in space by burning up in Saturn's atmosphere. The end of mission orbits were designed to better understand the interior of Saturn and its magnetic field. Michele Dougherty, Principal Investigator of the magnetometer onboard Cassini, will describe the end of mission results as well as some surprising discoveries made during the orbital tour at Saturn, including water vapor plumes at the small moon Enceladus and implications this has for potential habitability.

Short Bio

Michele Dougherty FRS is a Professor of Space Physics at Imperial College London. She is leading unmanned exploratory missions to Saturn and Jupiter and is Principal Investigator for J-MAG - a magnetometer for the JUPITER ICY moons Explorer (JUICE) of the European Space Agency (ESA) due for launch June 2022. She is Head of the Physics Department at Imperial College London, was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society Gold medal in 2017, was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2018 New Year Honours for "services to UK Physical Science Research" and was awarded the 2018 Richard Glazebrook Medal and Prize from the Institute of Physics.

