

CSH & Bernoulli Fellowships 2019

by Prof. Dr. Kevin Heng, CSH Director
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In September and October 2018, we advertised for at least two CSH Fellowships in the AAS Job Register. No Bernoulli Fellowships were offered. The call was made broadly in the areas of exoplanet science, planetary science (Solar System), astrochemistry, star and planet formation, geophysics, astrobiology and science education, and to theorists, observers and instrumentation experts.

This was the second year that the CSH review panel was used as a mechanism for the vetting of candidates. Chaired by the CSH Director, the review panel consisted of CSH Fellows (Angerhausen, Bower, Drozdovskaya, Wampfler), a Bernoulli Fellow (Lee), a SNF professor (Demory) and WP/CSH researchers (Deitrick, Grimm, Jutzi, Kitzmann, Ligterink, Mordasini). It followed standard practice that several of us experienced on other professional review panels (NASA, DFG, SNF, etc). It also followed the University's gender equality guidelines monitored by the CSH gender equality representative (Wampfler).

We received 38 applications in total (including 11 from women) and shortlisted 8 candidates (3 women). All 8 candidates accepted the invitation to travel to the University of Bern to speak at the third annual CSH Symposium on 24th Jan 2019 (Thursday). Closed-door interviews were conducted on 25th Jan 2019 (Friday). Based on their application packages (CV and research proposal), letters of recommendation, their performances at the talks and interviews, and also the input of both the CSH review panel and CSH Steering Committee, the following offers were made.

Clemence Fontanive (Edinburgh): Clemence is a well-travelled native of Luxembourg, having obtained her degrees from London and Edinburgh. She is a specialist in the technique of direct imaging, which she has used to study both brown dwarfs and gas-giant exoplanets. She is interested in the population statistics of these objects, including when they reside in binaries.

Benjamin Rackham (Arizona) [declined]: Ben obtained his degrees from Utah and Arizona, and is an expert in the transit photometry of exoplanets. He has elucidated the “transit light source effect” as an important factor to consider when performing transit spectroscopy.

Meng Tian (Oxford): A native of China, Meng obtained his degrees from Beijing and Yale, before holding postdoc positions at Oxford University. He is an Earth scientist who is interested in geodynamics, the deep carbon cycle, metamorphic and igneous petrology, hydrogeology and two-phase flow dynamics.

Additionally, **Brett Morris (Seattle)** was hired on a PlanetS postdoctoral position to strengthen the scientific exploitation of data from the CHEOPS mission.