CSH & Bernoulli Fellowships 2018

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CENTER FOR SPACE AND HABITABILITY

In September and October 2017, we advertised for multiple CSH Fellowships in the AAS Job Register, Earthworks and ETH Get Hired. Three separate areas were targeted: Solar System science, philosophy of science, and science education and small telescopes. For the third area, we received 4 applications, but none of the 4 candidates formally had advanced degrees in science education.

This was also the first year that the CSH review panel was assembled and used as a first step in the vetting of candidates. Chaired by the CSH Director, the review panel consisted of CSH Fellows (Angerhausen, Bower, Drozdovskaya, Wampfler), a Bernoulli Fellow (Espinoza), a SNF professor (Demory), WP researchers (Grimm, Jutzi, Kitzmann, Mordasini, Thomas) and a professor of philosophy (Beisbart). 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 30 applications in total and shortlisted 6 candidates: 4 in Solar System science and 2 in philosophy of science. 2 of these candidates received competing offers shortly and withdrew from selection. The 4 remaining candidates travelled to the University of Bern to speak at the CSH Symposium on 11th Jan 2018 (Thursday). Closed-door interviews were conducted on 12th Jan 2018 (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.

For the Bernoulli Fellowships, the search was led by Oxford and Prof. Raymond Pierrehumbert for this year.

Rosita Kokotanekova (MPS, Goettingen) [declined]: Rosita's interests are in the small bodies of the Solar System. Originally from Bulgaria, she uses a combination of data from ground- and spacebased telescopes, as well as modeling, to study Jupiter-family comets and trans-Neptunian objects. Kokotanekov accepted an ESO Fellowship instead.

Lujendra Ojha (Johns Hopkins University) [declined]: Lujendra is a Blaustein Fellow and geophysicist at JHU, who has a broad range of interests spanning theory, laboratory experiments, space missions. He was the co-discoverer of recurring slope lineae on Mars. He is American. At the time of the offer, Ojha already had a offer of a permanent position at the United States Geological Survey.