

CSH Fellowships 2016

by Prof. Dr. Kevin Heng, CSH Director
(18th Feb 2016)

In December 2015, we advertised for multiple positions for our newly created CSH Fellowships in the AAS Job Register, Earthworks and ETH Get Hired. We received more than 20 complete applications and shortlisted 7 candidates. These candidates were then invited to the University of Bern to speak at the CSH Symposium on 16th Feb 2016 (Tuesday). Interviews were conducted on 17th Feb 2016 (Wednesday). Based on their application packages (CV and research proposal), letters of recommendation, their performances at the talks and interviews, and also the input of the CSH Steering Committee, I made 4 offers to the following candidates.

Daniel Angerhausen (NASA-GSFC): Daniel is a creative observational astronomer with the ability and experience to utilize multiple telescopes and facilities, both from the ground and in space, to obtain data to test cutting-edge ideas. He brings to Bern the experience and know-how to deal with transit-photometry data and is the PI on a K2 (the refurbished Kepler Space Telescope) program, which will strengthen the scientific efforts of the CHEOPS mission. He also helps us to look towards the future when JWST (the James Webb Space Telescope) is launched in 2018, as its telescope time is competitively awarded. Additionally, Daniel is German and has an enthusiasm for public outreach.

Natalie Hinkel (Arizona State University) [declined]: Natalie brings experience and expertise on stellar astronomy. Specifically, she is an expert in the analysis of chemical abundances from stars. This valued knowledge and expertise is required to make statements on how planets form and the application of inversion techniques to study the interior structure of rocky exoplanets. As we move towards the CHEOPS era of high-precision mass-radius relations of Earth-like exoplanets, we need to combine expertise from stellar astronomy (Hinkel), geology (Mezger) and planet formation (Benz, Alibert and Mordasini groups) to make progress and be internationally competitive. Natalie is American.

Susanne Wampfler (University of Copenhagen) & Maria Drozdovskaya (Leiden University): Susanne and Maria collectively bring in complementary expertise on astrochemistry, cosmochemistry, ALMA astronomy and the astrophysics of protoplanetary disks. With their hires, we are playing to one of our traditional strengths, since they would enhance the scientific exploitation of Rosetta data, while bringing in expertise on ALMA astronomy that is currently missing at the University of Bern. They will work closely with the ROSINA team of Prof. Dr. Kathrin Altwegg, but also concurrently develop their own research programs and ideas. Susanne is Swiss. Maria has joint Dutch and Russian citizenship.