



Rosetta, home at last!



A colloquium with Amalia Finzi, aerospace engineer

27 May 2015, 2.30 pm
SISSA, "P. Budinich" Main Lecture Hall
Via Bonomea 265, Trieste

Rosetta, the European Space Agency (ESA) satellite that is exploring the Churyumov-Gerasimenko comet, has also an Italian heart. Amalia Finzi, one of the most outstanding scientists in Italian research, is the Principal Investigator of SD2, the system on board the Philae lander which is now collecting samples from the comet's surface. This part of the mission is crucial as it will provide important data that might also help understand the origin of life on Earth. Finzi will be speaking at the next appointment in the SISSA Colloquia series, at a conference that is



open to the public and free. The event (in English) will be held on May 27th, at 2.30 pm in the "P. Budinich" Main Lecture Hall at SISSA.

In March 2012, Rosetta set off on its long trip from planet Earth to an ambitious destination: the Churyumov-Gerasimenko comet. After travelling far and wide around the Solar System, right out to its farthest boundaries, on 12 November 2014 Rosetta had us hold our breath as it finally deployed its Philae lander onto the comet's surface. Philae has the important task of collecting soil samples to help us understand how comets and planets were formed and to answer the fundamental question: did life on Earth (and perhaps not only) start with the help of comet seeding? The principal investigator of Philae's SD2 sample-collecting system is Amalia Finzi, a space engineer from Milan Polytechnic. Finzi will be meeting the public next May 27 at SISSA to tell us (in a talk entitled "Rosetta, eventually home!") about her personal experience in this major project.

The SD2 system (Sampling, Drilling and Distribution), for which Finzi is responsible, is designed to collect samples of soil and deliver them to the various instruments on board the probe for *in-situ* analysis. The meeting with Finzi will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Rosetta mission and the role played by Italy in the project.

More in detail...

Amalia Finzi is a unique figure in the Italian scientific research scenario, as well as being an internationally renowned, leading scientist. She was the first woman in Italy to graduate in aeronautical engineering, she has been awarded the gold medal of the Italian Aeronautical Association and she is professor of Orbital Mechanics at the Faculty of Industrial Engineering of Milan Polytechnic.

Finzi has worked for several international projects for ESA, NASA and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and has published more than 150 research papers in international scientific journals. She has been, amongst other appointments, Director of the Department of Aerospace Engineering of Milan Polytechnic and an Expert Member of ESA's Human Spaceflight Vision Group (HSVG) for the planning of human spaceflight.



Finzi is member of the ASI Scientific-Technical Council and of the ESA Exploration Program Advisory Committee for the exploration of Mars. A world-class woman and scientist, even at a time when engineering was dominated by men, Finzi is also Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Committee of Milan Polytechnic and Rector's Delegate.

IMAGES:

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