



## IAU Centenary Celebrations (1919-2019)

IAU@100 day, Observatoire de Paris/IAP: Oct.4, 2019

**Astronomers as Diplomats:  
When the IAU builds bridges  
between nations**

### ┌ Rationale

Born in the aftermath on WWI, the IAU had to cope with many crises and conflicts between nations. After WWII, the IAU played an important role in building bridges between their astronomers. A one-day «IAU@100» celebration will be held at Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris and Observatoire de Paris, with several talks, in particular on the creation of the IAU, the China crisis, the adherence of Germany, the USA-USSR Moon race, and the cooperation with UNESCO.

### ┌ Organizing Committee

Thierry Montmerle (Chair; IAP), past IAU General Secretary (2012-2015)

Teresa Lago, IAU General Secretary (2018-2021)

Jean-Louis Bougeret (LESIA, Observatoire de Paris)

Nicole Capitaine (Académie des Sciences; SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris)

Danielle Fauque (Groupe d'Histoire et de Diffusion des Sciences, Université Paris-Sud;  
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry - IUPAC)

Annie Robin (Observatoire de Besançon; SF2A: French national contact for the IAU)

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### ┌ Program (IAP Auditorium: 98 bis Bd Arago, Paris 14)

#### **Morning session: The creation of the IAU**

- 9h00-9h30 Registration (IAP lobby)
- 9h30-9h45 Introduction: When the IAU builds bridges between nations  
Thierry Montmerle (IAP), Teresa Lago (IAU)

- 9h45-10h15 [Precursors to the IAU: Paris Observatory and the Carte du Ciel project](#)  
Ileana Chinnici (INAF-Palermo Astronomical Observatory)
- 10h15-10h45 [A hundred years ago: the birth of the IAU and other scientific unions](#)  
Danielle Fauque (Université Paris-Sud ; IUPAC)

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### **Coffee break**

- 11h15-11h45 [The IAU first President: Benjamin Baillaud and the international cooperation in astronomy](#)  
Jean-Louis Bougeret (Observatoire de Paris)
- 11h45-12h15 [The foundation of the Bureau International de l'Heure](#)  
Nicole Capitaine (Observatoire de Paris)

**LUNCH** (local restaurants, or Observatory « cantine »)

### **Afternoon session: Astronomers as Diplomats**

- 14h00-14h30 [Germany joining the IAU: a complicated story](#)  
Joachim Wambsganz (Heidelberg; President of the Astronomische Gesellschaft, and of Rat Deutscher Sternwarten; German national contact for the IAU)
- 14h30-15h00 [The China crisis](#)  
Xiaowei Liu (South-Western Institute for Astronomy Research, Yunnan University, Kunming, China; past Vice-President of the IAU, 2012-2018)
- 15h00-15h30 [USA vs. USSR: the Moon race and the dark sides of lunar crater naming](#)  
Thierry Montmerle (IAP)
- 15h30-16h00 [The Moon race: Russian robotic missions and landing sites surface features](#)  
Mikhail Marov (Russian Academy of Sciences; Head, Space Sciences and Cosmochemistry, V.I. Vernadsky Institute, Moscow; Chair of IAU Commission C4 Working Group Heritage of Space Exploration)

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### **Coffee break**

- 16h30-17h00 [The IAU-UNESCO Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative and the Pic-du-Midi Observatory](#)  
Clive Ruggles (University of Leicester; Past President of IAU Commission C4 World Heritage and Astronomy, 2015-2018)
- 17h00-17h30 [The IAU and the public worldwide: the 2009 International Year of Astronomy](#)  
Catherine Cesarsky (Académie des Sciences; IAU President, 2006-2009)

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**Cocktail at Salle Cassini, Paris Observatory (18h-20h)**

## Astronomers as Diplomats

# Participant List

(Updated: Oct.5, 2019) (\*) = speakers

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