



Figure 1. Portrait of Beatrice Tinsley

Barrier Faced

As a woman, also a mother of 2 adopted children, in her whole life, Tinsley has faced glass ceilings and rejections, despite some of her ground breaking works has already been recognized. Her marriage caused her not being able to get the job she desired. Despite being the only woman in her program, she completed her PhD with perfect grades. Yet, she still wasn't able to get a position. When her final chance has came, as she was finally accepted by Yale, she has to made a decision between her carrier and her family. She ended up abandoning her husband and 2 children for cosmology and died at the age of 40 before she can make more ground breaking accomplishments.



Beatrice Tinsley —

Overlooked Astronomer

Biographical Information

Beatrice Tinsley was born in 1941 in Chester, England. Her family emigrated to New Zealand due to the impact of World War II. When she was only 14 years old, she has already decided to be an astrophysicist.

In 1961, she married fellow classmate and physicist Brian Tinsley at the same year she finished her master degree in Christchurch.

Later, their family moved to Dallas, for her husband's carrier. Beatrice completed her PhD perfectly there, being the only woman in the astronomy program.

In 1967, as a graduate student she confronted Allan Sandage, one of the most significant astronomer at the time on his idea about the Big Crunch. And years later, she was proven to be the correct one in the argument.

In 1981, she died from cancer at the age of 40, while working at Yale University. She didn't stop working until the last moment of her life, even when her right hand wasn't functioning.



Figure 2. Beatrice and her 2 adopted children Alan Teresa

Scientific Contributions

- Tinsley changed the way astronomers determine distance between galaxies, her work laid foundation for later cosmologies and led to the first approximation of protogalaxy model.
- As a graduate student, she challenged Allan Sandage's idea about the Big Crunch pointing out that he was wrong about light of distant galaxies. And later she has been proved to be correct.
- According to James Gunn, her work is "a real paradigm change" where she considered galaxies as energy and radiations that can influence each other, in contrast to how people used to consider them as isolated blobs.
- She won the Annie J. Cannon "outstanding research and promise for future research by a postdoctoral woman researcher" award in 1974.



Figure 3. Beatrice Tinsley at an International Astronomical Union symposium in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1977.

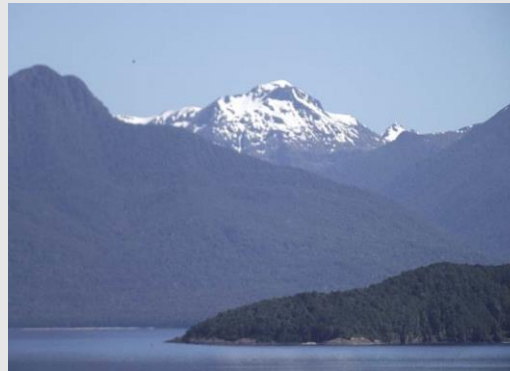


Figure 4. Mt. Tinsley from New Zealand that's named after Beatrice.

Perspectives Today

- After Tinsley's death, Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize established by the American Astronomical Society is named after her.
- 3087 Beatrice Tinsley, a main-belt asteroid is named after her, discovered at the same year she died from cancer.
- Mount Tinsley is also named after her in order to memorize her for her great contributions, by the New Zealand Geographic Board.
- She was mentioned in the Overlooked Project published by New York Times. More and more people has now noticed her contributions to the field.
- She is also renowned as one of the greatest astrophysicists for her contributions, nowadays.

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