François Mernier, Ph.D.

XRISM Support Scientist (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center -University of Maryland College Park)

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Persons of reference:

- Prof. Jelle S. Kaastra (SRON, The Netherlands) J.S.Kaastra@sron.nl
- Dr. Matteo Guainazzi (ESA/ESTEC, The Netherlands) Matteo.Guainazzi@sciops.esa.int
- Dr. Norbert Werner (Masaryk University, Czech Rep.) werner@physics.muni.cz

Born: June 27, 1989 – Brussels, Belgium

Nationalities: Belgian, French

Current position

- Visiting Assistant Research Scientist
- XRISM Support Scientist (Sponsor: Dr. Brian Williams)

NASA/GSFC CRESST II (Greenbelt, MD, USA) - UMD (College Park, MD, USA)

Past positions

2019-2022 ESA Research Fellow, ESTEC (Mentor: Dr. Matteo Guainazzi)

(Noordwijk, The Netherlands)

2017-2019 Postdoctoral Researcher, MTA-Eötvös University (Mentor: Dr. Norbert Werner)

(Budapest, Hungary)

Skills

Areas of specialization

 $\label{eq:high-energy} High-energy \ astrophysics - X-ray \ spectroscopy - Clusters/groups \ of \ galaxies - Intracluster \ medium - Chemical \ enrichment - XMM-Newton$

Computing skills

Expert SPEX • XMM-Newton SAS • XRISM data analysis software

Good UNIX console – BASH – fortran 90 – Python (incl. numpy, scipy, astropy, matplotlib)

– LATEX – XSPEC – HEAsoft – SAO ds9 – Chandra CIAO – Linux – Mac OS

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Intermed.} & \mbox{Inkscape} - \mbox{GIMP} - \mbox{C} - \mbox{Windows} \\ \mbox{Basic} & \mbox{HTML} - \mbox{C} + + - \mbox{IDL} - \mbox{IRAF} \\ \end{array}$

LANGUAGES

Fluent French - English

Intermed. Dutch

Education

2013-2017 PHD in High-energy Astrophysics, Leiden University/SRON

(Leiden/Utrecht, The Netherlands)

2010-2012 MSC in Space Sciences, University of Liège

(Liège, Belgium) – Magna Cum Laude

2007-2010 BSc in Physics, Université Libre de Bruxelles

(Brussels, Belgium) – Cum Laude

2001-2007 HIGH SCHOOL in Latin-Mathematics, Lycée Émile Jacqmain

(Brussels, Belgium) – Cum Laude

Grants & Awards

2023	NASA Astrophysics Data Analysis Program (ADAP) - "Exploring the cosmic evolution
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of the chemical composition of galaxy clusters", \$237000

2023 Chandra archive (PI) - "Metals under the microscope: Revisiting the enrichment in teh core of the Perseus cluster", Cycle 25, \$47000

2022 XMM-Newton observation (PI) - "A deep exploration of chemical enrichment and thermodynamics of S0 galaxies", AO20, 81 ks (\sim 31 h), \$49000

2019 XMM-Newton observation (PI) - "Searching for X-ray non-thermal emission in an extraordinarily radio-bright galaxy group", AO19, 210 ks (\sim 58 h)

2016 71th Netherlands Astronomy Conference - Poster Prize: Laureate

Scientific responsibilities & Collaborations

2022-now Support Scientist for the XRISM Guest Observer Facility

2022-now Chair of the LEM (Line Emission Mapper) intergalactic medium abundances sub-group

2021-now Co-chair of the Athena Topical Panel SWG1.2 (Athena Science Study team)

2015-now CHEERS collaboration (PI: J. de Plaa)

- Reviewed 9 publications as anonymous referee.

Invited in 4 time allocation committees of X-ray observatories.

Ongoing projects / collaborations: E. Pointecouteau, D. Barret, N. Clerc (France)
A. Simionescu, H. Akamatsu, J. de Plaa, J. S. Kaastra, L. Gu, M. Guainazzi, M. Wise (Netherlands) – N. Werner, R. Grossová, J. P. Breuer (Czech Republic) – N. Truong (Germany) – F. Gastaldello, C. Pinto, S. Ettori, M. Gaspari, V. Biffi (Italy)
Y. Ichinohe, T. Fukazawa, K. Nomoto (Japan) – Y. Su, A. Tumer (USA) – M.-L. Gendron-Marsolais (Chili) – A. Richard-Laferrière, A. E. Sansom (UK)

Conferences, Colloquia & Workshops

INVITED TALKS

- Sept. 2024 "Physics of Galaxy Clusters and Groups", First Results from the SRG/eROSITA All-Sky Survey: From Stars to Cosmology, Garching (Germany)
- Jul. 2024 "The metallicity of the ICM: observations", EAS Annual Meeting 2024, Padova (Italy)
- Jul. 2024 "Metallicity and chemical abundance measurements and in galaxy groups in the era of high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy", Galaxy groups in the era of eROSITA and Euclid, Sesto (Italy)
- Dec. 2021 "Measuring metal abundances in galaxy groups: challenges and prospects", Japan-Netherlands joint workshop: high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy of cosmic plasmas, online
- Dec. 2020 "Chemical enrichment in galaxy clusters", Extragalactic universe with HE and VHE sources, online
- June 2019 "Chemical abundances in the hot atmospheres of galaxy clusters, groups, and elliptical galaxies", Astrophysics of Hot Plasmas in Extended X-ray Sources, ESAC, Madrid (Spain)
- March 2018 "Spatial distribution of metals in the intracluster medium", SnowCluster 2018: The Physics of Galaxy Clusters, Snowbird, Utah (USA)
- Nov. 2017 "Elemental abundances and chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", Clusters of Galaxies: Physics and Cosmology International Space Science Institute (Workshop), Bern (Switzerland)

Contributed talks

Jan. 2024 "Discovery of X-ray inverse-Compton emission and estimate of the volume-averaged magnetic field in a galaxy group", 243rd AAS meeting, New-Orleans, LA (USA) "Robust detection of diffuse X-ray inverse-Compton emission in a galaxy group", High-

- June 2023 resolution X-ray spectroscopy A Chandra workshop, online "Robust discovery of diffuse inverse-Compton emission in a galaxy group", The X-ray Universe 2023, Athens
- Feb. 2023 (Greece) "Intracluster Medium Abundance Mapping with LEM", Science with the Line
- Nov. 2022 Emission Mapper: From Planets to Galaxies and Beyond, Boston (USA) "The chemical universe: Enrichment in galaxy clusters unveiled by Athena", Exploring the Hot and Energetic Universe: The 3rd scientific conference dedicated to the Athena X-ray
- Sept. 2022 observatory, online "An X-ray view of chemical enrichment in galaxy groups and clus-
- July 2022 ters", Charting the metallicity evolution history of the Universe, Catania (Italy) "The cycle of metals in the infalling elliptical galaxy NGC 1404", The Physical Properties of
- Feb. 2022 the Groups of Galaxies, Bertinoro (Italy) "Abundances in cluster outskirts with LEM",
- Jan. 2022 LEM Science Workshop, online "Measuring metal abundance in the hot gas of galaxy
- Nov. 2021 groups and elliptical galaxies", 50 years astronomical X-ray spectroscopy, online "The cycle of metals in the elliptical galaxy NGC1404", 14th ESA SCI-S Workshop (SSW), Aranjuez (Spain)
- Oct. 2020 "Metals (and dust) in the hot gas phase: From massive clusters down to massive galaxies", The Rise of Metals and Dust through Cosmic Times, online
- July 2019 "Chemical abundances and enrichment in the intracluster medium", Tracing Cosmic Evolution with Clusters of Galaxies, Sexten (Italy)
- March 2019 "Chemical enrichment of the atmospheric gas in clusters, groups, and massive galaxies",

 Physics of the Intra-Cluster Medium: Theory and Computation, Budapest (Hungary)
- June 2017 "Radial distribution of metals in the hot intra-cluster medium as observed by XMM-Newton", The X-ray Universe 2017, Rome (Italy)
- April 2017 "Radial metal abundance profiles in the intra-cluster medium of cool-core clusters, groups, and ellipticals", *Physics of the Intra-Cluster Medium*, Beijing (China)
- May 2016 "CHEERS! The origin of heavy elements in galaxy clusters", SRON Science Days, Dalfsen (The Netherlands)
- July 2015 "The CHEERS project", The Metal Enrichment of Diffuse Gas in the Universe, Sexten (Italy)
- May 2015 "CHEERS: Chemical enrichment in the hot gas of galaxy clusters seen through XMM-Newton EPIC", Spectroscopy of Cosmic Plasma in the Era of ASTRO-H, Tokyo (Japan)
- June 2014 "An XMM-Newton view of Abell 4059", The X-ray Universe 2014, Dublin (Ireland)

Colloquia & Seminars

- Apr. 2024 "Chemical enrichment: from stars and galaxies to large-scale structures", MIT Astrophysics Colloquium, MIT, Cambridge, MA (USA)
- Feb. 2023 "Chemical enrichment in the large-scale Universe", X-ray Lab Journal Club, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD (USA)
- June 2022 "Chemical enrichment in the large-scale Universe", LEAPS seminar, Leiden (The Netherlands)
- June 2022 "The Hot Universe", co-presented with N. Clerc, Athena Summer School, Toulouse (France)
- March 2022 "Constraining the origin and models of chemical enrichment in galaxy clusters using the Athena X-IFU", Athena Science Conversation, ASST meeting, online
- Feb. 2022 "Unveiling the chemical history of galaxy clusters and the Universe", Athena X-ray Advances: ASST and ACO Science Webinar, online
- Oct. 2021 "The link between supernovae, supermassive black holes, and the large-scale Universe", GRAD Talks (Yildiz Technical University), online
- March 2021 "How to understand stars and supernovae by looking at... galaxy clusters", ESTEC breakfast seminar, online

- Feb. 2021 "From stars to large-scale structures: chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", Video-Seminar (Observatoire de Strasbourg), online
- Jan. 2021 "From stars to large-scale structures: chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", IPAG seminar (Université Grenoble-Alpes), online
- Jan. 2021 "From stars to large-scale structures: chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", GECO Café Club (Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille), online
- Sept 2020 "Dragonfly 44 (...and the dark matter content of ultra-diffuse galaxies)", ESTEC breakfast seminar, online
- April 2020 "Discovery of a giant fossil cavity in the Ophiuchus galaxy cluster", ESTEC breakfast seminar, online
- March 2020 "Does gravity really exist? Clues from galaxy clusters", ESTEC breakfast seminar, Noordwijk (The Netherlands)
- Jan. 2020 "From supernovae to galaxies (and beyond): What metals in hot galactic and cluster atmospheres tell us", *Kavli IPMU Colloquium*, Tokyo (Japan)
- Jan. 2020 "From supernovae to galaxies (and beyond): What metals in hot galactic and cluster atmospheres tell us", *Hiroshima University Seminar*, Hiroshima (Japan)
- Jan. 2019 "Elemental abundances and chemical enrichment in the hot intracluster medium", MPE seminar, Garching (Germany)
- Dec. 2018 "Metals in galaxy clusters and groups, and giant elliptical galaxies hot atmospheres: Recent improvements and current challenges of X-ray observations", *CfA lunch talk*, Cambridge (USA)
- May 2018 "Elemental abundances and chemical enrichment in the hot intracluster medium", *Hiroshima University Seminar*, Hiroshima (Japan)
- May 2018 "Understanding the chemical enrichment pattern in the hot haloes of massive ellipticals, groups, and clusters of galaxies", *Kavli IPMU Colloquium*, Tokyo (Japan)
- March 2018 "From supernovae to galaxy clusters: Chemical enrichment in the hot intracluster medium", Lowell Observatory Colloquium, Flagstaff, Arizona (USA)
- Feb. 2018 "Elemental abundances and chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", *IRAP Seminar*, Toulouse (France)
- April 2017 "From supernovae to galaxy clusters: Observing the chemical enrichment in the intracluster medium", *PhD Colloquium*, Leiden (The Netherlands)
- Jan. 2017 "From supernovae to galaxy clusters: Chemical enrichment of the intra-cluster medium seen by XMM-Newton", Ortvay Colloquium, Budapest (Hungary)
- Dec. 2013 "Probing chemical abundances in Abell 4059 using XMM-Newton", Argelander Institut für Astronomie Seminar, Bonn (Germany)

Posters

- April 2024 "Measuring metal abundances in galaxy clusters and groups in the era of high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy", 21st Meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD) of the American Astronomical Society, Waikoloa Village (Hawaii)
- March 2023 "Detection of diffuse inverse-Compton X-ray emission in a galaxy group", 20th Meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD) of the American Astronomical Society, Waikoloa Village (Hawaii)
- March 2023 "Intracluster Medium Abundance Mapping with LEM", 20th Meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society, Waikoloa Village (Hawaii)
- June 2021 "Clusters, groups, and isolated galaxies: similar or different chemical enrichment histories?", EAS 2021 (European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting), Leiden (online)
- June 2021 "The cycle of metals in the elliptical galaxy NGC 1404", Galaxy Cluster Formation II

- (GCF 2021), ESO (online)
- Sept. 2019 "Metals in the intracluster medium", X-ray astronomy 2019: Current Challenges and New Frontiers in the Next Decade, Bologna (Italy)
- Sept. 2018 "Abundance measurements in the intracluster medium: Consequences of spectral code improvements", Exploring the Hot and Energetic Universe: The second scientific conference dedicated to the Athena X-ray observatory, Palermo (Italy)
- Sept. 2017 "Radial distribution of metals in the intra-cluster medium", The power of X-ray spectroscopy, Warsaw (Poland)
- Dec. 2016 "Radial metal abundance profiles in the hot intra-group and intra-cluster medium",

 The Physics of Groups and Galaxy Properties therein, Paris (France)
- May 2016 "Chemical enrichment in the hot intra-cluster medium seen with XMM-Newton/EPIC", XMM-Newton: The next decade, ESAC, Madrid (Spain)
- May 2016 "The origin of heavy elements in galaxy clusters", 71th Netherlands Astronomy Conference, Nunspect (The Netherlands)
- May 2015 "An XMM-Newton study of temperatures and abundances in Abell 4059", 70th Netherlands Astronomy Conference, Nunspect (The Netherlands)
- Sept. 2013 "Chemical enrichment in clusters of galaxies from the XMM/Suzaku to the ASTRO-H era", 4th ASTRO-H summer school, Shuzenji (Japan)

Teaching & Outreach

- Seminar: "Making a winning proposal", CRESST II Proposal Seminar, online
- Mentoring three post-bacs students at NASA GSFC (career advice, tips in writing applications, etc.)
- 2022-now Co-lead of the LEM comms working group (managing twitter and facebook LEM accounts)
- Co-supervising MSc student (Teodora-Elena Bulichi): LEAPS summer programme, ESTEC
- Supervising MSc students (Teresa Matamoro, Amanda Byström): LEAPS summer programme, ESTEC
- Co-supervising MSc student (Dimitris Chatzigiannakis): MSc thesis, Leiden Observatory
- 2020 Supervising BSc student (Tora Arnesen): LEAPS summer programme, ESTEC
- 2020 Co-supervising BSc student (Iga Kaczmarek): ESA internship, ESTEC
- 2019 "Astronomy on Tap Budapest" (co-organiser), wide audience
- 2018 High energy astrophysics (guest lecturer), MSc level, Eötvös University
- 2018-2019 Co-supervising BSc student (Anna Görgei): BSc thesis, Eötvös University
- 2017-2018 Co-supervising BSc student (Ádám Boldog): BSc thesis, Eötvös University
- Sum. 2015 Co-supervising BSc student (Sinancan Kara): BSc thesis, SRON/Bogazici University
- 2014-2015 High energy astrophysics (Teaching assistant), MSc level, Leiden Observatory
- 2011-2013 Private student tutoring (Mathematics; physics), high school level, Brussels
- 2007-now Astronomy camp (teaching & animating, high school level), "Jeunesse et Science ASBL", Modave (Belgium)

OUTREACH TALKS

Sept. 2021 "The link between supernovae, supermassive black holes, and the large-scale Universe", Astronomy on Tap - Leiden, Leiden (The Netherlands)

- Aug. 2020 "Black holes" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Dec. 2019 "Space telescopes" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- July 2019 "Clusters of galaxies... and the surprises of their spectacular hot atmospheres", Astronomy on Tap Budapest, Budapest (Hungary)
- April 2019 "The dark side of matter", Astronomy on Tap Budapest, Budapest (Hungary)
- Dec. 2018 "Pluto (and the borders of the Solar System)" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Dec. 2017 "Stellar nucleosynthesis" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Jan. 2017 "A journey to the stars" (in French), Heydeken rest home, Brussels (Belgium)
- April 2016 "Clusters of galaxies" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Aug. 2014 "Clusters of galaxies" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- April 2013 "Massive stars" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Aug. 2012 "The Sun across time" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Aug. 2011 "Dark matter" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- Aug. 2010 "Death of stars" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)
- April 2008 "Black holes" (in French), Jeunesse et Science, Modave (Belgium)

Department responsibilities & Initiatives

- 2020-2022 Member of the ESTEC SAC (Staff Association Committee), ESTEC
- 2020-2022 Member/coordinator of the YPAG (Young Professional Advisory Group), ESTEC
- 2020-2022 Organiser of weekly "breakfast seminars", ESTEC
- Jan. 2021 Organiser of a mini-workshop on galaxy clusters (~15 participants from Dutch institutes), ESTEC
- 2019 Webmaster of the Lendület Hot Universe Research Group website, Budapest
- March 2019 LOC member of the "Physics of the Intra-Cluster Medium: Theory and Computation" conference, Budapest
- 2014-2017 Chair/organiser of regular "Galaxy clusters meetings", Leiden Observatory
- 2014-2015 Organiser of the colloquium dinner events, SRON
- 2014-2017 Member of the "Social committee", Leiden Observatory
- 2013-2014 Online update of arXiv preprints, Leiden Observatory website

Last updated: May 31, 2024