



Astronomische Gesellschaft
German Astronomical Society

Preis für Instrumentenentwicklung 2019

Die Astronomische Gesellschaft verleiht den Preis für Instrumenten-Entwicklung für Design, Entwicklung, Konstruktion und/oder signifikante Erweiterung eines astronomischen Instrumentes, das zu erheblichen Fortschritten in der astrophysikalischen Forschung geführt hat.

Wir ehren in diesem Jahr zu gleichen Teilen

Prof. Dr. Erik Høg (Kopenhagen, Dänemark),

Prof. Dr. Michael Perryman (Bath, England)

und

Prof. Dr. Lennart Lindegren (Lund, Schweden)

als Team für ihre bedeutenden Beiträge zur instrumentellen und operativen Entwicklung des europäischen Astrometrie-Satelliten Gaia. Aus einer großen Gruppe von Astronominnen und Astronomen, Ingenieurinnen und Ingenieuren, die zu dieser komplexen Mission beigetragen haben, sind die drei Preisträger besonders hervorzuheben,

Stuttgart, im September 2019

Prof. Dr. Joachim Wambsganß
Präsident der Astronomischen Gesellschaft

The prize event appears as the **Gaia image of the week** on 17 September: [GaiaPrize](#)

The prize was awarded on 17 September at the annual meeting of AG in Stuttgart. Here follow the pro-and epilog to my talk with thanks for the prize. Links to the abstract, the slides, and *perhaps later the video*

from the talk are included, and a photo by Stefan Jordan of Erik Høg, Lennart Lindegren, Michael Perryman, and Joachim Wambsganß. - Erik Høg on 3 October.

Dear Prof. Wambsganß and the Board of the Astronomische Gesellschaft, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you! I am saying this on behalf of the three of us, Michael Perryman, Lennart Lindegren, and myself. I am grateful for their advice on this talk and for the many years we worked together.

It is a great honour to receive the instrument development prize 2019 from the Astronomische Gesellschaft.

*In a few moments I will give a personal account of the development of astrometry in which I have had the privilege to take part during sixty six years. But let me first say how grateful and pleased we are to receive this recognition from the *German* astronomical community. Germany, and German scientists and institutes, have played a central role in the historical foundations of astrometry, for example in the pioneering AGK and FK catalogues of the 20th century. The development of photon counting astrometry at the Hamburg Observatory in the 1960s was crucial for the space astrometry that followed. With the advent of space astrometry, ARI in Heidelberg, and the Astronomical Institute in Tübingen, played a key role in the creation of the Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues. Following from the successes of Hipparcos, Germany led the design of a proposed follow-on concept, DIVA. And, of course, leading German scientists and institutes continue to be at the forefront of the development and execution of space astrometry through their central role in various aspects of the Gaia mission. This is fundamental and difficult work that all astronomers benefit from, but which is not always so clearly recognized. Therefore: thank you!*

The talk of 40 minutes followed. All talks were recorded on video which will be available to the participants, but it was not good in my case. The abstract is: [PrizeTalkAbstract2.pdf](#) , the 35 slides are: [InstrumentPrize2019.pdf](#). Andre Beck is working on the video of my talk so a link may come here later.

You have now seen the immense instrumental and technical challenges faced and overcome (on schedule) by Hipparcos and Gaia.

Finally, we would like to point younger scientists to the considerable future scientific opportunities in space, and the importance and leverage of international scientific collaboration in the European Space Agency.

