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Senior Science Advisor, European Space Agency

Mark McCaughrean is the Senior Science Advisor in the Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration at the European Space Agency (ESA). This role also includes responsibility for communicating the results from ESA's astronomy, heliophysics, planetary, and fundamental physics missions across the scientific community and to the wider general public.

Following the completion of his PhD in astronomy from the University of Edinburgh, Mark has worked at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, and then at astronomical research institutes in Tucson, Heidelberg, Bonn, and Potsdam.

Mark also taught as a professor of astrophysics at the University of Exeter for five years before joining the European Space Agency in 2009.

His personal scientific research involves observational studies of the formation of stars and their planetary systems using state-of-the-art ground and space based telescopes. He is also an Interdisciplinary Scientist on the Science Working Group for the NASA/ESA/CSA James Webb Space Telescope.

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