

A scientist just like me



Professor Haley Gomez MBE
Professor of Astrophysics

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Hi there! I am Haley Gomez – A Professor of Astrophysics



Where do I work?

I work in the School of Physics and Astronomy in Cardiff University. I lecture students, look after some of the staff, and research into cosmic dust, the building blocks of rocky planets like the Earth.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked asking questions in science lessons, and anything about Ancient Egypt and dinosaurs. I also loved reading - this is how I found out about space!

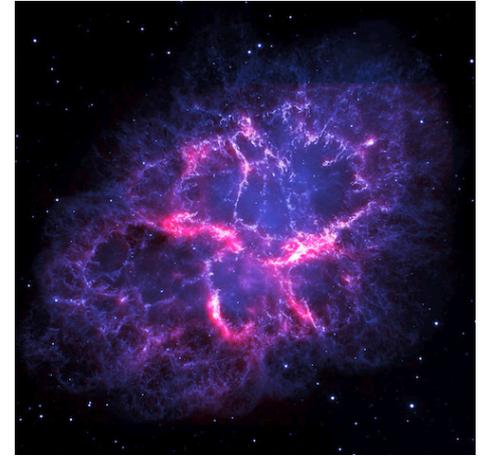
What do I like doing in my spare time?

My favourite thing to do is read a big book. I also love going for walks with my family.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What do I do as a Professor of Astrophysics ?

I take images of the Universe using telescopes that are on the Earth or out in space. I study the pictures to try and understand where all the cosmic dust in the Universe is created. Cosmic dust is the building block of rocky planets like the Earth and even humans!



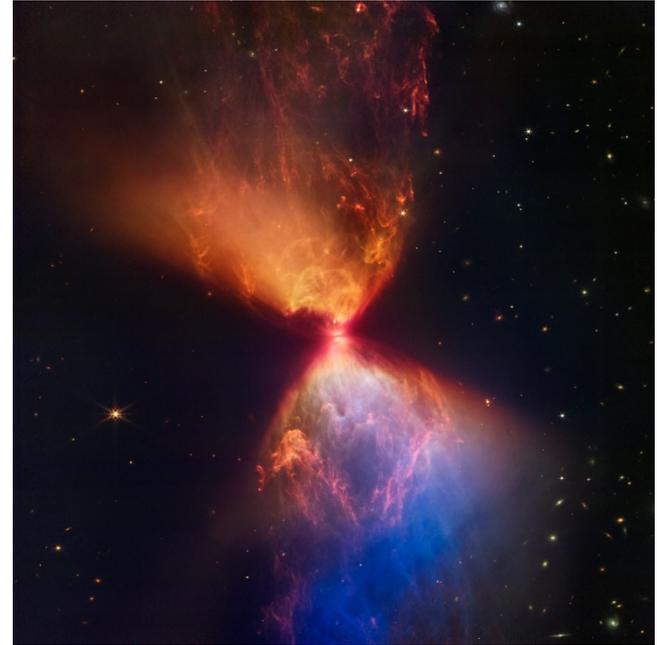
How does what I do make the world a better place?

I spend time trying to inspire and help young children who perhaps feel like they cannot be a scientist because of who they are. I'm from a low-income background and I am female. These are characteristics that are underrepresented in science. I want to show children that anyone can be a scientist if they work hard at it.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is that I get to travel the world, to places like Hawaii and Australia to use their telescopes and to present my research at conferences. I get to ask space telescopes to observe specific objects (using computers) and see mind-blowing pictures!



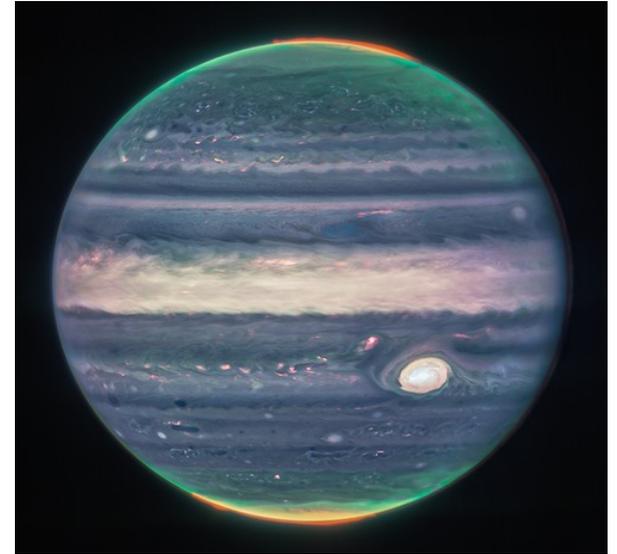
Challenges I have faced

I work in an environment dominated by men, and this has meant that at times I have faced challenges where some people think women can't do research as well as men. But I decided that it doesn't really matter what other people think. Even if people are really negative, I remember how much I love looking at the stars.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

If you want to be a Professor of Astrophysics, you need:

- ★ to like asking questions and finding things out**
- ★ not to be afraid of getting things wrong**
- ★ not to be too afraid of maths**
- ★ to like solving problems**



A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a Professor of Astrophysics like Haley Gomez, MBE?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a Professor of Astrophysics?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Free supporting resources for astrophysics

[Science At Work](#) – see ‘Gene Cernan’ and ‘Meet two space scientists’

[Science Fun at Home](#) – see ‘World Space Week’

[City Science Stars](#) - practical science activities (for 9–11-year-old children), using links to football, other sports and space

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- We have telescopes out in space studying the universe
- How to play planetary hide and seek
- One of Saturn's moons could be a home for extra-terrestrial life
- Insight into Mars
- Ice giants at the end of the Solar System

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

