

# THE ROYAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO) CHARITY NO. SC015557



## 215th Lecture Series 22nd February 2017

### Professor Monica Grady Landing on a comet



#### ABSTRACT

##### **Landing on a Comet**

In November 2014, the Philae lander dropped slowly onto the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. This event was a landmark in Solar System exploration – the first time that a spacecraft had landed on the surface of a comet. In her lecture, Monica Grady will share her experiences of what it was like to be part of such an adventurous undertaking. She will consider why comets are such important objects to explore, and summarise the most significant results from the Rosetta mission.

#### BIOGRAPHY

*Professor of Planetary and Space Sciences at the Open University since April 2005. Prior to 2005, Professor Grady was based at the Natural History Museum in London, where she curated the UK's national collection of meteorites. She graduated from the University of Durham in 1979, then went on to complete a Ph.D. on carbon in stony meteorites at Darwin College, Cambridge in 1982. Since then, she has built up an international reputation in meteoritics, publishing many papers on the carbon and nitrogen isotope geochemistry of primitive meteorites, on Martian meteorites, and on interstellar components of meteorites. She gave the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 2003, on the subject "A Voyage in Space and Time". Asteroid (4731) was named Monicagrady in her honour.*

#### LINKS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-30022765>

<http://www.open.ac.uk/people/mmg67>

<http://www.euro-cares.eu/>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,  
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East.  
Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.  
*Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.*