Bernard Foing, bio & publications

Bernard Foing	Prof. Bernard Foing is President and Board Chair of Space Renaissance International (SRI), Executive Director of ILEWG, the International Lunar Exploration Working Group, and director of the EuroMoonMars programme. Born in France, he studied at the École Normale Supérieure, became Professor Agrégé of Physical Sciences and obtained a PhD in Astrophysics and Space Techniques at CNRS, with research stays in the US. After three years in Chile as an astronomer for ESO and Professor of Astrophysics, he became a permanent researcher at the CNRS Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale. From 1989 he worked at ESA ESTEC, where he was Project Scientist of SMART-1, the first European mission to the Moon, Head of the Research Division and Chief Scientist (2002-2018), and Advisor to the Director-General (2017-2019). Co-investigator of SOHO, XMM-Newton, Mars Express, CoRoT and ISS experiments, he has published over 775 articles, edited 16 books and organized more than 70 international conferences. He is guest professor at VU Amsterdam and Leiden Observatory, a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics and a founder of the Space Generation Advisory Council. At SRI he heads the Space Science & Engineering Laboratory of the Space Renaissance Academy and the Space Renaissance Ambassadors.



Education

- École Normale Supérieure; Professor Agrégé of Physical Sciences
- PhD in Astrophysics and Space Techniques, CNRS, with a sounding-rocket ultraviolet camera experiment; research stays in the US (Lockheed Palo Alto, Sacramento Peak, Boulder, Harvard Observatory)
- 1990 - Habilitation to direct research in Astrophysics and Space Science, University Paris-Sud

Professional history (in brief)

- Chile, 3 years: astronomer for ESO (European Southern Observatory), the French embassy, and Professor of Astrophysics
- Since 1986 - Permanent researcher, CNRS Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale
- 1989-2020 - ESA ESTEC, Space Science Department: visiting scientist, staff scientist, study scientist (SIMURIS interferometer, MORO lunar orbiter, EuroMoon lander), Research Unit Coordinator, Head of the Research Division
- 1996-2006 - Project Scientist of SMART-1, ESA's first mission to the Moon (launched 27 September 2003, lunar orbit November 2004, impact on 3 September 2006)
- 2002-2018 - Chief Scientist, ESA ESTEC; 2012-2017 - President of the ESTEC staff committee; 2017-2019 - Advisor to the ESA Director-General
- Guest professor, VU Amsterdam and Leiden Observatory

Missions and programmes

- Co-investigator of SOHO, XMM-Newton, BIOPAN, CoRoT, Mars Express (including the High Resolution Stereo Camera), ISS Expose and BIOMEX; member of the ExoMars PanCam team
- Principal Investigator of ExoGeoLab, ExoHab and EuroMoonMars; director of the ILEWG EuroMoonMars programme (analog missions and the LUNEX training programmes)
- ILEWG: president (1998-2000) and Executive Director; promoter of the Moon Village and of an international robotic village and human base on the Moon

Space Renaissance International

- President and Board Chair (since 2021, re-elected at the 4th World Congress, July 2026); Director of the Space Renaissance Ambassadors
- Head of the Space Science & Engineering Laboratory of the Space Renaissance Academy
- Member of the SRI delegation to UN COPUOS: Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (February 2025 and February 2026), 69th session (June 2026)

- Promoter of the Space Renaissance 4 All Art Gallery, flown aboard The Exploration Company's Nyx capsule ("Mission Possible", 2025)
- Co-chair of the SRI 4th World Congress "Quality of Life, on Earth and Beyond" (2026)

Selected papers with SRI

- Adriano V. Autino, Alfred Anzaldua, Bernard Foing - "Orbital Debris: a great business opportunity", paper presented at IAC 74, Baku, October 2023
- Adriano V. Autino, Alberto Cavallo, Amalie Sinclair, Bernard Foing, et Al - "A SRI position paper on the key critical factors towards 2030", February 2024
- Adriano V. Autino, Alfred Anzaldua, Amalie Sinclair, Bernard Foing, Marie-Luise Heuser, Frank White, Werner Grandl - "Space 4 All, Space 4 Peace, a Space 18th SDG for the 2030 U.N. Agenda", paper presented at IAC 75, Milan, October 2024

Scientific output

- More than 775 published articles, including about 225 refereed papers, cited more than 7,500 times: lunar and planetary exploration, solar and stellar physics, complex organics in space, astrobiology, instrumentation
- Most cited work: the discovery of fullerene C60+ and diffuse bands in space, CoRoT-7b (the first super-Earth with measured radius), tropical glaciation on Mars, multisite continuous spectroscopy of stars
- Editor of 16 books; organizer of more than 70 international symposia and conferences

Memberships

- International Academy of Astronautics (full member since 2010); International Astronomical Union
- IAF: chair of ITACCUS (socio-cultural utilisation of space), member of the Space Exploration Committee and other committees
- COSPAR: vice-chair of Scientific Commission B (Moon, planets and small bodies) and of the Panel on Exploration (PEX)
- EGU Geosciences Instrumentation division: science officer
- Founder of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), 1999
- Lifeboat Foundation: Asteroid/Comet Impacts, Astrobiology/SETI, Complex Systems, Cosmology, Education, Geology/Geophysics and Space Settlement boards

Google Scholar
Wikipedia
Bernard Foing on the Lifeboat Foundation website