

Margaret J. Geller

Margaret Geller received her B.A. in physics from UC Berkeley in 1970 and her Ph.D. from the Princeton University physics department in 1975. She joined the permanent staff of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (part of the CfA in Cambridge, MA) in 1983.

Geller made pioneering maps of the distribution of galaxies in the nearby universe. Together with COBE observations of fluctuations in the microwave background, these maps profoundly changed the view of structure in the universe. They opened the modern era of mapping the universe. Geller has also made substantial contributions to the study of galaxies and their environment. She has developed and applied techniques for measuring the matter distribution in clusters of galaxies. Her current project, HectoMAP, is an international collaboration to map the distribution of galaxies and dark matter in the middle-aged universe.

Geller is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1992) and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1990). She received a MacArthur Fellowship (1990), the Magellanic Premium (2008), the James Craig Watson Medal (2010), the Russell Lectureship (2010), the Lilienfeld Prize of the APS (2012), and the Schwarzschild Medal (2014) of the German Astronomical Society. She is a Library Lion of the New York Public Library (1997) and she has received 7 honorary degrees including one from Dartmouth College (2014) and one from the University of Turin (2017).