

Jean-Luc Margot

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[Full-length CV](#)

[Website](#)

Academic Positions

Professor, Dept. of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, UCLA, 2009–present.

Professor, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA, 2009–present.

Chair, Dept. of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, UCLA, 2016–2019.

Professor, Dept. of Astronomy, Cornell University, 2004–2008.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Caltech, 2001–2003.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico, 1999–2001.

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Astronomy, Cornell University, 1994–1999.

Erasmus Fellow, Electromagnetics Institute, Technical University of Denmark, 1993.

Education

Ph.D., Astronomy, Cornell University, 1999.

B.S., Electrical Engineering, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, 1993.

Research Interests

Planetary astronomy, planetary dynamics and geophysics, radio and radar astronomy, SETI.

Select Honors and Awards

Elected to the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Fine Arts of Belgium, 2026.

Interdisciplinary Scientist for the ESA/NASA EnVision mission to Venus, 2025.

UCLA Excellence in Science Outreach Award, 2023.

Stanton J. Peale Lecturer, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2019.

Knight of the Order of the Crown (Belgium), 2018.

NASA Group Achievement Award, 2018.

William E. Gordon Lecturer, Cornell University, 2013.

American Astronomical Society Harold C. Urey Prize, 2004.

O.K. Earl Prize Fellow in Planetary Science, Caltech, 2001.

Asteroid (9531) Jean-Luc named by International Astronomical Union, 2001.

Publication Metrics

Authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed research articles and 9 book chapters.

Authored or co-authored 15 articles in *Science* or *Nature*.

Citation h-index of 57 ([Google Scholar](#)). Citation count of 12,000+.

Invited Lectures

Gave 80+ invited lectures (6 Caltech, 5 Cornell, 2 MIT, 2 Princeton, 2 Stanford, 2 UCB, etc.).

Research Grants

Raised \$6.7 million in research funds from federal agencies (NASA, NSF).

Mentoring Experience

Mentored 3 postdocs, 14 graduate students, and 29 undergraduate students.

Select Teaching Experience

EPSS 2 Science in the Movies, W25, F25, UCLA.

EPSS 3 Astrobiology, F09–F18, F20–F24, UCLA.

EPSS 9 Solar System and Planets, S09, W10, S11, W13, W14, UCLA.

EPSS 152/200A Physics of Earth and Planets, F15, UCLA.

EPSS 179/279 SETI, S16–S25, UCLA.

EPSS 200E Planetary Origins, W12, UCLA.

EPSS 217/298 Celestial Mechanics, S12, W23, UCLA.

Select Management Experience

During service as Department Chair (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2019):

Oversaw research operations with \$24.5M in annual extramural funding.

Raised endowment funds from about \$6M to \$8M (including matching funds).

Increased budgets for colloquia (50%) and seminars (100%) to broaden pool of speakers.

Secured funds to renovate 15+ spaces in building, including student interaction space.

Instituted new undergraduate and graduate student awards.

Negotiated three faculty FTEs and helped recruit three faculty members (2/3 female).

Organized 8 public talks with hundreds of attendees each to promote engagement.

Implemented outreach website/program and appointed two outreach coordinators.

Select Public Outreach Experience

Launched citizen science collaboration <http://arewealone.earth> (40,000+ volunteers).

Advised directors, producers, and screenwriters on 15 film or TV productions.

Taught *Astrobiology* to >4500 students and *Solar System* to >1500 students.

67+ public talks (schools, museums, clubs, alumni, cruises, Boeing, SpaceX, etc.).

45+ general news interviews (WSJ, NYT, WaPo, LA Times, AP, Reuters, etc.).

32+ science news interviews (Space.com, New Scientist, Science News, etc.).

15+ radio interviews (KPCC, KTRH, WHYY, ABC, Radio Canada, France Inter, etc.).

12+ television interviews (CNN, Reuters, CBS 2, KCAL 9, Univision, News 10, etc.).

10+ panel discussions (XPRIZE, AAS, NASA Administrator, etc.).

6+ public viewing events (stargazing, transit of Venus, solar eclipse, etc.).

5+ podcast interviews (American Public Media, The Planetary Society, etc.).

Professional Organizations

American Astronomical Society (Planetary Sciences, Dynamical Astronomy).

American Geophysical Union (Planetary Sciences Section, Geodesy Section).

Committee on Space Research (Commissions B Planets, E Astrophysics, F Life Sciences).

International Astronomical Union (Divisions A, B, and F Planetary Systems and Bioastronomy).

International Union of Radio Science (Commission J Radio Astronomy).

SETI Permanent Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics.