

Prof. Dr. Astrid Kiendler-Scharr Obituary

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we have to take leave of Prof. Dr. Astrid Kiendler-Scharr, who passed away much too early on 6th February 2023. Her death came entirely unexpectedly and is completely incomprehensible for everyone who knew her.

After studying Physics in her hometown of Innsbruck, Austria, she completed her doctorate at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg in 1999. Two years after her habilitation at the University of Cologne in 2010, she became Director of the Institute for Energy and Climate Research, Troposphere, at Forschungszentrum Jülich, which was the position she held until her untimely death. In her research, she was primarily concerned with the chemistry of tropospheric aerosols and in particular their influence on climate change. She was a committed campaigner against misinformation surrounding climate change and for a better scientific understanding of the processes that contribute and advance global warming. Astrid has provided her expertise not only in a multitude of scientific publications and as lead author of the latest IPCC report, but also in articles on climate change for the benefit of the general public.

At European Aerosol Conferences as well as at many GAeF events, Astrid was always a welcome contributor and attendee, not only because of her well-known expertise in the field of atmospheric aerosols, but especially because of her kind and balanced personality. Astrid not only knew how to inspire young scientists, but also how to form a team from a diverse group of researchers from different disciplines. She was an inspiring mentor for many international colleagues and several generations of PhD researchers who greatly appreciated her guidance and extremely fast, concise feedback. For Astrid, it was not just a phrase to “live” science but rather a passion in all dimensions. Her legacy will continue to serve as an outstanding role model for many colleagues and friends.

Astrid was a superb and internationally renowned atmospheric scientist and a member of GAeF since 2006. She served GAeF as a board member for many years, and from 2014 as our association’s president for a two-year term. Astrid also acted as a chair for the extensive planning and the implementation of the European Aerosol Conference in Aachen in 2020. Due to her efforts, dedication and great management skills, the conference became a great success, despite the corona pandemic and the need to reorganize it as the first ever online EAC. In recent years, she has dedicated herself with great commitment to the establishment of the new journal *Aerosol Research*, which was launched at her suggestion by the community of European aerosol researchers. Through her great dedication and persuasiveness, not only other European aerosol research societies were excited by the idea, but also Copernicus could be won as a publisher. Thanks to Astrid’s innovative power and sense of fairness, an ordinary Gold Open Access journal alone was not good enough. That is why *Aerosol Research* will become the very first Diamond Open Access journal in the field of aerosol research. Thanks to her special commitment to the establishment of the journal, as well as her outstanding scientific expertise and personality, it was a matter of course for the editorial board and the publisher that Prof. Dr. Astrid Kiendler-Scharr was appointed as the founding editor-in-chief. Astrid was very much looking forward to this position and ensuring the success of this new journal.

With Astrid Kiendler-Scharr, GAeF loses a close friend and a committed member who made a great contribution to the modernization as well as the scientific development of GAeF. Her friendly manner and her ability to inspire us by her frequent visionary ideas will be missed very much. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family. We bow before a great scientist, person and good friend. GAeF will always hold the memory of Prof. Dr. Astrid Kindler-Scharr in the highest esteem.