

William TOBIN, Ph.D.: CURRICULUM VITAE

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Name: William John TOBIN.

Born: 1953 July 28, Manchester, England.

Nationalities: New Zealand citizen.
British citizen. European citizen.

Degrees: 1979: Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA).
1977: Master of Science (Astronomy) (University of Wisconsin-Madison).
1975: B.A. (Honours) (Emmanuel College, Cambridge, UK) Natural Sciences Tripos, Part II: Physics & Theoretical Physics (Class 1). (1980 - M.A.).

Special expertise: Observational astronomy, especially with respect to the application of modern electronic detectors to stellar photometry, and the associated data handling.
The presentation of scientific ideas in simple but not misleading terms, as exemplified by my award-winning publications and numerous lectures to general and specialized audiences on the life and work of the 19th-century French physicist Léon Foucault. Transits of Venus.

Professional experience: 2006 April – Retired.
1987 April – 2006 April. Lecturer, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. (1991: promotion to Senior Lecturer; 1996: promotion above Bar; half-time from 1998)
2003 April – May. Sabbatical leave at the European Southern Observatory, Santiago, Chile.
2004 April – July. Sabbatical leave at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de l'Observatoire de Grenoble, France.
1993 Nov – 1994 Nov. Sabbatical leave at Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris.
1986 Jan – 1986 Dec. Astronome adjoint délégué, Observatoire de Marseille.
1985 Oct – 1985 Dec. Assistant associé, Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche de Mathématiques, Université d'Aix-Marseille I.
1984 Oct – 1985 Sept. Assistant associé, Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche de Physique, Université d'Aix-Marseille I.
1982 Oct – 1984 Sept. European Science Exchange Programme Fellow at the Laboratoire d'Astronomie Spatiale, Marseille, France.
1979 Dec – 1982 Aug. University Observatory, St Andrews, UK. Post-doctoral Research Assistant 1979-80 & 1981-82, Temporary lecturer in Astronomy 1980-81.
1975 Sept – 1979 Oct. Washburn Observatory, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. Part-time Project Assistant 1975-76; Half-time Teaching Assistant 1976-77 & 1977-78; Research Assistant 1978-79.
1977 June – Aug. Summer student at Sacramento Peak Observatory, Sunspot, New Mexico, USA.
1976 June – Aug. Summer student at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

**Other
experience:**

Teaching evening classes in astronomy for the University of Wisconsin extension, 1978, the University of St Andrews Open Association, 1980, the University of Canterbury Extension, 2000. Radio & TV appearances; newspaper articles. Observing at the Pine Bluff Observatory (Wisconsin), the Sacramento Peak Observatory (New Mexico), the South African Astronomical Observatory, the European Southern Observatory (Chile), the International Ultraviolet Explorer (Madrid groundstation), the Observatoire de Haute Provence (St Michel & Chirac high-altitude station), the Observatoire du Pic-du-Midi and the Mt John University Observatory. Commissaire-adjoint, exhibition at Paris Observatory *Léon Foucault: Le pendule et le miroir*, 2001. Numerous public lectures, seminars and conference presentations worldwide. Refereeing of scientific papers, grant & observing-time applications, and book proposals. Supervisor, Mt John University Observatory, 1987–89, 1995–97 (1996: title changed to ‘Director’), Deputy Director 2005–06. Judge, University of Otago Mechaelis Memorial Prize, 1988. Member, NZ National Committee for Astronomy 1989–93.

**University
courses
taught:**

Wide variety of courses in astronomy & physics (all levels) and in electronics & statistics (introductory level only). Supervision of student project work.

**Theses
supervised:**

J.L. Haar ‘Effective temperature calibration of B-type halo stars’ M.Sc. 1989.
A. Wadsworth ‘A variable star search of ESO Key Programme regions in the Magellanic Clouds’ M.Sc. 1991.
S.R.D. West ‘CCD photometry of HV2208 and other eclipsing binaries in the Magellanic Clouds’ M.Sc. 1991.
K.R.Pollard ‘The nature of the low mass supergiants: RV Tauri and R Cornoae Borealis variables’ Ph.D. 1994 (co-supervised with Dr. P.L. Cottrell).
O.K.L.Petterson ‘CaII absorption in the circumstellar disk of Beta Pictoris and other A-type stars’ M.Sc. 1996.
J.D.Pritchard ‘Eclipsing binary star systems in the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds’ Ph.D. 1997.
S.I.Persson ‘CaII absorption in the circumstellar discs of β Pictoris and 51 Ophiuchi’ M.Sc. 1998.
S.I.Barnes ‘Spectroscopic observations of the circumstellar disk of β Pictoris’ M.Sc. 1999.
A.Rakich ‘A complete survey of three-mirror anastigmatic reflecting telescope systems with one aspheric surface’ M.Sc. 2001 (co-supervised with Prof. J.B. Hearnshaw & Mr N. Rumsey).
G.P.Bayne ‘Detection and CCD photometry of eclipsing binaries in the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds’ Ph.D. (2004).
A.Rakich ‘Simple four-mirror anastigmatic systems with at least one infinite conjugate’ Ph.D. 2007 (co-supervised with Prof. J.B. Hearnshaw, Dr Craig Smith & Mr N. Rumsey).

External grants obtained:

1981: UK Science Research Council: Visiting Fellowship Research Grant: £705 to bring Dr. J-P. Kaufmann (Technische Universität, Berlin) to St Andrews for 2 weeks.
1988: NZUGC: \$75,000 towards purchase of a CCD system.
1988: NZ Lottery Board: \$10,000 towards purchase of a CCD system.
1991: NZ Lottery Board: \$10,000 towards purchase of a high-performance colour X-11 terminal for CCD reductions.
1992: NZ Lottery Board: \$5,000 for assistance in reduction of CCD images.
1995: NZ Lottery Board: \$20,000 towards purchase of a CCD system (jointly with J.B. Hearnshaw & P.L. Cottrell).
1996: NZ Lottery Board: \$3,000 towards production and distribution of *Stars in a Cluster*.
1997-2000: Marsden Fund: ~\$200,000 p.a. for ‘Stellar Astrophysics’ (jointly with P.L. Cottrell & J.B. Hearnshaw).
1998-1999: Marsden Fund: \$45,000 for ‘Biography of Léon Foucault.’
2001: Planet Earth Fund: \$11,450 for colour illustrations in Foucault biography.
2005: Marsden Fund: \$300,000 p.a. for 3 years for ‘Microlensing: a new way to explore the Galaxy’ (jointly with I. Bond, J.B. Hearnshaw, D. Sullivan, W. Sweatman & P. Yock).

Professional societies:

Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.
Member of the International Astronomical Union.
Member of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand.

Honours:

1972-74 Entrance Scholarship, Emmanuel College.
1975 Senior Scholarship & Andrew Bury Prize for Natural Sciences, Emmanuel College.
1975-79 Fulbright Travel Grant.
1977-79 Marie Christine Kohler Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
1982-84 European Science Exchange Programme Fellow.
1989 Chalklin Lecturer, Royal Society Canterbury Branch.
1991 Erskine Fellowship, University of Canterbury.
1992 Keynote address, 7th NZ Image Processing Workshop.
1993 New Zealand Institute of Physics Journalism Award.
1994 Arthur Beer Memorial Prize, 1991-93.
1997 Mechaelis Memorial Prize 1996, University of Otago.
2003 Prix spécial du jury, Prix du livre de l’astronomie Haute-Maurienne/Vannoise, Festival de l’astronomie 2003.
2005-06 Member of the MOA collaboration.
2007 Informa Healthcare Award.
2008 Erskine Visiting Fellow, University of Canterbury.
2012 Opening speaker, Transit of Venus Lecture Series, The National Museum of New Zealand–Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.
2015 Speaker, Mt John University Observatory 50th Anniversary Symposium, Tekapo, New Zealand.
2017 Invited speaker, Association de Sauvegarde et d’Étude des Instruments Scientifiques et Techniques de l’Enseignement, Niort, France.

Publications: See list on-line at http://tobin.fr/publications_scientific.pdf

Lectures & seminars: See list on-line at <http://tobin.fr/Talks.html>