



Dear UK alumni, students, researchers and friends,

We are extremely delighted to announce our next Alumni UK-Slovenia event, featuring two exceptional speakers:

**Prof. Dr. Carole Mundell, Director of Science at the European Space Agency (ESA)**

and

**Prof. Dr. Andreja Gomboc, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Nova Gorica**

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Prof. Dr. Andreja Gomboc will share insights on **Catching Cosmic Fireworks with space and ground based observatories.**

*The night sky is not as calm as it appears to the naked eye. Modern telescopes in space and on Earth detect various types of cosmic explosions daily. Astrophysicists from the UK and Slovenia have been collaborating for more than two decades in catching their light with astronomical instruments before it fades away and deciphering what and how made them BANG!*

Prof dr. Carole Mundell will take us on a fascinating journey of **International Scientific Collaboration through Friendship, Crisis and Conflict.**

*International collaboration is the cornerstone of frontier scientific discovery and societal progress. Throughout history, scientists have found routes to develop and communicate their ideas, connect with other thinkers and ultimately bring benefit to society.*

*Today, major scientific facilities such as astronomical telescopes, particle accelerators and space science missions are too complex for only one nation to deliver, so are naturally created by consortia, member state or intergovernmental organisations.*

*At times of crisis - such as global pandemic - evidence-based policy making informed by robust science advice is vital. At times of geopolitical conflict, scientific collaboration becomes more crucial, but more challenging to achieve.*

*This talk will touch on cutting-edge science, science diplomacy and the importance of cross-cultural collaboration for solving global challenges in an ever-evolving technological, political and climate-challenged world.*

We are sure you will not want to miss an opportunity to listen to such inspiring speakers, who also will join us for the networking after the talk.

*Venue and timings:*

**University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics**  
*(Jadranska ulica 19, Ljubljana)*

**Thursday, 25 September, from 10:00 – 12:00**

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**

**About the speakers:**

**Prof. Dr. Carole Mundell (United Kingdom):** an internationally renowned astrophysicist and science leader, currently serving as the Director of Science at the European Space Agency. She was previously the Hiroko Sherwin Chair in Extragalactic Astronomy at the University of Bath and the UK's first Chief Scientific Adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Her pioneering research on black holes and gamma-ray bursts has earned her numerous accolades, including the FDM Everywoman in Technology Woman of the Year. Prof. Mundell is a passionate advocate for equity in science and a sought-after speaker on international science policy, space sustainability, and inclusive leadership.

**Prof. Dr. Andreja Gomboc (Slovenia):** is Professor of Astronomy at the University of Nova Gorica. Following her PhD in physics at the University of Ljubljana, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie fellow at the Liverpool John Moores University, UK, and, later, a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Washington, USA. Prof. Gomboc's main fields of research are black hole astrophysics and astrophysical transients. Since 2016 she is leading Slovenian participation in the Vera Rubin Observatory. She is a member of the European Astronomical Society Council and MSCA COFUND SMASH Executive Board. She is also active science communicator, co-founder of GoChile, the first Slovenian telescope in Chile, co-editor of the webportal Portal v vesolje, and columnist for Delo.

**About the event:**

This lecture is part of the **Alumni UK-Slovenia Club** series, but is also open to the public, especially students and academics. We warmly invite you to attend, connect with our alumni, and—if you studied in the UK but are not yet a member—[consider joining the club to stay engaged](#).

Please note that the number of participants is limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Very best wishes,

British Embassy Ljubljana Communications Team

in collaboration with the

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana