

Group THREE Andrea Comastri

Andrea Comastri is an Associate Astronomer, director of the Bologna Observatory and University Department. He graduated in Astronomy in 1986 and has been part of INAF (National Institute of Astrophysics) since 2003 and part of SDT (Science Definition Team) of the IXO (International X-ray Observatory). He published about 145 magazine articles and his actual scientific interests consist of extragalactic astronomy. Andrea Comastri is also Contract Professor at the University of Ferrara where he teaches high energy astrophysics.

1. How did you get the job in the University of Ferrara? Is this the job you've always dreamed?

I have taught at the University of Ferrara for many years with a contract. I have been employed as an astronomer by the International Institute of Astrophysics after a degree in Astronomy, a doctorate in Astronomy and a post-graduating period of two years in Germany and as many in Italy.

Yes, it is the job I've always dreamed, I studied and worked hard to get it.



2. How many hours do you work in a week?

About 45-50 hours.

3. What are the skills required to work in an astronomical observatory?

An expanded knowledge of Physics applied to Astrophysics, the ability to work in team, to coordinate research projects and proposals related to funds-finding for scientific activities.

4. Do you speak any foreign language?

English. It is the language of science and, because of that, it has to be mastered in order to compete in an international field. Scientific articles and reports are written in English!

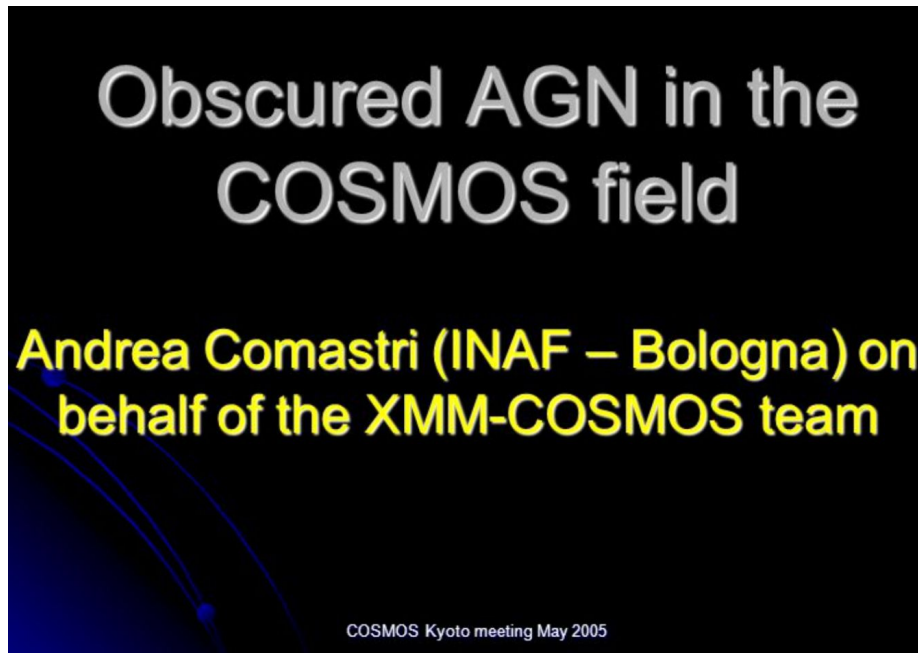
5. On which planet would you want to go if the circumstances and the atmosphere are likely to life development?

On the one which has to be still discovered.

6. What's your favourite book? Do you like science-fiction?

My favourite book is "Monsieur Malussène" written by Daniel Pennac.

I like science-fiction enough, but I don't read books belonging to this genre.



7. What would be the title of a probable future book written by you?

Black holes: matters of gravity.

8. What's your dream, if it isn't already realized?

I dream to win the pennant playing in my team: Bologna.

9. Today there are a lot of theories about the fate and evolution of the Universe. Do you think that the "Big Bang Theory" is the only valid theory about the origin of the Universe?

Yes, I think that it is the valid one, but as it is a theory, it can be rebutted! As scientists we must be vigilant!

10. Have you ever taken part in a project which has changed your way of thinking?

Scientific projects? Maybe no-one has changed my thought in a relevant way.