

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Ronald Eugene Drimmel**

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**Date of birth** 25 September 1964 | **Nationality** USA/Italian

## RESEARCH

My research is focused on the structure and dynamics of the Milky Way, especially its asymmetric features, such as the warp and spiral structure, as seen in its stellar populations and the interstellar medium. These interests have led me to be heavily involved in the ESA Gaia mission.

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL  
ROLES

2026 - present **Principle Investigator, Italian Participation in Gaia DPAC**  
Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF)

2007 - present **Work Package Manager, Interstellar Extinction**  
Coordination Unit 8 (Astrophysical Parameters), Gaia DPAC

## WORK EXPERIENCE

3/8/2020–Present **First Technologist (Primo Tecnologo)**  
Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF)  
Osservatorio Astrofisica di Torino

15/10/2004–2/8/2020 **Research Astronomer**  
Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica  
Osservatorio Astrofisica di Torino

1999–2004 **Researcher Fellow**  
Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica  
Osservatorio Astrofisica di Torino

Various temporary contracts, including Assegni di ricerca, Borse di Studio post-dottorato, and CoCoCo.

01/12/1998–31/3/1999 **Visiting Scientist**  
American Museum of Natural History, New York (USA)  
Consulting and development for the Digital Galaxy project, that produced a 3D virtual model of the Milky Way used by a custom built rendering program made to produce visuals for the new digital Hayden Planetarium.

1996–1998 **Researcher Fellow**

l'Università degli Studi di Torino  
Borse di Studio post-dottorato

01/01/1996–01/06/1996 **Visiting Assistant Professor**

Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA (USA)

## EDUCATION

2001 **Laurea in Astronomia**

l'Università di Padova

(Riconoscimento di equipollenza del diploma "Master of Science" dal University of Florida.)

1995 **Doctor of Philosophy, Astronomy**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (USA)

Thesis title: [Numerical simulation of viscous accretion disks](#)

1990 **Master of Science, Astronomy**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (USA)

1987 **Bachelor of Arts, Physics-Astronomy**

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington (USA)

## PUBLICATIONS

For a complete list of refereed and non-refereed publications, please [consult ADS](#).

### Refereed publications

[87 publications](#) , including 10 as lead author.

### Non-refereed academic publications

[67 publications](#) , including 2 Research Notes of the AAS with more than 100 citations. (Excluding meeting abstracts and online catalogues associated with refereed articles.)

### Project Management documentation

51 documents related to the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis consortium responsible for processing the Gaia satellite telemetry, and to the production of the Euclid FGS input source catalogue for Thales-Alenia Spazio - Italia (TASI). This includes 13 top-level policy and planning documents and 38 progress reports submitted to TASI or ASI. These documents are under NDAs, but can be made available on request.

### Technical Notes

47 technical notes, including 42 Gaia DPAC technical notes and 5 TASI technical notes related to Euclid and SPICA. These documents are under NDAs, but can be made available on request.

### Public Outreach Articles

18 articles, including articles published in Mercury of the PASP, American Scientist (ISSN:0003-0996/1545-2786), and Scientific American (ISSN:0036-8733/1946-7087). Links to the articles are provided in the publications list.