

**David Grinspoon, PhD**

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**Education**

1990 University of Arizona, PhD, Planetary Sciences  
1982 Brown University, B.S., Planetary Science  
1982 Brown University, B.A., Philosophy of Science

**Employment**

2006- Curator of Astrobiology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
1999-2005 Principal Scientist, Southwest Research Institute, Boulder  
2000- Associate Professor Adjunct, Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences,  
University of Colorado  
1991-1999 Senior Research Associate, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics,  
Boulder  
1991-1999 Assistant Professor, Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences, University of  
Colorado, Boulder  
1989-1991 NRC Post-Doctoral Associate, Theoretical Studies Division, NASA/Ames  
Research Center

**Research**

I am interested in the cosmic context for life, so I study the climate history of planets and the factors that influence the origin and evolution of life on Earth and elsewhere. I pursue these interests through participating on spacecraft teams (currently with NASA and the European Space Agency) and through constructing computer models of planetary climate evolution.

## **Current Research Projects**

### **Interdisciplinary Scientist for Venus Express**

Venus Express is a spacecraft that was launched to Venus by the European Space Agency in 2005. It has been orbiting Venus ever since and sending back data on the climate, atmosphere and surface. I serve as “Interdisciplinary Scientist” on the mission, which means that I work with all of the instrument teams to plan observations and analyze data that helps us understand the climate evolution of our sister planet. We’ve discovered some cool stuff, like frequent lightning flashes, strange global patterns of atmospheric circulation and probable evidence for active volcanoes on the surface.

### **Co-Investigator for Titan Team of the NASA Astrobiology Institute**

I am part of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from several different institutions that is studying the organic chemistry of Saturn’s moon Titan to try to understand what lessons about the origin and evolution of life in the universe may be waiting for us on the icy surface and in the atmosphere of that strange, organic rich, haze-covered moon.

### **Ground-based Observations of the Clouds of Venus**

I am working with a group of citizen-scientists (DMNS volunteers), in collaboration with Dr. Mark Bullock of the Southwest Research Institute, to analyze a large set of infrared images taken at the Infrared Telescope Facility on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, in an effort to record motions of the clouds and reach a new understanding of motions in the atmosphere of our sister planet.

### **Five most recent scientific publications:**

Chapman, C.R., B.A. Cohen and D.H. Grinspoon (2007) What are the real constraints on the existence and magnitude of the late heavy bombardment? *Icarus*, 189, 226-238.

D. H. Grinspoon and M.A. Bullock (2007) *Astrobiology and Venus Exploration*, in *Exploring Venus as a Terrestrial Planet*, Larry W. Esposito, Ellen R. Stofan, Thomas E. Cravens, Editors.

K.H. Baines, S.K. Atreya, R. W. Carlson, D. Crisp, D. H. Grinspoon, C. T. Russel, G. Schubert, and K. Zahnle (2007) *Experiencing Venus: Clues to the Origin, Evolution and Chemistry of Terrestrial Planets via In Situ Exploration of our Sister World*. in *Exploring Venus as a Terrestrial Planet*.

F.W. Taylor and D.H. Grinspoon (2009). Climate Evolution of Venus. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 114.

Grinspoon, D.H., E. Cobabe, P. Harman and E.E. Prather (2010). Collaboration Across the Sciences: How Can we Improve Our Practice and Prepare the Future? In *Science Education and Outreach: Forging a Path to the Future*. Ed. By J. Barnes, D. A. Smith, M.G. Gibbs and J.G. Manning. ASPCS. Vol. 431.

**Five of my best loved popular-science publications:**

“The Universe” on The History Channel (Dr. Grinspoon appears in several episodes)

David interviewed by Scott Simon on National Public Radio  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1555314>

Grinspoon, D.H. (2005) Under the Moon, Op Ed in the *New York Times*, January 13, 2005

Grinspoon, D.H. (2006) In the Dark of Space, Enlightenment Waits. Op Ed in the *Los Angeles Times*, January 17, 2006.

“Cosmic Relief” a monthly column written by David Grinspoon in *Sky & Telescope Magazine*.