



Sara Seager

Who was Sara Seager?

Professor Sara Seager was born and grew up in Toronto, Canada. Among her first memories is a trip to a “star party” with her father, to see the moon through a telescope—spectacular! Professor Seager graduated from Jarvis Collegiate Institute, a 200-year old public high school known for its science education. During high school she was astounded to learn that one could be an astrophysicist for a living, only to be deterred by her father, who believed the best career was as a doctor or lawyer. Sara is a Canadian-American astronomer and planetary scientist. She is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is known for her work on extrasolar planets and their atmospheres.

The Life of Sara Seager



Sara (birth date: 21 July 1971) was born in Canada, Toronto Ontario in is Jewish. Her father who was named David Seager lost his own hair when he was 19 years old, was a pioneer and one of the world's leaders in hair transplantation and the founder of the Seager Hair Transplant Centre in Toronto. Sara Seager received a BSC (Bachelor of Science) degree in Mathematics and physics from the University of Toronto in 1994, assisted by a University Undergraduate Student Research Award, and a PHD (Doctor in

Philosophy) in astronomy from Harvard University in 1999. Her doctoral thesis developed theoretical models of atmospheres on extrasolar planets and was supervised by a man named Dimitar Sasselov.

Sara held a postdoctoral research fellow position at the Institute for Advanced Study between the years 1999 and 2002 and a senior research staff member at the Carnegie Institution of Washington until 2006. She joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or MIT in January 2007 as an associate professor in both physics and planetary science, was granted tenure in July 2007, and was promoted to a full professor in July 2010. She currently holds the Class of 1941 chair. She was elected a Legacy Fellow of the American Astronomical Society in 2020. her first marriage. Her first spouse, Michael Wevrick, died of cancer in 2011.

Professor Seager's research now focuses on theoretical models of atmospheres and interiors of all kinds of exoplanets as well as novel space science missions. Her research has introduced many new ideas to the field of exoplanet characterization, including work that led to the first detection of an exoplanet atmosphere. She was part of a team that co-discovered the first detection of light emitted from an exoplanet and the first spectrum of an exoplanet. The exceedingly surprising diversity of exoplanets has led Seager's maxim, "For exoplanets, anything is possible under the laws of physics and chemistry."

Professor Seager is now an astrophysicist and planetary scientist at MIT. She lives with her husband and two sons in Massachusetts.
