

Curriculum Vitae - Pierre Léna

Present address

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Personal data

Born Novembre 22, 1937 at Paris 16
Married with Martine Delacôte, four children: Véronique, Clément, Etienne, Cécile, then separated.
Since 2003, married with Shaohua Sang.

Professional career

EDUCATION

Lycée Janson-de-Sailly, Paris (1948-1956)
École normale supérieure, Paris (1956-1960)
Agrégation de sciences physiques (1960)
Doctorat d'État en physique, Sorbonne, Paris (1969)
"Research on the continuous radiation of the Sun between 1.5 and 500 micrometers", directed by Jean-Claude Pecker

POSITIONS

2004-present: Emeritus Professor, Observatoire de Paris & Université Paris-Cité
1973-2004: Full Professor, Université Paris-Diderot (Paris 7, today Paris-Cité)
1975-1976: Visiting Scientist, Kitt Peak National Observatory (Tucson, Arizona, USA)
1972-1973: Assistant Professor, Université Paris 7
1970-1971: Assistant Professor, Sorbonne (Orsay Center)
1969-1970: Lecturer (Astrophysics), Sorbonne, Paris
1968-1969: Maître-Assistant, Sorbonne (Orsay Center)
1966-1968: Research Associate, Kitt Peak National Observatory (Arizona, USA), then Visiting Scientist, High Altitude Observatory (Boulder, Colorado, USA)
1960-1965: Maître-Assistant, Sorbonne (Orsay Center)

Professional responsibilities

TEACHING & SUPPORT TO EDUCATION

2018-2022: Founder & President, *Office for Climate Education* (OCE), Paris,
then 2022-present: Honorary President
2010-2014: Co-Founder & President, *Fondation La main à la pâte*, Paris, then 2022-present:
Honorary President
2005-2011: Delegate for Education and Training, Académie des sciences, Paris
1991-1997: President, INRP (National Institute of Educational Research), Paris
1996-2004: Head (with some breaks), Graduate School "Astronomie & Astrophysique d'Ile-de-France" (Université Paris VII, then Observatoire de Paris)
1976-1996: Head, DEA "Astrophysique & Techniques spatiales" (Graduate studies), Univ. Paris 7
1986-1994: Professor, Magistère interuniversitaire, École Normale Supérieure, Paris

RESEARCH

1975-1984: Head, *Laboratoire d'astronomie infrarouge*, Observatoire de Paris (DESPA) & CNRS

1971-1975: Head, Research team, *Astronomie infrarouge*, Observatoire de Paris (DESPA) & CNRS

PH.D. DISSERTATIONS (DIRECTED or CO-DIRECTED, selected), essentially in astrophysics

Pierre Turon-Laccarieu (1972)

François Lacombe (1989)

Daniel Rouan (1981)

Pierre Kern (1990)

Christian Perrier (1982)

François Rigaut (1992)

Alain Chelli (1986)

Jean-Marc Conan (1994)

Marie de Muizon (1988)

Pierre Kervella (2001)

Vincent Coudé du Foresto (1994)

Marie Glanc (2002)

Jean-Marie Mariotti (1987)

Clotilde Micewicz Marin (2010) [science

Jean-Louis Monin (1987)

education]

Other professional service responsibilities

POLICIES in EDUCATION, ASTRONOMY & PHYSICS

2004-2010: Member, *Fachbeirat*, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (Heidelberg) & Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching (Germany)

2003-2007: President, *Ethics Committee for Science*, CNRS, Paris

2005-2010: Chair, *Global Education Council*, InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), Trieste (Italy)

2002-2007: Vice-President, *Association Bernard-Gregory*, Paris

1994-1998: Head, National Research Program *Haute résolution angulaire en astrophysique*, CNRS/INSU

1991-1993: Member, Scientific Council, Observatoire de Paris

1989-1993: Chair, Committee for PhDs' support (Natural Environments), Research Ministry, Paris

1986-1993: Member, Committee of Major Research Facilities, Research Ministry, Paris

1989-1992: Member, Editorial Board, *Astronomy & Astrophysics Review*

1989-1990: Member, *French UNESCO National Commission*, Paris

1989-1990: President, *French Physical Society* (Vice-President in 1988 and 1990)

1988-1992: Member, Scientific Council, CNRS, Paris

1987-1990: Member, "*World Development in Astronomy*" Working group, International Astronomical Union

1987-1991: Member, Council, *French Society of Astronomy Specialists (SF2A)*, Paris

1986-1993: Scientific representative of France, *Council of the European Southern Observatory*, Garching (Germany)

1986-1990: President, *French European Southern Observatory Committee*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris

1986-1989: President, *Committee for the Selection of Cooperants (VSNA)*, Institut national d'astronomie et de géophysique (INAG/CNRS), Paris

1986-1988 and 1992-1994: *Inter-University Degree in Physics*, École Normale Supérieure

1984-1988: Member, *Fachbeirat*, Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (Bonn, Germany)

1984-1987: Chairman, *Interferometry Working Group*, European Southern Observatory, Garching (Germany)

1983-1986: Member, *VLT Advisory Committee*, European Southern Observatory, Garching (Germany)

1981-1986: Advisor, *Mission de la recherche*, Ministère de l'éducation nationale, Paris

1981-1986: Member, *Scientific Programs Committee*, Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES),

Paris

1980-1986: Member, *National Committee for Universe Sciences*, Section (7,18), CNRS, Paris

1978-1984: Member, *Council*, Institut national d'astronomie et de géophysique (INAG/CNRS), Paris

1978-1983: Member, *Council of Observatories and Institutes of Earth Physics*, Ministère de l'éducation nationale, Paris

1977-1982: President, then Member, *Scientific & Technical Committee*, European Southern Observatory, Garching, (Germany)

1976-1980: Member, *Astronomy Working Group*, European Space Agency, Paris

1975-1977: Member, *University Advisory Committee* & 1992-1996: *National Council of Universities* (CNU), Paris

1973-1975: Member, *Space Shuttle Management Working Group*, European Space Agency & NASA, Paris & Washington D.C.

PUBLIC OUTREACH OF SCIENCE

2000-2005: Scientific Committee, *Fondation des Treilles*, Tourtour (Var, France)

1996-2015: Member, Editorial Committee of "*Science au Présent*" yearly encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Universalis, Paris

1992-1995: Member, Advisory Program Committee, ARTE France-Germany Television channel, Strasbourg

1989-1993: Member, Scientific Committee, Science magazine *La Recherche*, Paris

1978-1984: Member, *Scientific Committee* design of the Cité des sciences, then Scientific advisor, Public Establishment La Villette/Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris

Membership of Academies

2005: Member, Academia Europaea

2001: Member, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, The Vatican

1991: Member, Académie des sciences, France

Foreign Member of:

the *Royal Society of Sciences* (Liège, Belgium), the *Academia de Educacion* (Argentina), the *National Academy of Exact, Physical, and Natural Sciences* (Argentina), the *Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences* (Venezuela), the *Academia Chilena de Ciencias* (Chile), the *National Academy of educational sciences of Ukraine* (Kyiv), the *Serbian academy of sciences and arts* (Serbia)

Honors & awards

Ordre national du *Mérite*, France (1995, then Commandeur in 2009)

Ordre national de la *Légion d'honneur*, France (1991, then Commandeur in 2022)

Order of the *Lion of Senegal* (Commandeur), (2014)

Literary Prize *Ciel & Espace* (2025)

Erasmus Medal, Academia Europaea (2005)

Janssen Prize, Société Astronomique de France (1999)

Maurice-Pérouse Prize, Fondation de France (1997)

Holweck Prize, French Physical Society & UK Institute of Physics, (1995)

Henri-de-Parville Prize, Académie des sciences (1986)

Benjamin-Valz Prize, Académie des sciences (1979)

Visited countries

NOTE. With education activity in countries marked *

AFRICA

Algeria*, Benin*, Chad, Egypt*, Mali*, Morocco*, Niger*, Senegal*, Soudan*, South-Africa*, Tunisia*

AMERICAS

Argentina*, *Brazil*, Canada, Chile*, Colombia*, Costa-Rica*, Mexico*, United-States*, Venezuela*

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia*, Cambodia*, China*, Korea*, India*, Iran*, Japan*, Kazakhstan*, Malaysia*, Pakistan*, Russia*, Taiwan*, Vietnam*

EUROPE

Austria*, Belgium*, Denmark, Germany*, Hungary*, Italy*, Malta*, Netherlands*, Poland*, Portugal*, Romania*, Serbia*, Spain*, Sweden*, Switzerland*, Slovenia*, Vatican*

MIDDLE-EAST

Lebanon*, Jordan*, Syria*

Invited lectures (selected for 1995-2025)

Note: The choice here only deals with selected education events. The complete list, including astrophysics, is available within the documents provided in Sec. 5. [full bibliography_Pierre_Lena_2026.pdf]

- Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Climate education facing indigenous cultures (2024), The Vatican.
- Académie des Sciences, Arts et Lettres du Benin (2018), Cotonou, Benin.
- High Level Forum on Inquiry Based Science Education (2017), Islamabad & Lahore, Pakistan.
- Grad. School Education and Information Studies. Univ. California (2017), Los Angeles, United States.
- Sudanese National Academy of Sciences (2017), Khartoum, Sudan.
- University of Isfahan (2017), Isfahan, Iran.
- Fundamental Science & Society (2016), Quy Nhon, Vietnam.
- International Partnership on Climate Change - COP22 (2016), Marrakech, Morocco.
- International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), General Assembly (2012), Rome.
- International Astronomical Union, Symposium (2011). The role of astronomy in society and culture, Paris.
- Exposition universelle, Pavillon France (2010), Shanghai, China.
- Knowledge Society Symposium, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (2006), Alexandria, Egypt.
- Forum 'Quelle Afrique pour 2025' (2006), Bamako, Mali.
- Rencontre franco-allemande des journalistes en éducation (2006), Berlin, Germany.
- 7° Foro Internacional de Enseñanza de Ciencias y Tecnologías (2006), Buenos-Aires, Argentina.
- Centre de documentation pédagogique (2006), Damas, Syria.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2006), Stockholm, Sweden.
- Maison Franco-Japonaise (2006), Tokyo, Japan.
- Academia Europaea, Plenary session (2005). Erasmus Medal lecture, Berlin.
- Academia Colombiana de Ciencias exactas, Físicas y Naturales (2005), Bogota, Colombia.
- Second World Science Forum (2005), Budapest, Hungary.
- Network of African Science Academies (2005), Dakar, Senegal.
- Séminaire national Académie des sciences-Ministère de l'éducation nationale (2005), Paris.
- Mind, Brain & Education School (2005), Erice, Italy.
- Malaysian Academy of Sciences & RECSAM (2004), Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Academia Brasileira de Ciências (2004), Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- European Southern Observatory (2004), Santiago, Chile.
- Academia Nacional de Educacion (2004), Buenos-Aires, Argentina.
- Centre de formation des enseignants CREFOC (2004), Tunis, Tunisia.
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Science & Mathematics for the XXIst century (2003), Alexandria, Egypt.
- Dalian Education Office (2003), Dalian, China.
- Indian Academy of Sciences (2003), Delhi, India.
- Segundo Encuentro Latinoamericano sobre la Enseñanza de las Ciencias en la Educación Básica (2003), Santiago, Chile.

- Comité national des programmes, Réussir avec les sciences (2003), Bordeaux, France.
- Pontifical Academy of Sciences (2001). *The Challenges for Science: Education for the Twenty-First Century*, The Vatican.
- Joint Meeting of Science Academies, France & Israël, *Science Literacy* (2001), Tourtour, France
- Bibliothèque nationale de France (1999), Paris.
- Teachers' association for 'école maternelle'-AGIEM (1996), Pau, France.

Publications (selected)

Note: The choice here deals mostly with selected education and societal publications. The complete list, including astrophysics, is available within the documents provided in Sec. 5. [full bibliography_Pierre_Lena_2026.pdf]

BOOKS (selected)

Léna, P., & Grataloup, C. (2024). *Atlas historique du ciel*. Les Arènes, Paris. Translations in Chinese (SSTE, Shanghai, in press), Dutch (NWAdam, Amsterdam 2025), **English** (Thames & Hudson, London, in press), German (in press), Italian (L'ippocampo, Milano, 2025), Japanese and Russian (in press).

Léna, P. (2019). *Une Histoire de flou. Miroirs, trous noirs et autres mondes*. Le Pommier, Paris, 2019. Translated in English *Astronomy's Quest for Sharp Images*. Springer (2020).

Léna, P. (2012). *Enseigner c'est espérer*. Le Pommier, Paris.

Léna, P., Salviat, B., & Quéré, Y. (2009). *29 Notions-clés pour savourer et faire savourer la science*. Le Pommier, Paris

Sanchez Sorondo, M., Malinvaud, E., & Léna, P. (Eds.). (2007). *Globalisation and Education*. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin - New York. Joint Workshop of The Pontifical Academy of Sciences & The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

Charpak, G., Léna, P., & Quéré, Y. (2005). *L'Enfant et la science. L'aventure de La main à la pâte*. Odile Jacob, Paris. Translated in Spanish: *Los Niños y la Ciencia*. (2008), Siglo Veinte Uno, Madrid.

Léna, P. (2002). "Introduction" & "Science Education in France: *La main à la pâte*". In *The Challenges for Science Education for the Twenty-First Century*, Scripta Varia 104, pages 25–36 and 104–117. Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican.

Charpak, G. (Coord.) (1996). *La main à la pâte. Enseigner la science à l'école primaire*. Flammarion, Paris. Translated in Spanish, Serbian, Korean. In Chinese : 动手做 - 法国小学科学教学实验计划, Editions de l'éducation du Peuple, Beijing.

EDUCATION ARTICLES (selected)

Léna, P., & Sadadou, D. (2024). "Climate education facing traditional cultures", in *Indigenous Knowledge and the Sciences*. Pontifical Academies of Sciences & of Social Sciences, Libreria Editrice Vaticana).

Léna, P., Wilgenbus, D., & Lescarmontier, L. (2023). "The role of science education in the Anthropocene," in N. Wallenhorst, R. Hétier, J.P. Pierron, & C. Wulf (Eds.), *Political Education in the Anthropocene*, Springer Handbook.

Borde, B., Léna, P., Lescarmontier, L. (2022) « Education as a Strategy for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation ». In *Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation* (Third Ed.), Lackner, M., Sajjadi, B., Chen, WY. (eds), Springer.

Léna, P. (2019). "Refugees in Education. What can science education contribute ?". In M. Suarez-Orozco (Ed.), *Humanitarianism and Mass Migrations. Confronting the World Crisis?* Univ.Calif. Press.

Léna, P., Mathiot, J.F., Le Padellec, A., & Transetti, C.. (2014). "Dans le sillage de la main à la pâte : des Maisons pour la science au service des professeurs," in *Reflets de la physique*, (42):30–33.

Léna, Pierre. (2014). "Enseigner les sciences, celles de la nature et celles de l'ingénieur," in *Administration et Education*, (4):107–114. ISBN: 0222-674X.

Léna, P. (2012). "Education in science: its values and the role of the scientific community," in *Rendiconti Lincei. Scienze Fisiche e Naturali*, volume 23, pages 13–16. ICSU General Assembly, Rome, September, and CNR, Italy, Springer.

Harlen, W., & Léna, P. (2011). "Introduction to the theme." In *Professional development for primary teachers in science and technology. The Dutch VTB Project in an international perspective*. Sense Publishers, Rotterdam and Taipei. Foreword by Michel Rocard. De Vries, M., van Keulen, H., Peters, S., & van der Molen, W. (Eds.).

Wilgenbus, D., & Léna, P. (2011). "Early science education and astronomy." In D. Valls-Gabaud & A. Boksenberg (Eds.), *The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture*, pages 629–641. Cambridge University Press. International Astronomical Union Symposium 260, January 19-23, 2009, Paris, France.

Sarmant, J.-P., Saltiel, E., & Léna, P. (2010). "La main à la pâte: Implementing a Plan for Science education reform in France." In *The Role of Public Policy in K-12 Science Education*. Information Age Publishing, Charlotte, N.C., USA. De Boer, G.E. Ed.

Léna, P. (2009). "Europe Rethinks Education." *Science*, 326(5952):501, October 23.

Léna, P. (2009). "The Adventure of La main à la pâte." *International Review of Education*, 51, Unesco & Springer.

Léna, P. (2009). "La main à la pâte 1996-2010: Implementing a plan for science education reform in France." In *Current challenges in basic science education*. UNESCO Education sector.

Battro, A.M., Fischer, K.W., & Léna, P. (Eds.). (2008). *The Educated Brain: Essays in Neuroeducation*. Cambridge University Press and Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Translated into Chinese, 2010.

Ajchenbaum-Boffety, B., & Léna, P. (Eds.). (2008). *Éducation, sciences cognitives et neurosciences : quelques réflexions sur l'acte d'apprendre*. Académie des sciences & OECD, Presses universitaires de France.

Léna, P. (2006). "From science to education: the need for a revolution." *European Review*, 14:3–21. Academia Europaea, Erasmus Medal Lecture 2005.

Léna, P. (2000). "Sustainable science education." In *Transition to Sustainability in the 21st Century*, Conference of the World's Scientific Academies, May 15-18. InterAcademy Panel, IAP.

SCIENCE & SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS (selected)

Léna, P., & Serres, M. (2010). "Sciences et philosophie" In *Michel Serres* (Vol. 94), pages 47–55. L'Yvonnet, F. and Frémont, C. (Eds.). L'Herne, Paris.

Léna, P. (2010). "The teaching of evolution." In *Scientific Insights into Evolution of the Universe and Life*. Arber, W., Cabibbo, N., & Sanchez Sorondo, M. (Eds.), Acta 20, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican.

Bordeyne, P., Léna, P., & Osborne, M. (2009). "Quelle éthique face au changement climatique? Agir en situation d'incertitude." In *Ethique et Changement climatique*. Coordinated by Bordeyne, P., Léna, P., & Osborne, M. Authors: Abel, O., Bard, E., Berger, A., Besnier, J.-M., Guesnerie, R., & Serres, M. Le Pommier, Paris.

Léna, P. (2008). "Quatre ans au Comité d'éthique du CNRS, un témoignage. Responsabilité et liberté." *Connaitre*, 29:6–13. Association Foi et Culture scientifique, Gif/Yvette.

Léna, P. (2006). "Après un siècle d'astronomie, quelle image du monde ?" *Bulletin de la Société française de philosophie*, 100(2):1–23.

Léna, P. (1999). "Sciences en partage : un défi" In *Sciences et Valeurs. Ombres et lumières de la science au XXI^e siècle*, p. 183–194. Huber, G. et Forti, A. (Eds.). Éditions médicales et scientifiques, Paris.

Léna, P. (1990). "Avant-Propos." In *Andrei Sakharov. Science et Liberté*, pages 5–6. Editions de Physique, Paris.

MEDIA (selected)

Interviews and podcasts

- [Les scientifiques ont gardé l'étonnement de l'enfance](#) (12/05/2025), France Culture
- [Concorde, la Lune et l'ovni](#) (8/04/2024), France Inter
- [Un astronome passionné d'enseignement](#) (23/06/2023), Académie des sciences
- [Enseigner c'est espérer](#) (29/12/2012), France Culture

- Les maisons régionales pour la science : un lieu de développement pour les enseignants, un avenir pour les enfants (30/10/2011), Académie des sciences
- Les nouveaux défis de l'éducation (13/3/ 2011), Académie des sciences
- Hommage à Georges Charpak (4/10/2010), France Inter

Television

- Léna, P. In Les Grands Témoins de l'éducation. Interview with Meirieu, P. (2010)
- Tours du monde, Tours du Ciel I, 10 épisodes, Film de Robert Pansard Besson, avec Michel Serres et Pierre Léna, 4 DVD et un livret, EDP Sciences, 2009
- Eclipse 73, Jean Rösch & Pierre Léna, réalisateur G.Dassonville (1974), DVD, CERIMES, Vanves 2008.
- La Marche du Siècle (1987-1999), Public TV (Antenne 2 & France 3), Débats de société, J.M. Cavada, J.P. Bertrand & S. Faidherbe. Over ten participations.