

# Claudine Hermann

A condensed matter physicist, Claudine Hermann (1945-2021) was the first woman to be appointed professor at the prestigious Ecole polytechnique.

After graduating from Ecole normale supérieure, Claudine Hermann focussed on optical pumping in semiconductors, polarized electron photoemission and near-field optics. In particular, she obtained the value of the Landé factor for electrons in Gallium Arsenide, important for understanding spin physics in the quantum Hall effect regime. Throughout her career, she taught at the ENS and the Ecole Polytechnique.

Claudine Hermann is famous, including to the general public, for her commitment to institutional actions aimed at overcoming the deficit of women in science and fighting against the “glass ceiling” that limits womens' access to positions of high responsibility, especially in science.

In 2000, she founded the “Femmes et Sciences” association, of which she remained honorary president, and as such participated in many projects at national and European level. Recognized with the most prestigious national distinctions, she has been a tireless campaigner for this cause, particularly in education and academia, where vocations emerge.