

# LUISA FERNANDA ZAMBRANO-MARIN

Space Scientist & Communicator

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Florida, USA

SpaceLuisa



## IN A NUTSHELL

- +20 years of experience in space science and STEAM education**  
Integrating space concepts across K-12 and higher education. Led development of innovative programs, such as the Arecibo Observatory Space Academy and bilingual teacher training initiatives for OSIRIS-REx. Experienced in professional development, student mentorship, and informal STEM engagement.
- Planetary and Space Scientist**  
Planetary Defense: Near-Earth Objects characterization using optical and radar systems.
- Experimental research**  
Expertise in optical and radio telescopes; experience with the Juno mission magnetometer and custom instrumentation for ground-based observatories.
- International Experience = > Network!**  
From work at the Florida Space Institute, The Arecibo Observatory- Puerto Rico, Goddard Space Flight Center and Ames Research Centers, the International Space University, the Kitt Peak Observatory, and the Vatican Observatory.
- High impact with limited resources**  
Led space and STEM events (>3,000 attendees) and cross-sector projects across academic, administrative, and entrepreneurial settings under constrained budgets.

## EDUCATION

PhD. in Space Sciences  
**Universidad de Granada**  
Spring 2025 Granada, Spain/ Florida, USA

M.Sc. in Space Sciences  
**International Space University**  
Sept 2007 Strasbourg, France

B.Sc. in Applied Physics  
**UMET, Ana G. Mendez University System**  
May 2005 San Juan, PR

## SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

- Google Scholar Profile
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)
- NASA-Astrophysics Data System

## MOST PROUD OF

- Sally Ride Award**  
Florida Sally's Night, Nov 2025. "For Advancing Space Research and Education in Florida"
- Supporting the current and future space workforce**  
Promoting space economy careers, planetary defense, and space resource utilization
- +400 Alumni**  
Graduates across disciplines with applications to space exploration and technology
- Inspiring next generation space scientist**  
... to find their place in space!

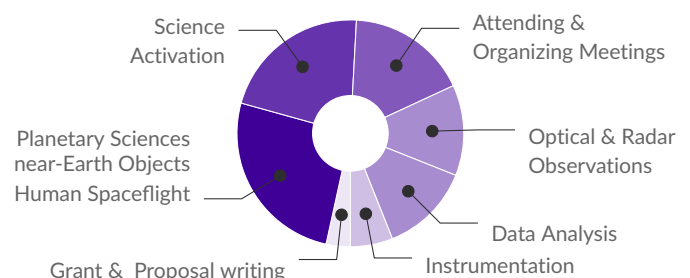
## STRENGTHS & INTEREST

- Science Communication
- Leadership & Initiative
- Creative Problem Solving
- Reliability
- Cross-disciplinary Collaboration
- Human Space Habitation
- Science Activation
- Curriculum Development
- Mentorship
- Workforce Advancement
- Planetary Defense

## LANGUAGES

Natural	s	r	w	Technical	x	r	w
English	●	●	●	IDL	●	●	●
Spanish	●	●	●	Python	●	●	●
Italian	●	●	●	Java	●	●	●

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE



## EXPERIENCE

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### Science Staff

#### Florida Space Institute, University of Central Florida, Planetary Radar Group

📅 Aug 2020 -present 📍 Orlando, FL

- On going characterization of Near Earth Objects observed with radar. Developing shape models, dynamical and physical properties.
- Develop catalog of Arecibo Planetary Radar Data Legacy
- Member of the Small Bodies Assessment Group, NEO-WARP initiative, Planetary Defense community at large

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#### Arecibo Observatory/UCF- Planetary Radar Group

📅 Apr 2018- Aug 2022 📍 Arecibo, PR

- 7 years of experience with radar observations and techniques in support of post detection characterization of near-Earth objects and other solar system bodies
- Preparation and participation in observations, data processing, archiving, and study of near-Earth asteroids and other Solar System bodies with the Arecibo Planetary radar system

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#### Arecibo Observatory/ USRA- Planetary Radar Group

📅 Sep 2013- Mar 2018 📍 Arecibo, PR

- Participate and support observations with the Arecibo Planetary Radar System

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### Founder & Director- Arecibo Observatory Space Academy

#### Arecibo Observatory

📅 Aug 2013–Dec 2017 📍 Arecibo,PR

- Creation of workshops, activities and curriculum
- Develop and conduct inter-grade, inter-discipline activities utilizing external resources for integration of curriculum's with private sector and higher learning institutions
- Mentor High schools students in the development of scientific research projects focused in space exploration

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### Assistant Director Teacher Quality Grants Program (Astrobiology)

#### University of Texas Brownsville

📅 June 2011-June 2012 📍 Brownsville, TX

- Preparation of workshops, lectures and curriculum for program on Physics, Astronomy & Space Sciences
- Use of teacher and educational techniques for classroom implementation in Educators of English Language (EEL) and English as Second Language (ESL) settings

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### Visiting Astronomer

#### Vatican Observatory Group, VATT

📅 Summer 2004 & 2005 📍 Castel-Gandolfo, Italy

- Visiting astronomer gathered data with the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope in Mount Graham AZ

## SELECTED EVENTS

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- "2nd Florida Space Institute Space Research Symposium", University of Central Florida, **Co-Convener**, Orlando, FL, Nov 2025 (300+ Att.)
- "Arecibo Radar Modeling Workshop (ARMW'25)", University of Oviedo, **Co-convener**, Oviedo, Spain, Apr 2025 (25+ Att.)
- "The Not So Solar Eclipse Event", Florida Space Institute and University of Central Florida, **Organizer**, Orlando, FL, Apr 2024 (3,000+ Att.)
- "53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference", NASA/LPI, **Session Chair**, Houston, TX, Mar 2022 (80+ Att.)
- "American Astronomical Society, Division of Planetary Sciences 53rd meeting", AAS, **Session Chair**, Virtual, Oct 2021 (50+ Att.)
- "National Science Foundation Arecibo Options Workshop", NSF, **Support Staff**, Virtual, Summer 2021 (130+ Att.)
- "International Space Development Conference 2016", National Space Society, **Conference Chair**, San Juan, PR, May 2016 (1,100+ Att.)
- "Americas Aerospace Summit 2015", Aerospace States Association, **Conference Convener**, San Juan, PR, Oct 2015 (100 Att.)
- "International Space Development Conference 2015", National Space Society, **Student Coordinator**, Toronto, Canada, May 2015 (1,300+ Att.)
- "Yuri's Night @ Arecibo Observatory 2015", Arecibo Observatory, **Event Organizer**, Arecibo, PR, Apr 2015 (700+ Att.)
- "World Space Week 2014 @ Arecibo Observatory", Arecibo Observatory, **Event Organizer**, Arecibo, PR, Oct 2014 (800+ Att.)
- "Caribbean Space Summit", EcoExploratorio, **Conference Chair**, San Juan, PR, Oct 2014 (150+ Att.)
- "New Space 2014", Space Frontier Foundation, **Registration Manager**, San Jose, CA, Jul 2014 (200+ Att.)
- "International Space Development Conference 2014", National Space Society, **Student Coordinator**, San Diego, CA, May 2014 (1,400+ Att.)
- "International Space Development Conference 2013", National Space Society, **Student & Volunteer Coordinator**, San Diego, CA, May 2013
- "International Space Development Conference 2012", National Space Society, **Volunteer Coordinator**, Washington, DC, May 2012 (900+ Att.)
- "World Space Week 2011, 50 Years of Human Space Flight", UT Brownsville, **Event Organizer**, Brownsville, TX, Oct 2011 (200+ Att.)
- "World Space Week 2010, Mysteries of the Cosmos", UT Brownsville, **Chair**, Brownsville, TX, Oct 2010 (100+ Att.)
- "NASA Space Science Day at UTB 2010", UT Brownsville, **Session Organizer and Presenter**, Brownsville, TX, Jan 2010 (120+ Att.)
- "World Space Week 2009, International Year of Astronomy", UT Brownsville, **Chair**, Brownsville, TX, Nov 2009 (100+ Att.)
- "New Space 2008", Space Frontier Foundation, **Invited Panelist**, Washington, DC, Jul 2008
- "Moon-Mars Blitz", U.S. Congress and Senate, **Invited Participant**, Washington, DC, Jun 2007