

## **ATHENA COUSTENIS**

Athena Coustenis is Director of Research at the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), astrophysicist with the Laboratoire d'Etudes Spatiales et d'Instrumentation en Astrophysique (LESIA) of the Paris-Meudon Observatory. She specializes in Planetology and Space Techniques. She received a Ph.D. in Astrophysics and Space Techniques in 1989 and a Habilitation for Directing Research in 1996 from the University of Paris. Her research is devoted to the investigation of planetary atmospheres and surfaces, mainly of the outer planets, with emphasis on outer planets satellites and in particular Titan. In the recent years she has also been involved in an effort to uncover the nature of the atmosphere surrounding the exoplanets and to return by space missions to the giant planets. She has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has co-written two books.