


Free Public Talk

This Thursday, February 18th, 6-7pm

Location: UH Hilo, Wentworth Room 1

Dr. Nienke van der Marel



**ALMA and the birth cradles of planets:
searching for signatures of planet formation**

Abstract:

In recent years, astronomers have discovered thousands of exoplanets: planets around other stars than our Sun. Planets form in disks around young stars: pancake-like structures of gas and dust. How this formation process works is still a mystery. The ALMA telescope, an enormous array of 66 telescope dishes in the Atacama desert at 15000 ft altitude in Chile, gives the opportunity to zoom in onto these disks. I will explain how astronomers search for the answers on planet formation and show some of the major discoveries of ALMA in the last few years.

