Cristiane de Morais Smith
awarded the Emmy Noether Distinction

Cristiane de Morais Smith, a Full Professor at the University of Utrecht, has been awarded the prestigious Emmy Noether Distinction of the European Physical Society for her outstanding scientific contributions to the theory of condensed matter physics, in particular to the understanding of topological phases in two-dimensional atomic and electronic systems.

During the last years, she made very important contributions to several topics, but one could summarise them by mentioning *"her seminal contributions to the understanding and design of quantum simulators in ultracold atoms and electronic systems, aiming at unveiling novel quantum states of matter."*

Born in Brazil, her scientific career is strongly connected to Europe, where she studied and worked during the last 27 years. She started her physics studies in Brazil, but performed a large part of her PhD at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, was a visiting scientist at ICTP Trieste, Italy, did a postdoc in Hamburg, Germany and in Fribourg, Switzerland, where she received the Professor Award of the Swiss National Science Foundation and became an Associate Professor in 2001. Since 2004 she holds a full Professor Chair in Condensed Matter Physics at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, where she established a well-known research group in the field of strongly correlated systems. Morais Smith advances the field by using analytical techniques to deepen our theoretical understanding and by closely collaborating with experimentalists such as Andreas Hemmerich (Hamburg), in the area of cold atoms or with the group of Daniel Vanmaekelbergh and Ingmar Swart (Utrecht), on the design of novel nano-lattices. In 2008, she was awarded the prestigious VICI Prize by the Netherlands Research Organization (NWO). Moreover, three years ago she was a recipient of the Dresselhaus Prize "for her outstanding contribution to the understanding of topological phases in two-dimensional atomic and electronic systems" by Hamburg University, Germany. Prof. Morais Smith speaks seven European languages and collaborates actively with top researchers in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Prof. De Morais Smith is also actively establishing research bridges between Europe and other countries oversea. She was awarded a Special Visiting Professor Fellowship by the Brazilian Agency CNPq from 2013-2016, and two years in a row she was awarded the High-End Foreigner Expert (HEFE) visiting Professorship from the Chinese Government. She is currently an Associate Faculty of the Wilczek Quantum Center, a member of the Advisory Board and a Fellow of the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute in Shanghai. Her recognition in the international scientific community can be judged from the many (~300) invited and plenary talks she has been giving.

Apart from her excellent contributions to science, Cristiane de Morais Smith is also a passionate teacher who attracts many students to her group by her enthusiasm and passion for science, which has already led to 22 Bachelor, 42 Master and 23 PhD theses. Many of her students have received prices for their work and have found excellent positions in academia and industry all over the world. In addition, she is very engaged in outreach activities, combining Science and Art and participating in movies in which she is capable of conveying her enthusiasm and passion for science in a contagious manner. She is a role model for all her colleagues, and especially, for the few young female researchers, who represent less than 15% in our field in Europe. The 2019 Emmy Noether Distinction is therefore a well deserved highlight in her brilliant carreer. ■

■ **Gloria Platero,** *Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid, CSIC*
■ **Theo Rasing,** *Radboud University Instute for Molecules and Materials*