



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 18

Francesca Ferlaino





Francesca Ferlaino (*1977)

Quantum Physicist

She earned her Master's degree in Physics at the University of Naples and subsequently completed her PhD at the University of Florence.

At the University of Innsbruck, she established her own research group and is a Professor of Experimental Physics and Scientific Director at the Institute for Quantum Optics of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



In 2012, she and her team were the first to create a Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) from the element Erbium. A BEC is a state that occurs at extremely low temperatures, where atoms behave as a single quantum object.

In 2019, they achieved the recognition of "Physics Highlight of the Year" for their discovery of evidence of supersolidity, a paradoxical state in which matter particles are simultaneously crystalline, meaning regularly arranged, and move without friction, meaning superfluid.





She is the founder of the organization *Atom*innen*, a platform for mentoring, networking, and training that aims to increase the visibility and support of women in science and create a more inclusive environment.

They offer support through scholarships, awards, and career opportunities.

