Born in Germany, I came to Brazil as an infant and have lived there for nearly all my life. I earned my BSc in Physics from the University of Campinas (Unicamp) in 1973. While I was still an undergraduate, Professor Cesar Lattes introduced me to modern physics and the basic concepts of quantum mechanics. I went on to earn my PhD at Unicamp in 1982, under his supervision. Lattes' cosmic-ray research, including experiments with Japanese colleagues at Mount Chacaltaya in Bolivia, inspired me to join his research group. I have worked in cosmic-ray physics ever since.

I have been a faculty member at Unicamp since 1974 and am currently a Full Professor at its Institute of Physics (IFGW), where I was the first woman to attain that rank. I held postdoctoral appointments at Heidelberg University in Germany and at Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe. My research focuses on cosmic rays, astroparticle physics, elementary particle physics, and high-energy nuclear physics.

Since joining the Pierre Auger Collaboration in 1994, I have contributed to several of its working groups. I have been a member of the Pierre Auger Collaboration's Publication Committee since 2009 and chaired it from 2013 to 2023. My scientific service also includes several terms on the Technical and Scientific Council of Brazil's National Network for High-Energy Physics (RENAFAE), and service on the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) Advisory Committee for Physics and Astronomy from 2015 to 2018 and again from 2025 to 2028. Since 2022, I have served on the Advisory Committee of the Southern Wide-field Gamma-ray Observatory (SWGO). I also served on the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) Management Committee for the LLAMA experiment and represented FAPESP on committees for other experiments.

At Unicamp, I have held several academic leadership roles, including Associate Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Director and Acting Director of the Institute of Physics, and Head of the Department of Cosmic Rays and Chronology. I have taught at Unicamp for more than five decades. In 2017, I received the University's Faculty Recognition Award for Dedication to Undergraduate Teaching.