

Dr Maruša Žerjal is an advanced postdoc in the Substellar group at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC). Her main research interests are young low-mass stars and substellar objects, and their age and membership in clusters and associations.

She obtained her PhD at the University of Ljubljana, where she characterised chromospheric active stars in the RAVE survey. She continued her work at the Australian National University, where she focused on the search for young, low-mass, lithium-rich stars in the solar neighbourhood. She also studied the kinematic age and substructure in the nearby Scorpius-Centaurus association. Her previous work at the IAC includes determining the membership of the young nearby open clusters and analysing the evolution of their luminosity functions.

Dr Žerjal is an experienced observer, having spent more than 150 nights observing at the Asiago Observatory in Italy, the Siding Spring Observatory in Australia, and the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory in La Palma, Canary Islands. Her other interests include luminosity and initial mass functions, the evolution of young clusters, stellar associations, their kinematic age and dispersion, spectroscopic indicators of youth, lithium depletion, radial velocities.