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Destroy, create, transform and sublimate: laboratory dissociation studies on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and analogues

Kamer, J.

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Propositions
accompanying the thesis

Destroy, Create Transform and Sublimate

Laboratory Dissociation Studies on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
and Analogues

1. Benzonitrile is chemically of vital importance as it can play a role in both dissociation and association reactions in the ISM (Chapter 3).
2. PANHs should not be omitted in interstellar PAH research (Chapter 4 & 5).
3. Dissociation of PA(N)Hs in the ISM is not the end of their chemical, interstellar life cycle (Chapter 6).
4. Carbonaceous molecules containing five-membered rings are formed from small PAHs without carbon atom loss (Chapter 7).
5. Experimental data demands interpretation, not acceptance.
6. Few analytical techniques match the elegance of time-of-flight mass spectrometry.
7. Scientific breakthroughs rely more on creativity and imagination than on method.
8. Anything can happen in space.
9. Never awaken your supervisor from slumber.
10. Empathy is the best virtue a person can have.
11. The most difficult thing in academia is pronouncing everyone's name correctly.
12. Fail as much as you can.

Jerry Kamer
Leiden, 22 oktober 2025