Abigail Polin, PhD

Carnegie Observatories
813 Santa Barbara Street
Pasadena, CA 91101

abigail@caltech.edu
abigailpolin.com

Education

Ph.D. in Physics May 2020
University of California, Berkeley
Advisors: Peter Nugent & Daniel Kasen
Thesis: *Pushing the Helium Envelope: Signatures of Normal and Unusual Supernovae from Sub-Chandrasekhar Mass White Dwarf Explosions*

M.S. in Physics May 2015
University of California, Berkeley

B.S. in Physics December 2012
New York University

Research Appointments

Joint Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2020-Present
Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Observatories
Burke Fellowship in Theoretical Physics, Caltech

NSF Graduate Research Fellow 2015-2020
University of California, Berkeley

Fellowships & Awards

NERSC Early Career Award: High Impact Scientific Achievement 2021
Burke Fellowship in Theoretical Physics, Caltech 2020-Present
CTAC Fellowship, Carnegie Observatories 2020-Present

– GRAD –
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2015-2020
Wonderfest Science Envoy 2019-2020
Berkeley Connect Fellowship 2014-2016
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley 2014

Computing Grants (PI-ed)

National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC):

ERCAP 2022:
Perlmutter GPUs ..... 15,000 node-hours
Cori KNL CPUs ..... 1,156,000 core-hours

NSF Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE):

XRAC 2021: Stampede2 CPUs ..... 3,060,000 core-hours
Startup Allocation: Stampede2 CPUs ..... 108,800 core-hours

Awarded Telescope Time (PI-ed)

Las Campanas Observatory:

Magellan: Baade 6.5m telescope
— IMACS Optical & FIRE NIR Spectrographs ..... 4 nights (2022B)
..... 4 nights (2022A)

Magellan: Clay 6.5m telescope
— LDSS3 Optical Spectrograph ..... 2 nights (2021B)

Invited Talks & Conference Proceedings:

— INVITED —

Chandra Workshop: supernova Remnants and their Progenitors	Aug 2022
NBIA Workshop Radiation Transfer in Astrophysics, Niels Bohr Institute	June 2022
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, NERSC Awards Seminar Series	Nov 2021
UC Davis, Physics & Astronomy Seminar	Apr 2021
Purdue University, Astronomy Seminar	Feb 2021
Florida State University, Astronomy Seminar	Nov 2020
Stony Brook University, Astronomy Seminar	Oct 2020
Harvard University, Galaxy and Cosmology Seminar	Dec 2019
Northwestern University, Observational Astronomy Seminar	Nov 2019
UC Santa Barbara, Astronomy Lunch Talk	Nov 2019
UC Santa Cruz, Astronomy FLASH Talk	Oct 2019
Caltech, Astronomy Tea Talk	Oct 2019
Carnegie Observatories, Lunch Talk	Oct 2019
ZTF Theory Network Meeting	Sept 2019
Haverford College, Physics and Astronomy Colloquium	Sept 2019
Texas A&M, Cook's Branch Supernova Workshop	Mar 2019
KITP, UC Santa Barbara, ZTF Theory Network December Meeting	Dec 2018
UC Santa Cruz, Pre-Filippenkopalooza Supernovae Meeting	Aug 2018
KITP, UC Santa Barbara, ZTF Theory Network Summer Meeting	Aug 2018
Weizmann Institute of Science, Particle Physics and Astrophysics Workshop	Dec 2017
New York University, CCPP Astrophysics Seminar	May 2017
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Astronomy Seminar	Mar 2013

— CONTRIBUTED —

TDAMM, Anapolis MD	Aug 2022
AAS Dissertation Talk, Winter Meeting, Honolulu, HI	Jan 2020
Midwest Workshop on Supernovae and Transients, Ohio State	Sept 2019
The Beginnings and Ends of Double White Dwarfs, DARK, Copenhagen	July 2019
UC Berkeley, Theoretical Astrophysics Seminar	Jan 2018
Supernovae: The LSST Revolution Workshop, Northwestern	May 2017
APS March Meeting, Baltimore, MD	Mar 2013
APS March Meeting, Houston TX	Mar 2011

Mentorship: Advising Student Research

Graduate Students

Peter Scherbak (Caltech)
Margot Fitz Axen (UT Austin, DOE CSGF Fellow)

Undergraduate Students

Desiree Harvell (CASSI Summer Student: California State University, San Bernardino)
Siddharth Boyeneni (Caltech SURF: Caltech)
Hayden Campos (CASSI Summer Student: Dartmouth)

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor (UC Berkeley)

Astro 9: Introduction to Scientific Computing — Summer 2020
Sole Instructor: in charge of syllabus design and instruction

Head Graduate Student Instructor (UC Berkeley)

Physics 7A: Introductory Mechanics — Spring 2014

Graduate Student Instructor (UC Berkeley)

Astro C10: Introduction to General Astronomy — Fall 2019
Astro 7A: Introduction to Astrophysics — Fall 2017
Astro 250: Introduction to High Performance Computing — Spring 2017
Physics 7A: Introductory Mechanics — Fall 2013

Adjunct Instructor (New York University)

Observational Astronomy — Spring 2013

Leadership, Outreach & Service

Public Talks

Astronomy on Tap, Pasadena CA — Oct 2022
Wonderfest Science Series, Virtual Talk — Jan 2021
Radio Interview: Women in STEM w/ KPOO-FM — Mar 2020
Wonderfest Science Envoy Speaks at the Verdi Club, San Francisco, CA — Feb 2020
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA — Nov 2018

Leadership Positions

Carnegie Postdoc Representative — 2021-2022

CASSI Science Mentor — 2021-2022
CASSI is a 10 week internship and educational program at Carnegie designed to improve undergraduate students' fluency with research and communication.

Wonderfest Science Envoy — 2019-2020
A program funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which identifies PhD

students who show particular science-popularization promise. The programhelps us to develop the subtle art and science of public outreach. The program's participants emerge as articulate Science Envoys.

UC Berkeley Society for Women in the Physical Sciences:
Astronomy Coordinator — Fall 2015 - Spring 2019
Mentoring Coordinator — Fall 2014 - Spring 2016

Berkeley Connect Fellow — Fall 2014-Spring 2017
Berkeley Connect is a teaching and mentorship program intended to strengthen the relationship between undergraduate students and the Physics Department. As a Fellow, I helped design the curriculum, led class meetings, and mentored students one-on-one.

Respect is Part of Research: Founding Member and Peer Facilitator — 2014 - 2016
RPR is a graduate student group that runs annual peer-led sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention workshops for incoming first-year graduate students. RPR's primary mission is to create a respectful, positive working environment where everyone can do their best science.

Compass Program Organizer/Instructor — Summer 2014
The Berkeley Compass Project is a Physics graduate student-run organization that aims to improve the experiences of undergraduate students from under-represented groups interested in STEM.

Select Publications

Publication Summary: 15 journal articles, 3 as first author, 6 identifying a new class of supernovae discoveries that matched our theoretical model predictions

1. *Using Anisotropies as a Forensic Tool for Decoding Supernova Remnants*
Polin, A., P. Duffell, and D. Milisavljevic
submitted to The Astrophysical Journal Letters (5 September 2022)

2. *Nebular Models of Sub-Chandrasekhar Mass Type Ia Supernovae: Clues to the Origin of Ca-rich Transients*
Polin, A., P. E. Nugent, and D. Kasen
The Astrophysical Journal, 906, 65 (2021)

3. *Observational Predictions for Sub-Chandrasekhar Mass Explosions: Further Evidence for Multiple Progenitor Systems for Type Ia Supernovae*
Polin, A., P. E. Nugent, and D. Kasen
The Astrophysical Journal, 873, 84 (2019)

4. *Infant-phase Reddening by Surface Fe-peak Elements in a Normal Type Ia Supernova*
Qi Ni, Y., D. Moon, M. Drout, **A. Polin**, and 40 colleagues
Nature Astronomy, 6, February (2022).

5. *SN2018byg: A Massive He-shell Double Detonation on a Sub-Chandrasekhar Mass WD*
De, K., M. Kasliwal, **A. Polin**, and 27 colleagues
The Astrophysical Journal Letters, 873, L18 (2019).