

# ASHLEY CHONTOS

Institute for Astronomy  
2680 Woodlawn Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96822

achontos@hawaii.edu  
347-443-2505  
ashleyin.space

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Astronomy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa *(expected June 2022)*  
Thesis: *Precise Stellar and Planet Properties in the Kepler, K2 & TESS Era*  
Advisor: Daniel Huber  
M.Sc., Astronomy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa 2018  
B.Sc., Mathematics, *Summa Cum Laude*, SUNY Albany 2016  
Focuses: Statistics, Applied Mathematics  
Minor: Computer Science  
B.Sc., Physics, *Summa Cum Laude*, SUNY Albany 2016

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

*NSF Graduate Research Fellow* 2018–present  
*Research Assistant*, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa 2017–2018  
*Research Assistant*, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center 2016  
*Research Assistant*, Stanford University 2015–2016

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Asteroseismology, stellar evolution, exoplanet detection and characterization, photometry, spectroscopy, precise radial velocities, software development, computational astrophysics, post main-sequence planetary system dynamics and evolution, space telescopes, astronomical surveys.

## SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

Friends of the IfA Outreach Award 2019  
ARCS (Achievement Reward for College Scientists) 2019  
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2018  
Outstanding Outreach Award 2017  
John C. Mather Nobel Scholar 2016

## SELECTED TALKS

University of Chicago Exoplanet Journal Club *(invited)* September 2021  
Carnegie EPL Astronomy Seminar *(invited)* September 2021  
TESS Science Talk, MIT *(invited)* September 2021  
Keck Science Meeting September 2021  
TESS SciCon II August 2021  
The Good Vibrations Seminar *(invited)* February 2021  
TESS Science Team Meeting October 2020  
Yale Exoplanets & Stars Seminar *(invited)* September 2020  
Exoplanets III, Heidelberg, Germany July 2020  
TASC5, MIT, Cambridge, USA July 2019  
TESS SciCon I, MIT, Cambridge, USA July 2019  
Kepler/K2 SciCon V, Glendale, CA March 2019  
TASC4, Aarhus, Denmark July 2018  
Columbia University Astronomy Seminar *(invited)* October 2017

## TEACHING, SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

---

<i>Mentor</i> for high school students through HI STAR	2017– <i>present</i>
<i>Astronomy Graduate Outreach Coordinator &amp; Volunteer</i>	2016–2020
Selected Events:	
· Punahou Speaker Series (Oahu, HI)	2018– <i>present</i>
· Boy Scouts of Hawai‘i Astronomy Merit Badge (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Stem Fest (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Hawaiian Astronaut Lacy Veach Day (Oahu, HI)	2017, 2018, 2019
· Astroday (Big Island, HI)	2016, 2017a/b, 2018a/b
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ASTR 110: Lab, University of Hawai‘i	2016
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ASTR 110: Lecture, University of Hawai‘i	2016
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , ICSI 124X: Lecture, SUNY Albany	2013, 2014

## PRESS COVERAGE

---

Kepler’s First Exoplanet Discovery [Chontos et al. 2019]: The discovery was announced during my talk at Kepler SciCon V, which included a coordinated press release between [NASA] and [UH]. Articles featuring the science result included [CNN], [Space.com], [Universe Today], [Science News], and many others. The story made the front page of the main [Hawaiian newspaper] as well as my [hometown newspaper]. I was also invited as a guest speaker to talk about the planet on live [Hawai‘i public radio].

## AWARDED TELESCOPE TIME & OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

---

<i>PI</i> , 16 nights over 4 semesters using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2019– <i>present</i>
<i>Exoplanets Orbiting Subgiants: Benchmark Systems with TESS</i>	
Co-Is: Daniel Huber, Andrew Howard, Howard Isaacson, Lauren Weiss	
<i>Co-I</i> , 4 nights in 2019B using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2018
<i>The TESS-Keck Survey of Exoplanets Orbiting Asteroseismic Host Stars</i>	
PI: Daniel Huber; Co-Is: Andrew Howard, Howard Isaacson, Lauren Weiss	
<i>Co-I</i> , 0.5 night in 2019B using HIRES on Keck I 10m Telescope	2018
<i>Spin-Orbit Alignment in Kepler’s First Exoplanet System</i>	
PI: Daniel Huber; Co-I: Teruyuki Hirano	
<i>Observer</i> , 60 nights on Keck/HIRES through the California Planet Search	2018– <i>present</i>
<i>Observer</i> , 5 nights on Gemini South/GPI through the GPI Exoplanet Survey	2015

## REFERENCES

---

### **Dr. Daniel Huber**

*Professor of Astronomy*  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
Email: huberd@hawaii.edu  
Website: [ifa.hawaii.edu/~dhuber]

### **Dr. Sara Seager**

*Class of 1941 Professor of Planetary Science*  
*Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics*  
*Professor of Physics*  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Email: seager@mit.edu  
Website: [saraseager.com]

### **Dr. Andrew Howard**

*Professor of Astronomy*  
California Institute of Technology  
Email: ahoward@caltech.edu  
Website: [sites.astro.caltech.edu/~howard]

### **Dr. Stephen Kane**

*Director of the Planetary Research Laboratory*  
*Professor of Planetary Astrophysics*  
*Professor of Physics and Astronomy*  
University of California, Riverside  
Email: skane@ucr.edu  
Website: [stephenkane.net]