

# Discovering the Universe with AstroTours



Simran Kaur Nerval<sup>1,2</sup> and Eesha Das Gupta<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Toronto, <sup>2</sup>Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics

## Who Are We?

Toronto-based monthly astronomy public outreach event



featuring a public talk by an early career astronomer



followed by telescope viewing, lab tours, interactive exhibits, and more!



## Lifting up Early Career Astronomers and Aspirants : At every step!

### Team

Organization : An All Graduate Student Executive Team of 10 members

Volunteers : A mix of Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Speaker : Graduate Student or Postdoc



### Training and Feedback

Practice Talks : Peer feedback on talks a week before event

Telescope Training : Training volunteers to operate celestron telescopes and dome telescopes

Demo Training : Training volunteers to present an assortment of interactive exhibits and demos to the public



### The Event and After

Themed Events : Theming event exhibits on diversity months educates volunteers and organizers on social issues

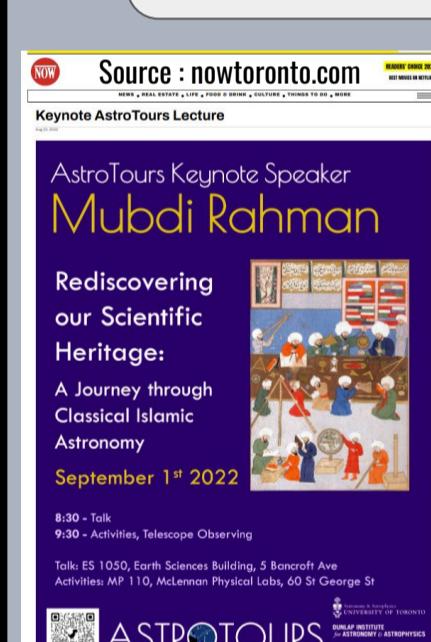
The AstroTours Network : Slack workspace helps past volunteers stay connected and boost their outreach network



## Making Astronomy Approachable for All



Free, open for everyone, and a tourist attraction!



Source : nowtoronto.com  
Keynote AstroTours Lecture  
**2015 AstroTours Keynote: The Hidden Lives of Galaxies**  
Jul 18, J.J.R MacLeod Auditorium (U of T)

With hi-res images of Pluto being beamed back to Earth by the New Horizons spacecraft, people are looking at the skies with renewed wonder. Gain some more insight as this "lecture will focus on how galaxies are transformed throughout cosmic times, how they interact with each other and with the environment in which they live, and how the light we can see tell us about the powerful phenomena we cannot."

Source : cbc.ca  
For more information, check out the University of Toronto's AstroTours website.

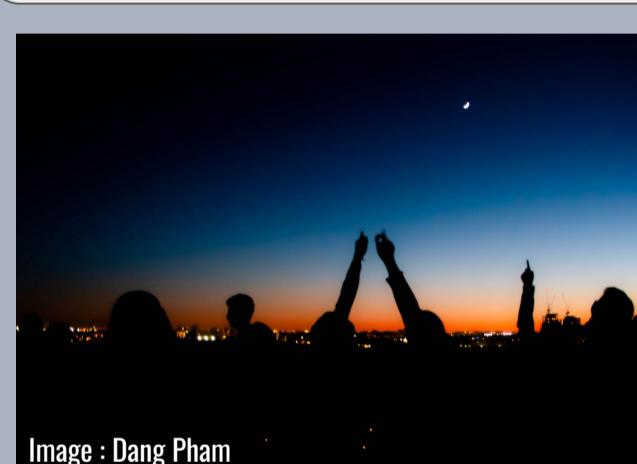
**Planet 9 From Outer Space?!** University of Toronto AstroTours.  
Speaker : Dr. Marc Russo, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics. In January 2016, astronomers presented evidence that a ninth planet may be lurking beyond Neptune, quietly waiting to be found. In this talk, we'll examine the case for Planet 9, learn about the latest efforts to detect it and figure out if it is going to kill us. Enjoy a planetarium show after the presentation (registration required).

Time & location: 9 PM  
McLennan Physical Laboratories, Room 103, 60 St. George St.  
Registration for planetarium shows: [http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/astrotours/?page\\_id=392](http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/astrotours/?page_id=392)

Roaming astronomers to answer questions at any skill level!



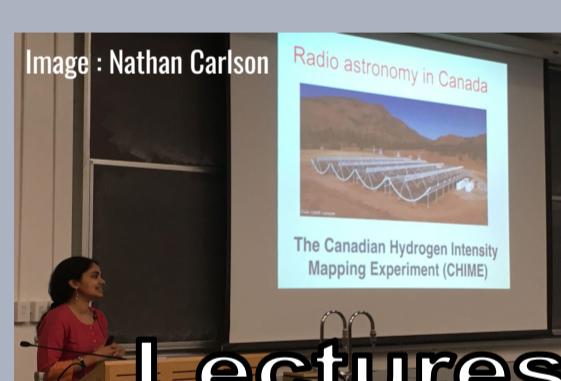
Talks are aimed at a high school skill level.



Variety of ways to learn about Astronomy such as:



Tactile Astronomy



Lectures



Lab tours



World Wide Telescope



Oculus Rift



## Promoting Diversity and Inclusivity



Free and open to the general public!



Diverse speaker, executive, and volunteer base!



Themed events : Women in Astronomy, Earth Hour, Pride, and Islamic Astronomy events to highlight diverse researchers and increase awareness for the associated social issues.



Tactile astronomy and 3D printed telescopes!

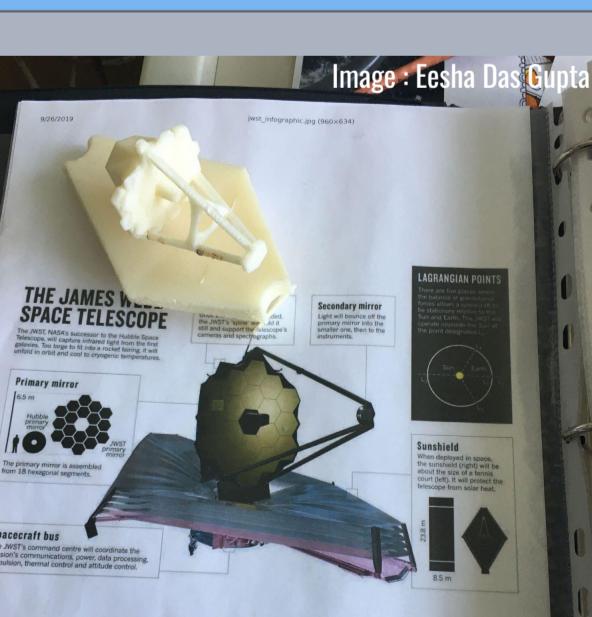


Image : Dang Pham

Astronomy pride card game!



## Our Sponsors



Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics  
L'Institut Canadien d'astronomie théorique  
David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO