# ERIC THRANE

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## **EDUCATION**

## University of Washington, Seattle, WA

2003-2008

PhD, Physics

A Search for Astrophysical Neutrino Point Sources with Super-Kamiokande

Advisor: R Jeffrey Wilkes

## University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

1999-2003

BS, Physics with Highest Honors (& BA, Philosophy)

Flat Electron Beam Dynamics: A Comparison of Data with Simulation

Advisor: David Gerdes

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Astrophysics, gravitational waves, cosmology

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor School of Physics & Astronomy, Monash University	$\begin{array}{c} 2020-\\ Clayton,\ VIC \end{array}$
Chief Investigator  ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav 2)	$\begin{array}{c} 2024 – 2031 \\ Clayton, \ VIC \end{array}$
Associate Professor School of Physics & Astronomy, Monash University	$\begin{array}{c} 2018-2019 \\ Clayton, \ VIC \end{array}$
Data Theme Leader  ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav)	$\begin{array}{c} 20172024 \\ Clayton, \ VIC \end{array}$
Senior Lecturer School of Physics & Astronomy, Monash University	$\begin{array}{c} 2017 – 2018 \\ Clayton, \ VIC \end{array}$
Lecturer School of Physics & Astronomy, Monash University	$\begin{array}{c} 2015 – 2016 \\ Clayton, \ VIC \end{array}$
Senior Postdoctoral Scholar Division of Physics, California Institute of Technology	$\begin{array}{c} 2012 – 2014 \\ Pasadena, \ CA \end{array}$
Postdoctoral Research Associate  Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, University of Minnesota	$2008-2012\\Minneapolis,\ MN$

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Probing CP violation with Hyper-K · \$634K AUD with Prof Phil Urquijo; DP250100373	2025–2028
A Transdimensional Approach to Gravitational-Wave Astronomy · \$460K AUD with AProf Paul Lasky; DP230103088	2023-2026
The ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav 2) $\cdot$ \$35M AUD for 23 researchers; CE230100016	2024-2031
ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF; LE210100002)  · Australian Partnership in Advanced LIGO+ (\$3M AUD for 12 investigators)	2021
Rising stars ( <i>The Australian</i> )  Australia's top 40 researchers who are less than 10 years into their careers	2019
The ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav) · \$31M AUD for 19 researchers; CE170100004	2016-2023
Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics  • \$2M USD split between members of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration	2016
Gruber Cosmology Prize  · Ron Drever, Kip Thorne, Rai Weiss, and the LIGO Science Collaboration	2016
ARC Future Fellowship (FT150100281)  · Gravitational-wave astronomy: detection and beyond (\$618K AUD)	2015–2019
Ken Young Fellow University of Washington	2003 Seattle, WA
Graduated with Highest Honors University of Michigan Ann	2003 Arbor, MI

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

With significant personal contribution; my group members are highlighted in bold.

- $\star$  = lead and/or corresponding author
  - [1] A. M. Baker, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, and J. Golomb, Significant challenges for astrophysical inference with next-generation gravitational-wave observatories, (2025) arxiv/2503.04073.
  - [2] **H. Tong**, M. Fishbach, and E. Thrane, Spinning spectral sirens: Robust cosmological measurement using mass-spin correlations in the binary black hole population, (2025) arxiv/2502.10780.
  - [3] V. Di Marco, A. Zic, R. M. Shannon, E. Thrane, and A. D. Kulkarni, *Choosing suitable noise models for nanohertz gravitational-wave astrophysics*, (2025) arxiv/2502.04653.

- [4] **T. A. Clarke**, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Inferring jet physics from neutron star black hole mergers with gravitational waves, (2024) arxiv/2411.07035.
- [5] N. Guttman, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Modelling noise in gravitational-wave observatories with transdimensional models, Accepted in Phys. Rev. D (2025) arxiv/2501.03285.
- [6] L. Pinchbeck, C. Balazsa, and E. Thrane, Model-independent dark matter detection with the cherenkov telescope array observatory, (2024) arxiv/2412.17172.
- [7] K. Grunthal, R. S. Nathan, et al., The MeerKAT pulsar timing array: Maps of the gravitational-wave sky with the 4.5 year data release, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 536 (2024) 1501.
- [8] M. Miles et al., The MeerKAT Pulsar Timing Array: The first search for gravitational waves with the MeerKAT radio telescope, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. (2024).
- [9] Z.-Q. You et al., Determination of the birth-mass function of neutron stars from observations, Nat. Astro. 457 (2025) 2397.
- [10] S. R. Goode, M. Schiworski, D. Brown, E. Thrane, and P. D. Lasky, You only thermoelastically deform once: Point absorber detection in ligo test masses with yolo, (2024) arxiv/2411.16104.
- [11] **T. A. Clarke**, N. Sarin, E. J. Howell, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, *Quantifying the coincidence between gravitational waves and fast radio bursts from neutron star-black hole mergers*, (2025) Accepted in Phys. Rev. D.
- [12] C. Adamcewicz, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, and I. Mandel, No evidence for a dip in the binary black hole mass spectrum, Astrophys. J. 975 (2024) 253.
- [13] L. Passenger, E. Thrane, P. D. Lasky, E. Payne, S. Stevenson, and B. Farr, Are all models wrong? falsifying binary formation models in gravitational-wave astronomy, Accepted in Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. (2024) arxiv/2405.09739.
- [14] S. Y. Cheung, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Does spacetime have memories? Searching for gravitational-wave memory in the third LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA gravitational-wave transient catalogue, Class. Quantum Grav. 41 (2024) 115010.
- [15] The LVK Collaborations, Observation of gravitational waves from the coalescence of a  $2.5-4.5M_{\odot}$  compact object and a neutron star, (2024) arxiv/2404.04248.
- [16] **H. Tong** et al., Transdimensional inference for gravitational-wave astronomy with Bilby, Astrophys. J. Supp. **276** (2025) 50.
- [17] V. Di Marco, A. Zic, R. M. Shannon, and E. Thrane, Systematic errors in searches for nanohertz gravitational waves, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 532 (2024) 4026.
- [18] **T. A. Clarke**, M. Isi, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, et al., Striking the right tone: towards a self-consistent framework for measuring black hole ringdowns, Phys. Rev. D **109** (2024) 124030.
- [19] L. Pinchbeck, E. Thrane, and C. Balazs, GammaBayes: a Bayesian pipeline for dark matter detection with CTA, J. Cosmo. R. Ast. Part. 2024 (2024) 020.
- [20] K. Walker, R. Smith, E. Thrane, and D. J. Reardon, Precision constraints on the neutron star equation of state with third-generation gravitational-wave observatories, Phys. Rev. D 110 (2024) 043013.
- [21] C. Adamcewicz, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Which black hole is spinning? probing the origin of black-hole spin with gravitational waves, Astrophys. J. Lett. 964 (2024) L6.

- [22] J. W. Gardner, L. Sun, S. Borhanian, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, D. E. McClelland, and B. J. J. Slagmolen, Multi-messenger astronomy with a southern-hemisphere gravitational-wave observatory, Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 123026.
- [23] C. Adamcewicz, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Evidence for a correlation between binary black hole mass ratio and black-hole spins, Astrophys. J. 958 (2023) 13.
- [24] D. J. Reardon et al., Search for an isotropic gravitational-wave background with the parkes pulsar timing array, Astrophys. J. Lett. **951** (2023) L6.
- [25] V. Di Marco, A. Zic, M. T. Miles, D. J. Reardon, E. Thrane, and R. M. Shannon, Toward robust detections of nanohertz gravitational waves, Astrophys. J. 956 (2023) 14 arxiv/2305.04464.
- [26] R. S. Nathan et al., Improving pulsar-timing solutions through dynamic pulse fitting, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. **523** (2023) 4405.
- [27] B. Allen et al., The international pulsar timing array checklist for the detection of nanohertz gravitational waves, (2023) arxiv/2304.04767 ★.
- [28] T. A. Clarke, L. Chastain, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Nuclear physics with gravitational waves from neutron stars disrupted by black holes, Astrophys. J. Lett. 949 (2023) L6.
- [29] E. Payne and E. Thrane, Model exploration in gravitational-wave astronomy with the maximum population likelihood, Phys. Rev. Res. 5 (2023) 023013.
- [30] J. Paynter and E. Thrane, Meet the parents: the progenitor binary for the supermassive black hole candidate in E1821+643, Astrophys. J. Lett. 945 (2023) L18.
- [31] **H. Tong**, **S. Galaudage**, and E. Thrane, The population properties of spinning black holes using Gravitational-wave Transient Catalog 3, Phys. Rev. D **106** (2022) 103019.
- [32] C. Adamcewicz and E. Thrane, Do unequal-mass binary black hole systems have larger  $\chi_{eff}$ ? Probing correlations with copulas in gravitational-wave astronomy, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 517 (2022).
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- [34] I. Romero-Shaw, P. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Four eccentric mergers increase the evidence that ligo-virgo-kagra's binary black holes form dynamically, Astrophys. J. 940 (2022) 171.
- [35] T. A. Clarke, I. M. Romero-Shaw, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, The birth mass function of neutron stars revealed by pulsar observations, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 517 (2022) 3778.
- [36] S. Biscoveanu, K. Kremer, and E. Thrane, Probing the efficiency of tidal synchronization in outspiralling double white dwarf binaries with lisa, Astrophys. J. **949** (2023) 95.
- [37] B. Goncharov et al., Consistency of the PPTA signal with a nanohertz gravitational-wave background, Astrophys. J. Lett. 932 (2022) L22.
- [38] F. Broekgaarden, S. Stevenson, and E. Thrane, Signatures of mass ratio reversal in gravitational waves from merging binary black holes, Astrophys. J. 938 (2022) 45.
- [39] A. Makai Baker, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, et al., GWCloud: a searchable repository for the creation and curation of gravitational-wave inference results, Astrophys. J. Supp. 266 (2023) 33.
- [40] K. Walker, D. J. Reardon, E. Thrane, and R. Smith, Orbital dynamics and extreme scattering event properties from long-term scintillation observations of psr j16037202, Astrophys. J. 933 (2022) 16.

- [41] A. Vajpeyi, R. Smith, and E. Thrane, Deep follow-up of GW151226: ordinary binary or low-mass-ratio system?, Astrophys. J. 947 (2023) 10.
- [42] I. M. Romero-Shaw, E. Thrane, and P. D. Lasky, When models fail: an introduction to posterior predictive checks and model misspecification in gravitational-wave astronomy, Pub. Astron. Soc. Aust. 39 (2022) E025 arxiv/2202.05479.
- [43] N. Sarin, P. D. Lasky, F. H. Vivanco, S. P. Stevenson, D. Chattopadhyay, R. Smith, and E. Thrane, Linking the rates of neutron star binaries and short gamma-ray bursts, Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 083004.
- [44] A. Mangipudi, E. Thrane, and C. Balazs, Bayesian WIMP detection with the Cherenkov Telescope Array, J. Cosmo. R. Ast. Part. 2022 (2022) 010.
- [45] V. Kalogera et al., The Next Generation Global Gravitational Wave Observatory: The Science Book, (2021) arxiv/2111.06990.
- [46] R. Abbott et al., GWTC-3: Compact Binary Coalescences Observed by LIGO and Virgo During the Second Part of the Third Observing Run, Phys. Rev. X 13 (2023) 041039.
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- [49] A. Vajpeyi, E. Thrane, R. Smith, B. McKernan, and K. S. Ford, Measuring the properties of active galactic nuclei disks with gravitational waves, Astrophys. J. 931 (2022) 82.
- [50] P. D. Lasky and E. Thrane, Did goryachev et al. detect megahertz gravitational waves?, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 103017.
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- [52] R. Essick, A. Farah, S. Galaudage, C. Talbot, M. Fishbach, E. Thrane, and D. E. Holz, Don't just leave-one-out: Probing extremal gravitational-wave events with coarse-grained likelihoods, Astrophys. J. 926 (2022) 34.
- [53] I. M. Romero-Shaw, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Signs of eccentricity in two gravitational-wave signals may indicate a sub-population of dynamically assembled binary black holes, Astrophys. J. Lett. 921 (2021) L31.
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- [55] B. Goncharov et al., On the evidence for a common-spectrum process in the search for the nanohertz gravitational wave background with the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array, Astrophys. J. Lett. 917 (2021) L19.
- [56] A. Vajpeyi, R. Smith, E. Thrane, et al., A search for intermediate-mass black holes mergers in the second LIGO-Virgo observing run with the Bayes Coherence Ratio, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 516 (2022) 5309.
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- [59] R. Abbott et al., Observation of gravitational waves from two neutron starblack hole coalescences, Astrophys. J. Lett. **915** (2021) L5.
- [60] C. Talbot, E. Thrane, S. Biscoveanu, and R. Smith, Inference with finite time series: Observing the gravitational Universe through windows, Phys. Rev. Res. 3 (2021) 043049.
- [61] M. Zevin, I. M. Romero-Shaw, K. Kremer, E. Thrane, and P. D. Lasky, Implications of eccentric observations on binary black hole formation channels, Astrophys. J. Lett. 921 (2021) L43.
- [62] R. Abbott et al., Constraints on Cosmic Strings Using Data from the Third Advanced LIGO-Virgo Observing Run, Phys. Rev. Lett. 126 (2021) 241102.
- [63] Z.-Q. You, G. Ashton, X.-J. Zhu, E. Thrane, and Z.-H. Zhu, Optimized localization for gravitational-waves from merging binaries, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. 509 (2021) 3957.
- [64] M. Hübner, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Memory remains undetected: Updates from the second LIGO/Virgo gravitational-wave transient catalog, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 023004.
- [65] J. Paynter, R. Webster, and E. Thrane, Evidence for an intermediate-mass black hole from a gravitationally lensed gamma-ray burst, Nat. Astron. 5 (2021) 560.
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- [72] R. Abbott et al., GWTC-2: Compact Binary Coalescences Observed by LIGO and Virgo During the First Half of the Third Observing Run, Phys. Rev. X 11 (2021) 021053.
- [73] R. Abbott et al., Population properties of compact objects from the second LIGO-Virgo Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog, Astrophys. J. Lett. 913 (2021) L7 Focus Issue: Gravitational-wave Astrophysics from the Second LIGO-Virgo Transient Catalog.
- [74] **B. Goncharov** et al., Identifying and mitigating noise sources in precision pulsar timing data sets, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. **502** (2020) 478.
- [75] J. Calderón Bustillo, P. D. Lasky, and E. Thrane, Black-hole spectroscopy, the no-hair theorem and GW150914: Kerr vs. Occam, Phys. Rev. D 103 (2021) 024041.
- [76] E. Payne, C. Talbot, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, and J. S. Kissel, *Gravitational-wave astronomy with a physical calibration model*, Phys. Rev. D 102 (2020) 122004.

- [77] I. M. Romero-Shaw, P. D. Lasky, E. Thrane, and J. Calderón Bustillo, GW190521: orbital eccentricity and signatures of dynamical formation in a binary black hole merger signal, Astrophys. J. Lett. 903 (2020) L5 Norris Family Publication Award.
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- [81] **F. Hernandez Vivanco**, **R. Smith**, E. Thrane, and P. D. Lasky, A scalable random forest regressor for combining neutron-star equation of state measurements: A case study with GW170817 and GW190425, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. **499** (2020) 5972.
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- [100] **B. Goncharov**, **X.-J. Zhu**, and E. Thrane, Is there a spectral turnover in the spin noise of millisecond pulsars?, Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc. **497** (2020) 3264.
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### TELESCOPE PROPOSALS

MeerKAT (PI: R. Shannon)
The MeerKAT Pulsar Timing Array

588 hours over two years

2025-2027

RECENT TALKS

Australian National University RSAA

June 2024

Results from the 4.5 year MeerKAT Pulsar Timing Array Data Release

Mt Stromlo, ACT

IPTA Meeting

June 2024

Mapping the nanohertz gravitational-wave sky

Sexton, Italy

**GWADW**Astrophysics in the Era of neXt-Generation Observatories

May 2024 Hamilton Island, QLD

IAU-IAA Astrostats Seminar

August 2022

Investigating black hole spin with gravitational waves

Online

Frontiers of Fundamental Physics

May 2022

Merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3

 $Is tanbul, \ Turkey$ 

Association of Asia Pacific Physical Societies

October 2021

Building better spin models for merging binary black holes

Seoul, South Korea

University of Melbourne

September 2021

Building better models for populations of merging binary black holes

Melbourne, VIC

University of Michigan

March 2021

Population Properties of Compact Objects from GWTC-2

Ann Arbor, MI

University of New South Wales

December 2020

Compact objects in the Second LIGO-Virgo Gravitational-wave Transient Catalog

Sydney, NSW

University of Canterbury

December 2020

Population Properties from the Second LIGO-Virgo Catalog

Canterbury, NZ

LIGO-Virgo Webinar

November 2020

Population Properties of Compact Objects from the Second LIGO-Virgo Catalog

On line

University of Auckland

October 2020

The population properties of binary black holes with Bayesian hierarchical modelling

Auckland, NZ

CSIRO Astronomy & Space Science

July 2020

Dispatches from the black hole mass gaps: recent results from LIGO-Virgo

Marsfield, NSW

#### LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

## Referee

Astronomy & Astrophysics, Astrophysical Journal, Astrophysical Journal Letters, Journal for Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics, Living Reviews in Relativity, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Nature Astronomy, Nature Communications, Physical Review Applied, Physical Review D, Physical Review Letters

#### Reviewer

· Australian Research Council, Swiss National Science Foundation, Royal Society Te Apārangi (New Zealand), US National Science Foundation

## Advisory

· NCA Time Domain and Multi-Messenger Astrophysics Working Group Chair (2024), AAL Project Oversight Committee (2024–2025), ASA Time-Domain Astronomy Steering Committee, IPTA Detection Committee (2021–2023), NCA MTR CapOp (2019), AAL Science Advisory (2018–2020), Gravitational wave Optical Transient Observatory (2016–)

#### LIGO Scientific Collaboration

· Co-Chair of Stochastic Data-Analysis Group (2011–2017), Review Chair for Burst Group (2017–2020), Editorial Board (2019–)

## **Organising Committees**

· ASA SOC 2019; GWPAW SOC (2018, 2021, 2022); AGCGRG SOC 2021; GWPAW LOC 2022

## Diversity

· LVC Ally (2018–), OzGrav Diversity Committee (2017–)

## **MEDIA**

My group's work has been featured in a number of publications including *The Independent*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, CNET, and *The Guardian*. I have discussed my research on radio and television programs including *The 7:30 Report*, *Catalyst*, 3AW radio.

#### **OUTREACH**

I regularly give public lectures on black holes and gravitational waves. Recent talk venues include MIT Lincoln Lab, the AIP Nobel Prize Public Lecture, and an Instant Expert event organised by New Scientist.

## **TEACHING & EDUCATION**

## Monash University

2015 -

- · PHS1011 (First-Year Physics): Unit Coordinator
- · PHS1022 (First-Year Physics): Unit Coordinator
- · PHS4200 (General Relativity)
- · PHS5020 (Advanced General Relativity)

#### Administrative roles

· Postgraduate Research Coordinator

2022 -

· Education Head 2015–2016

## Supervision

· Research faculty	
• Dr Rory Smith	2017–2024
· Postdocs	2011 2021
• Dr Gosia Curyło	2024-
• Dr Sharan Banagiri	2024–
• Dr Nir Guttman	2023–
• Dr Simon Goode	2023–
• Dr Grant Meadors	2018–2019
• Dr Xingjiang Zhu	2017–2021
• Dr Letizia Sammut	2015–2017
• Dr Pablo Rosado	2016
· Postgraduate Students	2010
• Andrew Atta	2024-
• Lachlan Passenger	2024–
• Liam Pinchbeck	2023–
• Shun Cheung	2023–
• Valentina DiMarco	2022-
• Hui Tong	2022-
• Christian Adamcewicz	2022-
• Teagan Clarke	2022-
• Rowina Nathan	2022-
Avi Vajpeyi	2020–2023
Shanika Galaudage	2019–2023
• Isobel Romero-Shaw	2018–2021
- Winner: Robert Street Doctoral Prize	
Moritz Hübner	2018-2021
• Francisco Hernandez	2017-2021
• Colm Talbot	2016-2020
- Winner: Vice-Chancellors Commendation for Thesis E	
- Winner: Charlene Heisler Prize for the most outstanding	
<ul> <li>Winner: Robert Street Doctoral Prize</li> </ul>	o v
Boris Goncharov	2016-2020
• Sylvia Biscoveanu (Fulbright)	2017–2018
· Honours/MSc Students	
Makai Baker	2024
• Chan Anand	2024
Michelle Zhang	2024
• Lachlan Passenger	2023
Nikhil Kannachel	2023
• Jiaxuan Zhou	2022
Macauley Angus	2022
• Tushar Nagar	2021
• Kris Walker	2021
Abhi Mangipudi	2020–2021
• Ethan Payne	2020

- Winner: Australian Institute of Physics Laby Medal for the be	est Honours or Masters thesis
from an Australian University	
• Nick Farrow	2019
• Marcus Lower	2017
• Chris Whittle	2016
• Lucy McNeill	2016
Undergraduate Students	
• Emma Sapkin	2024
• Ella Garth	2024
• Jordan Klein	2022
• Carter Hills	2020
• Atul Divakarla (IREU from Florida)	2018
• Alex Kemp	2017
• William Campbell	2015
• Shi Qiu	2015
• Tyson Jones	2015