

Vishal Gajjar

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RESEARCH INTEREST	Search for Intelligent life in the Universe; Pulsars; Magnetars; Fast Radio Burst; Radio Transients; Large-scale surveys; Machine Learning
RESEARCH POSITIONS	Academic Researcher Breakthrough Listen, UC Berkeley, 2021 – current Post-doctoral Fellow Breakthrough Listen, UC Berkeley, 2018 – 2020 Templeton post-doctoral fellow , Space Science Lab, UC Berkeley, 2016 – 2018 West-light post-doctoral fellow , Xinjiang Astronomical observatory, China, 2015 – 2016
EDUCATION	Doctor of Philosophy (Physics) , TIFR, Mumbai, India, 2014 Master of Science (Physics Major) , TIFR, Mumbai, India, 2009 Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics and Communication) , S. S. Engineering College, Bhavangar University, Bhavnagar, India, 2005
ACADEMIC SERVICES	Expert reviewer for multi-year National Research Grant, National Science Center, Poland , 2021 Panel Member of National Science Foundation (NSF) AST proposal review , Washington DC, USA, 2019 SOC member of Penn State University SETI symposium, Penn State University, PA, USA, 2022 SOC member for a special session, COSPAR 2020, Sydney, Australia, 2020 Reviewer for GMRT and ASTROSAT proposals Organizer of weekly SETI meeting at the Department of Astronomy, UC Berkeley, 2016 – 2019 Reviewer of numerous papers from ApJ, ApJ Letters, MNRAS, and Astrophysics and Space Science SOC member of the annual science day, GMRT, India, 2009 – 2011 SOC member for the 13 th <i>Young Astronomers meet</i> , Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmadabad, India, 2010 Support Astronomer for the GMRT proposal on "Observations of M–draft stars", GMRT, India, 2009
FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	Templeton post-doctoral fellow, UC Berkeley, USA, 2016 West-Light Funding, Chinese Academy of Science, Urumqi, China, 2014 IAU Grant to attend the General assembly in Beijing, China, 2012 Young Scientist Award at the URSI General Assembly, Istanbul, Turkey, 2014 Senior Research Fellowship at the NCRA (2009), India Junior Research Fellowship at the NCRA (2007-2009), India ASTRON summer school, Dwingeloo, Neatherlands, 2010 Best oral presentation at the 12 th <i>Young Astronomers Meet</i> , Bengaluru, India, 2009 Internship in Radio Astronomy at the NCRA, Pune, India, 2006 – 2008
Publications Record	I am author and co-author of 95 publications (40 refereed journals), with around 1600 citations and an h-index of 21 including five publications in Nature and Nature Astronomy . A full list my publications can be found at NASA ADS

MEDIA	<p>Press Conference Panel member and speaker for a press conference on <i>Peering Deeper Into the Lair of the Repeating Fast Radio Burst</i> at the 231st American Astronomical Society meeting, Washington DC, USA, 2018.</p> <p>Other Media activities Interviewed by numerous TV, radio and print media (CBS, KRON4, BBC, CNET, space.com, Times of India, The Better India, Daily Californian and others) and appeared in around 60 media articles (National Geographic, Forbes, Newsweek, Huffpost, Telegraph, The guardian, New Scientist, Gizmodo, Smithsonian.com, The Independent and others).</p>
INSTRUMENTS AND COMMISSIONING	<p>Lead real-time multi-beam commensal transient detection system at FAST, China</p> <p>Lead the commissioning of high-time resolution and polarization capabilities for Breakthrough Listen digital instrument at the GBT, USA</p> <p>Lead transient detection pipeline development for BL program (SPANDAK) utilizing ML candidate verification</p> <p>Co-lead the commissioning of BL digital hardware at e-MERLIN/JBO, UK</p> <p>Lead for the full refurbishing and commissioning operation of 4-meter dish antenna for radio astronomy school, NCRA, Pune, India</p> <p>Lead the commissioning of BL digital hardware at International LOFAR stations at Ireland and Sweden</p>
OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE	<p>More than 400 hours of combined observing experience with the Green Bank Telescope (USA), the Parkes radio telescopes (Australia), Sardinia Radio Telescope (Italy), and the Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (India)</p> <p>PI and Co-PI of 10 accepted observing proposals with the Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (India)</p> <p>PI and Co-PI of six accepted observing proposals with the Green Bank Radio Telescope (USA)</p>
TEACHING AND MENTORING	<p>Current Graduate students Owen Johnson, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 2022 – current Sand, Ketan, PhD Candidate, McGill University, Canada, 2021 - current Suresh, Akshay, PhD Candidate, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, 2021 - current Perez, Karen, PhD Candidate University of Columbia, USA, 2019 - current</p> <p>Previous Graduate students Zhang, Yunfan G., PhD Candidate UC Berkeley, USA, 2017-2018 Li, Shiyu, PhD Candidate, NAOC, China, 2017-2018 Niu, Chen-hui, PhD Candidate, CAS, China, 2017-2018 Wen, Zhi-Gong, Staff XAO, China, 2014-2016</p> <p>Mentored undergraduate students : 20 Teaching Assistant for a course on ‘Statistical techniques in data analysis’ with Dr. Dipanjan Mitra and Prof. Bhal Chandra Joshi at the IISER Pune, 2011 Teaching Assistant for a course on ‘Stellar Astrophysics’ with Dr. Dipanjan Mitra at the NCRA-IUCAA Grad school, Pune, 2010 Lecturer on NCRA–IUCAA winter school, Pune, India, 2010 Lecturer on the ‘Data analysis using MATLAB for the 4-meter dish antenna’ in the NCRA–TIFR Radio Astronomy summer school, Pune, India 2009</p>
Selected Invited talks and Departmental Colloquia	<p>Guest lecturer NCRA-IUCAA Radio Astronomy Winter School, Pune, 2021</p> <p>Colloquium at Penn State University, State College, PA, USA, November 2021</p> <p>Colloquium at National Center for Radio Astrophysics, Pune, India. October 2021.</p> <p>Invited talk at the conference <i>EHT and Galactic Center Pulsars</i>, Paris Observatory, June 2020</p> <p>Invited speaker at 235th American Astronomical Society, Hawaii, USA, January 2020.</p> <p>Invited member at KISS Technosignatures Workshop, California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, USA, March 2019.</p> <p>Invited talk at the Xinjian Astronomical Observatory, Urumqi, China, November 2019.</p>

Invited talk at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Sciences, Beijing, November 2019.
Colloquium at National Center for Radio Astrophysics, Pune, India. December 2018.
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Invited member at the Breakthrough Discuss symposium, USA, 2017-2021.
Invited talk at TIFR sponsored science popularization event, Mumbai, 2012
Invited talk at *A for Astronomy seminar series*, Western Regional Instrumentation Centre (WRIC), Mumbai, India, 2012
Invited seminar at the Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Manchester, UK, 2012