

# JOSHUA S. SPEAGLE

Statistical Sciences, Astronomy & Astrophysics, Dunlap Institute  
University of Toronto

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research interests lie in the interdisciplinary fields of **astrostatistics** and **data science** at the intersections of statistics, astronomy, and computer science. I develop methods and analyse large datasets to better understand how galaxies like our own **Milky Way** form, behave, and evolve.

## POSITIONS

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**Banting & Dunlap Postdoctoral Fellow:** University of Toronto 2020-present  
*Joint between Statistical Sciences, Astronomy & Astrophysics, & the Dunlap Institute*  
*Supervisor: Gwen Eadie*

**Project Academic Support Staff:** Kavli IPMU, University of Tokyo 2015-2016  
*Supervisors: Naoki Yoshida, Alexie Leauthaud (UCSC), & Kevin Bundy (UCSC)*

## EDUCATION

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**Harvard University:** PhD in Astronomy 2016-2020  
*Advisers: Doug Finkbeiner, Charlie Conroy, Daniel Eisenstein, & Alyssa Goodman*

**Harvard University:** MA in Astronomy 2016-2020  
*Advisers: Daniel Eisenstein & Alexie Leauthaud (UCSC)*

**Harvard University:** BA in Astrophysics and Physics 2011-2015

## AWARDS & HONORS

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Best Astrostatistics Student Paper Award (ASA/AIG) 2020

Eric R. Keto Prize for Best Thesis in Theoretical Astrophysics (Harvard) 2020

**Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship** (Canada) 2020

Department of Astronomy Teaching Award (Harvard) Spring 2018

Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Harvard) Spring 2017, 18; Fall 2018

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** (USA) 2016

## TEACHING

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I have a strong interest in education and pedagogy, with a focus on skills such as **programming**, **statistics**, and **data science**. See my [teaching statement](#) for additional details.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

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I am committed to improving equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in the classroom, in my work, and in the wider academic community. See my [EDI statement](#) for additional details.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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<b>Web Director</b>	2020-present
<i>Astrostatistics Interest Group (American Statistical Association)</i>	
<b>Steering Committee Member</b>	2020-present
<i>Working Group on Astroinformatics &amp; Astrostatistics (American Astronomical Society)</i>	
<b>Journal Clubs</b>	
<i>Co-Founder: Statistics &amp; Machine Learning Journal Club (University of Toronto)</i>	2020-present
<i>Co-Organizer: astro-ph Coffee (University of Toronto)</i>	2020-present
<i>Founder: Center for Astrophysics Machine Learning Journal Club (Harvard University)</i>	2017-2020
<b>Manuscript Referee</b>	
<i>Journal of Open Source Software</i>	2020-present
<i>Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics</i>	2017-present
<i>Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society</i>	2016-present
<i>American Astronomical Society Journals</i>	2014-present

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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<b>University of Florida:</b> Colloquium	September 2020
<i>Enabling Data-Driven Discovery in the Milky Way and Beyond Using Large Astronomical Datasets</i>	
<b>Astro Hack Week 2020:</b> Tutorial Leader	August 2020
<i>Introduction to Bayesian Inference with Linear Regression</i>	
<b>Villanova:</b> Colloquium	October 2019
<i>Exploring the Galaxy Near and Far in the Age of Gaia</i>	
<b>Harvard:</b> Summer Colloquium (joint with Catherine Zucker)	June 2019
<i>Charting Nearby Molecular Clouds with Gaia: A New Map of Our Local Interstellar Medium</i>	
<b>GitHub Satellite 2019:</b> Keynote Address Participant	May 2019
<i>Invited for open source code contributions (dynesty) in the analysis of the supermassive black hole in M87 by the Even Horizon Telescope collaboration</i>	
<b>University of Toronto:</b> Special Seminar	April 2019
<i>Photometric Distances Near and Far in the Age of Gaia</i>	
<b>Max Planck Institute for Astronomy:</b> Galaxy Coffee	April 2019
<i>The Devil's in the Detail's: Photometric Biases in Modern Surveys</i>	
<b>Cambridge:</b> Data Intensive Science Seminar	April 2019
<i>Mapping the 3-D Distribution of Dust in the Milky Way with Stellar Photometry</i>	
<b>Harvard:</b> CMSA Big Data Conference	August 2018
<i>Revealing the Milky Way's Dust-iness</i>	
<b>UMass Amherst:</b> Data Science Tea	October 2017
<i>Big Data Inference: Combining Hierarchical Bayes and Machine Learning to Improve Photometric Redshifts</i>	
<b>Harvard:</b> CHASC Astrostatistics Seminar	September 2017
<i>An Introduction to Dynamic Nested Sampling</i>	

## PUBLICATIONS

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I am an author of **48 papers** that have over **2600 citations** ([h-index=17](#)). This includes:

**10 papers as (co-)first author** (in **red**) with over **900 citations** ([h-index=7](#))

**15 papers with substantial contributions** (in **blue**) with over **400 citations** ([h-index=9](#))

Most of my papers can be found online on [arxiv](#) and [ADS](#). My ORCID is [0000-0003-2573-9832](#).

### In Preparation

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48. Zucker, C.; Goodman, A. G.; Alves, J.; Shmuel, B.; Koch, E.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Foley, M.; & Finkbeiner, D. P.

*On the 3D Spatial Topologies of Local Molecular Clouds*

- 47. **Speagle, J. S.**** et al. [18 additional co-authors], submitted to **ApJ**

*Mapping the Milky Way in 5-D with 170 Million Stars at High Galactic Latitudes*

- 46. **Speagle, J. S.**** et al. [18 additional co-authors], submitted to **ApJ**

*Deriving Stellar Properties, Distances, and Reddenings from Photometry and Astrometry with brutus*

### Under Review

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45. Emami, R.; Hernquist, L.; Alcock, C.; Genel, S.; Bose, S.; Weinberger, R.; Vogelsberger, M.; Shen, X.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Marinacci, F.; Forbes, J. C.; & Torrey, P., submitted to **ApJ**

*Stellar Halo Morphology from TNG50: Twisted and Twisted-Stretched Halos*

44. Bonaca, A.; Naidu, R. P.; Conroy, C.; Caldwell, N.; Cargile, P. A.; Han, J.; Johnson, B. D.; Kruijssen, J. M. D.; Myeong, G. C.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Ying, Y.-S.; & Zaritsky, D., submitted to **ApJL**

*Orbital Clustering Identifies the Origins of Galactic Stellar Streams*

- 43. **Johnson, B. D.**; Leja, J.; Conroy, C.; & **Speagle, J. S.****, submitted to **ApJ**

*Stellar Population Inference with Prospector*

42. Green, G. M.; Tschesche, L.; Rix, H.-W.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; Zucker, C.; Schlafly, E. F.; Rybizki, J.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, submitted to **ApJ**

*Data-Driven Stellar Models*

arxiv: [2006.16258](#)

### 2020

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41. Desprez, G. et al. [171 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **A&A**

*Euclid Preparation. X. The Euclid Photometric-Redshift Challenge*

arxiv: [2009.12112](#)

40. Carter, C.; Conroy, C.; Zaritsky, D.; Ting, Y.-S.; Bonaca, A.; Naidu, R. P.; Johnson, B. D.; Cargile, P. A.; Caldwell, N.; & **Speagle, J. S., ApJ**  
*Ancient Very Metal-Poor Stars Associated with the Galactic Disk in the H3 Survey*
39. Zaritsky, D.; Conroy, C.; Naidu, R. P.; Cargile, P. A.; Putman, M.; Besla, G.; Bonaca, A.; Caldwell, N.; Han, J. J.; Johnson, B. D.; **Speagle, J. S.**; & Ting, Y.-S., **ApJL**  
*Discovery of Magellanic Stellar Debris in the H3 Survey*
38. Das, K. K.; Zucker, C.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Goodman, A.; Schlafly, E. F.; Green, G. M.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; & Alves, J., **MNRAS**  
*Constraining the Distance to the North Polar Spur with Gaia DR2*  
arxiv: [2009.01320](#)
37. Johnson, B. D.; Conroy, C.; Naidu, R. P.; Bonaca, A.; Zaritsky, D.; Ting, Y.-S.; Cargile, P. A.; Han, J. J.; & **Speagle, J. S., ApJ**  
*A Diffuse Metal-Poor Component of the Sagittarius Stream Revealed by the H3 Survey*  
arxiv: [2007.14408](#)
36. Cargile, P. A.; Conroy, C.; Johnson, B. D.; Ting, Y.-S.; Bonaca, A.; Dotter, A.; & **Speagle, J. S., ApJ**  
*MINEsweeper: Spectrophotometric Modeling of Stars in the Gaia Era*  
arxiv: [1907.07690](#)
35. Cabrera-Ziri, I.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Dalessandro, E.; Usher, C.; Bastian, N. J.; Salaris, M.; Martocchia, S.; Kozhurina-Platais, V.; Niederhofer, F.; Lardo, C.; & Larsen, S. S., **MNRAS**  
*Searching for Globular Cluster Chemical Anomalies on the Main Sequence of a Young Massive Cluster*  
arxiv: [2004.09636](#)
34. Bonaca, A.; Conroy, C.; Hogg, D. W.; Cargile, P. A.; Caldwell, N.; Naidu, R. P.; Price-Whelan, A. M.; **Speagle, J. S.**; & Johnson, B. D., **ApJL**  
*High-Resolution Spectroscopy of the GD-1 Stellar Stream Localizes the Perturber Near the Orbital Plane of Sagittarius*  
arxiv: [2001.07215](#)
33. Leja, J.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Johnson, B. D.; Conroy, C.; van Dokkum, P.; & Franx, M., **ApJ**  
*A New Census of the  $0.2 < z < 3.0$  Universe, Part I: The Stellar Mass Function*  
arxiv: [1910.04168](#)
32. **Portillo, S. K. N. & Speagle, J. S.**; & Finkbeiner, D. P., **AJ**  
*Photometric Biases in Modern Surveys*  
arxiv: [1902.02374](#)  
Press: [AAS](#)
31. **Speagle, J. S., MNRAS**  
*dynesty: A Dynamic Nested Sampling Package for Estimating Bayesian Posteriors and Evidences*  
arxiv: [1904.02180](#)
30. Alves, J.; Zucker, C.; Goodman, A. A.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Meingast, S.; Robitaille, T.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; Schlafly, E. F.; & Green, G. M., **Nature**  
*Discovery of a Galactic-scale gas wave in the Solar Neighborhood*  
arxiv: [2001.08748](#)

Press: [Official Website](#)

29. Zucker, C.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Schlafly, E. F.; Green, G. M.; Finkbeiner, D. P., Goodman, A.; & Alves, J., **A&A**  
*A Compendium of Distances to Molecular Clouds in the Star Formation Handbook*  
arxiv: [2001.00591](#)

2019

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28. **Speagle, J. S.**, arxiv  
*A Conceptual Introduction to Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods*  
arxiv: [1909.12313](#)
27. Green, G. M.; Schlafly, E. F.; Zucker, C.; **Speagle, J. S.**; & Finkbeiner, D. P., **ApJ**  
*A 3D Dust Map Based on Gaia, Pan-STARRS 1 and 2MASS*  
arxiv: [1905.02734](#)
26. Huang, S.; Leauthaud, A.; Hearin, A.; Behroozi, P.; Bradshaw, C.; Ardila, F.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Tenenti, A.; Bundy, K.; Greene, J.; Sifón, C.; & Bahcall, N., **MNRAS**  
*Weak Lensing Reveals a Tight Connection Between Dark Matter Halo Mass and the Distribution of Stellar Mass in Massive Galaxies*  
arxiv: [1811.01139](#)  
Press: [CfA Science Update](#)
25. **Speagle, J. S.**; Leauthaud, A.; Huang, S.; Bradshaw, C. P.; Ardila, F.; Capak, P. L.; Eisenstein, D. J.; Masters, D. C.; Mandelbaum, R.; More, S.; Simet, M.; & Sifón, C., **MNRAS**  
*Galaxy-Galaxy Lensing in HSC: Validation Tests and the Impact of Heterogeneous Spectroscopic Training Sets*  
arxiv: [1906.05876](#)
24. Namikawa, T. et al. [73 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **ApJ**  
*Evidence for the Cross-correlation between Cosmic Microwave Background Polarization Lensing from POLARBEAR and the Cosmic Shear from Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam*  
arxiv: [1904.02116](#)
23. Forbes, J. C.; Krumholz, M. R.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **MNRAS**  
*Towards a Radially-Resolved Semi-Analytic Model for the Evolution of Disc Galaxies Tuned with Machine Learning*  
arxiv: [1810.12919](#)
22. Cook, B. A.; Conroy, C.; van Dokkum, P.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*Measuring Star-Formation Histories, Distances, and Metallicities with Pixel Color-Magnitude Diagrams I: Model Definition and Mock Tests*  
arxiv: [1904.00011](#)
21. Safarzadeh, M.; Berger, E.; Leja, J.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJL**  
*Measuring the Delay Time Distribution of Binary Neutron Stars III. Using the Individual Star Formation Histories of Gravitational Wave Event Host Galaxies in the Local Universe*  
arxiv: [1905.04310](#)  
Press: [AAS NOVA](#)



20. Hikage, C. et al. [35 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **PASJ**  
*Cosmology from cosmic shear power spectra with Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam first-year data*  
arxiv: [1809.09148](https://arxiv.org/abs/1809.09148)
19. Leja, J.; Johnson, B. D.; Conroy, C.; van Dokkum, P.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Brammer, G.; Momcheva, I.; Skelton, R.; Whitaker, K. E.; Franx, M.; & Nelson, E. J., **ApJ**  
*An Older, More Quiescent Universe from Panchromatic SED Fitting of the 3D-HST Survey*  
arxiv: [1812.05608](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.05608)
18. **Zucker, C. & Speagle, J. S.**; Schlafly, E. F.; Green, G. M.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; Goodman, A. A.; & Alves, J., **ApJ**  
*A Large Catalog of Accurate Distances to Local Molecular Clouds: The Gaia DR2 Edition*  
arxiv: [1902.01425](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.01425)
17. Leja, J.; Carnall, A. C.; Johnson, B. D.; Conroy, C.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*How to Measure Galaxy Star Formation Histories II: Nonparametric Models*  
arxiv: [1811.03637](https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.03637)

## 2018

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16. Zucker, C.; Schlafly E. F.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Green, G. M.; Portillo, S. K. N.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; & Goodman, A. A., **ApJ**  
*Mapping Distances Across the Perseus Molecular Cloud Using CO Observations, Stellar Photometry, and Gaia DR2 Parallax Measurements*  
arxiv: [1803.08931](https://arxiv.org/abs/1803.08931)
15. Medezinski, E.; Oguri, M.; Nishizawa, A.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Miyatake, H.; Umetsu, K.; Leauthaud, A.; Murata, R.; Mandelbaum, R.; Sifón, C.; Strauss, M. A.; Huang, S.; Simet, M.; Okabe, N.; Tanaka, M.; & Yutaka, K., **PASJ**  
*Source Selection for Cluster Weak Lensing Measurements in the Hyper Suprime-Cam Survey*  
arxiv: [1706.00427](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.00427)
14. Mandelbaum, R. et al. [30 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **PASJ**  
*The first-year shear catalog of the Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam SSP Survey*  
arxiv: [1706.06745](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.06745)
13. Tanaka, M.; Coupon, J.; Hsieh, B.-C.; Mineo, S.; Nishizawa, A. J.; **Speagle, J.**; Furusawa, H.; Miyazaki, S.; & Murayama, H., **PASJ**  
*Photometric Redshifts for the Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program Data Release 1*  
arxiv: [1704.05988](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.05988)
12. Aihara, H. et al. [108 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **PASJ**  
*First Data Release of the Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program*  
arxiv: [1702.08449](https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.08449)
11. Aihara, H. et al. [142 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **PASJ**  
*The Hyper Suprime-Cam SSP Survey: Overview and Survey Design*  
arxiv: [1704.05858](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.05858)
10. Oguri, M. et al. [24 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **PASJ**

*An optically-selected cluster catalog at redshift  $0.1 < z < 1.1$  from Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program S16A data*  
arxiv: [1701.00818](https://arxiv.org/abs/1701.00818)

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## 2017

9. **Speagle, J. S.** & Eisenstein, D. J., **MNRAS**  
*Deriving Photometric Redshifts with Fuzzy Archetypes and Self-Organizing Maps II. Implementation*  
arxiv: [1510.08080](https://arxiv.org/abs/1510.08080)
8. **Speagle, J. S.** & Eisenstein, D. J., **MNRAS**  
*Deriving Photometric Redshifts with Fuzzy Archetypes and Self-Organizing Maps I. Methodology*  
arxiv: [1510.08073](https://arxiv.org/abs/1510.08073)

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## 2016

7. **Speagle, J. S.**; Capak, P. L.; Eisenstein, D. J.; Masters, D. C.; Steinhardt, C. L., **MNRAS**  
*Exploring Photometric Redshifts as an Optimization Problem: An Ensemble MCMC and Simulated Annealing-Driven Template-fitting Approach*  
arxiv: [1508.02484](https://arxiv.org/abs/1508.02484)
6. Steinhardt, C. L.; Capak, P. L.; Masters, D. C.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*The Impossibly Early Galaxy Problem*  
arxiv: [1506.01377](https://arxiv.org/abs/1506.01377)

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## 2015

5. Masters, D. C. et al. [19 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], **ApJ**  
*Mapping the Galaxy Color-Redshift Relation: Optimal Photometric Redshift Calibration Strategies for Cosmology Surveys*  
arxiv: [1509.03318](https://arxiv.org/abs/1509.03318)

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## 2014

4. Steinhardt, C. L. & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*A Uniform History for Galaxy Evolution*  
arxiv: [1409.2883](https://arxiv.org/abs/1409.2883)
3. Steinhardt, C. L.; **Speagle, J. S.** et al. [22 additional co-authors], **ApJL**  
*Star Formation at  $4 < z < 6$  from the Spitzer Large Area Survey with Hyper-Suprime-Cam (SPLASH)*  
arxiv: [1407.7030](https://arxiv.org/abs/1407.7030)  
Press: [JPL](https://jplpress.org/)
2. **Speagle, J. S.**; Steinhardt, C. L.; Capak, P. L.; & Silverman, J. D., **ApJS**  
*A Highly Consistent Framework for the Evolution of the Star-Forming 'Main Sequence' from  $z \sim 0-6$*   
arxiv: [1405.2041](https://arxiv.org/abs/1405.2041)

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## 2011

1. **Speagle, J. S.**; Kaplan, D. L.; & van Kerkwijk, M. H., **ApJ**  
*The X-ray Counterpart of the High-B Pulsar J0726-2612*  
arxiv: [1111.2877](#)