

# 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.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

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

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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**Steering Committee:** American Astronomical Society

*Member: Working Group on Astroinformatics & Astrostatistics*

2020-present

**Journal Clubs:** University of Toronto

*Co-Founder/Organizer: Statistics & Machine Learning Journal Club*

2020-present

*Co-Organizer: astro-ph Coffee*

2020-present

**Journal Clubs:** Harvard University

*Founder/Organizer: Center for Astrophysics Machine Learning Journal Club*

2017-2020

**Manuscript Referee:**

*Journal of Open Source Software*

2020-present

*Astronomy & Astrophysics*

2017-present

*Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*

2016-present

*American Astronomical Society Journals*

2014-present

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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**University of Florida:** Colloquium

September 2020

*Enabling Data-Driven Discovery in the Milky Way and Beyond Using Large Astronomical Datasets*

**Astro Hack Week 2020:** Tutorial Leader

August 2020

*Introduction to Bayesian Inference with Linear Regression*

**Villanova:** Colloquium

October 2019

*Exploring the Galaxy Near and Far in the Age of Gaia*

**Harvard:** Summer Colloquium (joint with Catherine Zucker)

June 2019

*Charting Nearby Molecular Clouds with Gaia: A New Map of Our Local Interstellar Medium*

**GitHub Satellite 2019:** Keynote Address Participant

May 2019

*Invited for open source code contributions (dynesty) in the analysis of the supermassive black hole in M87 by the Even Horizon Telescope collaboration*

**University of Toronto:** Special Seminar

April 2019

*Photometric Distances Near and Far in the Age of Gaia*

**Max Planck Institute for Astronomy:** Galaxy Coffee

April 2019

*The Devil's in the Detail's: Photometric Biases in Modern Surveys*

**Cambridge:** Data Intensive Science Seminar

April 2019

*Mapping the 3-D Distribution of Dust in the Milky Way with Stellar Photometry*

**Harvard:** CMSA Big Data Conference

August 2018

*Revealing the Milky Way's Dust-iny*

**UMass Amherst:** Data Science Tea

October 2017

*Big Data Inference: Combining Hierarchical Bayes and Machine Learning to Improve Photometric Redshifts*

**Harvard:** CHASC Astrostatistics Seminar

September 2017

*An Introduction to Dynamic Nested Sampling*

## PUBLICATIONS

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I am an author of **44 papers** that have over **2600 citations** ([h-index=17](#)). This includes:

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

**14 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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45. 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*

### Under Review

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44. **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*
43. **Speagle, J. S.** et al. [17 additional co-authors], submitted to **ApJ**  
*Deriving Stellar Properties, Distances, and Reddenings from Photometry and Astrometry with brutus*
42. Desprez, G. et al. [171 additional co-authors including **Speagle, J. S.**], submitted to **A&A**  
*Euclid Preparation. X. The Euclid Photometric-Redshift Challenge*  
 arxiv: [2009.12112](#)
41. 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., submitted to **ApJ**  
*Discovery of Magellanic Stellar Debris in the H3 Survey*
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.**, submitted to **ApJ**  
*Ancient Very Metal-Poor Stars Associated with the Galactic Disk in the H3 Survey*
39. 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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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](#)
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](#)
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](#)

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](#)

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## 2018

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](#)
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](#)
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](#)
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](#)
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](#)
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](#)
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](#)

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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](#)
8. **Speagle, J. S.** & Eisenstein, D. J., **MNRAS**  
*Deriving Photometric Redshifts with Fuzzy Archetypes and Self-Organizing Maps I. Methodology*

## 2016

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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](#)
6. Steinhardt, C. L.; Capak, P. L.; Masters, D. C.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*The Impossibly Early Galaxy Problem*  
arxiv: [1506.01377](#)

## 2015

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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](#)

## 2014

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4. Steinhardt, C. L. & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*A Uniform History for Galaxy Evolution*  
arxiv: [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](#)  
Press: [JPL](#)
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](#)

## 2011

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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](#)