

# JOSHUA S. SPEAGLE

Harvard University Department of Astronomy  
[joshspeagle.github.io](https://joshspeagle.github.io) | [jspeagle@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:jspeagle@cfa.harvard.edu)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

My research interests lie in the interdisciplinary fields of **astrostatistics** and **data science** at the intersections of astronomy, statistics, and computer science. I focus on developing new statistics and machine learning techniques to study **stars, galaxies, and other astronomical phenomena** using large datasets in order to better understand how galaxies like our own Milky Way evolve.

## POSITIONS

---

<b>Banting Postdoctoral Fellow:</b> University of Toronto	2020-2022
<b>Project Academic Support Staff:</b> Kavli IPMU, University of Tokyo	2015-2016

## EDUCATION

---

<b>Harvard University:</b> PhD in Astronomy	2016-2020
<i>Advisers: Doug Finkbeiner, Charlie Conroy, and Daniel Eisenstein (with Alyssa Goodman)</i>	
<b>Harvard University:</b> MA in Astronomy	2016-2020
<b>Harvard University:</b> BA in Astrophysics and Physics	2011-2015

## AWARDS & HONORS

---

<b>Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship</b>	2020
Department of Astronomy Teaching Award (Harvard)	Spring 2018
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Harvard)	Spring 2017, 2018; Fall 2018
<b>National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship</b>	2016

## TEACHING

---

I have a strong interest in undergraduate and graduate education and pedagogy, with a focus on skills such as **programming, statistics, and data science** that are invaluable across a wide range of disciplines but too often not taught as part of a typical science curriculum.

<b>Harvard:</b> Teaching Fellow	
<i>ASTRON 22: The Unity of Science: From the Big Bang to the Brontosaurus and Beyond</i>	<i>Spring 2020</i>
<i>ASTRON 191: Astrophysics Laboratory</i>	<i>Spring 2019</i>
<i>ASTRON 17: Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy</i>	<i>Fall 2018</i>
<i>ASTRON 130: Cosmology</i>	<i>Spring 2018</i>
<i>ASTRON 16: Stellar and Planetary Astronomy</i>	<i>Spring 2017</i>
<b>Banneker Institute (Harvard):</b> Course Instructor	
<i>Introduction to Programming in Python</i>	<i>Summer 2017, 18, 19</i>

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

CfA Machine Learning Journal Club: Founder and Organizer 2017-2020  
Manuscript Referee: ApJ, ApJL, AJ, A&A, MNRAS 2014-present

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

---

**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*

**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*

**Bayes Comp 2018:** Poster March 2018  
*Dynamic Nested Sampling with dynesty*

**UMass Amherst:** Data Science Tea October 2017  
*Big Data Inference: Combining Hierarchical Bayes and Machine Learning to Improve Photometric Redshifts*

## PUBLICATIONS

---

I am an author of **35 papers**, including **10 as (co-)first author** (in red) and **13 where I have made substantial contributions** (in blue). These papers have over **1800 citations** ([h-index=17](#)), including over **650 citations** ([h-index=7](#)) for papers where I am (co-)first author.

My papers can be found online on [arxiv](#) and [ADS](#).

### In Preparation

---

- 37. Speagle, J. S.;** Zucker, C.; Cargile, P. A.; Bonaca, A.; Johnson, B. D.; Beane, A.; Kamdar, H.; Dotter, A.; Conroy, C.; Green, G. M.; Schlafly, E. F.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; Rix, H.-W.; & Goodman, A.  
*Mapping the Milky Way in 5-D with 120 Million Stars at High Galactic Latitudes*
- 36. Speagle, J. S.;** Zucker, C.; Cargile, P. A.; Johnson, B. D.; Beane, G.; Green, G. M.; Schlafly, E. F.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; Dotter, A.; Bonaca, A.; Conroy, C.; Rix, H.-W.; Goodman, A. A.; & Eisenstein, D. J.  
*Deriving Stellar Properties, Distances, and Reddenings from Photometry and Astrometry with brutus*

### Submitted

---

- 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**

2020

---

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*
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*
32. Portillo, S. K. N. & **Speagle, J. S.**; & Finkbeiner, D. P., **AJ**  
*Photometric Biases in Modern Surveys*
31. **Speagle, J. S.**, **MNRAS**  
*dynesty: A Dynamic Nested Sampling Package for Estimating Bayesian Posteriors and Evidences*
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*  
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*

2019

---

28. **Speagle, J. S.**, **arxiv**  
*A Conceptual Introduction to Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods*
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*
26. Huang, S.; Leauthaud, A.; Hearin, A.; Behroozi, P.; Bradshaw, C.; Ardila, F.; **Speagle, J.**; 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*
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*
24. Namikawa, T. **et al.** [73 additional co-authors], **ApJ**  
*Evidence for the Cross-correlation between Cosmic Microwave Background Polarization Lensing from POLARBEAR and the Cosmic Shear from Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam*
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*
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*

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*  
**Press:** [AAS NOVA](#)
20. Hikage, C. **et al.** [35 additional co-authors], **PASJ**  
*Cosmology from cosmic shear power spectra with Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam first-year data*
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*
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*
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*

**2018**

---

16. Zucker, C.; Schlafly E. F.; **Speagle, J. S.**; Green, G. M.; Portillo, S. K. N.; Finkbeiner, D. P.; & Goodman, A. A., **ApJ**  
*A New Technique for Mapping Distances Across the Perseus Molecular Cloud Using CO Observations and Stellar Photometry*
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 Sprime-Cam Survey*
14. Oguri, M. **et al.** [24 additional co-authors], **PASJ**  
*An optically-selected cluster catalog at redshift  $0.1 < z < 1.1$  from Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program S16A data*
13. Mandelbaum, R. **et al.** [30 additional co-authors], **PASJ**  
*The first-year shear catalog of the Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam SSP Survey*
12. 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*
11. Aihara, H. **et al.** [108 additional co-authors], **PASJ**  
*First Data Release of the Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program*
10. Aihara, H. **et al.** [142 additional co-authors], **PASJ**  
*The Hyper Suprime-Cam SSP Survey: Overview and Survey Design*

**2017**

---

9. **Speagle, J. S.** & Eisenstein, D. J., **MNRAS**  
*Deriving Photometric Redshifts with Fuzzy Archetypes and Self-Organizing Maps II. Implementation*
8. **Speagle, J. S.** & Eisenstein, D. J., **MNRAS**  
*Deriving Photometric Redshifts with Fuzzy Archetypes and Self-Organizing Maps I. Methodology*

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*
6. Steinhardt, C. L.; Capak, P. L.; Masters, D. C.; & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*The Impossibly Early Galaxy Problem*

2015

---

5. Masters, D. C. **et al.** [19 additional co-authors], **ApJ**  
*Mapping the Galaxy Color-Redshift Relation: Optimal Photometric Redshift Calibration Strategies for Cosmology Surveys*

2014

---

4. Steinhardt, C. L. & **Speagle, J. S.**, **ApJ**  
*A Uniform History for Galaxy Evolution*
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)*  
**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  $z \sim 0-6$*

2011

---

1. **Speagle, J. S.**; Kaplan, D. L.; & van Kerkwijk, M. H., **ApJ**  
*The X-ray Counterpart of the High-B Pulsar J0726-2612*