KAREEM EL-BADRY

Division of Physics, Math, and Astronomy kelbadry@caltech.edu

California Institute of Technology kareemelbadry.github.io

RESEARCH INTERESTS

binary stars, stellar-mass black holes, neutron stars, white dwarfs, wide-field surveys; near-field cosmology, galactic archaeology, globular clusters; galaxy formation, low-mass galaxies, stellar feedback

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley	2021
Thesis: Binary stars across the Milky Way: Probes of star formation and evolution	
M.A., Astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley	2018
B.S., Astronomy & Physics, summa cum laude, Yale University	2016

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, California Institute of Technology	2023-
Adjunct Scientist, MPIA, Heidelberg	2023-
Junior Fellow, Harvard Society of Fellows	2021 - 2023
ITC Fellow, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics	2021 - 2023
Postdoctoral Fellow, recurring summer appointment, MPIA, Heidelberg	2021 - 2023
Graduate Student, University of California, Berkeley	2016 - 2021
Kavli Summer Research Fellow, CCA, NYC	2018
Summer Visiting Researcher, MPIA, Heidelberg	2017 - 2020
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, Caltech	2015
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Yale	2015 - 2016
Dean's Summer Research Fellow, Yale	2014

Honors & Awards

New Horizons Solvay Lecturer in Physics	2025
IAU Ph.D. Prize, Stars and Stellar Physics division	2022
Mary Elizabeth Uhl Dissertation Prize, Berkeley	2021
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Berkeley	2021
Robert J. Trumpler Graduate Student Excellence Award, Berkeley	2020
CCAPP Price Prize in Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics	2018
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	2016 - 2021
Berkeley Fellowship	2016 - 2018
Hellman Award for Graduate Study	2016 - 2018
George Beckwith Prize in Astronomy, Yale	2016
Phi Beta Kappa, Yale	2015
Jerry Inskeep Memorial Scholarship, Yale	2014

Grants

Scialog Grant, Research Corporation for Science Advancement, CO-PI, \$66,000 to Caltech Early Science with the LSST: IMBH in the LMC? A hypervelocity star survey with LSST	2025-2027
Scialog Grant, Research Corporation for Science Advancement, CO-PI, \$66,000 to Caltech Early Science with the LSST: White dwarf companions as brown dwarf chronometers	2025-2027
JWST General Observer Grant, NASA/STScI, PI, Total: \$79,486 JWST-GO-04979: Uncovering the cold donors of AM CVn binaries	2025-2027
HST General Observer Grant, NASA/STScI, PI, Total: \$88,306 HST-GO-17441: UV spectroscopy of runaways from thermonuclear supernovae	2024-2026

Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grant, NSF, PI, Total: \$475,345 NSF-AST-2307232: Dormant black holes and neutron stars in stellar binaries	2023-2026
HST General Observer Grant, NASA/STScI, PI, Total: \$30,000 HST-GO-17202: Does MWC 656 host a black hole or a stripped helium star?	2023-2025
HST General Observer Grant , NASA/STScI, PI, Total: \$48,171 HST-GO-17200: A census of massive binaries and LBVs in the Whirlpool Galaxy	2023-2025
HST General Observer Grant, NASA/STScI, CO-I, subaward: \$23,181 HST-GO-17216: Establishing a 1% anchor for the Population II Distance Ladder with HST	2023-2025

AWARDED TELESCOPE TIME (SUMMARY)

HST	19 orbits (PI) + 86 orbits (CO-I)
JWST	11 hours (PI) + 71 hours (CO-I)
Keck 10m	17.5 nights (PI) + 26 nights (CO-I)
Magellan 6.5m	9 nights (PI) + 4 nights (CO-I)
VLT 8.2m	46 hours (PI) + 40 hours (CO-I)
LBT 2×8.4 m	3 nights (PI) + 3 nights (CO-I)
Gemini 8.1m	23 hours (PI)
Palomar Hale 200 inch	5 nights (PI) + 29 nights (CO-I)
MPG/ESO La Silla 2.2m	55 nights (PI) + 50 nights (CO-I)
Tillinghast 1.5m FLWO	30 nights (PI) + 10 nights (CO-I)
Las Cumbres Observatory 2×1 m	1.5 nights (PI)
Lick Shane 3m	26 nights (PI)
Lick APF 2.4m	15 nights (CO-I)
Nordic Optical Telescope 2.6m	12 nights (CO-I)
NTT 3.6m	3 nights (CO-I)
McDondald 2.7m Harlan J. Smith Telescope	5 nights (CO-I)
Very Large Array	4 hours (DDT; CO-I)
Green Bank Telescope	12 hours (CO-I)
MeerKAT	4 hours (DDT; CO-I)
Chandra	20 ks (DDT; PI) + 20 ks (DDT; CO-I)

OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

Lick Shane telescope, KAST Spectrograph – 28 nights Keck DEIMOS – 2.5 nights Keck ESI – 7 nights Keck LRIS – 3 nights Keck HIRES – 1 night 2020-2021 2015, 2016, 2021-2023 2021-2023
Keck ESI - 7 nights 2015, 2016, 2021-2023 Keck LRIS - 3 nights 2021-2023
Keck LRIS – 3 nights 2021-2023
Keck HIRES – 1 night 2022
Palomar Hale telescope, DBSP – 3 nights 2021-2023
Palomar Hale telescope, Wide-Field IR Camera – 1 night 2015
WIYN, Hydra Multi-Fiber Spectrograph – 2 nights 2014
Arecibo, L-Band HI – 2 nights 2013, 2014

Journal Referee

A&A, A&AL, ApJ, ApJL, MNRAS, MNRASL, SCPMA, Nature, Nature Astronomy, OJAp 38 papers; 2017 –

Collaboration Memberships

Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (CU4: non-single stars)	2024 -
Sloan Digital Sky Survey (binaries & compact objects working groups)	2021 -

STUDENT MENTORING

	2024-
Cheyanne Shariat (Caltech PhD student)	2024-
Domani Sharkey (Caltech undergrad)	2024-
Lisa Blomberg (Caltech PhD student)	2023-
Antonio Rodriguez (Caltech PhD student)	2022 -
Natsuko Yamaguchi (Caltech PhD student)	2022 -
Pranav Nagarajan (Caltech PhD student)	2020-
Maude Gull (Berkeley PhD student)	2022 -
Johanna Müller-Horn (MPIA PhD student)	2023-
Rhys Seeburger (MPIA PhD student)	2021-
Evan Portnoi (Caltech undergrad)	2023 - 2024
Umran Koca (Caltech undergrad)	2023 - 2024
Jesse Han (Harvard PhD student)	2022 - 2023
Vedant Chandra (Harvard PhD student)	2021 - 2023
Silvia Almada (MPIA masters student)	2020 - 2022
Nick Choksi (Berkeley undergrad; now Berkeley PhD student)	2018 - 2019
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	
Instructor, Ay 124, Structure and Evolution of Galaxies, Caltech	WI2025
Instructor, Ay 03, Automating Discovery in the Universe, Caltech	SP2024
Instructor, Ay 123, Stellar Structure and Evolution, Caltech	$WI2024,\ FA2024$
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro 128, Astronomy Data Lab, University of California, Berkeley	2019, 2020, 2021
Course Designer, Astro 128, Astronomy Data Lab, University of California, Berkeley	2018, 2019, 2020
Co-Instructor, Astro 375, Graduate Pedagogy, University of California, Berkeley	2019, 2020
Sole Instructor, Stellar Physics, Hyeonpung High School, Daegu, South Korea	2019
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro 160, Stellar Physics, University of California, Berkeley	2018
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro 7A, Introduction to Astronomy, University of California, Berk	eley 2017
Graduate Student Instructor, Astro C12, The Planets, University of California, Berkeley	2017
Tutor & Grader, Math 120, Multivariable Calculus, Yale	2013 - 2016
Tutor, Math 111, College Algebra, Umpqua Community College	2013
Talks (since 2017)	
Astronomy Colloquium, University of Texas, Austin, TX	2024
Astronomy Colloquium, University of Texas, Austin, TX Review talk, Multimessenger binary mergers meeting, Aspen, CO	2024 2024
Review talk, Multimessenger binary mergers meeting, Aspen, CO	2024 2024 2024
Review talk, Multimessenger binary mergers meeting, Aspen, CO Review talk, Lorentz center workshop on stripped stars, Leiden, Netherlands	2024 2024
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Astrophysics colloquium, Shanghai Astronomical Observatory	2022
Astrophysics colloquium, University of California, Los Angeles	2022
IAU working group on active B stars seminar	2022
Albert Einstein Institute seminar, Potsdam, Germany	2022
UCSD/SDSU joint colloquium, San Diego	2021
Harvard Society of Fellows lunch talk, Harvard University	2021
Stellar Astrophysics Center seminar, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark	2021
Astrophysics colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2021
Institute of Theory and Computation colloquium, Harvard University	2021
Königstuhl colloquium, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany	2021
Astrophysics colloquium, CIERA center, Northwestern University	2021
Astronomy seminar, University of Warwick, UK	2021
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2021
Astronomy colloquium, University of California, Berkeley	2021
Astronomy colloquium, California Institute of Technology	2021
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Astronomy colloquium, University of Chicago	
Physics colloquium, University of Utah	2021
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2020
Tea talk, California Institute of Technology	2020
CIERA seminar, Northwestern University	2020
Summer astrophysics colloquium, Princeton University	2020
Galaxy coffee, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany	2020
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2020
Astronomy seminar, Center for Computational Astrophysics, NYC	2020
Talk, ZTF theory meeting	2020
Astronomy seminar, University of Chicago	2019
Tea talk, Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, Stanford University	2019
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2019
Astronomy seminar, Boston University	2019
Galaxies and cosmology seminar, Center for Astrophysics, Harvard University	2019
Tea talk, California Institute of Technology	2019
Invited talk, The Milky Way 2019: LAMOST and other Leading Survey meeting, Yichang, China	2019
Astronomy seminar, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic	2019
Contributed talk, Universe of Binaries meeting, Telč, Czech Republic	2019
Contributed talk, CosmoDwarfs meeting, Durham, UK	2019
Galaxy coffee, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany	2019
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2019
FLASH seminar, UC Santa Cruz	2019
Cosmology seminar, UC Davis	2019
Invited talk, Lorentz Center workshop on globular clusters, Leiden, Netherlands	2019
Invited talk, Near/Far workshop, Napa, CA	2018
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2018
Grad student+postdoc seminar, University of California, Berkeley	2018
CCAPP Price Prize colloquium, Ohio State University	2018
Invited talk, Galactic angular momentum focus group, IAU, Vienna, Austria	2018
Contributed talk, Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics, Center for Computational Astrophysics, NYC	2018
Lunch talk, Center for Computational Astrophysics, NYC	2018
Galaxy coffee, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany	2018
Galaxy lunch, Yale University	2018
Grad student+postdoc seminar, University of California, Berkeley	2018
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2018
Invited talk, Near/Far workshop, Napa, CA	2017
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2017
SFB seminar, ARI, Heidelberg, Germany	2017
Galaxy coffee, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany	2017
Contributed poster, Galaxy-Halo Connection Workshop, KITP	2017
Grad student+postdoc seminar, University of California, Berkeley	2017
Lunch talk, University of California, Berkeley	2017
GalForm seminar, University of California, Berkelev	2017

Refereed Publications (142 total; 35 first-author)

h-index: 47 (all papers), 26 (first-author papers) citations: 6000+ (all papers), 2500+ (first-author papers) *: student papers for which I was the primary advisor

- 142. Han, J., El-Badry, K., Lucchini, S., Hernquist, L., Brown, W., Garavito Camargo, N., Conroy, C., Sari, R., 2025, "Hypervelocity stars trace a supermassive black bole in the Large Magellanic Cloud", arXiv:2502.00102, ApJ, submitted.
- 141. Seeburger, R., Rix, H.-W., **El-Badry, K.**, Mller-Horn, J., Dimoff, A., Henneco, J., Villaseor, J., 2025, The physical properties of post mass-transfer binaries, A&A, submitted.
- 140. * Shariat, C., **El-Badry, K.**, Naoz, S., Rodriguez, A. C., van Roestel, J., 2025, "Cataclysmic variables in triples: formation models and new discoveries", arXiv:2501.14025, PASP, submitted.
- 139. Cunningham, T., Caiazzo, I., Sienkiewicz, G., Wheatley, P. J., Gnsicke, B. T., **El-Badry, K.**, Arcodia, R., Charbonneau, D., Connor, L., De, K., Hakala, P., Kenyon, S. J., Maheshwari, S. K., Rodriguez, A. C., van Roestel, J., Tremblay, P. E., 2025, "Discovery of two new polars evolved past the period bounce", MNRAS, submitted.
- 138. * Rodriguez, A. C., **El-Badry, K.**, Hakala, P., Rodrguez-Gil, P., Bao, T., Galiullin, I., Kurlander, J. A., Law, C. J., Pelisoli, I., Schreiber, M. R., Burdge, K., Caiazzo, I., van Roestel, J., Szkody, P., Drake, A. J., Buckley, D. A. H., Potter, S. B., Gaensicke, B., Mori, K., Bellm, E. C., Kulkarni, S. R., Prince, T. A., Graham, M., Kasliwal, M., Rose, S., Sharma, Y., Ahumda, T., Anand, S., Viitanen, A., Wold, A., Chen, T. X., Riddle, R., Smith, R., 2025, "A link between white dwarf pulsars and polars: multiwavelength observations of the 9.36-minute period variable Gaia22ayj", arXiv:2501.01490, PASP, in press.
- 137. Green, M. J., Ziv, Y., Rix, H.-W., Maoz, D., Hamoudy, I., Mazeh, T., Faigler, S., Lam, M. C., **El-Badry, K.**, Hum, G., Munday, J., Yarker, P., 2024, "An upper limit on the frequency of short-period black hole companions to Sun-like stars", arXiv:2412.02082, A&A, submitted.
- 136. Chickles, E. T., Burdge, K. B., Chakraborty, J., Dhillon, V. S., Draghis, P., Hughes, S. A., Munday, J., Rappaport, S. A., Tonry, J., Bauer, E., Brown, A. J., Castro, N., Chakrabarty, D., Dyer, M., El-Badry, K., Frebel, A., Furesz, G., Garbutt, J., Green, M. J., Householder, A., Jarvis, D., Kara, E., Kennedy, M. R., Kerry, P., Kulkarni, S. R., Littlefair, S. P., McCormac, J., Mo, G., Ng, M., Parsons, S., Pelisoli, I., Pike, E., Prince, T. A., Ricker, G. R., van Roestel, J., Sahman, D., Shen, K. J., Simcoe, R. A., Vanderburg, A., Wong, T. L. S., 2024, "A gravitational wave detectable candidate Type Ia supernova progenitor", arXiv:2411.19916, Nature, submitted.
- 135. Shariat, C., Naoz, S., **El-Badry, K.**, Rocha, K. A., Kalogera, V., Stephan, A. P., Burdge, K. B., Angelo, I., 2024, "Triple evolution pathways to black hole low-mass X-ray binaries: Insights from V404 Cygni", arXiv:2411.15644, ApJ, submitted.
- 134. * Nagarajan, P., **El-Badry, K.**, 2024, "Mixed origins: strong natal kicks for some black holes and none for others", arXiv:2411.16847, PASP, submitted.
- 133. Aros-Bunster, C., Schreiber, M. R., Toloza, O., Hernandez, M. S., Belloni, D., **El-Badry, K.**, Vanderbosch, Z., Lagos-Vilches, F., Gänsicke, B. T., Koester, D., 2024, "The third known triple white dwarf: the close double white dwarf SDSS J125733.63+542850.5 hosts a white dwarf tertiary", A&A, in press.
- Wu, Y., Hadden, S., Dewberry, J., El-Badry, K., Matzner, C. D., 2024, "Eccentricities of close stellar binaries", arXiv:2411.09905, ApJL, submitted.
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- 5. Lam, C., et al., including **El-Badry, K.**, 2023, "Roman CCS White Paper: Characterizing the Galactic population of isolated black holes", arXiv:2306.12514
- 4. Terry, S., et al., including El-Badry, K., 2023, "The Galactic Center with Roman", arXiv:2306.11784
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