

Dr. Kirk Stuart Simeon Barrow

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Expertise: computational astrophysics, radiative transfer, orbital mechanics, optimization, mathematical and statistical modeling, instruction, atmospheric flight, unmanned aerial vehicle design

Citizenship: United States of America

Career Goal: Professor, Research Scientist, Engineer

CURRENT POSITION

Porat Postdoctoral Fellow

2018-present

Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology,
Stanford University and SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

EDUCATION

Ph.D, Physics, Astrophysics Specialization
Georgia Institute of Technology

2013-2018

M.S., Aerospace Engineering, Orbital Mechanics Specialization
Georgia Institute of Technology

2014-2016

B.S., Aerospace Engineering, Space Specialization
Georgia Institute of Technology

2004-2009

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2019 – 2021	PI: XSEDE X RAC Research Allocation TG-AST190001 (Renewed 2020)
2019	Co-Organizer: KIPAC Workshop-Hosting Grant
2018 – 2019	PI: XSEDE Computing Startup Allocation TG-AST180052
2018 – 2021	Stanford University Porat Postdoctoral Fellowship
2018	Lavender Diploma for Academics and Contributions to the LGBTQIA Community
2018	Georgia Tech School of Physics Amelio Award for Research Excellence
2017	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Year-Round Graduate Internship
2016, 2017	School of Physics Conference Travel Grant
2014	XSEDE Conference Grant
2013 – 2016	Southern Regional Education Board 3-Year Doctoral Fellowship

Grants Under Review

- Brant Robertson, **Kirk Barrow**, Mengtao Tang, Richard Ellis & Aayush Saxena, “*Understanding How Ionizing Photons Escape from Early Star-Forming Galaxies*” Keck, MOSFIRE
- Wilkins et al., “*Wide Area First Light Survey*” James Webb Space Telescope

Certifications in Progress

- Stanford Postdoctoral Teaching Certificate (est. January 2021)
- Japanese Language Proficiency Test N3 (~~est. December 2020~~) (TBD: US Testing Postponed)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate

NASA Graduate Internship – Research in Space Mission Design, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
May 2017 – July 2017

Mentor: Nathan Strange

- Developed trajectory tools for gravity assist leveraging
- Contributed code to an orbit optimizing software in development (Frost)
- Optimized a low-thrust tour from Titan to Enceladus (Malto)
- Found trajectories that reduced fuel cost by 80% to Enceladus compared to direct insertion

Aerospace Engineering – Research in Trajectory Optimization, Georgia Institute of Technology
January 2016 – May 2017

Mentor: Marcus Holzinger

- Developed a theoretical framework and algorithm to optimize Earth-Mars-Venus cycler trajectories on supercomputers
- Found new classes of trajectories that reduce round-trip times between Earth and Mars

Astrophysics – Research in Computational Cosmology, Georgia Institute of Technology

August 2014 – May 2018

Mentor: John Wise

- Developed a computational model to generate observables from simulated astrophysical data on the early Universe
- Found relationships between emission lines and bursts of star formation
- Found trends in the spectra and images of galaxies in the early universe
- Found identifying observational characteristics for the first generation of stars
- Found identifying observational characteristics for the formation of large black holes

Astrophysics – Research in Computational Cosmology, Georgia Institute of Technology

August 2012 – August 2014

Mentor: John Wise

- Analyzed the rates of photo evaporation in cosmological simulations
- Developed a merger tree algorithm
- Found that large galaxies evacuate satellite halos and inhibit star formation

Undergraduate

Aerospace Engineering – Research in Space Mission Design, Georgia Institute of Technology

January 2009 – June 2009

Mentor: David Spencer

- Developed an entry system for unmanned flight in Titan atmosphere
- Modeled and simulated entry, deployment, cruise, and landing for an extended multi-stage scientific study of Titan

Aerospace Engineering – Research in Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles, Georgia Institute of Technology

May 2008 – January 2009

Mentor: Eric Johnson

- Created a control program for use in testing of an uninhabited aerial vehicle
- Tested the control program on flight hardware

INVITED TALKS

- 1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (12/7/2020) *Using High-Cadence Synthetic Observations to Unlock a New Era in Astrophysics*
- 2) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois (12/4/2020) *Using High-Cadence Synthetic Observations to Unlock a New Era in Astrophysics (Astrophysics Colloquium)*
- 3) University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (11/19/2020) *Using High-Cadence Synthetic Observations to Unlock a New Era in Astrophysics (Steward Observatory/NOIRLab Colloquium)*
- 4) Stanford University, Stanford, California (8/27/2020) *Time-Dependent Trends in Radiative Transfer and Nebular Emission Lines (Astrophysics Colloquium)*
- 5) Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astronomy, Cambridge, Massachusetts (8/25/2020): *Time-Dependent Trends in Radiative Transfer and Nebular Emission Lines*
- 6) Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astronomy, Cambridge, Massachusetts (11/12/2019): *Emission Line Modeling in the High-Redshift Universe (Seminar)*
- 7) University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California (12/14/2018): *Synthetic Observations of the High-Redshift Universe (Seminar)*
- 8) University of California, Davis, Davis, California (11/1/2018) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations (Seminar)*
- 9) University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (10/5/2019) *Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations (Discussion Moderator)*
- 10) Stanford University, Stanford, California (10/9/2018) *Synthetic Observations of the High-Redshift Universe*
- 11) Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (12/14/2017) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations (Seminar)*
- 12) University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (11/6/2017) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations (Seminar)*
- 13) Flatiron Institute, New York, New York (10/13/2017) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations*
- 14) University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (10/10/2017) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations (Seminar)*
- 15) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, Pasadena, California (7/26/2017) *Astrodynamics, Astronomy, and Astrophysics (Seminar)*
- 16) Space Systems Design Laboratory, Georgia Institute of Technology (11/14/2016) *Multi-Objective Optimization of Mars-Earth-Venus Trajectories*
- 17) Duke TIP Program, Georgia Institute of Technology (7/13/15) *Gravity (Guest Lecture)*
- 18) Center for Relativistic Astrophysics, Georgia Institute of Technology (10/8/2014) *First Light: Exploring the Spectra of Galaxies in the Early Universe*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 1) SAZERAC-sip: First Stars, online, (10/23/2020) *Unraveling Time-Dependent Trends in Star Formation Using Cosmological Simulations (Talk)*
- 2) 235th American Astronomical Society Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii (1/7/2020) *Blue Galaxies: Modeling Nebular Emission Lines in the Time Domain (Talk)*
- 3) Frank Bash Symposium, UT Austin, Austin, Texas (10/23/2019): *Blue Galaxies: Exploring Nebular Emission in the Early Universe (Invited Review Talk)*
- 4) Enzo Workshop, SLAC Linear Accelerator Center, Menlo Park, California, (6/11/2019) *Photometry and emission line modeling of high-redshift stellar clusters and H II regions (Talk)*
- 5) Formation of Stars and Massive clusters in Dwarf Galaxies over Cosmic Time, Leiden, Netherlands (2/22/2019) *Photometry and emission line modeling of high-redshift stellar clusters and H II regions (Invited Talk)*
- 6) Extremely Big Eyes on the Early Universe, Los Angeles, California (1/28/2019) *Synthetic Observations of the High-Redshift Universe (Talk)*
- 7) Stellar Archaeology as a Time Machine to the First Stars, Kashiwa, Japan (12/4/2018) *Synthetic Observations of the High-Redshift Universe (Talk)*

- 8) 2018 National Society of Black Physicists Conference, Columbus, Ohio, (11/5/2018) *Synthetic Observations of the High-Redshift Universe* (**Invited Talk**)
- 9) 231st American Astronomical Society Meeting, Washington, DC (1/11/2018) *Caius: Synthetic Observables Using Monte Carlo Photon Simulations* (**Dissertation Talk**)
- 10) Spectral Diagnostics to Explore the Cosmic Dawn with JWST, STScI, Baltimore, Maryland (8/1/2017) *First Light: Exploring the Spectra of Galaxies in the Early Universe* (**Talk**)
- 11) 27th AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting, San Antonio, Texas (2/5/2017) *Multi-Objective Optimization of Mars-Earth-Venus Trajectories* (**Talk, Conference Paper**)
- 12) Exploring the Universe with JWST II Conference, Montreal, Canada (10/27/2016) *First Light: Exploring the Spectra of Galaxies in the Early Universe* (**Talk**)
- 13) 32nd Annual Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris Conference, Paris, France (6/19/2016) *First Light: Exploring the Spectra of Galaxies in the Early Universe* (**Poster, Poster Talk**)
- 14) 224th American Astronomical Society Meeting, Seattle, Washington (1/5/2015) *First Light: Exploring the Spectra of Galaxies in the Early Universe* (**Poster**)

MENTORSHIP

Bryen Irving, Graduate Student, Stanford University

Spring 2020 – present

- Secondary mentor along with Tom Abel and Roger Blandford. Developing models for massive black hole formation and evolution.

Lillian Santos-Olmsted, Undergraduate, University of California, Santa Cruz

Spring 2020 – present

- Primary mentor. Student selected from a competitive, funded quarter-long Cal-Bridge Summer Research Program (CAMPARE). Developing diagnostic tools for observers from simulation synthetic observations.

Luz Ángela García Peñaloza, Postdoctoral Scholar, Universidad ECCI, Columbia

Winter 2020 – Summer 2020

- Host and research mentor for Luz Ángela García Peñaloza as part of the KIPAC Program for Astrophysics Visitor Exchange at Stanford (PAVES)

Other Mentorship Activities

- 2020: Lead and organized weekly research group meetings with mentees
- 2018: American Physics Society Bridge Program and National Mentoring Community Conference panelist
- 2016-2017: Mentor and organizer for the Graduate Association of Physicists, Georgia Tech
- 2008-2018: Mentoring and tutoring of high school and undergraduate students

ENGAGEMENT, SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP

- 2019-2020: Stanford KIPAC Cosmology Seminar committee member and speaker host
- 2019: NASA Astrophysics Theory Program grant review panelist
- 2019: SLAC Users Organization Congressional DC physics advocacy trip attendee, meetings with the office of 12 US Senators and Representatives
- 2019, 2020: Stanford physics undergraduate summer research program applicant reviewer
- 2019: Proposal reviewer for the NASA FINESST graduate student fellowship
- 2018-2019: Journal peer reviewer for the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society
- 2018-2019: Co-organized the first interdisciplinary Space Sciences at Stanford conference
- 2018: Represented Stanford University at the National Society of Black Physicists Conference
- 2017-2018: Nominated to College of Sciences Graduate Student Diversity Council, Georgia Tech
- 2017: Represented Georgia Tech at the National Society of Black Physicists Conference

- 2015-2016: Led a startup competition group to build an automated solar energy pricing and permitting computer application
- 2007-2008: Primary and General Election Presidential Campaign Volunteer; organized a chapter within the Georgia Tech community. Created community outreach initiatives at community centers, churches, and with local businesses.
- 2006-2008: President, Georgia Tech Airsoft Club; built and organized membership from inactivity to an intercollegiate competitive level

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Instructor, Stanford University

Summer Quarter 2020

- The Origin and Development of the Cosmos (Physics 16) – Lead a course of 52 students, planned syllabus, created course content (lectures, activities, assignments, exams, projects), coordinated with a co-instructor and two teaching assistants
- Managed migration of the course to online teaching with a heavy emphasis on active learning

Guest Lecturer, Stanford University

Winter Quarter 2020

- Graduate Modern Astrophysics (Physics 360) – Original lectures and assignments on star cluster physics and HII regions

Stanford Postdoctoral Teaching Certificate, Stanford University

May 2019 – January 2021 (est.)

- 70 hours of pedagogy/andragogy and curriculum design course work and journal clubs
- A minimum of 5 hours of in-class original course material taught with teacher assessments

Physics Graduate Teaching Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology

August 2013 – December 2014, May 2015 – August 2016

- Electricity and Magnetism (Physics II) - Taught 3-5 lecture-style recitation sections per semester, proctored, and graded exams and assignments
- Mechanics (Physics I) – Created online homework assignments for a MOOC
- Fundamentals of Astrophysics (Physics 4347) - Held office hours, graded exams and assignments

Professional Tutoring, Tech Tutors, ClubZ! Atlanta Tutors, In-Home Tutors, Atlanta and privately

November 2008 – September 2013, September 2016 – present

- Worked for tutoring agencies focused on enhancing individual math and science skills at the grade school and college level
- Tutored over three hundred students for thousands of hours
- Developed an intuitive knowledge of multiple disciplines and sciences

Education Research, Kennesaw State University

June 2009 – July 2009

- Analyzed statistical performance data in conjunction with learning tests to determine correlations for use in executive MBA applications, documented methods and findings

SKILLS

Creator

- CAIUS Radiative Transfer Pipeline

Highly Proficient

- Applied mathematical modeling of dynamic physical systems
- Enzo, yt, Hyperion, Cloudy, Malto
- Python, Linux, Mathematica, MATLAB, Cluster Computing
- Microsoft Office, LaTeX

Experienced

- Statistical modeling
- CAD, Solid Edge
- C++, FORTRAN, Julia
- Orbit optimization tool development