

L. Y. Aaron Yung

Curriculum Vitae 

Observational Cosmology Lab, Astrophysics Science Division
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<https://lyaaronyung.github.io/>

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NASA Postdoctoral Fellow Astrophysics Science Division, Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, Maryland, United States <i>science advisor: Dr. Jonathan Gardner</i>	Oct 2020 – Present
Flatiron Visiting Researcher Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute Manhattan, New York, United States	Sep 2016 – Sep 2020

EDUCATION

Rutgers University – New Jersey, United States Ph.D. in Astrophysics <i>doctoral thesis advisor: prof. rachel somerville</i>	Class of 2020
University of San Francisco – California, United States B.S. in Physics (with Honors) and Mathematics (with Honors) <i>double minor in Astronomy and Astrophysics, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Class of 2014

DOCTORAL THESIS RESEARCH

“Semi-analytic forecasts for galaxy formation and cosmic reionization in the ultrahigh-redshift universe”

SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS

I am an expert in modelling galaxies and AGN forming in the early universe and their subsequent impact on the reionization of the intergalactic hydrogen and helium using semi-analytic methods. During my doctoral studies, I published a series of well-received ‘Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST’ papers, which delivered a wide variety of predictions regarding objects that are yet to be detected, providing insights for how future observations may constrain the uncertainties in the underlying physical processes. I am an active member of the JWST Early Release Science (CEERS) Team and the Roman Space Telescope Cosmic Dawn Science Investigation Team.

AWARDS & HONORS

2020 – 2023	NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) Fellowship – NASA, administered by USRA
2014	Dr. Raymond Genolio Award – Department of Physics & Astronomy, USF
2012	Mike and Millie Lehmann Scholarship – Department of Mathematics, USF
2012	Arthur Furst Undergraduate Scholarship – College of Arts & Sciences, USF

Dean’s List – College of Arts & Sciences, USF, Fall 2010 - Spring 2014 Every Semester

Elected Member of $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ (Sigma Pi Sigma, Physics Honor Society), since 2013

Elected Member of IIME (Pi Mu Epsilon, Mathematics Honor Society), since 2012

GRANTS AWARDED AS PI

- 2021 *JWST* Cycle 1 – Constraining the Seeding and Growth of First Black Holes via Observable Signatures from the Early Universe
grant award amount pending

SELECTED OBSERVING TIME AND GRANTS AWARDED AS CO-I

- 2021 *JWST* Cycle 1 – The Webb Deep Extragalactic Exploratory Public (WDEEP) Survey
PI: Steve Finkelstein, 121.7 hours, grant award amount pending

A total of 5 Co-I proposals are accepted for JWST Cycle 1

- 2020 *JWST* ERS – The Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science (CEERS) Survey
PI: Steve Finkelstein, 63.2 hours, \$██████ awarded for three months of support
- 2019 *HST* Cycle 26 – Photometric Confirmation of the Brightest Known Galaxy Candidate at $z > 9$
PI: Steve Finkelstein, 2 orbits

CURRENT AND PAST COLLABORATIONS

Roman Space Telescope Cosmic Dawn Science Investigation Team Jun 2019 - Present
PI: James Rhoads
NASA-funded Science Investigation Team with objectives focused on studying the epoch of “Cosmic Dawn”.

JWST Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science (CEERS) Survey Team Mar 2018 - Present
PI: Steve Finkelstein
Funded *JWST* early release science (ERS) program that surveys the high-redshift Universe.
See <https://ceers.github.io>

The Isolated and Quenched (IQ) Collaboratory Sep 2017 - Present
PI: Tjitske Starkenburg
The IQ Collaboratory aims to bridge the gap between simulations and observations of star-forming and quiescent galaxies to better characterize internal quenching processes. See <https://iqcollaboratory.github.io>

Experiment for Cryogenic Large-Aperture Intensity Mapping (EXCLAIM) Feb 2019 - Present
PI: Eric Switzer and Anthony Pullen
NASA-funded line intensity mapping survey for CO and CII line emission from $z = 0 - 3.5$ galaxies.

Undergraduate ALFALFA Team Aug 2012 - May 2014
The NSF-funded UAT is a consortium of 19 institutions engaging in an undergraduate research under the Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA (ALFALFA) project, which aims to detect neutral hydrogen in the local universe by utilizing the Arecibo L-band Feed Array (ALFA) at the Arecibo Observatory.

SELECTED PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS

Doctoral Candidacy Research Advisor: Prof. Rachel Somerville
“The Interplay of Cosmic Reionization and Galaxy Formation”

Undergraduate Research Advisor: Prof. Aparna Venkatesan
“Constraints on First-Stars Models From Observations of Local Low-Mass Dwarf Galaxies and Galactic Metal-Poor Halo Stars”

OUTREACH & SERVICE

2015 - 2016 President – Graduate Student Organization, Rutgers
 2013 - 2014 Chapter Officer – Mathematics Honor Society (HME), USF
 2013 - 2014 President – USF Astronomy Club
 2012 - 2013 Vice President – USF Astronomy Club

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

2014 - 2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant – Department of Physics & Astronomy, Rutgers
 2012 - 2014 Teaching Assistant – Department of Mathematics, USF
 2011 - 2014 Teaching Assistant – Department of Physics & Astronomy, USF
 2011 - 2013 Observation Assistant for Astronomy – Department of Physics & Astronomy, USF

ADDITIONAL TEACHING RELATED QUALIFICATIONS

2016 Certificate of Training in Physics Mentorship – Department of Physics & Astronomy, Rutgers
 2014 Certificate of Training in Physics Teaching – Department of Physics & Astronomy, Rutgers

OTHER SKILLS & BACKGROUND

Language Proficiency: English (Fluent), Mandarin (Fluent), French (Basic), Japanese (Basic)
 Scientific Programming: Python (Primary), C++, FORTRAN, L^AT_EX, IDL, MATLAB, Mathematica

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTION TALKS

“Semi-analytic forecasts: uncovering galaxy formation at high redshift with JWST and Beyond”
 Jul 6-9, 2020 – Virtual Meeting – Summer All Zoom Epoch Of Reionization Astronomy Conference

“Semi-analytic forecasts: uncovering galaxy formation at high redshift with JWST and Beyond”
 Jan 4-8, 2020 – Honolulu, Hawai’i – the 235th AAS Meeting – dissertation talk

“Semi-analytic forecasts: high-redshift galaxy demographics and implications for reionization”
 Jan 21-25, 2019 – Sesto, Italy – The Growth of Galaxies in the Early Universe – V

“Semi-analytic forecasts: uncovering galaxy formation with joint constraints from wide and deep surveys”
 Aug 30-31, 2018 – Princeton, New Jersey, United States – Workshop on *WFIRST*/LSST Deep Fields

“Semi-analytic forecasts: uncovering galaxy formation with joint constraints from wide and deep surveys”
 Jul 23-27, 2018 – Noordwijk, Netherlands – ESA-ESTEC *JWST*/Euclid Synergy Conference

“Galaxy Formation in the Epoch of Reionization with SAM: Predictions for Upcoming JWST Observations”
 Feb 4-10, 2018 – Aspen, Colorado, United States – Aspen Winter Conference on Astrophysics: Cosmic Dawn

“Galaxy Formation at Extreme Redshifts: Semi-analytic Model Predictions and Challenges for Observations”
 Jun 12-16, 2017 – Paris, France – Galaxy Evolution Across Time

“UV Luminosity Functions at $z > 6$ predicted by Semi-analytic Models and implications for Reionization”
 Jun 20-24, 2016 – Paris, France – the 32nd Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris Colloquium

CONFERENCE POSTERS

“Semi-Analytic Forecasts for JWST: Uncovering galaxy formation with joint constraints from deep surveys & reionization”

Aug 5-9, 2019 – Santa Cruz, California – 2019 Santa Cruz Galaxy Workshop

“Semi-Analytic Forecasts for JWST: Uncovering galaxy formation with joint constraints from deep surveys & reionization”

Jun 24-28, 2019 – Paris, France –

CosmoGold IAP 2019: The golden age of cosmology from Planck to Euclid

“Semi-Analytic Forecasts for JWST: Uncovering early galaxy evolution in the ALMA and JWST era”

Jun 3-9, 2019 – Viana do Castelo, Portugal –

IAU Symposium 352: Uncovering early galaxy evolution in the ALMA and JWST era

“Evolution of physical properties & scaling relations for high-redshift galaxies”

Jul 15-20, 2018 – Kingston, Ontario, Canada –

The Physics of Galaxy Scaling Relations and the Nature of Dark Matter

“Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST Trilogy”

Jun 18-22, 2018 – Strasbourg, France – Rise and Shine: Galaxies in the Epoch of Reionization

“Constraints on First-Stars Models From Observations of Local Low-Mass Dwarf Galaxies and Galactic Metal-Poor Halo Stars”

Jan 5-9, 2014 – Washington D.C., United States – the 223rd AAS Meeting – Poster #246.54

SELECTED EXTERNAL TALKS

Feb 1, 2021 – Santa Cruz, California – UC Santa Cruz, CGI Seminar (Virtual Talk)

Jul 16, 2020 – Sussex, England – University of Sussex, Astro Seminar (Virtual Talk)

Mar 2, 2020 – New York, New York – *WFIRST* Science Jamboree II, *WFIRST* Science Community Meeting

Feb 7, 2020 – Toledo, Ohio – University of Toledo, Astro Seminar

Nov 7, 2019 – Oxford, England – University of Oxford, Galaxy Evolution Seminar

Nov 5, 2019 – Copenhagen, Denmark – Dark Cosmology Centre, Niels Bohr Institute

Nov 1, 2019 – Leiden, Netherlands – Lorentz Center, Leiden galaxy workshop

Sep 17, 2019 – Cambridge, Massachusetts – Harvard-Smithsonian *CfA*, Galaxies & Cosmology Seminar

Sep 4, 2019 – New Haven, Connecticut – Yale University, Galaxy Journal Club

Jul 30, 2019 – Goddard, Maryland – *WFIRST* Science Jamboree, *WFIRST* Science Community Meeting

Jun 21, 2019 – New York, New York – *Origins Space Telescope* Community Science Meeting

Feb 15, 2019 – Baltimore, Maryland – Space Telescope Science Institute, Galaxy Seminar

Nov 8, 2018 – San Francisco, California – University of San Francisco, Physics Colloquium

Oct 16, 2017 – Cape Town, South Africa – MPA-UWC Bilateral Workshop

Oct 12, 2017 – Heidelberg, Germany – Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Galaxy Coffee

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP ORGANIZED

[Main organizer]

CCA/STScI Epoch of Reionization and Early Galaxy Evolution with *JWST* Workshop

– Part I at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), Baltimore, MD on Apr 20, 2018

– Part II at the Center for Computational Astrophysics (CCA), New York, NY on Jun 1, 2018

[LOC]

2015 SKA Pathfinders HI Science Coordination Committee (PHISCC) Workshop

– Rutgers University, Mar 16-18, 2015

MAIN AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Yung, L.Y.A.** et al., 2019, *Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST – I. UV luminosity functions at $z = 4 - 10$* , MNRAS, 483, 2983 (arXiv:1803.09761)
- [2] **Yung, L.Y.A.** et al., 2019, *Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST – II. Physical properties and scaling relations for galaxies at $z = 4 - 10$* , MNRAS, 490, 2855 (arXiv:1901.05964)
- [3] **Yung, L.Y.A.** et al., 2020, *Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST – III. Intrinsic production rate of Lyman-continuum radiation*, MNRAS, 494, 1002 (arXiv:1910.11345)
- [4] **Yung, L.Y.A.** et al., 2020, *Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST – IV. Implications for cosmic reionization and LyC escape fraction*, MNRAS, 496, 4574 (arXiv:2001.08751)
- [5] **Yung, L.Y.A.** et al., 2021, *Semi-analytic forecasts for JWST – V. AGN abundance and helium reionization at $z = 2 - 6$* , in preparation

CO-AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Jones, Michael G.; Papastergis, Emmanouil; Pandya, Viraj; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2018, *The contribution of HI-bearing ultra-diffuse galaxies to the cosmic number density of galaxies*, A&A 614, A21 (arXiv:1712.01855)
- [2] Stevans, Matthew L.; Finkelstein, Steven; Wold, Isak; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2018, *Bridging Star-Forming Galaxy and AGN Ultraviolet Luminosity Functions at $z = 4$ with the SHELA Wide-Field Survey*, ApJ 863, 63 (arXiv:1806.05187)
- [3] Popping, Gergo; Pillepich, Annalisa; Somerville, Rachel S.; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2019, *The ALMA Spectroscopic Survey of the Hubble Ultra Deep Field: putting the H₂ content of galaxies and of the Universe in a theoretical context with IllustrisTNG and the Santa Cruz SAM*, ApJ 882, 137 (arXiv:1903.09158)
- [4] Walter, Fabian; Carilli, Chris; Neeleman, Marcel; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2020, *The Evolution of the Baryons Associated with Galaxies Averaged over Cosmic Time and Space*, ApJ 902, 111 (arXiv:2009.11126)
- [5] Behroozi, Peter; Conroy, Charlie; Wechsler, Risa H.; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2020, *The Universe at $z > 10$: Predictions for JWST from the UNIVERSEMACHINE DR1*, MNRAS 499, 5702 (arXiv:2007.04988)
- [6] Yang, Guang; Papovich, C.; Bagley, M. B.; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2021, *JWST/MIRI Simulated Imaging: Insights into Obscured Star-Formation and AGN for Distant Galaxies in Deep Surveys*, ApJ 908, 144 (arXiv:2011.08192)
- [7] Somerville, Rachel S.; Olsen, Charlotte; **Yung, L.Y.A.**; ... 2021, *Mock Lightcones and Theory Friendly Catalogs for the CANDELS Survey*, MNRAS 502, 4858 (arXiv:2102.00108)
- [8] Dickey, Claire M.; Starkenburg, Tjitske K.; Geha, Marla; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2021, *IQ Collaboratory II: The Quiescent Fraction of Isolated Galaxies Across Simulations and Observations*, accepted for publication in ApJ (arXiv:2010.01132)
- [9] Stevans, Matthew L.; Finkelstein, Steven; ... include **Yung, L.Y.A.** 2021, *The NEWFIRM HETDEX Survey: Photometric Catalog and the Quiescent Fraction of Massive Galaxies at $z = 3 - 5$ over 17.5 deg^2 in the SHELA Field*, accepted for publication in ApJ (arXiv:2103.14690)

REFERENCES

Prof. Rachel S. Somerville – rsomerville@flatironinstitute.org

- *Distinguished Professor and Downsbrough Chair in Astrophysics at Rutgers University*
- *Group leader at the Center of Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute*
- *Doctoral Thesis Advisor*

Prof. Steven L. Finkelstein – stevenf@astro.as.utexas.edu

- *Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin*
- *PI of the JWST CEERS Team and Co-I of the WFIRST Cosmic Dawn SIT*
- *Main collaborator for the Semi-analytic forecasts work series*
- *Long-term collaborator on JWST, HST, ALMA, Keck observing proposals*

Prof. Romeel Davé – rad@roe.ac.uk

- *Chair of Physics at the University of Edinburgh*
- *Main collaborator for the Semi-analytic forecasts work series*
- *Long-term collaborator on projects related to cosmic reionization and 21-cm mapping*

Dr. Jonathan P. Gardner – jonathan.p.gardner@nasa.gov

- *Chief of the Laboratory for Observational Cosmology at NASA Goddard*
- *Deputy Senior Project Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope*
- *Science Advisor on NPP research project*