

# Megan Bedell

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**Major Research Interests:** stellar spectroscopy; exoplanet detection & characterization; data analysis methods

## Positions Held

2019 – present | **Associate Research Scientist**, Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute

2021 – present | **Research Associate**, American Museum of Natural History

2017 – 2019 | **Flatiron Research Fellow**, Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute

## Education

2012 – 2017 | **University of Chicago**  
Ph.D. in Astronomy & Astrophysics  
*Dissertation Title: Illuminating the Origins of Planets with Solar Twins*  
*Advisor: Jacob L. Bean*

2008 – 2012 | **Haverford College**  
B.S. with Honors in Physics and with Highest Honors in Astronomy

## Honors & Awards

- Outstanding Paper Award, International Astrostatistics Association (2020)
- Josephine DeKarman Fellow (2016–2017)
- Lewis & Clark Field Scholar in Astrobiology (2016–2017)
- Illinois Space Grant Fellow (2016–2017)
- University of Chicago Harper Dissertation Fellow (2016–2017)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellow (2013–2016)
- Phi Beta Kappa (2012)

## Mentorship & Teaching

- **Graduate students** supervised through the CCA Visiting Pre-Doctoral Scholar program (est. 2019):
  - Caprice Phillips (The Ohio State University) — 2024
  - Arjun Savel (UMD College Park) — 2022–2023, resulting in 2 publications
  - Chris Lam (University of Florida) — 2022–2023, resulting in 1 publication
  - Quang Tran (UT Austin) — 2021–2022, resulting in 1 publication
  - Arvind Gupta (Penn State) — 2021–2022, resulting in 1 publication
  - Lily L. Zhao (Yale University) — 2019–2020, resulting in 1 publication
- **Undergraduates** supervised through summer programs including the Simons–NSBP Scholars Program, CUNY AstroCOM, and the Barnard Summer Research Institute:
  - Nusrat Jahan (CUNY Hunter College) — 2022
  - Lianys Feliciano (CUNY Hunter College) — 2022
  - Joann Roberts (Chicago State University) — 2020, resulting in senior thesis
  - Ilana Doran (Barnard College) — 2019–2021
  - Angus Beane (University of Pennsylvania) — 2018, resulting in 1 publication
- Instructor for the *LSST Data Science Fellowship Program* Session 10, 2019

- External examiner on thesis committees at Columbia University and Yale University
- Guest lecturer for graduate classes at Columbia University, CUNY Graduate Center, and Universidade de São Paulo

## Leadership & Service

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- Organizer, CCA Colloquium, 2021–present
- Organizer, Astronomical Data Group weekly meeting, 2019–present
- Member, Flatiron Institute Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 2020–2023
- Member, CCA Flatiron Research Fellow Hiring Committee, 2022–2024
- Member, CCA Pre-Doctoral Scholar Hiring Committee, 2022–2023
- Member, Hiring Process Committee, 2020–2023 [*group responsible for defining and overseeing the annual postdoc hiring process at CCA*]
- Member, Director Search Committee, 2020 [*small committee responsible for hiring of new CCA director*]
- Science Organizing Committee member or chair for 9 conferences/workshops to date, including: *Two HoRSEs* (2024, Berlin); *New York Area Exoplanets Meeting* (2024, NYC); *Sun-as-a-Star Workshop* (2023, NYC); *EPRV V* (2023, Santa Barbara); *TESS Science Conference II* (2021, virtual); *Telluric Line Hack Week* (2019, NYC); *Building Early Science with TESS* (2019, Chicago); *TESS Preparatory Workshop* (2018, NYC); *Precision Spectroscopy* (2017, São Paulo)
- Time Allocation Committee member for 3 NASA cycles to date
- Grant reviewer for NASA, NSF, and others
- Active referee for AAS, MNRAS, A&A, Nature journals

## Contributions to Open Science

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- Creator of the [gaia-kepler.fun](#) crossmatch database, used in >50 peer-reviewed publications to date
- Co-creator (with Annelies Mortier) of the [gr8stars](#) database, a public-access repository of high-resolution spectra for a *Gaia*-selected sample of bright Northern-hemisphere FGK stars
- Developer of the [wobble](#) open-source code in python + TensorFlow
- Contributor to astronomical open-source software including [eleanor](#), [radvel](#), [lightkurve](#)

## Outreach & Press

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- Interviewed for [NPR All Things Considered](#), [Nature](#), [PBS News Hour](#), [Scientific American](#).
- Featured profile for the [Flatiron Scientist Spotlight](#).
- 3 first-author papers covered by press including [Science News article](#), [ESO press release](#) [picked up by Associated Press]
- Creator of TESS Roulette interactive data viewer (<https://tess.casino>); 43000 pageviews
- Volunteer for solar viewing events with *SF Path to Totality* eclipse program in NYC and Austin, 2024
- Local organizer for NYC Dept of Education STEM Career Day, 2018
- Astronomy on Tap presenter in NYC & Chicago, co-founder of Chicago AoT branch, 2016–2018
- Presenter, Chicago Life Long Learning, 2015–2017
- Presenter, Adler Planetarium Space Visualization Lab, 2014–2017

## Selected Talks

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- NASA Goddard ASD Colloquium, October 2023
- EPRV Research Coordination Network Colloquium, June 2023
- San Francisco State University Physics Colloquium, April 2023
- University of Hawaii IfA Colloquium, April 2023
- EPRV5, March 2023 [[watch online](#)]
- University of Pennsylvania Astro Seminar, April 2021
- Flatiron Institute Seminar, April 2021

- University of Cambridge Exo-Cam Seminar, February 2020
- University College London Seminar, February 2020
- Precision Spectroscopy, January 2021
- Penn State CEHW Seminar, December 2019
- Flatiron-Wide Algorithms and Mathematics Workshop, October 2019 [\[slides online\]](#)
- Princeton IAS Seminar, September 2019
- Sagan Summer Workshop, July 2019 [\[watch online\]](#)
- American Museum of Natural History Colloquium, May 2019
- Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems, May 2019
- Carnegie EPL Colloquium, March 2019 [\[watch online\]](#)
- Cool Stars 20 (contributed plenary talk), August 2018 [\[slides online\]](#)
- Princeton Computational Astrophysics Workshop Series, May 2018 [\[materials online\]](#)
- Vanderbilt Astro Seminar, April 2018

Starred\* entries are undergrad or graduate student-led papers on which M. Bedell acted as a senior author.

#### First- and Second-Author Papers:

- **Savel, A. B.\***, **Bedell, M.**, & Kempton, E. M.-R. 2024, [cortecs: A Python package for compressing opacities](#), JOSS in review
- **Gupta, A.F.\*** & **Bedell, M.**, 2023, [Fishing for Planets: A Comparative Analysis of EPRV Survey Performance in the Presence of Correlated Noise](#), AJ in review
- **Tran, Q.H.\***, **Bedell, M.**, Foreman-Mackey, D., et al. 2023, [Joint Modeling of Radial Velocities and Photometry with a Gaussian Process Framework](#), ApJ, 950, 162
- Luger, R., **Bedell, M.**, Foreman-Mackey, D., Crossfield, I., et al., 2021, [Mapping Stellar Surfaces III: An Efficient, Scalable, and Open-Source Doppler Imaging Model](#), arXiv e-prints
- Gan, T., **Bedell, M.**, Wang, S., Foreman-Mackey, D., et al., 2021, [HD 183579b: A Warm Sub-Neptune Transiting a Solar Twin Detected by TESS](#), MNRAS, 507, 2220
- Pope, B., **Bedell, M.**, Callingham, J., Vedantham, H., et al., 2020, [No Massive Companion to the Coherent Radio-Emitting M Dwarf GJ 1151](#), ApJ, 890
- **Bedell, M.**, Hogg, D., Foreman-Mackey, D., Montet, B., & Luger, R., 2019, [WOBBLE: A Data-Driven Analysis Technique for Time-Series Stellar Spectra](#), AJ, 158, 164
- Ford, E., **Bedell, M.**, Ciardi, D., Dodson-Robinson, S., et al., 2019, [Advanced Statistical Modeling of Ground-Based RV Surveys as Critical Support for Future NASA Earth-Finding Missions](#), Astro2020: Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics, 2020, 466
- Luger, R., **Bedell, M.**, Vanderspek, R., & Burke, C., 2019, [TESS Photometric Mapping of a Terrestrial Planet in the Habitable Zone: Detection of Clouds, Oceans, and Continents](#), arXiv e-prints
- **Bedell, M.**, Bean, J., Meléndez, J., Spina, L., et al., 2018, [The Chemical Homogeneity of Sun-Like Stars in the Solar Neighborhood](#), ApJ, 865, 68
- **Bedell, M.**, Bean, J., Meléndez, J., Mills, S., et al., 2017, [Kepler-11 Is a Solar Twin: Revising the Masses and Radii of Benchmark Planets via Precise Stellar Characterization](#), ApJ, 839, 94
- Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, Bean, J., Ramírez, I., et al., 2017, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. V. Close-In, Low-Mass Planet Candidates and Evidence of Planet Accretion in the Solar Twin HIP 68468](#), Astronomy and Astrophysics, 597
- **Bedell, M.**, Meléndez, J., Bean, J., Ramírez, I., et al., 2015, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. II. A Jupiter Twin Around a Solar Twin](#), Astronomy and Astrophysics, 581
- **Bedell, M.**, Meléndez, J., Bean, J., Ramírez, I., et al., 2014, [Stellar Chemical Abundances: In Pursuit of the Highest Achievable Precision](#), ApJ, 795, 23
- **Bedell, M.**, Villaume, A., Weiss, L., Sliski, D., et al., 2011, [Monitoring H \$\alpha\$  Emission and Continuum of UXORs: RR Tauri](#), AJ, 142, 164

#### Other Papers:

- Rampalli, R., Ness, M. K., Edwards, G. H., et al. 2024, [The Sun Remains Relatively Refractory Depleted: Elemental Abundances for 17,412 Gaia RVS Solar Analogs and 50 Planet Hosts](#), ApJ in press
- Sayeed, M., Ness, M. K., Montet, B. T., et al. 2023, [Many Roads Lead to Lithium: Formation Pathways For Lithium-Rich Red Giants](#), ApJ in review
- Zhao, L. L., Dumusque, X., Ford, E. B., et al. 2023, [The Extreme Stellar-signals Project. III. Combining Solar Data from HARPS, HARPS-N, EXPRES, and NEID](#), AJ, 166, 173.
- Ferreira, T., Meléndez, J., Lorenzo-Oliveira, D., Bean, J.L., et al., 2023, [A Jupiter analogue and a cold Super-Neptune orbiting the solar-twin star HIP 104045](#), arXiv e-prints
- Bonfanti, A., Gandolfi, D., Egger, J., Fossati, L., et al., 2023, [TOI-1055 B: Neptunian Planet Characterised With HARPS, TESS, and CHEOPS](#), A&A, 671, L8
- **Behmard, A.\***, Ness, M., Cunningham, E., & **Bedell, M.**, 2023, [Elemental Abundances of Kepler Objects of Interest in APOGEE DR17](#), AJ, 165, 178
- Moran, A., Mingarelli, C., **Bedell, M.**, & Good, D., 2023, [Improving Distances to Binary Millisecond Pulsars with](#)

Gaia, ApJ, 954, 89

- Angus, R., Price-Whelan, A., Zinn, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2022, [The 3D Galactocentric Velocities of Kepler Stars: Marginalizing Over Missing Radial Velocities](#), AJ, **164**, 25
- Zhao, L., Fischer, D., Ford, E., Wise, A., *et al.*, 2022, [The EXPRES Stellar Signals Project II. State of the Field in Disentangling Photospheric Velocities](#), AJ, **163**, 171
- Gan, T., Lin, Z., Wang, S., Mao, S., *et al.*, 2022, [TOI-530b: A Giant Planet Transiting an M-Dwarf Detected by TESS](#), MNRAS, **511**, 83
- Spina, L., Sharma, P., Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2021, [Chemical Evidence for Planetary Ingestion in a Quarter of Sun-Like Stars](#), Nature Astronomy, **5**, 1163
- Hedges, C., Hughes, A., Zhou, G., David, T., *et al.*, 2021, [TOI-2076 and TOI-1807: Two Young, Comoving Planetary Systems Within 50 Pc Identified by TESS That Are Ideal Candidates for Further Follow Up](#), AJ, **162**, 54
- David, T., Contardo, G., Sandoval, A., Angus, R., *et al.*, 2021, [Evolution of the Exoplanet Size Distribution: Forming Large Super-Earths Over Billions of Years](#), AJ, **161**, 265
- Anderson, S., Dittmann, J., Ballard, S., & **Bedell, M.**, 2021, [Higher Compact Multiple Occurrence Around Metal-Poor M-Dwarfs and Late-K-Dwarfs](#), AJ, **161**, 203
- **Zhao, L.\***, Hogg, D., **Bedell, M.**, & Fischer, D., 2021, [Excalibur: A Nonparametric, Hierarchical Wavelength Calibration Method for a Precision Spectrograph](#), AJ, **161**, 80
- Spina, L., Nordlander, T., Casey, A., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2020, [How Magnetic Activity Alters What We Learn From Stellar Spectra](#), ApJ, **895**, 52
- Montet, B., Feinstein, A., Luger, R., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2020, [The Young Planet DS Tuc Ab Has a Low Obliquity](#), AJ, **159**, 112
- Vedantham, H., Callingham, J., Shimwell, T., Tasse, C., *et al.*, 2020, [Coherent Radio Emission From a Quiescent Red Dwarf Indicative of Star-Planet Interaction](#), Nature Astronomy, **4**, 577
- Angus, R., Morton, T., Foreman-Mackey, D., van Saders, J., *et al.*, 2019, [Toward Precise Stellar Ages: Combining Isochrone Fitting With Empirical Gyrochronology](#), AJ, **158**, 173
- Feinstein, A., Montet, B., Foreman-Mackey, D., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2019, [Eleanor: An Open-Source Tool for Extracting Light Curves From the TESS Full-Frame Images](#), PASP, **131**, 94502
- Blancato, K., Ness, M., Johnston, K., Rybizki, J., & **Bedell, M.**, 2019, [Variations in  \$\alpha\$ -element Ratios Trace the Chemical Evolution of the Disk](#), ApJ, **883**, 34
- Kreidberg, L., Luger, R., & **Bedell, M.**, 2019, [No Evidence for Lunar Transit in New Analysis of Hubble Space Telescope Observations of the Kepler-1625 System](#), ApJ, **877**
- Lorenzo-Oliveira, D., Meléndez, J., Yana Galarza, J., Ponte, G., *et al.*, 2019, [Constraining the Evolution of Stellar Rotation Using Solar Twins](#), MNRAS, **485**
- Carlos, M., Meléndez, J., Spina, L., dos Santos, L., *et al.*, 2019, [The Li-Age Correlation: The Sun Is Unusually Li Deficient for Its Age](#), MNRAS, **485**, 4052
- The MSE Science Team, Babusiaux, C., Bergemann, M., Burgasser, A., *et al.*, 2019, [The Detailed Science Case for the Maunakea Spectroscopic Explorer, 2019 Edition](#), arXiv e-prints
- Bergemann, M., Huber, D., Adibekyan, V., Angelou, G., *et al.*, 2019, [Stellar Astrophysics and Exoplanet Science With the Maunakea Spectroscopic Explorer \(MSE\)](#), arXiv e-prints
- Botelho, R., Milone, A., Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2019, [Thorium in Solar Twins: Implications for Habitability in Rocky Planets](#), MNRAS, **482**, 1690
- Lorenzo-Oliveira, D., Freitas, F., Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2018, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. The Age-Chromospheric Activity Relation](#), Astronomy and Astrophysics, **619**
- **Beane, A.\***, Ness, M., & **Bedell, M.**, 2018, [Actions Are Weak Stellar Age Indicators in the Milky Way Disk](#), ApJ, **867**, 31
- Crossfield, I., Guerrero, N., David, T., Quinn, S., *et al.*, 2018, [A TESS Dress Rehearsal: Planetary Candidates and Variables From K2 Campaign 17](#), The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series, **239**, 5
- Spina, L., Meléndez, J., Karakas, A., dos Santos, L., *et al.*, 2018, [The Temporal Evolution of Neutron-Capture Elements in the Galactic Discs](#), MNRAS, **474**, 2580
- dos Santos, L., Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, Bean, J., *et al.*, 2017, [Spectroscopic Binaries in the Solar Twin Planet Search Program: From Substellar-Mass to M Dwarf Companions](#), MNRAS, **472**, 3425

- Gandolfi, D., Barragán, O., Hatzes, A., Fridlund, M., *et al.*, 2017, [The Transiting Multi-Planet System HD 3167: A 5.7 M<sub>⊕</sub> Super-Earth and an 8.3 M<sub>⊕</sub> Mini-Neptune](#), *AJ*, **154**, 123
- Malik, M., Grosheintz, L., Mendonça, J., Grimm, S., *et al.*, 2017, [HELIOS: An Open-Source, GPU-accelerated Radiative Transfer Code for Self-Consistent Exoplanetary Atmospheres](#), *AJ*, **153**, 56
- Barragán, O., Grziwa, S., Gandolfi, D., Fridlund, M., *et al.*, 2016, [EPIC 211391664b: A 32 M<sub>⊕</sub> Neptune-Size Planet in a 10 Day Orbit Transiting an F8 Star](#), *AJ*, **152**, 193
- dos Santos, L., Meléndez, J., do Nascimento, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2016, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. IV. The Sun as a Typical Rotator and Evidence for a New Rotational Braking Law for Sun-Like Stars](#), *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, **592**
- Tucci Maia, M., Ramírez, I., Meléndez, J., **Bedell, M.**, *et al.*, 2016, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. III. The \[Y/Mg\] Clock: Estimating Stellar Ages of Solar-Type Stars](#), *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, **590**
- Meléndez, J., Bean, J., **Bedell, M.**, Ramírez, I., *et al.*, 2015, [Using Solar Twins to Explore the Planet-Star Connection With Unparalleled Precision](#), *The Messenger*, **161**, 28
- Ramírez, I., Meléndez, J., Bean, J., Asplund, M., *et al.*, 2014, [The Solar Twin Planet Search. I. Fundamental Parameters of the Stellar Sample](#), *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, **572**
- Meléndez, J., Ramírez, I., Karakas, A., Yong, D., *et al.*, 2014, [18 Sco: A Solar Twin Rich in Refractory and Neutron-Capture Elements. Implications for Chemical Tagging](#), *ApJ*, **791**, 14
- Monroe, T., Meléndez, J., Ramírez, I., Yong, D., *et al.*, 2013, [High Precision Abundances of the Old Solar Twin HIP 102152: Insights on Li Depletion From the Oldest Sun](#), *ApJ*, **774**