

NIKKO J. CLERI | CV

- **Position:** PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University
- **Research:** High-Redshift Galaxies, Galaxy Evolution, Emission-Line Galaxies, Population III Stars, Active Galactic Nuclei, Black Hole Seeds, Star Formation, Dust Attenuation

Summary

Nikko J. Cleri is a PhD candidate in astronomy at Texas A&M University. He currently studies emission-line galaxies with a focus on rest-frame UV/optical spectra of high-redshift galaxies. He primarily uses data from *JWST* and *HST*, and is a member of the CEERS (Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science), NGDEEP (Next Generation Deep Extragalactic Exploratory Public Survey), and CLEAR (CANDELS Lyman- α Emission at Reionization) collaborations. He is also very active in mentoring and outreach initiatives, currently serving as the coordinator for Texas A&M's Mentoring and Advising Graduates in an Inclusive Community (MAGIC) program.

Education

2021 - Present	Ph.D. Astronomy	Texas A&M University
► Advisor:	Casey Papovich	
► Thesis:	<i>Spectroscopic Studies of Stars and Black Holes Across Cosmic Time</i>	
2019 - 2021	M.S. Physics	University of Connecticut
► Advisor:	Jonathan R. Trump	
► Thesis:	<i>CLEAR: Paschen-β Star Formation Rates and Dust Attenuation in Low Redshift Galaxies</i>	
2015 - 2019	B.S. Physics Mathematics Minor	University of Connecticut
► Advisor:	Gerald V. Dunne	
► Undergraduate Research:	<i>Resurgent Trans-Series for Non-Integrable Deformations of Painleve II</i>	

Academic and Professional Appointments

2021-	Graduate Student (Advisor: Prof. Casey Papovich)	TAMU
2021	Research Technician (Advisor: Prof. Jonathan Trump)	UConn
2019-21	Graduate Student (Advisor: Prof. Jonathan Trump)	UConn
2017-20	Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Gerald Dunne)	UConn
2018	NSF REU Student (Advisor: Prof. Louis Strigari)	TAMU

Awarded Proposals and Grants - Total Value: >\$135k

Principal Investigator		1
2021	HST Cycle 29 - AR 16609: <i>Peering Through the Dust: Paschen-beta Indicators of Star Formation and Dust Attenuation</i>	~\$136k
Co-Investigator		1
2023	JWST Cycle 2 - GO 3703: <i>Breaking the z=10 barrier with MIRI: redshift confirmation and detection of rest-frame optical emission lines</i> (PI: J. Zavala)	24.33 hours
2023	Gemini : GS-2023A-Q-136: <i>Optical Spectroscopy of JWST ERO Galaxies</i> (PI: B. Backhaus)	20 hours

Honors and Awards

2022	Texas Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow - \$5K	TAMU
2018	NSF REU - \$5K	TAMU
2016	Dean's List - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	UConn
2015-19	Governor's Scholarship - \$8.5K/yr	UConn
2015	Community Service Scholarship - \$1K	UConn

»»» Teaching Experience - Cumulative Enrollment: 361

2019-21	TA - PHYS 1501: Physics for Engineers I - Cumulative Enrollment: 253	UConn
2021	TA/CA - PHYS 1025: Introduction to Astronomy - Cumulative Enrollment: 108	UConn

»»» Professional Service

2021-	Referee - Astrophysical Journal (ApJ)	
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»»» Mentoring

2023-24	Graduate Representative - TAMU Astronomy	TAMU
2022-24	Coordinator - Mentoring and Advising Graduates in an Inclusive Community (MAGIC)	TAMU
2022-24	Mentor - Mentoring and Advising Graduates in an Inclusive Community (MAGIC)	TAMU
2017-18	Mentor - UConn Undergraduate Peer Mentoring	UConn

»»» Outreach

2022-	Volunteer - Gateway to Graduate School	TAMU
2022-	Demonstrator - Physics and Engineering Festival	TAMU
2022	High School Research Reviewer - Lumiere	TAMU
2021-	Presenter - Astronomy on Tap BCS 'In the News'	TAMU
2021-22	Treasurer - Astronomy on Tap BCS	TAMU
2021-	Pen-Pal - Letters to a Pre-Scientist	TAMU
2018	Volunteer - Mitchell Institute Star Party Group	TAMU
2014-	Member - Booth Memorial Astronomical Society, Stratford, CT	

»»» Societies and Organizations

2023	LSSTC Data Science Fellowship Program	Auditor
2018	American Astronomical Society	Member
2018	American Physical Society	Member
2018	American Institute of Physics	Member
2015	Society of Physics Students	Member

»»» Observing Experience

2023	W.M. Keck Observatory - LRIS	3 nights
2018	McDonald Observatory	4 nights

»»» Technical Skills and Programming Languages

Programming	Fluent - Python, LaTeX	
	Familiar - SQL, Julia, C, C++, R, IDL, Mathematica, MATLAB	
Astronomy	Fluent - Cloudy, PyNeb	
	Familiar - grizli, DS9, IRAF	

»»» Website Architect

- » **Personal Website:** tx.ag/cleri
- » **TAMU Astronomy** (with other grad students): tamu-astro.github.io/
- » **Mentoring and Advising Graduates in an Inclusive Community (MAGIC)** (with other grad students): tx.ag/tamumagic

Publications

Summary

- » Refereed: 29, Submitted: 7
- » Papers as Lead/Significant Author: 8
- » Total Citations: 1078, H-Index: 17, Reads: >23000 (from NASA ADS, updated September 2023)

Lead/Co-Lead Author

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- » **Cleri, N. J.**, Olivier, G. M., Hutchison T. A., et al. 2023, *Using [Ne VI]/[Ne III] to Understand the Nature of Extreme-Ionization Galaxies*, ApJ, 953, 10
- » **Cleri, N. J.**, Yang, G., Papovich, C., et al. 2023, *CLEAR: High-Ionization [Ne VI] λ 3426 Emission-line Galaxies at $1.4 < z < 2.3$* , ApJ, 948, 112
- » **Cleri, N. J.**, Trump, J. R., Backhaus, B. E., et al. 2022, *CLEAR: Paschen- β Star Formation Rates and Dust Attenuation of Low Redshift Galaxies*, ApJ, 929, 3
- » **Cleri, N. J.**, Dunne, G. V., 2020, *Resurgent Trans-Series for Non-Integrable Deformations of Painleve II*, Journal of Physics A: Mathematical General, 53, 355203

Significant Author

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- » Larson, R.L., Finkelstein, S.L., Kocevski, D.D., Hutchison, T.A., Trump, J.R., Arrabal Haro, P., Bromm, V., **Cleri, N.J.**, et al. 2023, *A CEERS Discovery of an Accreting Supermassive Black Hole 570 Myr after the Big Bang: Identifying a Progenitor of Massive $z > 6$ Quasars*, ApJL, 953, L29
- » Backhaus, B.E., Bridge J.S., Trump, J.R., **Cleri, N.J.**, et al. 2023, *CLEAR: Detecting Low-Luminosity Active Galactic Nuclei at $0.6 < z < 1.3$ via Spatially Resolved Hubble Space Telescope Grism Emission Line Ratios*, ApJ, 943, 37.
- » Prescott, M.K.M., Finlator, K.M., **Cleri, N.J.**, et al. 2022, *Using Multiple Emission Line Ratios to Constrain the Slope of the Dust Attenuation Law*, ApJ, 928, 71
- » Backhaus, B.E., Trump, J.R., **Cleri, N.J.**, et al. 2022, *CLEAR: Emission Line Ratios at Cosmic High Noon*, ApJ, 926, 161

Co-Author: Refereed

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- » Kocevski, D.D., et al. 2023, *Hidden Little Monsters: Spectroscopic Identification of Low-Mass, Broad-Line AGN at $z > 5$ with CEERS*, ApJL, 954, L4
- » Arrabal Haro, P., et al. 2023, *Spectroscopic confirmation of CEERS NIRC2-selected galaxies at $z \simeq 8 - 10$* , ApJL, 951, L22
- » Estrada-Carpenter, V., et al. 2023, *CLEAR: The Morphological Evolution of Galaxies in the Green Valley*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2305.04953
- » Yang, G., et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper VI: JWST/MIRI Uncovers a Large Population of Obscured AGN at High Redshifts*, ApJL, 950, L5
- » Papovich, C., et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper IV: Galaxies at $4 < z < 9$ are Bluer than They Appear – Characterizing Galaxy Stellar Populations from Rest-Frame ~ 1 micron Imaging*, ApJL, 949, L18
- » Simons, R.C., et al. 2023, *CLEAR: Survey Overview, Data Analysis and Products*, ApJS, 266, 13
- » Constantin, L. et al. 2023, *Expectations of the size evolution of massive galaxies at $3 \leq z \leq 6$ from the TNG50 simulation: the CEERS/JWST view*, ApJ, 946, 71
- » Perez-Gonzalez, P.G., et al. 2022, *CEERS Key Paper V: A triality on the nature of HST-dark galaxies*, ApJL, 946, L16
- » Kocevski, D. et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper II: The Resolved Host Properties of AGN at $3 < z < 5$ with JWST*, ApJL, 946, L14
- » Finkelstein, S.L., et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper I: An Early Look into the First 500 Myr of Galaxy Formation with JWST*, ApJL, 946, L13
- » Guo, Y. et al. 2023, *First Look at $z > 1$ Bars in the Rest-Frame Near-Infrared with JWST Early CEERS Imaging*, ApJL, 945, L10
- » Trump, J.R. et al. 2023, *The Physical Conditions of Emission-Line Galaxies at Cosmic Dawn from JWST/NIRSpec Spectroscopy in the SMACS 0723 Early Release Observations*, ApJ, 945, 35

- » Garcia-Argumánez, A. et al. 2023, *Probing the earliest phases in the formation of massive galaxies with simulated HST+JWST imaging data from Illustris*, ApJ, 944, 3
- » Zavala, J. et al. 2023, *Dusty starbursts masquerading as ultra high redshift galaxies in JWST observations*, ApJL, 943, L9
- » Rose, C. et al. 2023, *Identifying Galaxy Mergers in Simulated CEERS NIRCам Images using Random Forests*, ApJ, 942, 54
- » Finkelstein, S.L. et al. 2022, *A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away: A Candidate $z \sim 14$ Galaxy in Early JWST CEERS Imaging*, ApJL, 940, L55
- » Papovich, C. et al. 2022, *CLEAR: The Ionization and Chemical-Enrichment Properties of Galaxies at $1.1 < z < 2.3$* ApJ, 937, 22
- » Matharu, J. et al. 2022, *CLEAR: The Evolution of Spatially Resolved Star Formation in Galaxies between $0.5 \leq z \leq 1.7$ using $H\alpha$ Emission Line Maps*, ApJ, 937, 16
- » Jung, I. et al. 2022, *CLEAR: Boosted $Ly\alpha$ Transmission of the Intergalactic Medium in UV bright Galaxies*, ApJ, 933, 87
- » Simons, R. C. et al. 2021, *CLEAR: The Gas-Phase Metallicity Gradients of Star-Forming Galaxies at $0.6 < z < 2.6$* , ApJ, 923, 203
- » Estrada-Carpenter, V. et al. 2020, *CLEAR II: Evidence for Early Formation of the Most Compact Quiescent Galaxies at High Redshift*, ApJ, 880, 2

Co-Author: Submitted

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- » Kirkpatrick, A., et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper VII: JWST/MIRI Reveals a Faint Population of Galaxies at Cosmic Noon Unseen by Spitzer*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2308.09750
- » Backhaus, B.E., et al. 2023, *CEERS Key Paper VII: Emission Line Ratios from NIRSspec and NIRCам Wide-Field Slitless Spectroscopy at $z > 2$* , arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2307.09503
- » Calabró, A. et al. 2023, *Near-infrared emission line diagnostics for AGN from the local Universe to redshift 3*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2306.08605
- » Barro, G., et al. 2023, *Extremely red galaxies at $z = 5 - 9$ with MIRI and NIRSspec: dusty galaxies or obscured AGNs?*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2305.14418
- » Jung, I., et al. 2023, *CEERS: Diversity of Lyman-Alpha Emitters during the Epoch of Reionization*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2304.05385
- » Jung, I. et al. 2022, *New $z > 7$ Lyman-alpha Emitters in EGS: Evidence of an Extended Ionized Structure at $z \sim 7.7$* , arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2212.09850
- » Fujimoto, et al. 2022, *ALMA FIR View of Ultra High-redshift Galaxy Candidates at $z \sim 11-17$: Blue Monsters or Low- z Red Interlopers?*, arXiv e-prints, arXiv:2211.03896

Presentations

Research Presentations

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11 September 2023	<i>Emission Line Ratio Diagnostics of AGN, Black Hole Seeds and Population III Stars with JWST</i> at the First Year of JWST Science Conference, Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland, USA	Poster
17 August 2023	<i>Diagnostics of Exotic Ionizing Sources with JWST</i> at Texas A&M Astrosymposium, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
10 May 2023	<i>Diagnostics of Exotic Ionizing Sources Across Cosmic Time - High-Ionization Emission-Line Ratios: Ne53</i> at University of Texas, Austin, Texas, USA	Talk
12 January 2023	<i>High-Ionization [Ne V] Emission-Line Galaxies at Cosmic Noon and the Epoch of Reionization</i> at AAS 241st Meeting, Seattle, Washington, USA	Poster
2 December 2022	<i>Using [Ne V] to Constrain the Sources of Highly-Energetic Photoionization Across Cosmic Time: Exploring the "Mystery of Neon" with HST and JWST</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
18 August 2022	<i>Extreme High-Ionization Emission-Line Galaxies at Cosmic Noon and the Epoch of Reionization: Exploring the "Mystery of Neon" with HST and JWST</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
22 July 2022	<i>The Evolution of Spectroscopy from HST to JWST: Implications for the Epoch of Reionization</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
14 June 2022	<i>HST Grism Observations of Paschen-Line Star-Formation and Dust Attenuation: A Precursor to the JWST Era</i> at AAS 240th Meeting, Pasadena, California, USA	Poster
27 August 2021	<i>Paschen-β Star Formation Rates and Dust Attenuation with HST and JWST</i> at Texas A&M Astrosymposium, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
13 January 2021	<i>CLEAR: Paschen-β Star Formation Rates and Dust Attenuation in Low Redshift Galaxies</i> at AAS 237th Meeting, Virtual	Poster
9 January 2019	<i>Modeling ^8B Solar Neutrino Detection with CEνNS</i> at AAS 233rd Meeting, Seattle, Washington, USA	Poster
1 August 2018	<i>Modeling ^8B Solar Neutrino Detection with CEνNS</i> at TAMU Undergraduate Research Poster Session, College Station, Texas, USA	Poster

Outreach and Professional Development Presentations

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28 July 2023	<i>How to Get Into Grad School</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Panel
11 November 2022	<i>Data Visualization in Astronomy: More Important than the Science Itself?</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
29 July 2022	<i>How to Get Into Grad School</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Panel
2 June 2022	<i>Data Visualization in Astronomy: More Important than the Science Itself?</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Talk
2 June 2022	<i>Matplotlib: The Champion of Plotting in Python</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Workshop
1 June 2022	<i>pandas: Your Best Friend for Data Analysis in Python</i> at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA	Workshop

References

PhD Advisor **Prof. Casey J. Papovich** Texas A&M

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M.S. Advisor **Prof. Jonathan R. Trump** UConn

- University of Connecticut Department of Physics, 196A Auditorium Road, Unit 3046, Storrs, CT, 06269-3046
- jonathan.trump@uconn.edu

PhD Mentor **Prof. Robert C. Kennicutt** Texas A&M

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- rck@tamu.edu