Rajika Kuruwita

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Research Interests

EDUCATION

Star formation, binary and multiple star systems, protoplanetary disks and planets in binary star systems, MHD simulations, software development.

Australian National University, Canberra, Australia February, 2015 - January, 2019

PhD

• Thesis Topic: "The formation, evolution, and survivability of discs around young binary stars"

• Primary Supervisor: Dr Christoph Federrath

• Secondary Supervisor: Associate Professor Michael Ireland

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

February, 2010 - January, 2015

MRes. Physics and Astronomy

• Thesis Topic: "Fallback disks and the end of the common envelope phase"

• Primary Supervisor: Professor Orsola De Marco

• Secondary Supervisor: Assistant Professor Jan Staff

BSc. Astronomy and Astrophysics

WORK AND University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

April, 2019 - Present Academic Postdoctorate Researcher

EXPERIENCE Research the formation of binary and multiple star systems via numerical simulations.

Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

February, 2019 - April, 2019 Research Assistant

Research binary star formation and publish work on episodic accretion and turbulence.

Outreach Assistant December, 2015 - April, 2019

Organise and run outreach observing and site tours for the public, school and scout groups, as well as private groups, as well as design activities for the observatory visitor centre.

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Laboratory Demonstrator February, 2014 - January, 2015

Taught lab experiments for undergraduate students. This also involved marking lab books.

Observatory and Planetarium Supervisor February, 2010 - January, 2015

Coordinated groups, created tours and presentations, operated observatory and planetarium.

Vacation Scholarship Researcher December, 2012 - February, 2013

Simulated light curves to understand the influence of exoplanets on the asteroseismological pulsation spectrum of stars.

Vacation Scholarship Researcher January, 2012 - February, 2012

Carried out research on nanowires using white light interferometry.

TELESCOPE TIME AWARDED

Australian National University 2.3m Telescope

- PI: Building a Census of Protoplanetary Disks in Binary Star Systems (4 nights)
- PI: Building a Census of Circumbinary Protoplanetary Disks (3 nights)
- PI: Building a Census of Circumbinary Protoplanetary Disks (6 nights)
- PI: Building a Census of Circumbinary Protoplanetary Disks (7 nights)

TALKS Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting May, 2019

Contributed Talk

Niels Bohr Institute

Nyborg, Denmark

January, 2019

Invited Talk Copenhagen, Denmark

Sutherland Astronomical Society Incorporated

Invited Talk

September, 2018

Sydney, Australia

Greenlight for Girls National Science Week

August, 2018

Company Augustical Talls

Invited Talk Canberra, Australia

University of Tübingen
Astronomy Seminar

May, 2018
Tübingen, Germany

Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics May, 2018

Astronomy Seminar Heidelberg, Germany

Max Planck Institute for Astronomy May, 2018

Planet and Star Formation Seminar Heidelberg, Germany

Hamburg Observatory May, 2018
Astronomy Seminar Hamburg, Germany

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Australia June, 2018

Contributed Talk Melbourne, Australia

Planets in Perculiar Places April, 2018

Contributed Talk Sydney, Australia

International Women's Day Science in the Pub March, 2018

Invited Talk Canberra, Australia

12th ANITA Theory Workshop February, 2018
Contributed Talk Perth, Australia

Franco-Australian Astrobiology and Exoplanet School and Workshop December, 2017

Contributed Talk

Canberra, Australia

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Australia

Contributed Talk

Canberra, Australia

11th ANITA Theory Workshop February, 2017

Contributed Talk Hobart, Australia

Mt Stromlo Students Seminars

Contributed Talk (Awarded Best Theme Talk)

Canberra, Australia

6th Australian Exoplanet Workshop

Contributed Talk

November, 2016

Melbourne, Australia

Star Formation August, 2016

Computational Astrophysics splinter session (Invited) Exeter, UK Annual Scientific Meeting of

the Astronomical Society of Australia

July, 2016

Contributed Talk Sydney, Australia
10th ANITA Theory Workshop February, 2016

Contributed Talk Melbourne, Australia

5th Australian Exoplanet WorkshopNovember, 2015Contributed TalkSydney, Australia

9th ANITA Theory Workshop February, 2015

Contributed Talk Canberra, Australia

Awards and Honors

- 2017: Joan Duffield Research Supplementary Scholarship
- 2015: Australian Postgraduate Award
- 2013: Macquarie University Research Training Scholarship
- 2012: Vacation Scholarship (Macquarie University)
- 2011: Vacation Scholarship (Macquarie University)

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student

September, 2017 - present

Mentoring ANU graduate student Eloise Birchall in implementing radiative transfer and tracer particles into my simulations. This is to trace environments within protoplanetary disks to determine certain mineral formation sites.

Mt Stromlo Observatory Summer Research

December, 2017 - February, 2018

Co-supervised Isabella Gerard (currently a graduate student at Monash University) on a research project on turbulent magnetic fields and star formation. I am currently co-author on the paper she has submitted for publication from this project.

Mt Stromlo Observatory Winter School

June-July, 2017

Advised undergraduate students Lara Cullinane (currently a graduate student at ANU), Joshua Ho, Lillian Guo and Patrick Armstrong in planning observations and writing telescope proposals.

Computer Skills

- Computing Languages: Python, Fortran and html
- Applications: LATEX, yt, simulation code FLASH, analysis of hdf5 files from hydrodynamic simulations, reducing observational data in fits files, retrieving radial velocities.
- Operating Systems: Unix/Linux, Windows and Mac.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Member of the Science Organising Committee for the 2016 Harley Wood Winter School.
- Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2016 Mt Stromlo Student Seminars
- Member of the Local Organising Committee for the 2017 Harley Wood Winter School and Annual Scientific Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Australia.

Referee Details

- Professor Orsola De Marco, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Macquarie University, Sydney NSW 2109, Australia. tel: +61 2 9850 4241, email: orsola.demarco@mq.edu.au
- Associate Professor Michael Ireland, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University, Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Mount Stromlo Observatory, Cotter Road, Weston Creek, ACT 2611, Australia. tel: +61 2 6125 0288, email: michael.ireland@anu.edu.au
- Dr Christoph Federrath, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University, Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Mount Stromlo Observatory, Cotter Road, Weston Creek, ACT 2611, tel: +61 2 6125 0217, email: christoph.federrath@anu.edu.au

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Kuruwita & Federrath, The role of turbulence during the formation of circumbinary discs, 2019, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 486, I3647-3663

• Lead author, and conductor of research and analysis.

Kuruwita et al., Multiplicity of disc-bearing stars in Upper Scorpius and Upper Centaurus-Lupus, 2018, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 480, 5099–5112

- Lead author, and conductor of research and analysis.
- Collected the majority of observations.

Kuruwita et al., Binary star formation and the outflows from their discs, 2017, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 470, 1626-1641

• Lead author, and conductor of research and analysis.

Kuruwita et al., Considerations on the role of fall-back discs in the final stages of the common envelope binary interaction, 2016, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 461, 486-496

• Lead author, and conductor of research and analysis.

Gerrard et al., The role of magnetic field structure in the launching of protostellar jets, 2019, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 485, 5532-5542

• Co-supervised Gerrard in running simulations and analysing them

Green et al., Testing the binary trigger hypothesis in FUors, 2016, The Astrophysical Journal, 830, 29

• Obtained observational data with Keck and commented on paper drafts.

Childress et al., The ANU WiFeS SuperNovA Programme (AWSNAP), 2016, Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia, 33, 29

• Obtained observational data with Australian National University 2.3m telescope.

Little et al., Phase-stepping interferometry of GaAs nanowires: Determining nano-wire radius, 2013, Applied Physical Letters, 103, 161107

• Obtained experimental data with white light interferometry of nanowires.