

Dr. Rachel A. Smullen

Metropolis Postdoctoral Fellow
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Citizenship: USA

Education

- 2014–2020 **University of Arizona**, *PhD in Astronomy & Astrophysics*
"The Formation and Early Evolution of Binaries and Their Environments"
- 2014–2016 **University of Arizona**, *MS in Astronomy*
- 2010–2014 **University of Wyoming**, *B.S. in Physics & B.S in Astronomy*
Minors in Mathematics, Computer Science, Interdisciplinary Computational Science
Graduated *summa cum laude*; Member of Honors Program

Selected Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

- 2020 Metropolis Postdoctoral Fellowship*
- 2020 NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship* (Declined)
- 2019-2020 Jamieson Graduate Fellowship*
- 2017 Department of Astronomy Outstanding Scholarship Award
- 2017 P.E.O. Scholar Award*
- 2015-2019 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship*
- 2014 Department of Physics and Astronomy Outstanding Graduate, University of Wyoming
- 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate, University of Wyoming
- 2014 Spitaleri Award for Outstanding Female Graduate Finalist (1 of 6), University of Wyoming
- 2011, '12, '13 Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium Undergraduate Research Fellowship*

**Funded fellowships*

Publications

[ADS link to all refereed publications](#)

As First Author

- Smullen, R. A.**, Kratter, K. M., Offner, S. S. R., Lee, A. T., & Chen, H. H., 2020, MNRAS, 497, 4517 "The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Star-forming Cores Identified with Dendrograms"
- Smullen, R. A.** & Volk, K., 2020, MNRAS, 97, 1391 "Machine Learning Classification of Kuiper Belt Populations"
- Smullen, R. A.** & Kratter, K. M., 2017, MNRAS, 466, 4480 "The Fate of Debris in the Pluto-Charon System"
- Smullen, R. A.**, Kratter, K. M., & Shannon, A. 2016, MNRAS, 461, 1288 "Planet Scattering Around Binaries: Ejections, Not Collisions"
- Smullen, R. A.**, Kobulnicky, H. A. 2015, ApJ, 808, 166 "Heartbeat Stars: Orbital Solutions for Eccentric Binary Systems"

As Co-author

- Lee, A. T., Offner, S. S. R., Kratter, K. M., **Smullen, R. A.**, & Li, P. S., 2019, ApJ, 887, 232 "The Formation and Evolution of Wide-Orbit Stellar Multiples In Magnetized Clouds"
- Kobulnicky, H. A., Kiminki, D. C. et al. 2014, ApJS, 213, 34 "Toward Complete Statistics of Massive Binary Stars: Penultimate Results from the Cygnus OB2 Radial Velocity Survey"
- Kobulnicky, H. A., **Smullen, R. A.**, Kiminki, D. C., et al. 2012, ApJ, 756, 50 "A Fresh Catch of Massive Binaries in the Cygnus OB2 Association"

Selected Presentations

Contributed Conference Talks

2020	The Time Evolution of Star-forming Cores (Dissertation Talk)	AAS 235, Honolulu, HI
2019	The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Cores	EWASS 2019, Lyon, France
2019	The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Cores	Zooming in on Star Formation, Nafplio, Greece
2016	The Fate of Debris in the Pluto-Charon System	DDA Meeting, Nashville, TN
2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	Extreme Solar Systems III, Waikoloa, HI

Invited Talks

Fall 2019	What We Learn from Binaries at All Scales	UT Austin Cosmos Seminar
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Local Talks

Fall 2020	Machine Learning in the Kuiper Belt	CTA Friday Meeting
Spring 2020	Machine Learning Classification of Kuiper Belt Populations	Women in Data Science–Tucson 2020
Spring 2020	A (Practical) Introduction to UA HPC	SO Astro Code Donuts
Fall 2018	OpenACC: How To Accelerate Your Code in Under 10 Lines	SO Code Coffee
Fall 2017	Python + Joblib: Make Your Computer Work Harder, and Save Yourself Time	SO Code Coffee
Fall 2017	An Intro to Machine Learning	SO Code Coffee
Fall 2017	UA High Performance Computing Resources	SO Code Coffee
Fall 2017	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	SO Internal Symposium
Summer 2017	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	MPIA Coffee
Fall 2016	The Fate of Debris in the Pluto-Charon System	SO Internal Symposium
Spring 2016	Planet Scattering Around Binaries	SO Journal Club
Spring 2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	SO Internal Symposium

Posters

2020	Machine Learning Classification of Kuiper Belt Populations	PIML 2020, Santa Fe, NM
2019	The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Cores	From Stars to Planets II, Gothenburg, Sweden
2018	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	IHPCSS, Ostrava, Czech Republic
2018	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	SPF 2, Biosphere 2, AZ
2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	Sagan Workshop, Pasadena, CA
2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	SPF 1, Biosphere 2, AZ

Teaching and Advising

Mentoring high school student N. Ayyalapu on research project	Fall 2020–present
Co-mentored UA undergraduate T. Smith on research project	Fall 2018–Spring 2020
TA for ASTR 208 (Energy, Society, and the Environment)	Spring 2018
ATOMM Tutor (Tutoring for astronomy majors and minors)	Fall 2017–Spring 2018, Spring 2020
TA for ASTR 300A (Dynamics and Mechanics in Astrophysics)	Fall 2017

Selected Service and Outreach

Academic and Department Service

CTA Journal Club Co-host	Fall 2020–present
Referee for MNRAS	2018–present
Prospective graduate student visit co-organizer (17 students; 3 day visit)	Spring 2017
Colloquium lunch organizer	2016–2018

Local Organizing Committee member, Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest 1

2015

Diversity, Community, and Outreach

UA WISE Mentor

Fall 2020-present

LAHS Astronomy Club Speaker

Fall 2020

Teen Astronomy Café presentation "Breaking the Solar System
(and other ways simulations help us understand the universe)"

Summer 2020

Girl Scout Troop 51 Astronomy Night speaker

Fall 2018

Mentor for junior graduate students

2018–2020

PEO Chapter U and Chapter CS meeting speaker

Spring 2018

Teen Astronomy Café volunteer

2017–2020

Warrior-Scholar Project volunteer/activity developer

Summer 2017

Tucson Women in Astronomy chair

2016–2018

TWA undergraduate mentoring organizer

2016–2018

TIMESTEP volunteer

2016–2018

Project ASTRO classroom astronomer

2016–2018

Senita Valley Elementary School Family Science Night volunteer

Spring 2015

Tucson Women in Astronomy undergraduate mentor

2014–2018

AAS Astronomy Ambassador

2014

Counselor, ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp (Wyoming Astrocamp)

2011, 2014

Wyoming State Science Fair judge/volunteer

2011–2014

President of the Society of Physics Students, University of Wyoming Chapter

2011–2013

Secretary of the Society of Physics Students, University of Wyoming Chapter

2010–2011

Misc. outreach, e.g. star parties, planetarium shows, charity telescope raffle

2010–ongoing

Other

REU summer student, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Tucson, Arizona

2013

REU summer student, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Virginia

2012

Observer, Wyoming Infrared Observatory

2011–2014

Planetarium presenter, University of Wyoming

2010–2014

Professional Affiliations

American Astronomical Society, Junior Member

University of Arizona Theoretical Astrophysics Program

Tucson Women in Astronomy

Sigma Pi Sigma/Society of Physics Students

Phi Beta Kappa

Technical Skills

Programming Python (primary), C, C++, Fortran, IDL, SQL, MATLAB

Tools `yt`, `scikit-learn`, Jupyter, MERCURY, REBOUND, \LaTeX , and lots more

Systems Linux (Ubuntu, Red Hat, CentOS), OS-X, Windows

HPC Tools LSF, PBS, Slurm, Globus, OpenACC, OpenMP, MPI

Updated January 5, 2021