

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

2021	Seeing is Believing?	<i>UA-LANL Days, Virtual</i>
2020	The Time Evolution of Star-forming Cores (Dissertation Talk)	<i>AAS 235, Honolulu, HI</i>
2019	The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Cores	<i>EWASS 2019, Lyon, France</i>
2019	The Highly Variable Time Evolution of Cores	<i>Zooming in on Star Formation, Nafplio, Greece</i>
2016	The Fate of Debris in the Pluto-Charon System	<i>DDA Meeting, Nashville, TN</i>
2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	<i>Extreme Solar Systems III, Waikoloa, HI</i>

Invited Talks

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

Winter 2021	Seeing is Believing?	<i>Agnew & Metropolis Showcase</i>
Fall 2020	Machine Learning in the Kuiper Belt	<i>CTA Friday Meeting</i>
Spring 2020	Machine Learning Classification of Kuiper Belt Populations	<i>Women in Data Science–Tucson 2020</i>
Spring 2020	A (Practical) Introduction to UA HPC	<i>SO Astro Code Donuts</i>
Fall 2018	OpenACC: How To Accelerate Your Code in Under 10 Lines	<i>SO Code Coffee</i>
Fall 2017	Python + Joblib: Make Your Computer Work Harder, and Save Yourself Time	<i>SO Code Coffee</i>
Fall 2017	An Intro to Machine Learning	<i>SO Code Coffee</i>
Fall 2017	UA High Performance Computing Resources	<i>SO Code Coffee</i>
Fall 2017	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	<i>SO Internal Symposium</i>
Summer 2017	Hierarchical Structures in Star Formation Simulations	<i>MPIA Coffee</i>
Fall 2016	The Fate of Debris in the Pluto-Charon System	<i>SO Internal Symposium</i>
Spring 2016	Planet Scattering Around Binaries	<i>SO Journal Club</i>
Spring 2015	The Architecture of Circumbinary Systems	<i>SO Internal Symposium</i>

Posters

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

Teaching and Advising

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

Selected Service and Outreach

Academic and Department Service

CTA Journal Club Co-host	<i>Fall 2020–present</i>
Referee for MNRAS	<i>2018–present</i>
Prospective graduate student visit co-organizer (17 students; 3 day visit)	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Colloquium lunch organizer	<i>2016–2018</i>
Local Organizing Committee member, Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest 1	<i>2015</i>

Diversity, Community, and Outreach

NMHS Stellar Alumni Webinar	<i>Spring 2021</i>
LAHS Astronomy Club Speaker	<i>Fall 2020, Spring 2021</i>
STEM Santa Fe Volunteer	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Teen Astronomy Café presentation "Breaking the Solar System (and other ways simulations help us understand the universe)"	<i>Summer 2020, Spring 2021</i>
UA WISE Mentor	<i>Fall 2020–present</i>
LAHS Astronomy Club Speaker	<i>Fall 2020</i>
Girl Scout Troop 51 Astronomy Night speaker	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Mentor for junior graduate students	<i>2018–2020</i>
PEO Chapter U and Chapter CS meeting speaker	<i>Spring 2018</i>
Teen Astronomy Café volunteer	<i>2017–2020</i>
Warrior-Scholar Project volunteer/activity developer	<i>Summer 2017</i>
Tucson Women in Astronomy chair	<i>2016–2018</i>
TWA undergraduate mentoring organizer	<i>2016–2018</i>
TIMESTEP volunteer	<i>2016–2018</i>
Project ASTRO classroom astronomer	<i>2016–2018</i>
Senita Valley Elementary School Family Science Night volunteer	<i>Spring 2015</i>
Tucson Women in Astronomy undergraduate mentor	<i>2014–2018</i>
AAS Astronomy Ambassador	<i>2014</i>

Other

REU summer student, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Tucson, Arizona	<i>2013</i>
REU summer student, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Virginia	<i>2012</i>
Observer, Wyoming Infrared Observatory	<i>2011–2014</i>
Planetarium presenter, University of Wyoming	<i>2010–2014</i>

Professional Affiliations

LANL: Women of Computing, Atomic Women, Connect ERG
American Astronomical Society, Junior Member
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, RADMC-3D, MERCURY, REBOUND, \LaTeX , and lots more
Systems	Linux (Ubuntu, Red Hat, CentOS), OS-X, Windows
HPC Tools	LSF, PBS, Slurm, Globus, OpenACC, OpenMP, MPI