Samuel Yee

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Research Interests Hot Jupiters – formation and evolution

Exoplanet discovery and statistics

Architectures and dynamics of planetary systems

Appointments University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA 10/2025 – present

51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisor: Erik Petigura

Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian Cambridge, MA

51 Pegasi b Postdoctoral Fellow 09/2023 – 09/2025

Supervisor: Dave Charbonneau

Education Princeton University Princeton, NJ

Ph.D., Astrophysics; M.Sc., Astrophysics (2020) 09/2018 – 08/2023

Thesis: The TESS Grand Unified Hot Jupiter Survey

Advisor: Joshua Winn

California Institute of Technology Pasadena, CA

B.S., Physics, with Minor in Geological and Planetary Sciences 09/2014 - 06/2018

Awards Heising-Simons 51 Pegasi b Fellowship 2023 – 2027

Princeton University Centennial Fellowship 2018 – 2023

George W. Housner Prize for Academic Excellence and Original Research 2018

Best Poster, Know Thy Star Conference 2017

Publications [ADS] First–Third Author (†denotes students I have directly mentored.)

15. **Yee, S. W.**, Tamburo, P., Stefansson, G., et al. *The Polar Orbit of TOI-2374 b, a Planet in the Neptunian Ridge*. AJ, accepted (2025). [arXiv:2509.11565]

- 14. Tamburo, P., **Yee, S. W.**, García-Mejía, J. et al. *Spot-Crossing Variations Confirm a Misaligned Orbit for a Planet Transiting an M Dwarf.* AJ, 170, 200 (2025).
- 13. **Yee, S. W.**, Winn, J., Hartman, J., et al. *The TESS Grand Unified Hot Jupiter Survey III. Thirty New Planets.* ApJS, 280, 30 (2025).
- 12. Tamburo, P., **Yee, S. W.**, García-Mejía, J. et al. *The True Stellar Obliquity of a Sub-Saturn Planet from the Tierras Observatory and KPF.* AJ, 170, 34 (2025).
- 11. **Yee, S. W.**, Stefansson, G., Thorngren, D. P. et al. *The Super-Puff WASP-193 b is on a Well-Aligned Orbit*. AJ, 169, 225 (2025).
- 10. McKee, B., Montet, B., **Yee, S. W.** et al. A Planet Candidate Orbiting near the Hot Jupiter TOI-2818 b Inferred through Transit Timing. ApJ, 981, 106 (2025).
- 9. **Yee, S. W.**, Petigura, E., Isaacson, H., et al. *Additional Doppler Monitoring Corroborates HAT-P-11c as a Planet*. RNAAS, 8, 187 (2024).
- 8. **Yee, S. W.** & Winn, J. The Period Distribution of Hot Jupiters is Not Dependent on Host Star Metallicity. ApJL, 949, L21 (2023).
- 7. **Yee, S. W.**, Winn, J., Hartman, J., et al. *The TESS Grand Unified Hot Jupiter Survey II. Twenty New Giant Planets*. ApJS, 265, 1 (2023).

- 6. Yee, S. W., Winn, J., Hartman, J., et al. The TESS Grand Unified Hot Jupiter Survey I. Ten TESS Planets. AJ, 164, 70 (2022).
- 5. **Yee, S. W.**, Winn, J. & Hartman, J. How Complete Are Surveys for Nearby Transiting Hot Jupiters? AJ, 162, 240 (2021).
- 4. **Yee, S. W.**, Tamayo, D., Hadden, S. & Winn, J. *How Close are Compact Multi-Planet Systems to the Stability Limit?* AJ, 162, 55 (2021).
- 3. **Yee, S. W.**, Winn, J., Knutson, H., et al. *The Orbit of WASP-12b is Decaying*. ApJL, 888, L5 (2020).
- 2. **Yee, S. W.**, Petigura, E., Fulton, B., et al. *HAT-P-11: Discovery of a Second Planet and a Clue to Understanding Exoplanet Obliquities*. AJ, 155, 255 (2018).
- 1. **Yee, S. W.**, Petigura, E. & von Braun, K. *Precision Stellar Characterization of FGKM Stars using an Empirical Spectral Library*. ApJ, 836, 77 (2017).

Contributing Author

- 30. Quinn, S., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *TOI-2494 b and TOI-5143 b: a pair of hot giant planets flanked by inner small planets.* submitted to AAS Journals (2025).
- 29. Manni, F., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *The Hot Neptune Initiative (HONEI) II. TOI-5795 b: A hot super-Neptune orbiting a metal-poor star.* submitted to MNRAS (2025). [arXiv:2507.23413]
- 28. Schulte, J., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Migration and Evolution of giant ExoPlanets (MEEP) II: Super-Jupiters and Lithium-rich Host Stars. MNRAS, 543, 292 (2025).
- 27. Essack, Z., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Giant Outer Transiting Exoplanet Mass (GOT 'EM) Survey. VI: Confirmation of a Long-Period Giant Planet Discovered with a Single TESS Transit. AJ, 170, 109 (2025).
- 26. Naponeillo, L., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The Hot-Neptune Initiative (HONEI) I. Two hot sub-Neptunes on a close-in, eccentric orbit (TOI-5800 b) and a farther-out, circular orbit (TOI-5817 b). A&A, 701, 79 (2025).
- 25. Howard, A. W., et al. incl. Yee, S. W. Planet Masses, Radii, and Orbits from NASA's K2 Mission. ApJS, 278, 52 (2025).
- 24. Brinkman, C. L., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The Compositions of Rocky Planets in Close-in Orbits Tend to be Earth-Like AJ, 170, 109 (2025).
- 23. Hon, M., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** A Disintegrating Rocky Planet with Prominent Comet-like Tails Around a Bright Star. ApJL, 984, L3 (2025).
- 22. Van Zandt, J., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *The TESS-Keck Survey XXIV: Outer Giants may be More Prevalent in the Presence of Inner Small Planets.* AJ, 169, 235 (2025).
- 21. Saunders, N., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** TESS Giants Transiting Giants. VII. A Hot Saturn Orbiting an Oscillating Red Giant Star. AJ, 169, 75 (2025).
- 20. Ehrhardt, J., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Confirmation of four Hot Jupiters detected by TESS using follow-up spectroscopy from MaHPS at Wendelstein together with NEID and TRES. A&A, 692, 220 (2024).
- 19. Isaacson, H., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The California Legacy Survey. V. Cataloging Chromospheric Activity Cycles of Planet Search Stars. ApJS, 274, 35 (2024).
- 18. Alqasim, A., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *TOI-757 b: an eccentric transiting mini-Neptune on a* 17.5-d orbit. MNRAS, 533, 1 (2024).
- 17. Radzom, B., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact Sub-Saturn Systems. AJ, 168, 116 (2024).
- 16. Dai, F., et al. incl **Yee, S. W.** An Earth-sized Planet on the Verge of Tidal Disruption. AJ, 168, 101 (2024).
- 15. Hacker, A., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *TOI-2374 b and TOI-3071 b: two metal-rich sub-Saturns well within the Neptunian desert.* MNRAS, 532, 1612 (2024).

- 14. Schulte, J., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Migration and Evolution of giant ExoPlanets (MEEP) I: Nine Newly Confirmed Hot Jupiters from the TESS Mission. AJ, 168, 101 (2024).
- 13. Polanski, A., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The TESS-Keck Survey XX: 15 New TESS Planets and a Uniform RV Analysis of all Survey Targets. ApJS, 272, 32 (2024).
- 12. Louden, E., et al. incl **Yee, S. W.** A Larger Sample Confirms Small Planets Around Hot Stars Are Misaligned. ApJL, 968, L2 (2024).
- 11. Battley, M., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *NGTS-30 b/TOI-4862 b: An* ~1 *Gyr old 98-day transiting warm Jupiter.* A&A, 686, 230.
- 10. Hu, Q., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The PFS view of TOI-677 b: A spin-orbit aligned warm Jupiter in a dynamically hot system. AJ, 167, 175 (2024).
- 9. Rubenzahl, R., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** The TESS-Keck Survey. XII. A Dense 1.8 R_⊕ Ultra-Short-Period Planet Possibly Clinging to a High-Mean-Molecular-Weight Atmosphere After the First Gyr. AJ, 167, 53 (2024).
- 8. Delamer, M., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** *TOI-4201: An Early M-dwarf Hosting a Massive Transiting Jupiter Stretching Theories of Core Accretion.* ApJL, 962, L22 (2024).
- 7. Schmidt, S., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Verification of Gaia DR3 Single-lined Spectroscopic Binary Solutions With Three Transiting Low-mass Secondaries. AJ, 166, 225 (2023).
- 6. Psaridi, A., et al. incl. **Yee, S. W.** Three Saturn-mass planets transiting F-type stars revealed with TESS and HARPS. A&A, 675, A39 (2023).
- 5. MacDougall, M. G. et al., incl. **Yee, S. W.** The TESS-Keck Survey. XV. Precise Properties of 108 TESS Planets and Their Host Stars. AJ, 166, 33 (2023).
- 4. Zink, J. K. et al., incl. **Yee, S. W.** Scaling K2. VI. Reduced Small Planet Occurrence in High Galactic Amplitude Stars. AJ, 165, 262 (2023).
- 3. Fraizer, R. C. et al., incl. **Yee, S. W.** *NEID Reveals that The Young Warm Neptune TOI 2076b Has a Low Obliquity.* ApJL, 944, L41 (2023).
- 2. Essack, Z. E. et al., incl. **Yee, S. W.** TOI-1075 b: A Dense, Massive, Ultra-Short Period Hot Super-Earth Straddling the Radius Gap. AJ, 165, 47 (2023).
- 1. Petigura, E. et al., incl **Yee, S. W.** Planet Candidates from K2 Campaigns 5-8 and Follow-up Optical Spectroscopy. AJ, 155, 21 (2018).

Observing Programs

Summary: I have led as PI or co-PI observing programs across more than 100 nights on various ground-based facilities. This includes 6 nights on Keck (NOIRLab and NASA), 6.5 nights on Gemini-North (NOIRLab), 27 nights on the WIYN 3.5m (NOIRLab), and 20 nights on Magellan (institutional access).

Grants	Heising-Simons 51 Pegasi b Fellowship	\$415k
	NASA Keck PI Data Awards (Science PI, 2022B-2023B)	\$45k
	NASA WIYN PI Data Awards (Science PI, 2021B-2023B)	\$39k
Observing	Magellan/PFS – 33 nights	

Magellan/PFS – 33 night
Keck/HIRES – 22 nights
Keck/KPF – 4 nights

Presentations	UT Austin Department of Astronomy Colloquium (invited seminar)	Mar 2025
	Know thy Star 2, Pasadena (contributed talk)	Feb 2025
	MSU Astronomy Seminar, Lansing, MI (invited seminar)	Nov 2024
	51 Pegasi b Fellows Symposium, San Francisco (contributed talk)	Aug 2024
	Exoplanets V, Leiden (contributed plenary session talk)	Jun 2024

	Extreme Solar Systems V, Christchurch (contributed talk)	Mar 2024	
	Open Problems in the Astrophysics of Gas Giants, Puerto Natales (contr.	ibuted talk) Dec 2023	
	Harvard CfA Exoplanet Pizza Lunch (invited seminar)	Oct 2023	
	51 Pegasi b Fellows Symposium, San Francisco, CA (contributed talk)	Aug 2023	
	2023 Sagan Workshop, Pasadena, CA (poster)	Jul 2023	
	AAS General Meeting 241, Seattle (contributed talk)	Jan 2023	
	TESS Science Team Meeting #29, Cambridge, MA (contributed talk)	Oct 2022	
	Harvard CfA Seminar, Cambridge, MA (invited seminar)	Oct 2022	
	MIT TESS Science Talk, Cambridge, MA (invited seminar)	Oct 2022	
	ERES VII, State College (contributed talk)	Aug 2022	
	Exoplanets IV, Las Vegas (contributed plenary session talk)	May 2022	
	Yale Exoplanets and Stars Seminar (invited seminar)	Apr 2022	
	AAS Division of Dynamical Astronomy Meeting 52, online (contributed	talk) May 2021	
	AAS General Meeting 235, Honolulu (poster)	Jan 2020	
	Exoplanets & Planet Formation, Shanghai (poster)	Dec 2017	
	Know thy Star, Pasadena (poster)	Sep 2017	
Teaching	Assistant in Instruction	Princeton	
	AST 205, Planets in the Universe	Sep 2019 – Jan 2020	
	Teaching Assistant	Caltech	
	Ph 12c, Statistical Mechanics	Mar 2018 – Jun 2018	
	Ph 12b, Quantum Mechanics	Jan 2018 – Mar 2018	
	Peer Tutor	Caltech, 2016 – 2018	
Professional	Referee, AAS Journals, MNRAS, A&A, PASP	2020 – present	
Activities	Panel Member, NOIRLab Time Allocation Committee	2024 – present	
	Expert Reviewer, NASA Peer Review	2025	
	Expert Reviewer, HST Time Allocation Committee	2024	
	External Reviewer, Canada Time Allocation Committee	2025	
	Virtual Organizing Committee, Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Science	ce (ERES) V 2021	
Code	Bhatti, W., Bouma, L., & Yee, S. W. cdips-pipeline: difference-imaging Yee, S. W. , Petigura, E., von Braun, K. SpecMatch-Emp: stellar character empirical spectral library		
Press Coverage	CNN: This exoplanet is in a death dance with its star Popular Science: This pitch-black exoplanet is spiraling toward its doom		
Outreach & Service	<i>Princeton Public Observing</i> : Organize and host members of the public at observing events using the Princeton department telescope.		
	<i>Intro2Astro</i> : Gave lectures for Intro2Astro, an online summer course intrastronomy research.	roducing students to	
	Astro Department Graduate Student Mentorship Program, Princeton Univ	ersity	

Graduate Student Buddy Program, Princeton University