

Brooke D. Simmons

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Professional Summary

- Principal interests: galaxy evolution, supermassive black holes, black hole-galaxy co-evolution, data science
- Expert in citizen science as a facility for data analysis and discovery
- Expert on parametric image decomposition, quantified visual morphology, multi-wavelength AGN analysis
- Active Collaborations: [COSMOS](#), [CANDELS](#), [Zooniverse](#) (Analysis Group lead), [Galaxy Zoo](#) (Deputy Project Scientist), [Galaxy Zoo Bar Lengths](#) (PI), [The Planetary Response Network](#) (PI)

Employment

December 2015 - present Einstein Fellow, UC San Diego

June 2012 - December 2015 Henry Skynner Fellow & Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oxford

Education

2003-2007; 2011-2012

Ph.D., Astronomy, Yale University — Advisor: C. Megan Urry

Black Hole Growth and Host Galaxy Co-Evolution Over 8 Billion Years of Cosmic Time

2007-2011

On leave (family reasons)

2002-2003

M.S. & M.Phil., Astronomy, Yale University

2001

A.B., Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University (honors)

Awards

January 2015

Einstein Fellowship

January 2014

Henry Skynner Junior Research Fellowship, Balliol College, Oxford

October 2012

Junior Research Fellowship, Worcester College, Oxford

June 2012

James Martin Fellowship, Oxford Martin School, Oxford

Invited Talks

Dr. Simmons is regularly invited to give astrophysics seminars and colloquia. Other invited talks include:

June 2017

“Galaxy Zoo: Past & Future”, Surveying the Cosmos 2017

Aug 2015

“Making the internet work for you (in research)”, Bone Research Society

Jul 2015

“Building an academic career”, talk & panel, RAS National Astronomy Meeting

Feb 2015

“The Scientific Impact of Galaxy Zoo”, AAAS Meeting, San Jose

Funding Awarded

Oct 2016

NASA: “Secular Black Hole Growth and Feedback in Merger-Free Galaxies”, US\$119,000

Dec 2015

NASA: Einstein Fellowship, US\$330,000

Feb 2015

ESA: Crowdsourcing For Observations From Satellites, €175,000 (Simmons co-PI from Oxford, share: €100,000)

Sep 2011

NASA: AGN Hosts at $z \sim 2$, US\$100,000

Sep 2005

NASA: Host Galaxies & SEDs of Luminous AGN, US\$100,000

Telescope Proposals Awarded

as PI

2016-2017 HST Cycle 24 SNAP: ACS imaging of merger-free AGN host galaxies (121 targets)

2016-2017 Lick: Kast spectra of bulgeless quasar candidates (16 nights)

2014B DCT: Ultra-deep imaging of bulgeless galaxies (3 nights)

2014A INT: IDS long-slit spectra of bulgeless quasar candidates (3 nights)

2013A Gemini-S: GMOS long-slit spectroscopy of bulgeless AGN host galaxies (7.5 hr, Band A)

2013A WIYN: NIR & Optical imaging of bulgeless AGN host galaxies (6 nights)

Teaching

Oct. 2012 - Dec. 2015	Tutor, 4th-year Astrophysics (University of Oxford)
Jan. 2008 – Dec. 2010	Self-employed as professional tutor in math, science, reading/writing
Sept. 2001 - Jan. 2005	Teaching Fellow (Yale University). Courses: “Frontiers & Controversies in Astrophysics”; “Life in the Universe”; “Stars and Planets”.
Jan. - May 2001	Teaching Assistant (Princeton University): “The Universe”

Students Supervised

Dr. Simmons has co-supervised a PhD student and supervised 3 M.Phys and 6 undergraduate students. They include R. Cochrane, A. Griffin, A. Han, T. Hutchinson, B. Kushkuley, T. Melvin, A. Schooneveld, A. Tapia.

Public Dialogue

Dr Simmons regularly gives invited public talks and contributes to blogs and social media.

Select Media Coverage

Nature, “ Citizen scientists aid Ecuador earthquake relief ”	3 rd May, 2016
Nature, “ Crisis Mappers Turn To Citizen Scientists ”	19 th Nov, 2014
Sky & Telescope, “ Citizen Scientists Probe Early Galaxies ”	29 th Sep, 2014

Interdisciplinary Roles

Lead, Zooniverse Analysis Group

A data science collaboration including partnerships with researchers in Computer Science, Economics, Information Science, Ecology

Principal Investigator, The Planetary Response Network

Crisis response. Primary partners: [Rescue Global](#), [Oxford Machine Learning Research Group](#), [ESA](#), [Planet](#)

Refereed Publications

Note: candidate name & students' names in bold

Publications as First Author

7. “Supermassive black holes in disk-dominated galaxies outgrow their bulges and co-evolve with their host galaxies”
B. D. Simmons, R. J. Smethurst, and C. Lintott, [2017, MNRAS, 470, 1559](#)
6. “Galaxy Zoo: Quantitative Visual Morphological Classifications for 48,000 galaxies from CANDELS”
B. D. Simmons, C. Lintott, K. W. Willett, K. L. Masters, *et al.* (46 authors), [2017, MNRAS, 464, 4420](#)
5. “Galaxy Zoo: CANDELS Barred Disks and Bar Fractions”
B. D. Simmons, **T. Melvin**, C. Lintott, K. L. Masters, *et al.* (42 authors), [2014, MNRAS, 445, 3466](#)
4. “Galaxy Zoo: Bulgeless Galaxies With Growing Black Holes”
B. D. Simmons, *et al.* (**A. Han**: 5th of 11 authors), [2013, MNRAS, 429, 2199](#)
3. “Moderate-luminosity Growing Black Holes from $1.25 < z < 2.7$: Varied Accretion in Disk-Dominated Hosts”
B. D. Simmons, C. M. Urry, K. Schawinski, C. Cardamone, and E. Glikman, [2012, ApJ, 761, 75](#)
2. “Obscured GOODS AGN and Their Host Galaxies at $z < 1.25$: The Slow Black Hole Growth Phase”
B. D. Simmons, J. Van Duyne, C. M. Urry, E. Treister, A. M. Koekemoer, N. A. Grogin, and the GOODS Team, [2011, ApJ, 734, 121](#)
1. “The Accuracy of Morphological Decomposition of Active Galactic Nucleus Host Galaxies”
B. D. Simmons and C. M. Urry, [2008, ApJ, 683, 644](#)

Publications in Zooniverse Analysis Group role

11. “Keeping it simple: an experiment in online classification design”
A. Swanson, **B. D. Simmons**, H. Spiers, *et al.* (6 authors), submitted
10. “Integrating Human And Machine Intelligence In Galaxy Morphology Classification Tasks”
M. Beck, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 7th of 11 authors), submitted

9. "Getting connected: An empirical investigation of the relationship between social capital and philanthropy among online volunteers", J. Cox, E. Y. Oh, **B. D. Simmons**, *et al.* (8 authors), submitted
8. "Examining patterns of volunteer behaviour across online citizen science"
H. Spiers, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 4th of 7 authors), submitted
7. "Doing good online: The changing relationships between motivations, activity and retention among online volunteers", J. Cox, E. Y. Oh, **B. D. Simmons**, *et al.* (8 authors), 2017, NVSQ, in press
6. "A transient search using combined human and machine classifications"
D. Wright, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 18th of 26 authors), 2017, *MNRAS*, 472, 1315
5. "The K2-YYY System: A Near-Resonant Chain of Four Sub-Neptune Planets Discovered by Citizen Scientists", J. L. Christiansen, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 6th of 25 authors), submitted
4. "Assessing Data Quality In Citizen Science"
M. Kosmala, A. Wiggins, A. Swanson, **B. D. Simmons**, 2016, *Front. Ecol. Environ.*, 14(10): 551–560
3. "Science Learning via Participation in Online Citizen Science"
K. L. Masters, E. Y. Oh, J. Cox, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 4th of 8 authors), 2016, *JCOM*, 1503, A07
2. "Playing with science: Exploring how game activity motivates users' participation on an online citizen science platform", A. Greenhill, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 5th of 9 authors), 2015, *Aslib Jour. Info. Mgmt*, 68, 306
1. "How is success defined and measured in online citizen science? A case study of Zooniverse projects"
J. Cox, E-Y. Oh, **B. D. Simmons**, *et al.* (8 authors), 2015, *CISE*, 17, 28

Publications as Major Contributing Author

20. "Galaxy Zoo: Secular evolution of barred galaxies from structural decomposition of multi-band images"
S. Kruk, C. Lintott, S. Bamford, K. Masters, **B. D. Simmons**, *et al.* (12 authors), 2017, *MNRAS*, in press
19. "Normal black holes in bulge-less galaxies: the largely quiescent, merger-free growth of black holes over cosmic time", G. Martin, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 4th of 9 authors), submitted
18. "Galaxy Zoo: Finding offset discs and bars in SDSS galaxies"
S. J. Kruk, C. J. Lintott, **B. D. Simmons**, S. Bamford, *et al.* (12 authors), 2017, *MNRAS*, 469, 3363
17. "Morphology and the Color-Mass Diagram As Clues to Galaxy Evolution at $z \sim 1$ "
M. C. Powell, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 4th of 7 authors), 2017, *ApJ*, 835, 22
16. "Galaxy Zoo: Morphological Classifications for 120,000 Galaxies in HST Legacy Imaging"
K. W. Willett, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 7th & **Han**: 17th of 21 authors), 2016, *MNRAS*, 464, 4176
15. "Galaxy Zoo: Evidence for rapid, recent quenching across a population of AGN host galaxies"
R. J. Smethurst, C. Lintott, **B. D. Simmons**, K. Schawinski, *et al.* (11 authors), 2016, *MNRAS*, 463, 2986
14. "Major Mergers Host the Most Luminous Red Quasars at $z \sim 2$: A Hubble Space Telescope WFC3/IR Study"
E. Glikman, **B. D. Simmons**, M. Mailly, K. Schawinski, C. M. Urry, M. Lacy, 2015, *ApJ*, 806, 218
13. "Radio Galaxy Zoo: host galaxies and radio morphologies derived from visual inspection"
J. Banfield, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 7th of 36 authors), 2015, *MNRAS*, 453, 2326
12. "Galaxy Zoo: Evidence For Diverse Star Formation Histories Through The Green Valley"
R. J. Smethurst, C. J. Lintott, **B. D. Simmons**, K. Schawinski, *et al.* (13 authors), 2015, *MNRAS*, 450, 435
11. "The dependence of the star formation-stellar mass relation on spiral disk morphology"
K. W. Willett, K. Schawinski, **B. D. Simmons**, K. L. Masters, *et al.* (13 authors), 2015, *MNRAS*, 449, 820
10. "The Green Valley is a Red Herring: Galaxy Zoo reveals two evolutionary pathways towards quenching of star formation in early- and late-type galaxies"
K. Schawinski, C. M. Urry, **B. D. Simmons**, L. Fortson, *et al.* (15 authors), 2014, *MNRAS*, 440, 889
9. "Galaxy Zoo: Evolution of the bar fraction over the last eight billion years from HST-COSMOS"
T. Melvin, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 5th of 14 authors), 2014, *MNRAS*, 438, 2882
8. "Galaxy Zoo 2: detailed morphological classifications for 304,122 galaxies from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey"
K. W. Willett, *et al.* (**Simmons**: 5th of 18 authors), 2013, *MNRAS*, 435, 2835
7. "Major Galaxy Mergers Only Trigger the Most Luminous AGN"
E. Treister, K. Schawinski, C. M. Urry, and **B. D. Simmons**, 2012, *ApJL*, 758, 39
6. "Heavily Obscured Quasar Host Galaxies at $z \sim 2$ are Disks, Not Major Mergers"
K. Schawinski, **B. D. Simmons**, C. M. Urry, E. Treister, and E. Glikman, 2012, *MNRAS Letters*, 425, 61

5. "Bolometric Luminosities and Eddington Ratios of X-ray Selected AGN in the XMM-COSMOS Survey"
E. Lusso, A. Comastri, **B. D. Simmons**, M. Mignoli, *et al.* (27 authors), 2012, *MNRAS*, 425, 623
4. "Evidence for Three Accreting Black Holes in a Galaxy at $z \sim 1.35$: A Snapshot of Recently Formed Black Hole Seeds?"
K. Schawinski, C. M. Urry, E. Treister, **B. D. Simmons**, P. Natarajan, and E. Glikman, 2011, *ApJL*, 743, 37
3. "HST WFC3/IR Observations of AGN Hosts at $z \sim 2$: Supermassive Black Holes Grow in Disk Galaxies"
K. Schawinski, E. Treister, C. M. Urry, C. N. Cardamone, **B. D. Simmons**, and S. K. Yi, 2011, *ApJL*, 727, 31
2. "Do Moderate-Luminosity Active Galactic Nuclei Suppress Star Formation?"
K. Schawinski, *et al.* (**B. D. Simmons** and **B. Kushkuley**: 2nd and 7th of 7 authors), 2009, *ApJL*, 692, 19
1. "Active Galactic Nucleus Host Galaxy Morphologies in COSMOS"
J. M. Gabor, C. D. Impey, K. Jahnke, **B. D. Simmons**, *et al.* (17 authors), 2009, *ApJ*, 691, 705

Team Publications as Contributing Author

18. "Galaxy Zoo: Morphological Classification of Galaxy Images from the *Illustris* Simulation"
H. Dickinson, *et al.* (Simmons: 10th of 16 authors), 2017, submitted
17. "Major Merging History in CANDELS. I. Evolution of the Incidence of Massive Galaxy-Galaxy Pairs from $z = 3$ to $z \sim 0$ ", K. Mantha, *et al.* (Simmons: 14th of 41 authors), 2017, submitted
16. "Radio Galaxy Zoo: Compact and extended radio source classification with deep learning"
V. Lukic, *et al.* (Simmons: 7th of 7 authors), 2017, submitted
15. "Radio Galaxy Zoo: A Search for Hybrid Morphology Radio Galaxies"
A. D. Kapinska, *et al.* (Simmons: 17th of 17 authors), 2017, *AJ*, accepted
14. "Galaxy Zoo and SPARCFIRE: constraints on spiral arm formation mechanisms from spiral arm number and pitch angles", R. Hart, *et al.* (Simmons: 9th of 10 authors), 2017, *MNRAS*, 472, 2263
13. "Galaxy Zoo: the interplay of quenching mechanisms in the group environment"
R. Smethurst, *et al.* (Simmons: 8th of 8 authors), 2017, *MNRAS*, 469, 3670
12. "Galaxy Zoo: major mergers are not a significant quenching pathway"
A. Weigel, *et al.* (Simmons: 12th of 13 authors), 2017, *ApJ*, 845, 145
11. "Galaxy Zoo: comparing the demographics of spiral arm number and a new method for correcting redshift bias", R. Hart, *et al.* (Simmons: 10th of 11 authors), 2016, *MNRAS*, 461, 3663
10. "Faint COSMOS AGN at $z \sim 3.3$ - I. Black Hole Properties and Constraints on Early Black Hole Growth"
B. Trakhtenbrot, *et al.* (Simmons: 10th of 10 authors), 2016, *ApJ*, 825, 4
9. "An over-massive black hole in a typical star forming galaxy, 2 billion years after the Big Bang"
B. Trakhtenbrot, *et al.* (Simmons: 9th of 9 authors), 2015, *Science*, 349, 168
8. "Stellar Populations of Barred Quiescent Galaxies"
E. Cheung, *et al.* (Simmons: 12th of 13 authors), 2015, *ApJ*, 807, 36
7. "Galaxy Zoo: the effect of bar-driven fueling on the presence of an active galactic nucleus in disk galaxies"
M. A. Galloway, *et al.* (Simmons: 10th of 10 authors), 2015, *MNRAS*, 448, 3442
6. "Misalignment between cold gas and stellar components in early-type galaxies"
O. I. Wong, *et al.* (Simmons: 6th of 8 authors), 2015, *MNRAS Letters*, 447, 3311
5. "Galaxy Zoo: Are bars responsible for the feeding of active galactic nuclei at $0.2 < z < 1.0$?"
E. Cheung, *et al.* (Simmons: 20th of 22 authors), 2015, *MNRAS*, 447, 506
4. "Galaxy Zoo and ALFALFA: Atomic Gas and the Regulation of Star Formation in Barred Disc Galaxies"
K. L. Masters, *et al.* (Simmons: 7th of 10 authors), 2012, *MNRAS*, 424, 2180
3. "Chandra Observations of Galaxy Zoo Mergers: Frequency of Binary Active Nuclei in Massive Mergers"
S. H. Teng, *et al.* (Simmons: 11th of 12 authors), 2012, *ApJ*, 753, 165
2. "The Infrared Light Curve of SN 2011fe in M101 and the Distance to M101"
T. Matheson, *et al.* (Simmons: 39th of 46 authors), 2012, *ApJ*, 754, 19
1. "AGN Host Galaxies at $z \sim 0.4$ -1.3: Bulge-dominated and Lacking Merger-AGN Connection"
N. A. Grogin, *et al.* (Simmons: 15th of 16 authors), 2005, *ApJL*, 627, 97