

Dr. Joanna Woo - Curriculum Vitae

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ACADEMIC HISTORY

Position	Lecturer & Director of Trottier Observatory	Jul. 2019-
Institute	Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University (SFU)	present
Position	Postdoctoral Fellow	Oct. 2017-
Institute	Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Victoria (UVic)	Jun. 2019
Position	Postdoctoral Researcher	Oct. 2013-
Institute	Institute for Astronomy, ETH Zurich	Sep. 2017
Degree	Doctor of Philosophy in Astrophysics	Jan. 2014
Institute	Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), Jerusalem, Israel	
Degree	Master of Science, with specialisation in Astrophysics	Jun. 2006
Institute	Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), Jerusalem, Israel	
Degree	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physics and Astronomy	May 2003
Institute	University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada	
Note	Alumna of Science One, an advanced intensive interdisciplinary science program for excellent first-year students	

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SFU Excellence in Teaching Award, Early Career (SFU)	2023
MERAC Award for young European Astrophysicists and Cosmologists (Swiss Society for Astronomy and Astrophysics)	2017
ACRU Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)	2013
Rosenblum Prize for Excellence in Physics (HUJI)	2007
Goodman Prize for Influential Paper (HUJI)	2006
Freda Thau Memorial Scholarship (HUJI)	2003-2005
Dean's Honour List (UBC)	2000-2003
J Fred Muir Memorial Scholarship in Science (UBC)	2001
Outstanding Student Initiative Award (UBC)	1999

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS AND PROPOSALS

Co-I: (Unofficial PI) Resource Allocation Competition, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, \$39,271 CAD	2023
Co-PI: Breaking Barriers Grant, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, SFU, \$40,000 CAD	2024
Co-I: Resource Allocation Competition, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, \$44,577 CAD	2023
Co-I: Resource Allocation Competition, Compute Canada, \$52,139 CAD	2022
PI: 35 hours on MUSE at the VLT	2018
PI: 48 hours on MUSE at the VLT	2017
PI: 10 hours on MUSE at the VLT	2016
PI: 10 hours on MUSE at the VLT	2015

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Ultraviolet Near Infrared Optical Northern Survey (UNIONS)	2024-present
Canadian Astronomical Society - Société Canadienne D'Astronomie (CASCA)	2018-present
Astronomy Research Computing group (ARC)	2017-present
Maunakea Spectroscopic Explorer (MSE)	2018-present
Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey (CANDELS)	2013-present
International Astronomical Union (IAU)	2009-present
Dark Energy Survey (DES)	2014-2017
• Galaxy evolution science working group	
All-Wavelength Extended Groth Strip International Survey (AEGIS)	2010-2013

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Chair: Outreach, Recruitment and Student Engagement (SFU)	2024-2026
Chair: Organizing Committee for the 10th Anniversary of the Trottier Observatory (SFU)	2024-2025
Chair's Advisory Group (SFU)	2024
Tenure and Promotion Committee (SFU)	2024-2025
Hiring Committee, Science Outreach Officer	Nov 2024
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (SFU)	2023-2024
Outreach, Recruitment and Student Engagement (SFU)	2021-2024
Tenure and Promotion Committee (SFU)	2022-2023
Organizer, BC Galaxy Summer Seminar Series (SFU, UVic, UBC)	2021
Tenure and Promotion Committee (SFU)	2021-2022
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (SFU)	2020-2021
Astronomy Research Computing Committee (UVic)	2018
Women in Physics working group (UVic)	2018
Coordinator for the weekly Postdoc Lunch (ETH Zurich)	2013-2016
Coordinator for the weekly "Cosmolunch" group meetings (HUJI)	2009-2013
Coordinator for research projects for gifted high school students (HUJI, Belmonte Labs)	2007-2012

Peer Review

HST Cycle 32 Time Allocation Committee External Reviewer	2024
HST Cycle 31 Time Allocation Committee External Reviewer	2023
Gemini Telescope Time Allocation Committee	2022
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Time Allocation Committee	2019-present
Journal referee for MNRAS, ApJ and A&A	2013-present

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Undergraduate Honours Thesis Julia Kropivny (SFU)	2025-
USRA student Thomas Glukler (SFU)	2025
Undergraduate student Malcolm Pidsosny (SFU)	2023-present
USRA student Marcus Cowan (SFU)	2024
USRA student Marcus Cowan (SFU)	2023
Industry volunteer Rohan Abraham (SFU)	2023-present

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Dan Walters (Canadian Airforce)	2019-2022
USRA student Daniel Alder (SFU)	2020
High school student Julia Tubl (Riverside High School)	2020
Undergraduate student Finn Archinuk (UVic)	2019
Undergraduate student Marcus Merryfield (UVic)	2017-2018
Masters student Chris Beekman (ETH Zurich)	2014-2015
Masters student Keren Sarusi (HUJI)	2012
High school student Pavel Fadeev (Israeli High School for the Sciences and the Arts).	2009-2010
Awards: Third Prize in the Israel Contest for Young Scientists; the EIROforum Special Prize at the European Union finale of the same contest.	

TEACHING

Professional Development

- Instructional Skills Workshop (SFU) Apr 2022
- Rethinking Course Design Workshop (SFU) May 2020

Curriculum Development

- New spectroscopic pipeline for PHYS 391 2024-2025
- New textbook for PHYS 390 with new homework, rearranged order of presentation for topics. 2024
- Development of the Undergraduate Python Curriculum (SFU) 2023-2025
- Built a portable radio telescope + software for use in undergraduate teaching and outreach 2022
- Designed a new course to teach astronomical data analysis (PHYS 391, SFU) 2020

Instructor

- PHYS 391: Introduction to Observational Astrophysics (SFU) Spring 2025
- PHYS 190: Introduction to Astronomy (SFU) Fall 2020- Spring 2024
- PHYS 391: Introduction to Observational Astrophysics (SFU) Spring 2023
- PHYS 390: Introduction to Cosmology and Astrophysics (SFU) Spring 2022, 2024
- PHYS 101: Physics for the Life Sciences I (SFU) Fall 2021
- PHYS 391: Introduction to Observational Astrophysics (SFU) Spring 2021
- PHYS 101: Physics for the Life Sciences I (SFU) Spring 2020
- PHYS 385: Introduction to Quantum Mechanics (SFU) Fall 2019, 2020

Guest Lecturer

- PHYS 201: Physics Undergraduate Seminar: topics in modern physics research (SFU) 2020, 2021, 2025
- ASTR 150: Concepts in Modern Astronomy (UVic) 2018
- Galactic Astronomy, Graduate level (ETH Zurich) 2017

Teaching Assistant

- Galactic Astronomy: Graduate level (ETH Zurich) 2017
 - Astrophysical Cosmology and Galaxy Evolution: Graduate level (ETH Zurich) 2014-2016
 - Astronomy laboratory: Radio Interferometry of the Sun, Undergraduate level, (ETH Zurich) 2014-2017
 - Advanced Cosmology and Galaxy Formation: Graduate level (HUJI) 2010-2012
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| • ASTR 310 Lecture and Laboratory for non-science students (UBC) | 2002-2003 |
| • PHYS 153 Laboratory for engineering students (UBC) | 2002 |

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2025 |
| Invited speaker , Colloquium Series, NRC Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Centre | Apr 2025 |
| Invited keynote speaker , CUPC 2024 Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference. The Diverse Lives of Galaxies, (Vancouver, BC) | Oct 2024 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2024 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2023 |
| Seminar, Galaxy Collaboration Meeting, University of Victoria. Stellar Populations from Optical Spectra: ML vs Popular Spectral Fitting Codes | Sept 2022 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2022 |
| Invited speaker , Departmental Seminar Series, Hebrew University | Oct 2021 |
| Invited colloquium speaker at University of Washington | Oct 2021 |
| Invited review at “The Epoch of Galaxy Quenching”, (Cambridge, UK), | Sep 2020 |
| Invited speaker at the TRIUMF Colloquium series, (Vancouver, BC) | Feb. 2020 |
| Talk on Machine Learning, Departmental Seminar Series, Simon Fraser University | Nov. 2019 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2019 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Cambridge University | Apr. 2019 |
| Invited review at the MaNGA Collaboration Meeting 2019, (Oxford, UK) | Apr. 2019 |
| Invited review at “The Life and Death of Star-forming Galaxies”, (Perth, Australia) | Mar. 2019 |
| Invited review at the Astronomy NWxSW meeting, (Vancouver, Canada) | Nov. 2018 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2018 |
| Contributed talk at the KIAA Forum on “Gas in Galaxies”, (Beijing, China) | Jun. 2018 |
| Contributed talk at the annual general meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society - Société Canadienne D’Astronomie, (Victoria, Canada) | May 2018 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2017 |
| Contributed talk at the conference “Galaxy Evolution Across Time” (Paris, France) | Jun. 2017 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Cambridge University | Dec. 2016 |
| Contributed talk at the conference “The Physics of Groups and Galaxy Properties therein” (Paris, France) | Dec. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, University of Michigan | Nov. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, California Institute of Technology | Nov. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Carnegie Observatories | Nov. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Yale University | Nov. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Space Telescope Science Institute | Nov. 2016 |
| Talk at Departmental Seminar Series, Ohio State University | Oct. 2016 |
| Contributed talk at the conference “The galaxy life-cycle: From activity to quiescence, and back, across cosmic times” (Venice, Italy) | Sep. 2016 |
| Invited speaker at a of the Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy General Assembly | Oct. 2016 |
| Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA) | Aug 2016 |
| Contributed talk at the conference “In the Footsteps of Galaxies: Tracing the Evolution of Environmental Effects” (Soverato, Italy) | Sep. 2015 |
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Local Organising Committee member + speaker at the conference “Inaugural Zwicky Symposium: Confronting Ideas on Galactic Metamorphoses” (Braunwald, Switzerland)	Aug. 2015
Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA)	Aug 2015
Contributed talk at the conference “Star-formation, feedback and the formation of massive spheroids at high redshift” (Paris, France)	Mar. 2015
Invited speaker , “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA)	Aug 2014
Annual contributed talk at the “Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop” (Santa Cruz, CA)	2008-2013
Contributed talk at the conference “Ellipticals in Venice” (Venice, Italy)	Oct. 2013
Contributed talk at the conference “Physical Processes of Galaxy Formation: Consensus and Challenges” (Aix-en-Provence, France)	Jul. 2013
Local Organising Committee member , speaker and poster presentation at the conference “Early Galaxy Formation in LCDM Cosmology Winter School” (Jerusalem, Israel)	Dec. 2012
Talk at the Astrophysics Colloquium, Hebrew University	Nov. 2012
Contributed talk at the AEGIS conference (Toledo, Spain)	Dec. 2009
Contributed talk at the conference “Star-forming Dwarf Galaxies: following Ariadne’s thread in the cosmic labyrinth” (Kolymbari, Crete, Greece)	Sep. 2008
Contributed talk, “Galaxy Evolution,” Institute for Advanced Studies (Jerusalem, Israel)	Jun. 2008

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Public talks, streams and podcasts

Organizer, Starry Nights public viewing events at the Trottier Observatory	2019-present
Public Astronomy Workshops, SFU (2/year)	2019-present
Host of Starry Nights Live Stream Events, Trottier Observatory	2020-present
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Oct 2024
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Apr 2024
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Apr 2023
Invited guest speaker for Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Vancouver	Jun 2022
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Apr 2022
Speaker at Science Rendezvous, SFU	May 2021
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Apr 2021
Saturday Morning Lectures, TRIUMF	Feb 2020
Cafe Scientifique Lecture, Surrey Public Library (Surrey)	2020
Lecturer at the Nobel Prize Lectures, Science World (Vancouver)	Jan 2020
Invited guest lecture, Regent College	Apr 2020
Saturday Morning Lectures, SFU Surrey Campus	Nov 2019
Speaker for Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Victoria	Jun 2018
Physicist on the Titanium Physicists Podcast	Jan 2012

Media interviews

TV interview on Curious Minds, Global News about the Trottier Observatory	Sep 2025
Radio interview on CBC Radio about the 10th Anniversary of the Trottier Observatory	Apr 2025
TV interview on CityNews Vancouver about the Mar 13 Total Lunar Eclipse	Mar 2025
Radio interview on News1130 about the Mar 13 Total Lunar Eclipse	Mar 2025
TV interview on CBC BC Today about the Mar 13 Total Lunar Eclipse	Mar 2025
TV interview on CBC BC Today about the Apr 8 Total Solar Eclipse	Apr 2024

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TV interview on Global News Hour at 6 about the Apr 8 Total Solar Eclipse	Apr 2024
Radio interview with RedFM about the Apr 8 Total Solar Eclipse	Apr 2024
Newspaper interview with the Daily Hive about the Apr 8 total Solar Eclipse	Apr 2024
Radio interview on Spice Radio about Eclipses and Starry Nights	Oct 2023
TV interview on CTV Morning Live about Starry Nights and Astronomical Events	Sept 2023
TV interview with Global News about Starry Nights and Astronomical Events	Sept 2023
Radio interview on Spice Radio	Sept 2022
TV interview on CTV Morning Live about JWST First Data Release	July 2022
TV interview Global News Morning BC	May 2022
Radio interview with CBC (Vancouver and Vancouver Island)	Dec 2020
Radio interview with CKNW (Vancouver)	Nov 2020
Newspaper interview with CBC News about astronomy during the pandemic	May 2020
TV interview with CityTV's Breakfast Television	Sep 2019

Other

Testified before a Canadian Parliamentary Committee on Expat Voting Rules	Jun 2015
Inspector and Referee/Judge at the annual FIRST Robotics Competition (Tel Aviv, Israel)	2006-2009
Volunteer guide on astronomy trips: Centre for Youth and Science (Jerusalem, Israel)	2005-2006
UBC Astronomy Club Founder and President (Vancouver, Canada)	2001-2003

HUMAN LANGUAGES

Fluent:	English, Hebrew
Conversational:	Cantonese, Arabic, Swiss German, French