

# Steven L. Finkelstein

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Director, Cosmic Frontier Center	Fall 2023 – Present
Isabel McCutcheon Harte Centennial Chair	Fall 2023 – Present
Professor	Fall 2022 – Present
Associate Department Chair	Fall 2019 – Present
Associate Professor	Fall 2017 – Summer 2022
Assistant Professor	Fall 2012 – Summer 2017

### The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Hubble Fellow Sept. 2011 – Aug. 2012

- Faculty Contact: Professor Karl Gebhardt

### Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Sept. 2008 – Aug. 2011

Postdoctoral Research Associate

- Faculty Advisor: Professor Casey Papovich

## EDUCATION

### Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Ph.D. Physics, Emphasis in Astronomy August 2008

- Advisor: Professor James E. Rhoads
- Dissertation: Physical Properties and Dust Effects in High-Redshift Lyman Alpha Galaxies

### University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

B.S. Astronomy and Physics June 2003

## PUBLICATIONS

Summary: 283 papers published in or submitted to peer-reviewed journals, with an h-index of 67. Of these, I am the lead author on 23 papers, which have >3000 citations combined. Please see the full publication list starting on page 15 for details.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2023 UT Austin Research Leaders Academy
- 2020 UT Austin Provost's Teaching Fellowship
- 2017-2018 Dads' Association Centennial Teaching Fellowship
- 2017 Asa Briggs Visiting Fellow, University of Sussex
- 2016 UT Austin College of Natural Sciences Teaching Excellence Award
- 2015-2016 McDonald Observatory Board of Visitors Teaching Excellence Award
- 2011 Hubble Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship

## AWARDED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Summary: Total of \$6.2M awarded as PI since starting as faculty in 2012.

### 2022 UT Austin Spark Grant, \$200,000 (Finkelstein PI)

- *Solving Reionization with ERMOS on the Giant Magellan Telescope*

### JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$309,297 (Finkelstein Co-PI),

- *NGDEEP: Next Generation Deep Extragalactic Exploratory Public Survey*

**JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$60,301 (Finkelstein PI),**

- *Confirming a Potential Ultra-Massive Galaxy at  $z = 10.57$*

**JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$96,103 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-PI),**

- *The JWST-legacy narrow-band survey of H-alpha and [OIII] emitters in the epoch of reionization*

**JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$59,727 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-I),**

- *PRIMER: Public Release IMaging for Extragalactic Research*

**2021 NASA ADAP Grant, \$495,418 (Finkelstein PI; C. Casey Co-PI)**

- *Leveraging Spitzer and VIRUS to Investigate Reionization and the Growth of Massive Cosmic Structures*

**JWST Cycle 1 Early Release Science Grant, \$1.3M (Finkelstein PI, Individual grant \$430,470)**

- *Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science Survey*

**2020 NSF AAG Grant, \$229,660 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *The Onset of Star-Formation Quenching in Massive Galaxies in the Early Universe*

**2019 NSF AAG Grant, \$459,079 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Leveraging the Hobby Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment to Understand Ly $\alpha$  Emission, Galaxy Evolution, and Reionization*

**2019 Hubble Cycle 27 GO, \$49,720 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Confirmation of a Large, Robust Sample of  $z = 9-10$  Galaxies in the CANDELS Fields*

**2019 Hubble Cycle 26 Mid-Cycle GO, \$29,909 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Photometric Confirmation of the Brightest Known Galaxy Candidate at  $z > 9$*

**2018 Hubble Cycle 26 GO, \$65,407 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-I)**

- *Ultraviolet Imaging of the Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey Fields (UVCANDELS)*

**2018 Hubble Cycle 26 GO, \$15,525 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-I)**

- *The Low-Redshift Lyman Continuum Survey*

**2017 NASA ADAP Grant, \$223,101 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Reference UV Luminosity Functions for the JWST Era*

**2016 NSF AAG Grant, \$374,992 (Finkelstein Co-PI, individual grant \$145,914)**

- *Collaborative Research: Galaxy Growth in Different Environments from  $z=1.9$  to 3.5*

**2016 WFIRST Science Investigation Team Award, Expected 5-year award: \$156,436 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-I)**

- *Studying Cosmic Dawn with WFIRST*

**2015 NSF AAG Grant, \$417,386 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Spectroscopic Probes of Reionization and Galaxy Evolution in the First Billion Years*
- Includes two MPS-GRSV NSF supplements

**2015 NASA ADAP Grant, \$287,245 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Probing the Build-Up of Quiescent Galaxies at  $z > 3$*

**2015 NASA ADAP Grant, \$93,926 (Finkelstein PI)**

- *Searching for the Brightest Galaxies in the Distant Universe*

- 2015 Hubble Cycle 23 GO, \$106934 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Lead Co-I)**
- *CLEAR: CANDELS Lyman-alpha Experiment at Reionization*
- NASA 2015B Keck Solicitation, \$13000 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *A Comprehensive View of Reionization: An Equivalent Width Limited Survey for Lyman Alpha Emission at  $z=6-8$*
- 2015 Cycle 10 Spitzer Space Telescope GO Grant, \$10000 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Searching for the Brightest Galaxies in the Distant Universe*
- 2014 NASA ADAP Grant, \$119129 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Constraining Feedback at High Redshift with Spitzer Observations of GOODS-N and Abell 2744*
- 2014 Hubble Cycle 22 GO, \$127510 (Finkelstein Grant PI, Proposal Co-I)**
- *FIGS: The Faint Infrared Grism Survey*
- NASA 2013AB, 2014A Keck Solicitations, \$46250 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Spectroscopically Confirming the Most Distant Galaxies*
- NASA 2015A Keck Solicitation, \$16000 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Searching for an Alternative to Lyman alpha: CIII] Emission at  $z > 7$*
- 2012 NASA ADAP Grant, \$130800 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Using Spitzer to Trace the Evolution of Galaxy Stellar Masses*
- 2012 Hubble Space Telescope, Cycle 20 Archival Grant, \$59950 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Probing the Formation of Dust in the Early Universe*
- 2012 Hubble Space Telescope, Cycle 20 GO, \$29444 (Finkelstein Co-I)**
- *The Cosmic Assembly Near-Infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey*
- 2011 Hubble Space Telescope, Cycle 19 E/PO Grant, \$17300 (Finkelstein Co-PI)**
- *Exploring the Early Universe at Home and in the Classroom*
- 2011 Hubble Fellowship, \$103,356**
- *Measuring the Evolution of Galaxy Physical Properties from  $z = 2 - 8$*
- 2010 Hubble Space Telescope, Cycle 18 Archival Grant, \$71365 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *A Detailed Analysis of Stellar Populations in Galaxies During Reionization*
- NASA 2010A, 2010B and 2011A Keck Solicitations, \$41500 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Directly Probing the Star-Forming and Gas Properties of High-Redshift LAEs*
- AAS International Travel Grant, Summer 2009, \$1000 (Finkelstein PI)**
- Funded travel to France for two conferences on high-redshift galaxies
- 2009 Galaxy Evolution Explorer, Cycle 5 Archival Grant, \$30000 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Stellar Populations and Large Scale Outflows in GALEX Discovered LAEs*
- 2008 Hubble Space Telescope, Cycle 16 Archival Grant, \$36133 (Finkelstein PI)**
- *Dust Enhancement of the Lyman Alpha Equivalent Width at  $z \sim 4.5$  in the CDF-S*
- 2005-2006 Arizona State University/NASA Space Grant Fellowship, \$16000**

Grant Proposals Led by Students or Postdocs Under my Supervision:

**JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$143,019 (M. Bagley Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI),**

- *Spectroscopic Confirmation and Characterization of Bright Galaxies at  $z \sim 9$*

**JWST Cycle 1 General Observer Grant, \$114,627 (M. Bagley Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI),**

- *Leveraging Early Public JWST Data to Measure Luminosity Functions and Rest-UV Slopes from  $6 < z < 12$*

**NASA 2019B Keck Solicitations, \$12,350 (M. Bagley Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *Spectroscopic Characterization of the Brightest Known Galaxy Candidate at  $z > 9$*

**NASA 2018AB,2019AB Keck Solicitations, \$60,900 (R. Larson Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *Islands of Reionization*

**2017 Hubble Cycle 25 AR, \$58,694 (J. Jaacks Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *Simulating pre-galactic metal enrichment for JWST deep-field observations*

**2016 Hubble Cycle 24 AR, \$58,696 (J. Jaacks Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *All About That Base: Baseline Metal Enrichment from Population III Star Formation in Cosmological Simulations*

**NASA 2016A Keck Solicitation, \$12500 (I. Wold Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *What Makes a Ly $\alpha$  Galaxy a Ly $\alpha$  Galaxy*

**2015 Hubble Cycle 23 AR, \$118600 (R. Livermore Science PI, Finkelstein Admin PI)**

- *Searching for faint high- $z$  galaxies in the Hubble Frontier Fields*

**NASA 2014B Keck Solicitation, \$19000 (Finkelstein Admin PI, Livermore Science PI)**

- *Spectroscopic Study of High- $z$  Galaxy Candidates in CANDELS*

INVITED  
CONFERENCE  
TALKS

National Academy of Sciences Science Week Plenary March 2023

- Invited talk: *Our First Glimpse of the Earliest Galaxies with JWST*

MANIFEST Science Workshop (remote) April 2023

- Invited talk: *Unveiling the Reionization Epoch with Ly $\alpha$  and MANIFEST*

First Science with JWST, Baltimore, MD December 2022

- Invited talk: *The Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science Survey*

Cosmic Dawn with the James Webb Space Telescope, Ringberg, Germany October 2022

- Invited talk: *Pushing Towards the Beginning of Reionization*

CCA Reionization on a Blackboard, NY, NY September 2022

- Invited talk: *Reionization: Ionizing Sources and Impacts of JWST*

Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop, Santa Cruz, CA August 2022

- Invited talk: *Pushing Towards the Beginning of Reionization*

EAS Annual Meeting June 2022 \*

- \*Talk given remotely

Invited Plenary to the 2020 Canadian Astronomical Society Meeting\* May 2020

- \*Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

- JWST Partner's Coordinate Meeting, Redondo Beach, CA October 2019
- Invited talk to JWST Engineers: *Finding the Earliest Galaxies in the Universe with JWST*
- BIG EYES ON THE EARLY UNIVERSE, Rome, Italy September 2019
- Invited talk: *Measuring the Evolution of Reionization w/ Big-Glass Observations of Ly $\alpha$  emission*
- WFIRST Ultra-Deep Fields, 234th Meeting of the AAS June 2019
- Invited talk: *Constraining Reionization with US-ELT Follow-up of WFIRST Deep Fields*
- IAU Symposium 352, Uncovering early galaxy evolution in the ALMA and JWST era June, 2019
- Invited talk: *Discovery of the Most Distant Star-Forming and Quenched Galaxies in the Early Universe*
- CANDELS @ UMASS, Amherst, MA October, 2018
- Invited talk: *Continuing to Push into the Early Universe with CANDELS*
- Astrophysical Frontiers in the Next Decade and Beyond, Portland, OR June 2018
- Invited talk: *Galaxy Evolution in the Early Universe*
- Sakura CLAW - Cosmic Lyman-alpha Workshop, Tokyo, Japan March 2018
- Invited talk: *First Science with HETDEX*
- GMT Community Science Meeting, Tarrytown, NY September 2017
- Invited talk: *Probing Galaxy Evolution and Reionization with GMT*
- Santa Cruz Galaxy Formation Workshop, Santa Cruz, CA August 2017
- Invited talk: *Reionizing the Universe with Low Escape Fractions*
- Spectral Diagnostics to Explore the Cosmic Dawn with JWST, Baltimore, MD July 2017
- Invited talk: *Ultraviolet Continuum and Ionizing Budget of Galaxies*
- Astronomy in the 2020s: Synergies with WFIRST, Baltimore, MD June 2017
- Invited talk: *A Large-Scale View of the Distant Universe*
- SNOWClaw: Cosmic Lyman Alpha Workshop March 2017
- Invited talk: *The Hobby Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment*
- SANTA CRUZ GALAXY FORMATION WORKSHOP, Santa Cruz, CA August 2016
- Invited talk: *A Realistic Assessment of the Ionizing Budget During Reionization*
- INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION XXIX August 2015
- Session: Symposium 319: Cosmic Dawn I
  - Invited talk: *Understanding Formation and Evolution of Galaxies at Cosmic Dawn*
- INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION XXIX August 2015
- Session: Focus Meeting: Hubble Frontier Field Galaxies and SNe
  - Invited talk: *Probing Bursty Star Formation with the Frontier Fields*
- HUBBLE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM, Baltimore, MD April 2015
- Invited talk: *Our First Look into Galaxy Formation with Hubble*
- PHYSICS OF THE HIGH-REDSHIFT UNIVERSE, Edinburgh, UK June 2014
- Invited talk: *Probing the Physics of Galaxy Evolution at  $z > 6$*
- THE UNQUIET UNIVERSE, Cefalu, Italy June 2014
- Invited talk: *Spectroscopically Probing the Most Distant Galaxies*
- COSMIC DAWN, Ringberg, Germany June 2013
- Invited talk: *A Full Census of Galaxies in the Distant Universe*
- CCAT HIGH-REDSHIFT GALAXY WORKSHOP, Boulder, CO September 2012
- Invited talk: *Rest-Frame UV Studies of  $z > 4$  Galaxies and their Observability with CCAT*
- XTREME ASTROPHYSICS MINI-SYMPOSIUM, Atlanta, GA August 2012

- Invited talk: *The Colors of High-Redshift Galaxies and their Contribution to Reionization*
- 220th MEETING OF THE AAS, Anchorage, AK June 2012
  - Special session on Lyman Alpha Emitters, #404.03
  - Invited talk: *Using LAEs as Tracers of the High-z Universe*
- 219th MEETING OF THE AAS, Austin, TX January 2012
  - Special session on CANDELS, #419.03
  - Invited talk: *Probing Galaxy Evolution from  $z = 4 - 8$  with CANDELS*
- EXTRAGALACTIC ASTRONOMY WITH GMT, College Station, TX March 2011
  - Invited talk: *Hunting the First Galaxies*
- GIANT MAGELLAN TELESCOPE WORKSHOP, Melbourne, Australia June 2010
  - Invited review talk: *High-z Galaxies with the Giant Magellan Telescope*
- FRANK N. BASH SYMPOSIUM 2009, Austin, TX October 2009
  - Invited review talk: *Searching for the First Galaxies*
- 210th MEETING OF THE AAS, Honolulu, HI May 2007
  - Topical session on Lyman alpha galaxies, #103.04
  - Invited talk: *Stellar Populations and Radiative Transfer in Lyman Alpha Galaxies*

INVITED  
COLLOQUIA OR  
SEMINARS

University of Minnesota Colloquium, Dec 2023  
 Trottier Space Institute Seminar, McGill University, Dec 2023  
 Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma Colloquium, July 2023  
 Munich Joint Astronomy Colloquium, June 2023  
 UC Santa Cruz, Seminar (remote), May 2023  
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Seminar (remote), March 2023  
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Seminar (remote), November 2022  
 UT Austin Colloquium, September 2022  
 Flatiron Institute CCA, Seminar, May 2022  
 UC Riverside, Colloquium, April 2022  
 Colby College, Colloquium, Sept 2021  
 UC Santa Barbara, Colloquium, Dec 2020  
 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Colloquium, Oct 2020  
 Harvard University Center for Astrophysics, Colloquium, May 2019  
 University of Arizona, Colloquium, March 2019  
 UCLA, Colloquium, Feb 2019  
 University of Connecticut, Colloquium, Sept 2018  
 University of Copenhagen, DAWN Center Seminar, Jun 2018  
 Oxford University, Colloquium, Jan 2018  
 University of Sussex, Seminar, Jan 2018  
 Space Telescope Science Institute, Special Invited Talk, Mar 2017  
 University of California, Berkely, Cosmology Seminar, Feb 2017  
 University of Missouri Kansas City Colloquium, Sept 2016  
 University of Washington Seminar, July 2016  
 New Mexico State University Colloquium, Feb 2016  
 NASA Cosmic Origins Science Interest Group Meeting, Jan 2016  
 NASA/Goddard ATLAST Seminar, July 2015  
 UNLV Physics and Astronomy Forum, April 2013  
 MIT Astrophysics Colloquium, April 2013  
 NASA/Goddard Astrophysics Colloquium, Dec 2012  
 Harvard-CFA ITC Colloquium, Sep 2010

NASA/Goddard Astronomy Lunch Series, Mar 2009

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

Invited Testimony, US House of Representatives (Nov 2022)  
Member, Executive Committee, NASA Cosmic Origins Program Analysis Group (2019–2021)  
*James Webb Space Telescope* Review Panel Member, Cycle 1  
Chair, HETDEX Galaxies and AGN Science Working Group (2019–2020)  
Member, Hubble Space Telescope Users Committee (2019–Present)  
Member, NASA IRTF Keck Users Committee (2018–2021)  
SOC Member, Barefoot Reionization Conference 2019  
Member, NASA Keck Time Allocation Committee (2017–2019)  
Chair, Extragalactic Panel (2018–2019)  
PI, JWST ERS Program (2017–Present)  
*Hubble Space Telescope* Review Panel Member, Cycles 19 & 26  
*Hubble Space Telescope* External Panel Member, Cycles 25 & 27  
Spitzer Cycle 13 Regular and Mid-Cycle DDT Panel – 2017  
Member, NASA Cosmic Origins LUVOIR Science Working Group (2016–2019)  
Member, NASA LUVOIR Optical/NIR Imager instrument team (2016–2019)  
WFIRST Science Investigation Team Member (2016–2020)  
Lead Organizer – South by High Redshift, 2015 international conference at UT Austin  
Organizer – 2014 Texas Astronomy Undergraduate Research Symposium  
Hubble Deep Fields Initiative Committee Member  
Leader of CANDELS High-Redshift Science Working Group  
Referee for *Nature*, *Astrophysical Journal* (ApJ), *Astrophysical Journal Letters* (ApJL), *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* (MNRAS), and *Astronomy and Astrophysics* (A&A)  
Lead Author of GMT Science Case First Light and Reionization chapter  
GMT/GMTIFS Instrument Science Team Member  
HET/LRS-2 Instrument Science Team Member  
Member of CANDELS *HST* Multicycle Treasury Program Team  
Member of HETDEX Science Team  
Lead Author of HETDEX White Paper LAE chapter<sup>1</sup>  
External Reviewer, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research  
External Reviewer, China Telescope Access Program  
Member of LSST Galaxies Science Collaboration  
Member of Organizing Committee for the 2011 GMT Extragalactic Meeting  
Head of Organizing Committee for the Fall 2010 HETDEX Science Meeting  
Organizer of Texas A&M Morning Astrophysics Coffee 2010–2011  
Creator and Organizer of 1st & 2nd Annual Texas A&M Astrophysics Symposia

DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE  
EXPERIENCE

Associate Department Chair, Department of Astronomy — 2019–Present  
Chair (Member), Department Peer Teaching Review and Awards Committee — 2018 (2017)–Present  
Member, HETDEX Survey Steering Committee — 2018–Present  
Chair, McDonald Observatory Faculty Advisory Committee — 2017–Present  
Member, McDonald Observatory Time Allocation Committee — 2017–2019  
Member, Evaluations Committee — 2017–2019  
Assistant Graduate Advisor — 2016–2019

<sup>1</sup>[http://hoku.as.utexas.edu/~gebhardt/hetdex/hetdex\\_science.pdf](http://hoku.as.utexas.edu/~gebhardt/hetdex/hetdex_science.pdf)

Member, 21st Century Committee for Experiential Education — 2017  
 Faculty Sponsor for Astronomy Students Association, UT Austin — 2016 – present  
 HET Users Committee, McDonald Observatory, UT Austin — 2015 – present  
 Lead Graduate Recruiter, UT Austin — 2014 – 2016  
 Cox Endowment Committee Chair, UT Austin — 2014 – 2015  
 Graduate Admissions Committee, UT Austin — 2013 – 2016, 2019  
 Colloquium Chair, UT Austin — 2012-2013

FUNDRAISING  
 ACTIVITIES

- Keynote “Great Lecture” speaker at February 2023 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “Our First Glimpse of the Earliest Galaxies with JWST”, given also as part of 2023 Texas Science Festival. Talk available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwjppjTzxfQw>
- Invited speaker at inaugural Texas Science Festival in March 2021, titled “Cosmic Beginnings: The Formation of the First Galaxies in the Early Universe”
- Keynote “Great Lecture” speaker at February 2020 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “Pushing the Cosmic Frontier with the Next Generation of Telescopes”
- Held a “Science Discussion Group” at the Feb 2018 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “First Light with the James Webb Space Telescope”, and gave an encore presentation at a fundraising event in Houston two weeks later.
- Held a “Science Discussion Group” at the Feb 2016 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “The James Webb Space Telescope: An Infrared View into the Distant Universe”.
- Held a “Science Discussion Group” at the Feb 2015 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “Cosmic Reionization: How HETDEX Can Help”.
- Traveled with former President Powers to have lunch with a private donor, ultimately securing a \$1M donation to the Giant Magellan Telescope project.
- Facilitated a meeting between Northrop Grumman executives and the Director of McDonald Observatory, leading to a \$100,000 donation to StarDate Magazine.
- Invited talk at the Feb 2013 McDonald Observatory and Astronomy Department Board of Visitors Meeting in Austin, titled “Creating a Hub for Observing the Distant Universe in Texas”.

GRADUATE  
 STUDENT  
 ADVISING  
 EXPERIENCE

- The University of Texas at Austin Aug 2021 – Present
- Advisor of 2nd year graduate student Alexa Morales, who is studying the chemical enrichment of galaxies in the early universe.
- The University of Texas at Austin Aug 2020 – Present
- Advisor of 3rd year graduate student Oscar Chavez Ortiz, who is studying the physical properties of high-redshift galaxies identified by HETDEX in the *Euclid* North Ecliptic Pole Deep Field.
- The University of Texas at Austin Aug 2020 – Present
- Advisor of 3rd year graduate student Katie Chworowsky, who is studying the abundance and properties of massive quiescent galaxies at high redshift.



The University of Texas at Austin July 2019 – December 2021.  
• Advisor of graduate student Adam McCarron, who studied the physical properties of high-redshift galaxies identified by HETDEX.

The University of Texas at Austin June 2016 – May 2023  
• Advisor of graduate student Rebecca Larson, whose thesis included papers on Ly $\alpha$  emission from  $z = 7-9$ , and the highest-redshift (at the time) AGN from JWST CEERS at  $z = 8.7$ .

The University of Texas at Austin August 2013 – August 2019  
• Advised graduate student Intae Jung, who led the “Texas Spectroscopic Survey for Lyman alpha Emission in the Epoch of Reionization”, a series of papers on a Keck survey culminating in a measure of the neutral fraction at  $z = 7.5$ . He went on to a NASA Postdoctoral Program fellow at Goddard Space Flight Center.

The University of Texas at Austin August 2013 – August 2019  
• Advised graduate student Matthew Stevans, who studying the growth of galaxy stellar masses using a 24 deg<sup>2</sup>  $K$ -band imaging survey. He moved into private industry in the Austin area.

The University of Texas at Austin June 2013 – Aug 2018  
• Co-advisor of graduate student Jason Jaacks, who used simulations to study the tracking of galaxy progenitors and descendants, as well as to make predictions for a JWST Deep Field. He received his PhD in June 2018, and is now a Data Scientist at DuPont Pioneer.

The University of Texas at Austin May 2012 – August 2016  
• Advisor of graduate student Mimi Song, who led several projects, culminating the measurement of the stellar mass functions of very high-redshift galaxies. She went on to a NASA Postdoctoral Program fellow at Goddard Space Flight Center.

POSTDOC  
ADVISING  
EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin Aug 2023 – Present  
• Advisor of postdoc Anthony Taylor, who is leading my groups work on spectroscopy with JWST.

The University of Texas at Austin October 2020 – Present  
• Advisor of postdoc Gene Leung, who is leading my groups work on HETDEX in the SHELA and CANDELS fields.

The University of Texas at Austin September 2018 – Present  
• Advisor of postdoc Micaela Bagley, who is leading my groups work on the simulations of our JWST ERS science dataset, as well as other investigations into the high-redshift universe with *HST*.

The University of Texas at Austin September 2014 – August 2018  
• Advisor of postdoc Isak Wold, who built our first photometric catalog in the SHELA field, and studied the evolution of the Ly $\alpha$  luminosity function. He moved on to a NASA/ Postdoctoral Fellowship at Goddard.

The University of Texas at Austin September 2013 – August 2017  
• Advisor of postdoc Rachael Livermore, who led my group’s work on the Hubble Frontier Fields. Rachael has developed an innovative technique for subtracting the cluster, allowing for the discovery of fainter galaxies. She moved on to a DECRA Prize Fellowship at the University of Melbourne.

UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT  
ADVISING  
EXPERIENCE

I have worked with 15 undergraduate students while at UT Austin, listed below. I denote those who led a publication (\*) or a research note (†) on our research.

Previous Students

- Kaile Wang (2021-2023; moved to PhD program at UT Austin; published Research Note)
- Abriana Himantog (2020-2023; moved to PhD program at Wisconsin; published Research Note)
- Thomas Maina (2020-2023)
- Navya Chunduru (2021-2022)
- Valentina Tardugno Poleo\* (2020-present; moved to PhD program at NYU)
- Sarah Bruce † (2020-2022; moved to PhD program at CU Boulder)
- Delaney White (2019-2022; went on to Teach for America)
- Aubrey Medrano\* (2020-21; moved to PhD program at UMass). Research note in prep.
- Raghav Ventataramanan (2020-2021)
- Daniel Mock (2019-21; moved to graduate school at FSU). Research note in prep.
- Isaac Laseter\* (2018-2020; moved to PhD program at UW Madison). Paper in prep.
- Sofia Rojas Ruiz\* (2016-2019; moved to PhD program at MPIA)
- Alex Sobotka (2017-2018; moved to NRAO, then graduate school at UNC).
- James Diekmann (2013-2015; moved to private industry)

Current Students:

- Nick Davila (2020-present)
- Samantha Goldberg (2021-present)
- Isaiah Pipkin (2021-present)
- Sarah Darber (2021-present)
- Emma Tyler (2021-present)
- Evelyn Allsup (2021-present)
- Galina Bouyer (2021-present)
- Urvi Thakurdesai (2022-present)
- Marissa Perry (2022-present)
- Lipika Chatur (2022-present)

PRESS RELEASES

“Wide View of Early Universe Hints at Galaxy Among the Earliest Ever Detected” Aug 2022

- Press release based on first imaging and early results from *JWST* CEERS program

“Texas Astronomers Lead Major Projects in James Webb Space Telescope’s First Year” Apr 2021

- Press release based on awarded *JWST* Cycle 1 Programs

“Texas Astronomers Will Lead Early Studies with \$8 Billion James Webb Space Telescope” Nov 2017”

- Press release based on awarded *JWST* Early Release Science Program

“Astronomers Find Faintest Early Galaxies Yet, Probe How the Early Universe Lit Up” Feb 2017

- Press release based on Hubble Frontier Fields study, the first such study to accurately recover faint galaxies by subtracting the foreground cluster galaxies.

“Early Galaxies More Efficient at Making Stars, Hubble Survey Reveals” Nov 2015

- Press release based on CANDELS paper studying the evolution of the UV luminosity function at  $z = 4-8$

“The most distant spectroscopically confirmed galaxy in the universe” Oct 2013

- We put out a press release based on my nature paper detailing the most distant spectroscopically confirmed galaxy. Myself and my co-authors did several interviews, including on Seattle’s KOMO TV and radio. This story has been published on > 300 news sites around the internet, as well as in several newspapers and magazines (including being the 2nd most-read story on the BBC on the day of the re-

lease). I also had several television interviews, including one with CNN International:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/23/tech/innovation/most-distant-galaxy/index.html>  
 “CANDELS team discovers dusty galaxies at ancient epoch with Hubble Space Telescope”  
 Oct 2012

- Press release based on CANDELS paper studying the build-up of dust and metals in  $z = 4-8$  galaxies

OBSERVING  
EXPERIENCE

Since 2005, **I have observed ~70 nights** using these telescopes/instruments:  
 Keck/MOSFIRE, Keck/NIRSPEC, Keck NIRES, Keck/LRIS, Magellan/MMIRS,  
 Magellan/IMACS, MMT/Megacam, MMT/SWIRC, KPNO 4m/NEWFIRM, KPNO  
 4m/MOSAIC, CTIO 4m/MOSAIC II, McDonald 2.7m/VIRUS-P and Steward Bok  
 90”/90 Prime.

SELECTED  
OBSERVING  
PROPOSALS LED

- KECK 10m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2023
- *Spectroscopic Exploration of the Early Universe with JWST/CEERS+MOSFIRE*
  - Awarded three nights with MOSFIRE from the NASA TAC.
- HOBBY EBERLY TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) 2021–2022
- *The HET Bright Galaxies in Reionization Survey*
  - Awarded 15 hours.
- JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 1 GO
- *NGDEEP: The Next Generation Deep Extragalactic Exploratory Public Survey*
  - Awarded 122 prime (plus 90 parallel) hours.
- JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 1 GO
- *Confirming a Potential Ultra-Massive Galaxy at  $z=10.57$*
  - Awarded 2.6 prime hours.
- GEMINI OBSERVATORY (Finkelstein PI) 2020B
- *Near-infrared Imaging of an Unexpected Sample of Extremely Massive Quiescent Galaxies at  $z > 4$*
  - Awarded 19.7 hours (not observed due to COVID-19)
- ALMA OBSERVATORY (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 7
- *Confirming the Quiescent Nature of Massive Galaxies at  $z=4$*
  - Awarded 7.7 hours
- HOBBY EBERLY TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) 2018–2021
- *TESLA: The Texas Euclid Survey for Lyman Alpha*
  - Awarded 100 hours.
- HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 27 GO
- *Confirmation of a Large, Robust Sample of  $z = 9-10$  Galaxies in the CANDELS Fields*
  - Awarded 14 orbits.
- ALMA OBSERVATORY (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 6
- *Spectroscopic Confirmation of Galaxies in the Reionization Era*
  - Awarded 2.5 hours
- HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 26 Mid-cycle GO
- *Photometric Confirmation of the Brightest Known Galaxy Candidate at  $z > 9$*
  - Awarded 2 orbits.
- JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 1 ERS
- *The Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science Survey*
  - Awarded a 63 hour Early Release Science program.

- ALMA OBSERVATORY (Finkelstein PI) Cycle 3
- *Probing the Physics Behind Enhanced Star Formation in the Early Universe*
  - Awarded 2.5 hours
- KPNO 4m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2013 – 2016
- *The NEWFIRM HETDEX Survey - Probing the Growth of Galaxies with Cosmic Time*
  - Awarded a 84 night, four year survey with NEWFIRM.
- KECK 10m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2015
- *A Comprehensive View of Reionization: An Equivalent Width Limited Survey for Lyman Alpha Emission at  $z = 6-8$*
  - Awarded one night with MOSFIRE from the NASA TAC.
- SPITZER SPACE TELESCOPE CYCLE 10 GO (Finkelstein PI) 2014
- *Searching for the Brightest Galaxies in the Distant Universe*
  - Awarded 77 hours of IRAC imaging to search for bright  $z = 9$  galaxies.
- KECK 10m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014 & Fall 2015
- *Spectroscopically Confirming the Most Distant Galaxies*
  - Awarded six nights with MOSFIRE from the NASA TAC over four runs.
- KECK 10m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Spring 2015
- *Searching for an Alternative to Lyman alpha: CIII] Emission at  $z > 7$*
  - Awarded one night with MOSFIRE from the NASA TAC.
- MCDONALD OBSERVATORY 2.7m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Spring 2013
- *Probing Faint LAEs Behind Abell 1689 with VIRUS-P*
  - Awarded four nights with VIRUS-P.
- KECK 10m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2009, Spring 2010 & Fall 2010
- *Directly Probing the Star-Forming and Gas Properties of High-Redshift LAEs*
  - Awarded one-night runs three separate times with NIRSPEC from the NASA TAC.
- MAGELLAN 6.5m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2009
- *Spectroscopy of Population III Hosting Galaxies at  $z \sim 3.1$  and LAEs at  $z \sim 4.5$*
  - Awarded two nights with IMACS spectrograph from NOAO TAC.
- NOAO-KPNO MAYALL 4m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2008 & 2009
- *Luminosity Function and Evolution of Lyman Alpha Galaxies at  $z \sim 2.1$*
  - Awarded five nights over two runs with MOSAIC camera.
- STEWART OBSERVATORY/SAO MMT (Finkelstein PI) Spring 2009
- *Direct Measurements of Metallicity, Extinction and Outflows of LAEs at  $z \sim 0.3$*
  - Awarded one night with Hectospec.
- NOAO-CTIO BLANCO 4m TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) Fall 2007
- *Dust Enhancement of the Lyman Alpha Equivalent Width at  $z \sim 4.5$  in the CDF-S*
  - Awarded three nights with MOSAIC II camera.
- STEWART OBSERVATORY BOK 90" TELESCOPE (Finkelstein PI) 2007
- *Halo Masses and Clustering Properties of LAEs at  $z \sim 3.1$*
  - Awarded 13 nights over two runs in Spring and Summer with the 90 Prime camera.

SELECTED  
TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

- INSTRUCTOR, The University of Texas at Austin Spring 2015 & Spring 2023
- Instructor of AST386, a graduate course on galaxy evolution at high redshift.
- INSTRUCTOR, The University of Texas at Austin Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, & Fall 2022
- Instructor of AST301, a 200-student astronomy survey course.

- INSTRUCTOR, The University of Texas at Austin                      Fall 2018 & Spring 2020
- Instructor of AST376/AST392, a combination hands-on undergraduate/graduate course on techniques in observational astronomy.
- INSTRUCTOR, The University of Texas at Austin                      Spring 2016 & Spring 2017
- Instructor of AST358, an upper-division undergraduate course on galaxies and the universe.
- ADJUNCT FACULTY, South Mountain Community College    Jan. 2007 – May 2007
- Lead instructor for an introductory astronomy lecture and lab.
- TEACHING ASSISTANT, Arizona State University                      Aug. 2003 – May 2005
- Instructed undergraduate astronomy and physics labs.

SELECTED  
OUTREACH  
ACTIVITIES

- Invited speaker at the UT Lifetime Learning Program                      Feb 2022
- Invited speaker at the Houston Space Center for talk on *JWST*                      Dec 2021
- Invited speaker at the “Keck Observatory Public Talk Series”                      Sept 2021
- Speaker at ATX Astronomy on Tap                      2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- Contributor to NASA Universe of Learning Science Briefing                      May 2018
- Relativity Lecture Series, Museum of the Southwest                      November 2014
- I visited Midland, TX in November 2014 to give two invited talks. The first was a lecture in the “Science Friday” series at Midland College on spectroscopy. The second was at the Museum of the Southwest’s “Relativity” lecture series, on my hunt for the most distant galaxies in the universe.
- TV, RADIO & BLOGS                      2012 - Present
- Frequent participant in radio and television interviews both on my research, as well as current astronomical topics, appearing multiple times on CNN International TV, Austin’s YNN news and KUT radio, and Seattle’s KOMO news radio. Frequent contributor to the CANDELS collaboration blog ([candels-collaboration.blogspot.com](http://candels-collaboration.blogspot.com)), which has received >60,000 views over several countries around the world.
- JWST @ SXSW                      December 2012 - March 2013
- Assisted with the display of the full-scale JWST model at the SXSW interactive festival in Austin in March 2013. I led the involvement of UT Austin, in collaboration with Northrop Grumman, STScI and NASA. I was responsible for ~25 UT student volunteers, and I gave four public lectures at the model over three days.
- MCDONALD OBSERVATORY TEACHER WORKSHOPS                      July 2012
- Obtained funding and helped produce a teacher workshop based on galaxy evolution. This included giving a one hour talk to the teachers on my research, helping put on activities, and assisting in nighttime observing.
- TEXAS A&M PHYSICS DAY, Texas A&M University                      Mar. 2009 & 2010
- 2010: Led children and adults of all ages in making comets out of dry ice.
  - 2009: Led children in an exploration of the curvature of space due to gravity.
- TEXAS A&M ASTRONOMY OPEN HOUSES, Texas A&M University    2009 – 2011
- Presented talks at three public observing nights, one on my research, a more general talk titled “We’re All Made of Stardust,” and on the *HST* Servicing Mission 4.
- SCIENCE BOWL, Texas A&M University                      Feb. 2009
- I moderated numerous rounds of the Texas A&M high school science bowl, including serving on the panel of experts for the final rounds.

SELECTED	The Growth of Galaxies in the Early Universe, Sesto, Italy	Jan 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023
CONTRIBUTED	Barefoot Reionization, Fitzroy Island, Australia	July 2019
TALKS	Massively Parallel Large Area Spectroscopy from Space, Pasadena, CA	October 2018
	Distant Galaxies from the Far South, Bariloche, Argentina	December 2017
	Exploring the Universe with JWST II, Montreal, Canada	October 2016
	Signals from the Deep Past: Unveiling Early Cosmic Structures, Malta	July 2016
	Signals from the Deep Past: Unveiling Early Cosmic Structures, Malta	July 2016
	The Reionization Epoch: New Insights and Future Prospects, Aspen, CO	June, 2015
	Reionization: A Multiwavelength Approach, South Africa	June, 2015
	South by High Redshift, Austin, TX	April, 2015
	Yale Frontier Fields Workshop, New Haven, CT	November 2014
	The formation and growth of galaxies, Obergurgl, Austria	April 2014
	First Annual GMT Community Workshop, Chicago, IL	June 2013
	HETDEX Team Meeting, Potsdam, Germany	May 2013
	CANDELS Team Meeting, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA	Sept 2012
	First Stars IV, Kyoto, Japan	May 2012
	CANDELS Team Meeting, Leiden University, Leiden, Netherlands	Feb 2012
	New Horizons at High Redshift, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK	July 2011
	CANDELS High-Redshift Meeting, Sesto, Italy	June 2011
	217th Meeting of the AAS, Seattle, WA	Jan. 2011
	Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA	Jan. 2011
	Seminar, Carnegie Observatories, Pasadena, CA	Nov. 2010
	Seminar, University of California, Los Angeles, CA	Nov. 2010
	Seminar, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA	Sep. 2010
	Seminar, New York University, New York, NY	Sep. 2010
	First Stars and Galaxies Conference, Austin, TX	Mar. 2010
	The High-Redshift Universe Conference, Aspen, CO	Feb. 2010
	The Lyman Alpha Universe IAP Colloquium, Paris, France	Jul. 2009
	Understanding Lyman Alpha Emitters Conference, Heidelberg, Germany	Oct. 2008
	211th Meeting of the AAS, Austin, TX	Jan. 2008

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7. *Invited Review Article: Finkelstein, S. L. **2016**, *Observational Searches for Star-Forming Galaxies at  $z > 6$* , Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia, 33, 37*
8. Finkelstein, S. L., Song, M., Behroozi, P. et al. **2015**, *An Increasing Stellar Baryon Fraction in Bright Galaxies at High Redshift*, Astrophysical Journal, 814, 95
9. Finkelstein, S. L., Ryan R, Papovich, C. et al. **2015**, *The Evolution of the Galaxy Rest-Frame Ultraviolet Luminosity Function over the First Two Billion Years*, Astrophysical Journal, 810, 71
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(<sup>†</sup> =UNDERGRAD  
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#### RESEARCH NOTES

1. †Wang, K., Bagley, M., Finkelstein, S. L., et al. **2023**, *Selecting  $z \sim 8$  Galaxies with JWST Photometry in CEERS*, *RNAAS*, 7, 109

#### WHITE PAPERS

1. Finkelstein, S. L., et al. **2019**, *Unveiling the Phase Transition of the Universe During the Reionization Epoch with Ly $\alpha$* , *Astro2020 Science White Paper*, *astroph/*
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#### PUBLISHED PROCEEDINGS

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