CURRICULUM VITÆ

Joan R. Najita

NSF's NOIRLab joan.najita@noirlab.edu
950 N. Cherry Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719

Current Research Interests: Origins of stars and planets, evolutionary history of the Milky Way and nearby galaxies, how discoveries are made, resource allocation practices in astronomy.

Education:

January 1993	Ph.D. in Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley
June 1990	M.A. in Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley
June 1985	A.B. summa cum laude in Physics and Astronomy, Harvard University

Professional and Research Experience:

2011 – present	Astronomer with tenure (NOAO/NOIRLab)
2004 – present	Adjunct Associate Astronomer, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona
2004 – 2011	Associate Astronomer with tenure (NOAO)
2001 – 2004	Associate Astronomer (NOAO)
1998 – 2001	Assistant Astronomer (NOAO)
1997 – 1998	Assistant Astronomer (Space Telescope Science Institute)
1994 – 1997	Center for Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow

Positions Held:

2021 - present	Head of Scientific Staff, User Support (NOIRLab) Administrative manager for scientific staff: career support and development, mentoring, research resource management, performance evaluation. Special projects include NOIRLab Strategic Planning Report 2024, creation of REU Chile Program
2017 - 2019	Chief Scientist, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) Responsible for strategic science planning, science communications, and the health of the scientific environment at the Observatory.
2010 – 2013	NOAO Office of Science, Head of Program • Created and supported an informal mentoring program for postdocs and staff. • Managed internal funding for scientific research, talks, and visitors.
2015 - 2019	NOAO Science Press Officer • Create and distribute press releases, manage NOAO homepage.
2020 - 2021	NOIRLab Mirror (Newsletter), Editor
2008 - 2021	NOAO e-Newsletter Currents, Editor and creator

Selected Professional Responsibilities and Community Service:

2023	National Hubble Fellowship Program, chair
2023	Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program, consultant
2022	AAS Laboratory Astrophysics Award committee, member

2021 – 2024	NRAO visiting committee, member
2021	ASIAA five-year review committee, member
2021	ASIAA grant review panel, member
2021	CFHT Director search committee, member
2020 – 2023	MSE Management Committee, NOIRLab observer
2020 – 2021	NASA Keck Time Allocation Committee, chair
2019 – 2021	Astro2020 Decadal Survey in Astronomy: Radio, Millimeter, and Submillimeter panel, member
2019 – 2022	American Association for the Advancement of Science, Council Delegate and Executive Committee member
2018 – present	Aspen Center for Physics, General Member
2019 – 2024	American Astronomical Society eBooks Board, member
2014 – 2017	NASA IRTF-Keck Management Operations Working Group
2015 – 2017	Kavli Futures Symposium "Maximizing Science in the Era of LSST", co-Chair
2012 – 2013	Ground-based Optical-Infrared System Roadmap Committee, co-Chair
2011 – 2021	Infrared Processing and Analysis Center Research Scientist Promotions Committee
2008 – 2009	Access to Large Telescopes for Astronomical Instrumentation and Research (ALTAIR) Committee, vice-Chair
2004 – 2019	Spitzer Space Telescope Proposal Review 2004, 2007, 2011, 2016-2019
2003 – 2010	Aaronson Award Committee
2001 – 2004	Annie Jump Cannon Award Committee
2003 – 2006	Thirty Meter Telescope Science Advisory Committee
2005	Spitzer Space Telescope Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee, Chair

Honors and Awards:

2021-2022	Edward, Frances, and Shirley B. Daniels Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
2022	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow
2020	American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow
2018	Dsitinguished Visitor, Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii
2007	Distinguished Visitor, Spitzer Science Center / Caltech
2005	AURA Science Award
2003	Invited talk at American Astronomical Society meeting
1996	Annie Jump Cannon Award in Astronomy
1994 –1997	Center for Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship
1986 – 1989	Zonta Amelia Earhart Fellowship
1986 – 1988	University of California Graduate Opportunity Fellowship

Recent Conference Organizing

2020	"Five years after HL Tau: a new era in planet formation", Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) member and online moderator
2018	"Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest 2", SOC member
2018	"Future of the Infrared Telescope Facility", SOC member

2017 Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics meeting "Confronting MHD Theories of Disks with Observations", SOC member

Recent Invited Talks

2024 "Protoplanetary Disks / Planet Formation," review talk at the conference "Dust Devils: Debris Disks in the Sonoran Desert" (March 2024)

2023 "*Debris disk demographics & Dynamics of M31's Halo*", NRC-HAA colloquium (February 2023)

2023 *"Immigration History of Andromeda: Our Nearby Galactic Neighbor"* in "Probing the Universe at Higher Resolution: A Celebration of the Science and Leadership of Paul T.P. Ho (my talk starts at 16:45; November 2023)

2023 *"Immigration History of Andromeda: Our Nearby Galactic Neighbor"* DESI Research Forum

2022 *"IR Spectroscopy of Inner Planet-forming Disks,"* invited talk at "Inside 2022: The Inner Regions of Protoplanetary Disks" Conference at Ringberg Castle in memory of Professor Dr. Willy Kley (September 2022).

2022 *"How Disks Accrete and the Connection between Protoplanetary Disks and Debris Disks,"* colloquium at JHU (April 2022).

2022 *"How Do Disks Accrete? Clues from Disk Sizes and MIR Spectroscopy,"* Harvard Institute for Theory and Computation (ITC) colloquium (February 2022).

2021 *"Pebbles and Planetesimals to Planets and Dust,"* Harvard Exoplanet Pizza lunch talk (December 2021).

2021 *"Three short stories: youngest protostars, disk accretion, and debris disks,"* MIAPP conference on "Gaps, Rings, Spirals, and Vortices: Structure Formation in Planet-Forming Disks" (October 2021).

2021 *"Techniques, Observations, and Diagnostics of Protoplanetary Disks: Inner Disk (UV, IR),"* Sagan Summer Workshop on "Circumstellar Disks and Young Planets" (July 2021)

2019 *"Disk Solids, Spirals, and Sizes,"* colloquium Boston University Astronomy Department

2019 *"Disk Solids, Spirals, and Sizes,"* colloquia at the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii and at Gemini Observatory

2018 Introductory talk for the conference "Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest 2"

2018 *"Formation of Planetesimals and Planets,"* bridge talk at "Diversis Mundi: The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context," organized by the European Southern Observatory

2018 *"Water in Planet-forming Disks"* in a special session of the American Astronomical Society meeting, "Water, Water, Everywhere" organized by the Laboratory Astrophysics Division

2017 *"Molecular Clues from Inner Planet-forming Disks"* at special session of American Chemical Society annual meeting

2017 *"Spectroscopic Probes of Turbulence in the Planet Formation Region of Disks"* at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics workshop, "Confronting MHD Theories of Disks with Observations"

2016 *"Holiday Tales of Planet Formation,"* UC Berkeley Astronomy Department colloquium

2015 *"Water and Organics in Disk Atmospheres,"* in the Focus Meeting "Search for Water and Life's Building Blocks in the Universe" at the International Astronomical Union (IAU) meeting

Recent **Students**

Harvard Undergraduates supervised as Radcliffe Research Partners (2021-2022):

Josh Josephy-Zack and Gabriel Maxemin (Milky Way in 3D with DESI Spectroscopy)
Andres Triana and London Vallery (Controversey atop Maunakea)

Graduate students advised/mentored:

Stefan Laos (Vanderbilt University; IR spectroscopy of the youngest protostars)
Janus Kosdon (Clemson University; iSHELL observations of T Tauri disk with an RV planet)
Stanley Jensen (Clemson University; spectroastrometric survey of Herbig disks with iSHELL)

Selected Education and Public Outreach Activities:

2024 "*How did we get here? The origins of stars and planets*," Heinz R. Pagels public lecture at Aspen Center for Physics (July 2024)

2023 *"Immigration History of Andromeda and Some Patterns of the Universe"* in a salon with Spirit of the Senses, a Phoenix-based arts, science, and cultural salon organization that navigates the contemporary landscape of ideas

2023 NASA Science Briefing: Cosmic Dust, from Solar Systems to Galaxies (with co-presenters Brian Hensley and Daniela Calzetti)

2022 Aspen Choral Society's Spring concert *Musica Universalis*. Selected HST images to accompany the performance, as described in our pre-concert interview

2022 Harvard's Memorial Church, guest speaker at Morning Prayers

2021 Radcliffe Institute Public talk on "Diversity and Origins of Planetary Systems"

2018 University High School (Tucson, AZ) Career Panel, representing STEM careers

2017 Research mentor for University High School student's regional science fair project using Gaia RR Lyrae stars as tracers of dwarf galaxies

2016 Steward Observatory public talk, *"Birth of Other Earths"*

2014 Online interview with Science for the Public, which promotes public understanding of and appreciation for science.