

# Parshati Patel

**Education and Outreach Program Coordinator at Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration,  
Western University**

London, ON, CA

An astrophysicist with a passion for science communication.

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## Biography

Dr. Parshati Patel is an astrophysicist and a science communicator. Her research focuses on Circumstellar Disks around Massive Stars. Parshati came to Canada in 2006 from India to pursue her passion for Astronomy. She holds a PhD in Astronomy and Planetary Science & Exploration from the Western University, an MSc in Astronomy and Planetary Science from the Western University and a Hons. BSc in Astronomy and Physics from University of Toronto. During her MSc, Parshati's research focused on studying variability of the circumstellar disk around Classical Be stars. For her PhD and currently, her research is focused on studying inner gaseous disks around young massive stars, Herbig Be stars. She uses observations from large telescopes such as Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and computational models to deduce the structure of the disk. Parshati has more than five years of experience in public education and outreach in the field of astronomy and planetary science. She has held various positions in the past five years from an instructor to the coordinator of the outreach program as well as producer, showrunner and co-host of a planetary science themed podcast called Western Worlds. She has coordinated and led numerous workshops and events geared towards elementary and high school students in a classroom setting as well as for the general audience. In addition to the regular programming, Parshati organized highly successful public events at the observatory, such as Lunar Eclipse, International Observe the Moon Night, engaging audiences of ages 4 to 80 and attended by up to 1000 members of the public. She implemented new marketing strategies, particularly through social media, to broaden the scope of the outreach program across southwestern Ontario. She is currently Outreach Coordinator for Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration at Western University. In her current position, she manages and develops space science and technology themed school and summer programs. She was part of the outreach team that was awarded the Faculty of Science Outreach Award by Western University in 2013. As part of her job, Parshati is frequently interviewed by the local media about the latest news in space science and technology. She has presented various public talks in India encouraging the youth to thinking about space science and space technology as a viable career option.

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## Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning

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## Areas of Expertise

Astronomy, Planetary Science, Circumstellar Disks, Massive Stars, Science Communication, Education and Outreach

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## Education

**University of Toronto**

B.Sc. (Hons.) Astronomy and Physics

**Western University**

M. Sc. Astronomy (Planetary Science)

**Western University**

Ph. D. Astronomy (Planetary Science and Exploration)

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## **Accomplishments**

**Faculty of Science Outreach Award**

Western University, 2013

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