

Sarah Gallagher

Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy at University of Western Ontario
London, ON, CA

Professor Gallagher's research focuses on investigating the nature of winds from luminous quasars

Biography

Sarah Gallagher is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Western Ontario. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Research Astronomer at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2006, she completed a Spitzer Postdoctoral Fellowship titled Understanding Quasar Outflows: Evolution or Orientation? Her research focuses on investigating the nature of winds from luminous quasars (accreting supermassive black holes at the centers of distant galaxies) using observatories covering the infrared to the X-ray, including two of NASA's Great Observatories, Spitzer and Chandra. Gallagher received her Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Penn State where she was also a member of the Chandra ACIS Instrument team. Her thesis, entitled The View through the Wind: X-ray Observations of Broad Absorption Line Quasars, incorporated X-ray data from three observatories: ROSAT, ASCA, and Chandra. Gallagher spent a year at MIT working with the Chandra X-ray gratings group before going to UCLA in 2003. Before graduate school, she was an undergraduate at Yale University and a Physics teacher for two years at the Holderness School where she also coached soccer, ran a girls' dormitory, and led winter camping trips.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research

Areas of Expertise

Women in STEM, University Education, Physics Education, Space Astronomy, Astrophysics, Black Holes

Affiliations

Mauna Kea Spectroscopic Explorer Science Team : Member 2014 - Present, Joint Committee on Space Astronomy : Member 2015 - 2017, Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) Board : Directory 2014 - 2017, Canadian Time Allocation Committee (CanTAC) : Chair 2013 - 2014 & Member 2011 - 2014, Space Telescope User's Committee 2009 - 2011, Local Organizing Committee CASCA 2011 : Co-Chair 2011, Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) : Full Member, American Astronomical Society (AAS) : Full Member, Centre for Planetary and Space Exploration, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Co-Chair : Western Women in Science and Engineering Research (2013-2014, 2015-present), Canadian Association of Physics : Membership (since 2016) , Canadian Association of Physics : Lecturer (2017), Canadian Thirty Metre Telescope Advisory Committee (CATAC) : Member (Since 2017)

Education

Yale University

B.A. Physics

Penn State

Ph.D. Astronomy and Astrophysics

Accomplishments

Faculty Scholar Award

University of Western Ontario

2016 - 2018

Faculty of Science Outreach Award

University of Western Ontario

2010

Early Researcher Award

Ontario Ministry of Research & Innovation, 2010 - 2014

Young Physicist Prize (Honorable Mention)

International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission on Astrophysics, 2008

Spitzer Fellowship

2003 - 2006

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