

AMY STEELE

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Associate – Research Mar 2024 – Present
Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ (remote)

- Independent research using a combination of observational data and computational modeling to probe the composition of exoplanetary material around stars like the sun and older. Supervisor: Dr. Jordan Steckloff (PSI).

Director of Astronomy and Research – Management Jun 2023 – Jan 2024
Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, WI, U.S.

- Strategic Astronomy Leadership: envisioned, led, and executed astronomy initiatives at Yerkes. Focused on producing impactful data and outcomes to advance the field.
- Resource Maximization: Implemented strategies to optimize the value and accessibility of the evening observing tours and the historic plate collection.
- Funding and Partnerships: Attracted partner organizations and astronomers, enhancing collaborative efforts. Laid the foundation to begin seeking financial support from NSF and other federal funding organizations.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Research Jun 2021 – May 2023
Trottier Space Institute, McGill University, Quebec, Canada

- Independently-driven research using observations of disks around stars and different software to model the circumstellar environments of giant and white dwarf stars. Supervisor: Professor Eve Lee (TSI).

Postdoctoral Researcher – Research Oct 2020 – May 2021
Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD, U.S.

- Analyzed circumstellar dust and gas around giant and white dwarf stars. Completing projects that have been started and laying solid ground work for my future research program. Supervisor: Dr. John Debes (STScI).

Research Intern – Research Sept 2016 – May 2018
NASA Headquarters, Washington D.C., U.S.

- Mined existing data to investigate whether the Participating Scientist program for NASA planetary missions (MAVEN, Cassini, etc.) increased the overall binary gender diversity of missions. Supervisor: Megan Thompson.

Astronomy Lab Coordinator – Management and Teaching Aug 2009 – Aug 2012
University of Texas at Arlington, TX, U.S.

- Designed and taught labs to students, while training and supervising 10 undergraduate teaching assistants. Created, maintained, and presented planetarium shows. Led public outreach events. Supervisor: Prof. Alex Weiss.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland • College Park • Maryland, US Aug 2014 – Dec 2020
Ph.D. • Astronomy

Wesleyan University • Connecticut, U.S. Aug 2012 – Aug 2014
Master of Arts • Astronomy

Williams College • Massachusetts, U.S. Aug 2004 – June 2008
Bachelor of Arts • Astronomy and Mathematics • Honors in Mathematics

SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Python, HTML
- Software Experience: Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, and Acrobat), MS Office Suite, Google Workspace, Cloudy, MCFOST
- Operating Systems: Macintosh, Linux/Ubuntu
- Natural Languages: English (native fluency), French (B1)