

## C. Megan Urry

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Israel Munson Professor, Department of Physics  
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**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Evolution of black holes and galaxies, multiwavelength surveys, black hole accretion, jets, unification of active galactic nuclei, blazars

### KEY SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Showed how circumnuclear obscuration of supermassive black holes relates to their (normalized) accretion rates, with geometry dominating unification in low accretion states, and time scale and gas blowout dominating in high accretion states.
- Quantified black hole growth over past 12 billion years, established that roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of accretion is obscured, based on designing GOODS, Stripe 82X, and other multiwavelength surveys.
- Discovered AGN host galaxies are mostly disk-dominated, thus unlikely to be merger-triggered. Fewer than 20% merger-triggered locally, rising to  $\sim 40\%$  at  $z \sim 1$ .
- Authored highly cited review paper on unification of radio-loud AGN.
- Established blazars as aligned, beamed, relativistic jets, used variability and SED analysis to probe the physics of relativistic jets and the demographics of blazars.
- Developed formalism for impact of relativistic beaming on luminosity functions, established radio galaxies as parent population of blazars.

### EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University  
Tufts University

Ph.D., Physics, 1984, M.S., Physics, 1979  
B.S., Physics & Mathematics, 1977 *summa cum laude*

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

2001-present Yale University: Israel Munson Professor of Physics & Astronomy; Director, Yale Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics  
2007-2013 Yale University: Chair, Department of Physics  
1987-2001 Space Telescope Science Institute: Astronomer and Head, Science Program Selection Office (1996-2001); Associate Astronomer with tenure (1995-1999); Assistant Astronomer and Chief, Research Support Branch (1990-1995); Institute Postdoctoral Fellow (1987-1990)  
1984-1987 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Center for Space Research, Postdoctoral Fellow (with Claude Canizares)  
1977-1984 Johns Hopkins University Graduate Student, Physics Department; NASA Graduate Research Fellow, X-ray group, Goddard Space Flight Center; Physics Instructor, University of Maryland Overseas College (1979); Teaching Assistant and Senior TA for General Physics  
1977 Scientific data aide, X-ray group, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory  
1976 Summer student, National Radio Astronomy Observatory

### PUBLICATIONS (see bibliography for details)

H-index 89, 2000+ citations per year, over 380 publications in refereed journals (Astrophysical Journal, Astrophysical Journal Letters, Astrophysical Journal Supplement, Nature, Science, Annual Reviews of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Astronomy & Astrophysics, Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan, Advances in Space Research, Astroparticle Physics)  
45 book chapters and invited reviews, 3 books edited  
Over 500 abstracts and contributed papers  
Over 430 colloquia and invited talks, including more than 170 talks and papers on women and minorities in STEM  
Over 50 articles in the popular press (Parade magazine, CNN.com, Huffington Post)  
20 American Astronomical Society Presidential Columns

## RECENT STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS SUPERVISED

*Current Postdocs:* Colin Burke (NSF Fellow), Antonio Porras (Heising-Simons Fellow), Lea Marcotulli (Hubble Fellow), Mislav Balokovic (YCAA Fellow)

*Former Postdocs:* Michael Tremmel, Vivienne Baldassare, Fabio Pacucci, Allison Kirkpatrick, Nico Cappelluti, Grant Tremblay (Einstein Fellow), Francesca Civano, Stephanie LaMassa, Eilat Glikman (NSF Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow), Kevin Schawinski (Einstein Fellow), Erin Bonning, Ritaban Chatterjee, Yasunobu Uchiyama, Eleni Chatzichristou, Riccardo Scarpa, Joe Pesce, Rita Sambruna, Elena Pian, Paola Grandi, Paolo Padovani

*Current and former YCAA Postdocs:* Farnik Nikakhtar, Erin Kado-Fong, Priyanka Singh, Mislav Balokovic, Victor Robles Sanchez, Rachael Roettenbacher, Michael Tremmel, Allison Kirkpatrick, Nico Cappelluti, Andrew Hearin, Pascal Oesch, Jonathan Foster, Stella Offner, Nikku Madhusudhan, Megan Schwamb, Nitya Kallivayalil, Jason Tumlinson, Kyoungsoo Lee, Eric Gawiser, Ken Rines, Nick Morgan

*Current graduate students:* Iver Warburton, Chuan Tian

*Former graduate students:* Aritra Ghosh, Aayush Mitra, Louis Deschuttere, Isabel Medlock, Yarone Tokayer, Yasmeen Asali, Anne Burnham, Kaustav Mitra, Tonima Tasnim Ananna, Meredith C. Powell, Peiyuan Mao, Jedidah Isler, Brooke Simmons, Carie Cardamone, Jeffrey van Duyne, Ben Elder, Shanil Virani, Ezequiel Treister, Jong-Hak Woo, Zachary Harris, Matthew O'Dowd, Rita Sambruna, Elena Pian, Paola Grandi, Amanda Marlowe (Subba Rao)

*Senior theses/projects:* (2024) Andrew Coli; (2023) Olivia Aspegren, Annie Gimán, Matthew Li, Isaac Moskowitz, Jake Schaffer; (2022) Olivia Aspegren, Annie Gimán, Ryan Ofman, Tristan Weaver, Elizabeth Welch-Jani; (2021) Olivia Aspegren, Georgia Michelman, Annika Salmi, Meredith Stone, Miles Waits, Tristan Weaver, Elizabeth Welch-Jani; (2020) Georgia Michelman, Ryan Ofman, Annika Salmi, Ben Togni, Brian Dolan, Amrit Rau; (2019) Gabriel Mininberg; (2018) Vicki Beizer, Pratik Ghandi; (2017) Joyce Guo; (2015) Anna Han, Connor Hoge; (2012) Margaret Lazzarini; (2011) James Kim; (2009) Elissa Berwick, Taylor Giffen, Allison Kaptur, Severin Knudsen; (2008) Iara Cury, Bronika Kushkuley; (2007) Hannah Krug, Justin Presant, Alex Richardson; (2006) Tim Brandt, Zach Dennett; (2005) Brendan Cohen; (2004) Alison Duffy, Rob Hyde; (2003) Karen Peterson; (2002) Olivia Billett, Belina Mizrahi

*Summer students:* (2023) Izzy Farrow, Annie Gimán, Sean Lewis, Isaac Moskowitz, Jeremy Ng, Nico Ramos, Ashley Tanaka (2022) Olivia Aspegren, Carissima McGee, Isaac Moskowitz, Caleb Reske, Kiera (Marie) Spall, Elizabeth Welch-Jani; (2021) Ryan Ofman, Annika Salmi, Meredith Stone, Tristan Weaver, Elizabeth Welch-Jani; (2020) Georgia Michelman, Amrit Rau, Tristan Weaver; (2019) Sarah Bowers, Cassidy Kollmann, Ryan Ofman, Nicolas Potteiger, Matthew Wang, Tristan Weaver; (2018) Mariam Abalo-Toga, Katy Ann Carr, Justin Johnson, Emma Longhurst, Emmaneul Newsome; (2017) Kurt Hamblin, Victoria Song; (2016) Zoe Aridor, Rachel Cooper, Keilah Davis, Dominic Eggerman, Joyce Guo, Nat Kerman; (2015) Dominic Eggerman, Nat Kerman, Sydney Young; (2014) Matthew Brady, Mark Hamilton, Connor Hoge, Mari Kawakatsu, Kate Miller, Field Rogers, Sonya Vohra; (2013) Brooke Lamell, Nailen Matschke, Robert Pecoraro, Alec Solder; (2012) Arifin, Miranda Kephart, Anna Han, Michael Albergo, Hunter Francis, Lily Hoffman, Nailen Matschke; (2011), Roger Lo, Will Vranos, Lucian Wang; (2010) Jenna Freudenberg, Henry Wilkin, Matt Caraway, Nick Ferreri, Claire Stepanek, Lucian Wang; (2008) Elissa Berwick, Michele Dufault, Severin Knudsen, Laura Kreidberg; (2006) Iara Cury, Kevin Greene, Allison Kaptur, Antonella Lisanti; (2004) Ruth Toner; (2003) Tim Brandt, Santanov Chaudhuri, Philip Levin, David Moore; (2002) Meredith Hughes; (STScI) Chiharu Tanihata, Teddy Cheung, Jessica Kim, Abby Paske, Laura Wickless; (MIT) Jennifer Sokoloski, Christopher Papineau, Marilyn Oberhardt, Michael Rohan

## TEACHING

Yale Physics 040 *Expanding Ideas of Time and Space: An Introduction to Relativity, Cosmology & the Universe (course development)*

Yale Physics 200-201 *Fundamentals of Physics (Study Hall)*

Yale Physics 180-181 *Advanced Introductory Physics (interactive, peer learning, with clickers, course creation)*

Yale Science 198-199 *Perspectives on Science and Engineering (freshman seminar)*

Yale Physics 205, 206, 165, 166 *Introductory Labs*

Yale Physics 343 *Astrophysics, Gravity, and Cosmology (course creation)*

Yale Physics 471-472 *Independent Research*

Yale Physics 999 *Special Investigations (Graduate Student Projects)*

Prior to Yale: MIT 8.01 *Introductory Physics (Recitation section)*; University of Maryland Overseas College

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Distinguished Career Award, High Energy Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society, 2023  
Residency at Bellagio Center, Rockefeller Foundation, 2023  
Towson University Hill-Lopes Annual Speaker, 2021  
Lois McGlothlin Donaldson Endowed Lecture in Physics, University of Memphis, 2021  
American Astronomical Society Inaugural Fellow, 2020  
Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, 2019  
Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Invited Keynote, Annual Dinner, May 2019  
Rorschach Lecture, Rice University, October 2018  
Howard R. Lamar Faculty Award, Yale University, 2018  
Distinguished Lecture, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, November 2017  
Elizabeth Laird Lecture, University of Western Ontario, November 2017  
National Academy of Sciences, 2016  
Yunker Lecture, Oregon State University 2016  
McCarthy Lecture, Tufts University 2016  
WiSETI/Schlumberger Lecture, Cambridge University 2016  
Hintze Lecture, Oxford University 2015  
Caroline Herschel Lecture, Space Telescope Science Institute 2015  
Edward A. Bouchet Leadership Award Medal from Yale University 2015  
Antoinette de Vaucouleurs Medal, University of Texas, Austin 2014  
Russell Women in Science Lecture, Mills College 2014  
Sturm Lecture, Wesleyan University 2014  
American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow 2013  
Van Biesbroeck Prize, American Astronomical Society 2012  
Woman in Space Science Award, Adler Planetarium 2010  
Honorary Degree of Science, Tufts University 2009  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow 2008  
Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering Fellow 2007  
Association of Women in Science Fellow 2006  
American Physical Society Fellow 1999  
NASA/GSFC Productivity Group Award 1996  
Annie Jump Cannon Award in Astronomy 1990  
N. Hobbs Knight Award for Physics, Tufts University 1976, 1977  
Phi Beta Kappa 1976

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of University Women  
American Astronomical Society (HEAD Division Member)  
American Physical Society, Fellow (Division of Astrophysics Member)  
American Women in Science (Fellow)  
Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering  
International Astronomical Union  
National Academy of Sciences

## **SCIENCE POLICY COMMITTEES**

American Geophysical Union/National Center for Professional and Research Ethics Advisory Group 2019-present  
COACH for Women Scientists and Engineers Advisory Board, 2016-present  
Sloan Digital Sky Survey V, Advisory Council and Executive Committee, 2018-2023

National Academy of Sciences Astronomy Section Search Committee, 2020-2023  
National Academy of Sciences Space Technology Roundtable, 2017-2023  
US National Committee for the International Astronomical Union, 2016-2023  
Astro2020 Decadal Survey, Panel on Electromagnetic Observations from Space 2019-2021  
American Astronomical Society Appointments Committee, 2018-2020  
National Academy of Sciences Nominating Committee, 2017-2020  
NASA Far-IR Study Advisory Board, 2016-2019  
Sloan Digital Sky Survey III, IV, Advisory Council, 2011-2018  
American Astronomical Society Council President 2013-2017, Councilor 2008-2011  
NASA Science Advisory Committee, Member 2012-2014  
US Liaison Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Member-at-Large, 2012-2014  
American Physical Society, Public Policy Committee, 2011-2014  
American Association of Universities, NASA Presidential Working Group, 2007-2014  
American Association for the Advancement of Science, Astronomy Section Head, 2010-2012  
American Astronomical Society, Committee on Public Policy 2006-2011  
American Astronomical Society Council (& Appointments Committee), 2008-2011  
Space Telescope Science Institute Committee on Diversity (Chair 2007-2009), 2007-2010  
Astro2010 (Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey) Science Frontier Panel Chair ("Galaxies Across Cosmic Time"), 2009-2010  
Gemini Telescopes Board Member, 2008-2009  
National Academies of Science/National Research Council Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics, Co-Chair 2004-2007  
National Academies of Science/National Research Council Board on Physics & Astronomy 2003-2007  
National Academies of Science/National Research Council Ad Hoc Committee to Assess Progress toward the Decadal Vision in Astronomy and Astrophysics, Chair 2004-2005  
National Academies of Science/National Research Council Space Studies Board 2000-2004; Executive Committee 2001, 2003  
National Virtual Observatory Science Definition Team 2001  
NASA Space Science Advisory Committee 1997-2000  
NASA Space Science Advisory Committee Task Group on Mission Operations and Data Analysis 1998  
American Astronomical Society Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy Chair, 2000-2003; 1998-2000, 1994-1996  
American Physical Society Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) 2000-2002  
American Physical Society Astrophysics Division Executive Committee 1995-1997 & 1999-2001  
AGILE (Italian Gamma-Ray Satellite) Science Support Team 1998  
American Astronomical Society Nominating Committee 1996-1998 & 2001-2004 (Chair 1997-1998)  
Maria Mitchell Award Advisory Committee 1997-1998  
National Academies of Science/National Research Council Task Group on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics 1996  
NASA Advisory Committees

#### **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND PEER REVIEW PANELS**

(Anonymous) European Country Science Prize, 2023-2024  
Wesleyan University Visiting Committee for Astronomy (Chair), 2023-2024  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Visiting Committee for Physics, 2021-present  
(Anonymous) International Physics Prize, 2022-2023  
National Academy of Sciences Selection Committee for 2022 James Craig Watson Medal for Astronomy (Chair)  
Russell Prize Committee, American Astronomical Society 2020-2022  
Associated Universities, Inc., Board Member, 2017-2023; Member, Audit Committee; Member, Governing

Committee (Chair 2020-2022)

Institute of Cosmos Sciences of the University of Barcelona, International Advisory Council, 2018-present  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Visiting Committee for Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, 2019-present

Scientific American Board of Advisors, 2018-present

Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie Heidelberg, Science Advisory Board, 2018-present

Carnegie Institution of Washington Scientific Advisory Council, 2018-present

International Advisory Board for the Australian Research Centre for Excellence in All-Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions, 2018-present

University of Utah Physics and Astronomy Graduate Education Advisory Board (for NSF RAPID grant) 2020-2021

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zurich Physics Department external advisor, 2018-2020

National Academy of Sciences Selection Committee for the 2020 James Craig Watson Medal for Astronomy

Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory Visiting Committee, 2019

National Academy of Sciences Selection Committee for the 2019 NAS Award for Scientific Reviewing (Chair), 2018-2019

University of Maryland Astronomy Visiting Committee, 2017

Niels Bohr Institute Visiting Committee (Chair), University of Denmark, 2015

California Institute of Technology Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy Visiting Committee, 2013

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, External Evaluation Committee of ISAS (Co-Chair), 2012

Argonne National Laboratory CSWP Visiting Committee (Chair), 2012

Harvard University Physics Visiting Committee (Chair, 2015), 2011-2015

ASTRON (Netherlands Radio Astronomy) Visiting Committee, 2011

Harvard University Astronomy Visiting Committee, 2011

Chandra Time Allocation Committee (Chair), 2010

Massachusetts Institute of Technology APS/CSWP Site Visit Committee (Chair), 2009

Radcliffe Science Advisory Committee, 2007-2009

Hubble Space Telescope Proposal Review Time Allocation Committee (Chair), 2007

Spitzer Space Telescope Time Allocation Committee (Chair), 2006

University of Michigan APS/CSWP Site Visit Committee (Chair), 2005

Chandra Fellowship Review Committees (Chair), 2005

University of Wisconsin APS/CSWP Site Visit Committee, 2002

Peer Review Panels for NASA facilities (Chandra, Hubble, Spitzer, RXTE, ASCA, IUE)

## **YALE COMMITTEES**

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senator 2020-2024, Chair (2023-2024), Deputy Chair (2022-2023), Executive Committee (2022-2024), Science and Engineering Committee (Chair), Diversity Committee, Elections Committee, Advancement Committee

Director of Postdoctoral Affairs, Physics Department, 2020-present

Yale Center for Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Search Committee (Chair), 2002-2024

Yale Physics Search Committee for Astrophysics Faculty, 2022-2023

Science, Technology and Research Scholars (STARS) Program Advisory Board, 2021-2024

Advisory Committee in Search for FAS Science Dean, 2022

Faculty Liaison for Astronomy Department Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Journal Club, 2020-2023

Physics Department Climate and Diversity Committee, 2018-present

Michelle Dufault Fund for Yale Women in Science Committee, 2016-present

Jonathan Edwards College First-Year Student Advisor, 2002-present

Women Faculty Forum Council 2001-present, Steering 2002-present, Co-Chair 2007-2008

Science Council, 2015-2022 (2017-2019, Chair)

Physics Department Qualifying Exam Task Force 2020

Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) Faculty Advisor, 2019-2020

Physics Department Committee for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Review of Prof. Laura Newburgh (Chair), 2019

Physics Department Committee on Prize Lectures, 2019  
Public Voices Fellowship, 2011-2018 (2017-2018, co-lead)  
Physics Department Committee on Special Opportunities, 2017-2018  
Advisor to Yale Chapter of Association of Women in Science, 2016-2020  
Poynter Journalist Committee, 2015-2020  
Committee on Undergraduate Physics Education, 2014-2020  
Pre-College Science Outreach Steering Committee, 2011-2018  
Silliman Lectureship Committee, 2015-2017, 2011-2012  
Conflict of Interest Committee, 2015-2016  
FAS Senate Implementation Committee, 2014-2015  
Yale group to review STEM Teaching, 2011-2014  
Postdoctoral Advisory Committee, 2011-2013  
Committee to Review the Yale-Peking University Cooperative Program 2008-2009  
Committee to Recommend New Master of Jonathan Edwards College Chair, 2007-2008  
Faculty Arts & Sciences Tenure and Appointments Policy Review Committee 2005-2007  
Tenure Appointments Comm., Division of Physical Sciences and Engineering 2003-2007  
Advisory Committee of the Division of Physical Sciences and Engineering 2003-2007  
University Budget Committee 2004-2006  
Yale University Advisory Council of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute 2003-2008  
Department of Physics Astrophysics Search Committee Chair, 2003-2008, 2006-2007 Department of  
Physics Particle Experiment Search Committee 2005-2006  
Physics Laboratory Demonstration Committee 2004-2005  
Physics Appointments Review Committees  
Marie Curie Centennial Symposium on Women in Science Organizing Committee 2002-2003  
Physics Long-Range Planning Committee 2002-2003  
Physics Committee on Undergraduate Physics 2001-2003

#### **OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

President, American Astronomical Society, 2013-2017  
Editor of STATUS (CSWA Newsletter) 1998-2005, Contributing editor 2005-2022  
Team Lead, U.S. Delegation, 1st & 4<sup>th</sup> IUPAP Intl. Conf. on Women in Physics, Paris 2002, Cape Town 2011  
Advisory Committee, Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series 1999-2000  
Publications Board, Astronomical Society of the Pacific 1997-1999  
Proposal Review for NSF, NASA, International Research Councils  
Manuscript Review for Nature, ApJ, ApJ Letters, AJ, A&A, MNRAS, Pub. Astr. Soc. Japan  
Member, Scientific Organizing Committees (~40 conferences 1998-present)  
Public Talks (5-10 times per year)