Vita updated:17th December, 2020

Rachel B. Fernandes

Education

- **Doctor of Philosophy:** Planetary Sciences, Department of Planetary Sciences & Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, (Expected graduation: May 2022; Thesis Advisor: Dr. Ilaria Pascucci)
- Master of Science: Planetary Sciences, Department of Planetary Sciences & Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, 2017 - 2019 (Thesis Advisor: Dr. Ilaria Pascucci)
- Bachelor of Science: Double Major in Astrophysics and Physics, Department of Physics, University of Cincinnati, 2013 - 2017 (Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael L. Sitko)

Employment / Research Experience

- Caltech/IPAC Visiting Graduate Fellow, 2020
- Graduate Research Associate, Department of Planetary Sciences & Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, 2019 - present
- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Planetary Sciences & Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, 2017 - 2019
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Planetary Sciences & Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, 2017 - 2019
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Cincinnati, 2014 2017
- Women In Science and Engineering Summer REU, University of Cincinnati, 2015
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Physics, University of Cincinnati, OH, 2015 2017

Publications

- Mulders, G. D.,, Fernandes, R. B., 2020, ApJ, under review: The Mass Budgets and Spatial Scales of Exoplanets and Protoplanetary Disks
- Pikhartova, M,, Fernandes, R. B., et al. 2020, ApJ, under review: Variability of Disk Emission in Pre-Main Sequence and related Stars. V. Occultation Events from the innermost disk region of the Herbig Ae Star HD 163296
- Noonan, J. W.,, Fernandes, R. B., et al. 2019, AJ, 158, 313: Search for the H chondrite parent body among the Three Largest S-type Asteroids: (3) Juno, (7) Iris and (25) Phocaea
- Reddy, V.,, Fernandes, R. B., et al. 2019, Icarus, 326,133-150: Near-Earth asteroid 2012 TC4 campaign: Results from global planetary defense exercise
- Fernandes, R. B., Mulders, G. D., Pascucci, I. et al. 2019, ApJ, 874, 81: Hints of a Turnover at the Snowline in the Giant Planet Occurrence Rate

- Long, Z. C., Akiyama, E., **Fernandes, R. B.** 2018, ApJ, 858, 112L: Differences in the gas and dust distribution in the pre-transitional disk of a sun-like young star PDS 70
- Pascucci, I., Mulders, G. D., Gould, A. & Fernandes, R. B. 2018, ApJ, 856L, 28P: A Universal Break in the Planet-to-Star Mass-Ration Function of Kepler MKG stars
- Fernandes, R. B., Long, Z. C. et al. 2018, ApJ, 856, 103F: Variability of Dust Emission in Pre-main Sequence and Related Stars. IV. Investigating the Structural Changes in the Inner Disk Regions of MWC 480
- Long, Z. C., Fernandes, R. B., Sitko, M.L., Wagner, K. et al. 2017, ApJ, 838, 62: *The Shadow Knows: Using Shadows to Investigate the Structure of the Pretransitional Disk of HD 100453*
- Cheng, A. F.,, Sitko, M. L., Fernandes, R. B., et al. 2017, Icarus, 281, 404-416: Stratospheric balloon observations of comets C/2013 A1 (Siding Spring), C/2014 E2 (Jacques), and Ceres

Talk /Poster Contributions

- "Understanding the Impact of Stripped sub-Neptune cores on EtaEarth using TESS", Quantitative Habitability Science Workshop, Tucson, Arizona December 2020
- "Unearthing the Earths: Using TESS and Kepler to Reveal the Primordial Population of Short-Period Planets", Exoplanet Demographics, Pasadena, California November 2020
- "Understanding the Impact of Stripped sub-Neptune cores on EtaEarth using TESS", Lunar & Planetary Laboratory Conference, Tucson, Arizona - August 2020
- "The Frequency of Habitable Zone Earth-size Planets", Exoplanets III, Heidelberg, Germany July 2020
- "The Impact of Stellar Multiplicity on the Detection of Young Transiting Planets", Caltech/IPAC VGF Lunch Seminar, Pasadena, California July 2020
- "EPOS: The Exoplanet Population Observation Simulator", TESS Science Conference I, Cambridge, Massachusetts, #51 July/August 2019
- "Hints of a Turnover at the Snowline in the Giant Planet Distribution", 3rd Advanced School for Exoplanetary Science: Demographics of Exoplanetary Systems, Vietri sul Mare, Salerno, Italy May 2019
- "Hints of a Turnover at the Snowline in the Giant Planet Distribution", Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California April 2019
- "Variability of Dust Emission in Pre-main Sequence and Related Stars. IV. Investigating the Structural Changes in the Inner Disk Regions of MWC 480", Undergraduate Thesis Defense May 2017
- "The Structure and Dynamics of Inner Regions of the Planet-building Disk around HD 31648", 229th AAS Meeting, #345.11 January 2017
- "The Structure and Dynamics of Inner Regions of the Planet-building Disk around HD 31648", AAS Regional Meeting, Kentucky October 2016

Observational Experience

- 5 nights using PHARO (200") at Palomar Observatory (PI: D. Ciardi)
- 11 nights using SpeX at NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility (PIs: M. Sitko, V. Reddy, K. Hardegree-Ullman)
- Experience photometrically observing exoplanet transits using 14" Meade LX200 (University of Cincinnati) and RAPTORS (University of Arizona)

Programming / Software Experience

• Python, SQL, IDL, R, C++, Mathematica, LaTeX, UNIX/LINUX

Professional Affiliations / Honors

- TESS Working Group member, 2020 present
- Exoplanet Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG) Science Interest Group 2 (SIG2) member, 2019 present
- NASA's Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS) Earths in Other Solar Systems (EOS) Team Member: 2017 - present
- American Astronomical Society, Junior Member: 2016 present
- Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honors Society), University of Cincinnati Chapter Member: April 2016 present
- President, Society of Physics Students, University of Cincinnati Chapter: 2015 2017

Selected Community Outreach

- Lunar and Planetary Laboratory Department Life Committee, The University of Arizona: 2019 present
- College of Science Outreach Coordinator, The University of Arizona: 2019
- Planetary Science Education Outreach at Sahuarita Middle School, Tucson, AZ: 2019
- Astrobiology Education Outreach for visiting High School Students, Tucson, AZ: 2018
- Volunteer for University of Cincinnati Department of Physics Annual Outreach Program at the Cincinnati Observatory Center ScopeOut: 2014 2017
- Volunteer for TechOlympics, Cincinnati: 2014 2017

Scholarships / Awards

- Curson Travel Award (2019)
- Galileo Circle Scholar Fellowship (2018, 2019)
- Sarah Blank Greenholz Scholarship (2016)
- The University of Cincinnati, Department of Physics, Physics Scholarship (2015-2016)
- Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) Grant (2015)

• International Outreach Scholarship (2013 - 2017)

Undergraduate Students Mentored

- Dakotah B. Tyler, University of Cincinnati: 2016 2020
- Ammar Bayyari, University of Cincinnati: 2016 2019
- David Luria, University of Cincinnati: 2016 2017
- Monika Pikhartova, University of Cincinnati: 2015 2018