

Puragra (Raja) GuhaThakurta

Education

1980–1983 B.Sc. in Physics (Honours), Chemistry, and Math, St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta
1984–1985 M.Sc. in Physics, University of Calcutta (transferred to Princeton after year 1 of two-year program)
1985–1987 M.A. in Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University
1987–1989 Ph.D. in Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University

Academic positions

1989–1992 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Natural Sciences
1992–1994 Hubble Fellow, Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University
1994 Assistant Astronomer, Space Telescope Science Institute (University Programs Division)
1994–1998 Assistant Astronomer/Professor, UCO/Lick Observatory, University of California Santa Cruz
1998–2002 Associate Astronomer/Professor, UCO/Lick Observatory, University of California Santa Cruz
2002– Astronomer/Professor, UCO/Lick Observatory, University of California Santa Cruz
2019– Chair, Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of California Santa Cruz
2009– Founder and Faculty Director, Science Internship Program, University of California Santa Cruz
2012–2018 Adjunct Faculty, Science Department, Castilleja School, Palo Alto
2015 Visiting Faculty, Google, Mountain View
2017– Cofounder, SPHERE (STEM Programs for High-schoolers Engaging in Research Early) network
2018– Founder, PyaR (Python and Research) tutorial

Honors and awards

1985 National Talent Search Scholarship (annual all-India award)
1986 Thaw Prize in Astrophysics, Princeton University
1992–1994 Hubble Fellowship, Princeton University, Astrophysical Sciences
1997–2001 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, University of California Santa Cruz
2002–2003 National Research Council of Canada's 2001 Herzberg Memorial Prize and Fellowship
2018 Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecturer, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel
2019 7th Father Verstraeten Memorial Lecturer, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India
2020 Distinguished Scientific Visitor, Space Telescope Science Institute

Publications: 260 journal articles (and 10 pending); 356 conference papers/abstracts (including papers with team authorship); 21,703 citations (excluding papers with team authorship; as of **1/23/2020**)

Research grants: PI or co-PI on ~50 grants totalling ~\$8 million since 1994

Research advising: 15 Ph.D. students (primary supervisor), 20 other graduate students, 7 post-doctoral researchers, ~40 undergraduates, ~75 high school students (SIP), ~250 high school students (COSMOS)

Technical talks: ~60 invited talks at international astronomy conferences; 100+ colloquia/seminars

Public talks: ~250 talks in museums, schools, planetaria, etc. 1988–; 2 TEDx talks (2015, 2018)

Classroom teaching: Introductory astronomy class (~200 undergraduates/year; 1994–2019) and seminars at UCSC; algebra class at Santa Cruz county jail (2009–19); substitute high school teaching in India (1980)

Selected research projects: PI/co-I on many large astrophysics research projects incl. SPLASH, M31AGES, HALO7D (lead on all), MegaSAGE, WINGS, PHAT, DEEP2/3, AEGIS, NGVS, PISCeS, & HSTPROMO

Selected media coverage: Participated in 4 PBS TV shows, ~20 press releases, and ~25 press interviews

Selected recent appointments: Astronomy/astrophysics dept chair (2019–); Keck UC scheduler (2014–); Keck UC time alloc cmte (2012–14, 2016, 2018); Lick Obs./San Jose lighting liaison (1998–2019); chair/co-chair, UCSC astronomy grad admissions cmte (2003–14, 2016–19); chair, Hubble Fellowship selection cmte (2012); UC Obs. development coordinator (2012–14); UCSC rep to Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (2013–19); member, China Telescope Access Program time alloc cmte (2011–13); referee, Japan Subaru proposals (2010–11); reviewer, National Science Foundation grants (1999, 2011–12, 2016)

Selected science committee memberships: Thirty-Meter Telescope international science definition team (ISDT, 2013–) & convener, Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies ISDT (2019–); Maunakea Spectroscopic Explorer science team (2013–); UC co-chair for Thirty-Meter Telescope science advisory council (2005–09); California Extremely Large Telescope instrument working group (2000–01); Keck Echelle Spectrograph and Imager science team (1995–97); Keck Observatory science steering committee (2004–05)

Link to full detailed vita maintained by UCSC: <http://www.ucolick.org/~raja/RajaFullCV.pdf>