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Hilo, HI, USA

# Dr. Steve Mairs

Senior Scientist, James Clerk Maxwell Telescope

# **PROFILE**

I am the Senior Scientist at the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope. My expertise is in the field of star-formation with more than a decade of experience in reducing and analysing both interferometric and single dish data. My current research focus is in using primarily submillimetre observations to study the real-time flux variability of the youngest protostars in the Galaxy in order to better understand the physical conditions of forming solar systems. In addition, I innovate highlevel software to monitor the calibration and efficiency of submillimetre/ millimetre instrumentation and aid in general observatory operations. Passionate about science education and

Passionate about science education and public outreach, since 2010 I have taught thousands of students of all ages and I have organised and hosted several large public events to observe phenomena such as eclipses and planetary transits. ORCID: 0000-0002-6956-0730

#### **KEY SKILLS**

Telescope Operations

Radio Astronomy Research-Driven

Scientific Computing Pipeline Design

Public Outreach Natural Presenter

Personable

# **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

• Languages: Python, IDL

• **Software:** LaTex, Github, Starlink

• OS: Linux, MacOS, Windows

• Workshops: MKpy, Scicoder

#### LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- French (Conversational)

#### **EDUCATION**

# PhD Astronomy

Dec 2017

# **University of Victoria**

Victoria, Canada

Supervisor: Dr. Doug Johnstone

From Gas and Dust to Protostars: Addressing The Initial Stages of Star Formation Using Observations of Nearby Molecular Clouds. <a href="http://bit.ly/3ceKJ8T">http://bit.ly/3ceKJ8T</a>

# **B. Sc. Physics (Honors)**

Jun 2012

# **University of British Columbia**

Kelowna, Canada

Honors thesis supervisor: Dr. Erik Rosolowsky

Honors Thesis: The Evolution of Giant Molecular Clouds in M33

## **OBSERVATORY EXPERIENCE**

#### **Senior Scientist**

Sep 2019 - Present

# James Clerk Maxwell Telescope

Hilo, HI

- Manage and optimise scientific productivity at EAO/JCMT
- Direct an independent research program on protostellar variability
- Analyse and report on the performance of instrumentation
- · Commission new instrumentation
- Provide technical, scientific, and logistical support for telescope users
- Innovate high-level programming of software
- Advise research fellows, visiting scientists, students

# **Large Program Management Team**

Aug 2016 - Present

# **JCMT Transient Survey**

Hilo, HI

- Produce and manage data products for 80+ member team
- Advise postdocs and students, enhancing survey productivity
- Work with management team to expand survey and organise efforts

# **Support Astronomer**

Sep 2017 - Aug 2019

# James Clerk Maxwell Telescope

Hilo, HI

- Led an independent research program
- Led calibration efforts for SCUBA-2 camera
- Provided general support for telescope users

# **Research Assistant**

May 2011 - Aug 2011

#### **University of British Columbia**

Vancouver, Canada

 Derived atmospheric corrections for the Green Bank Telescope and Arecibo in order to aid in pulsar timing.

Supervisor: Dr. Ingrid Stairs

#### **Research Assistant**

May 2009 - Aug 2010

# **Dom. Radio Astrophysical Observatory**

Penticton, Canada

- Project 1: Developed a data reduction/calibration pipeline for VLA data using Python/CASA. Supervisor: Dr. Sean Dougherty
- Project 2: HI Self Absorption of SNRs in the Canadian Galactic Plane Survey, testing galactic dust models. *Supervisor: Dr. Roland Kothes*

Apr 2021

Hilo, HI

Feb 2018

Canada (Virtual)



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# CONFERENCES (ORAL)

- 2020. JCMT Virtual Workshop
- (Virtual): Science at the JCMT.
- 2020. AAS Annual Meeting (Honolulu, USA): An Extraordinary Submillimetre Flare in a T Tauri Binary System
- 2019. Orion Uncovered (Leiden, NL): Highlights from the JCMT Transient Survey.
- 2019. EAO Submillimetre Futures (Nanjing, China): The JCMT Transient Survey; Led group science discussions.
- 2018. JCMT Users Meeting (Seoul, Korea): Led full day of Submm data reduction and analysis workshops.
- 2017. JCMT Users Meeting (Nanjing, China): Fragmentation and YSO Distribution: Southern Orion and Beyond.
- 2016. Northwest Astronomy (Bellingham, USA): How do Protostars Assemble Mass?
- 2016. Star Formation 2016 (Exeter, UK): The JCMT Transient Survey
- 2016: SFDE 2016 (Quy Nhon, Vietnam): A First Look at Southern Orion A with SCUBA-2
- 2015. Orion (Un)Plugged. (Vienna, Austria): A First Look at Southern Orion A with SCUBA-2
- 2014. Olympian Symposium (P. Katerini, Greece): Observing the Evolution of Starless Cores in Turbulent Simulations

# **CONFERENCES (POSTER)**

- 2019. CASCA Annual Meeting
- (Montreal, Canada): Submillimetre Transient Science.
- 2017. JCMT Users Meeting (Nanjing, China): How Do Protostars Assemble Mass?
- 2016. Star Formation 2016 (Exeter, UK): How Do Protostars Assemble Mass?
- 2014. Filamentary Structure (Charlottesville, USA): Observing the Evolution of Starless Cores in Turbulent Simulations
- 2013. CASCA Annual Meeting (Vancouver, Canada): Synthetic Observations of Turbulent Simulations
- 2012. CASCA Annual Meeting (Calgary, Canada): The Evolution of Giant Molecular Clouds in M33

# FIRST-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

1. The JCMT Transient Survey: An Extraordinary Flare in the T Tauri Binary System JW 566

Mairs, S. et al. ApJ 871:72. 2019.

2. The JCMT Transient Survey: Identifying Submillimeter Continuum Variability Over Several Year Timescales Using Archival JCMT Gould Belt Survey Observations.

Mairs, S. et al. ApJ 849:107. 2017.

3. The JCMT Transient Survey: Data Reduction and Calibration Methods.

Mairs, S. et al. ApJ 843:55. 2017.

4. The JCMT Gould Belt Survey: A First Look at Southern Orion A With SCUBA-2.

Mairs, S. et al. MNRAS 461:4022. 2016.

5. The JCMT Gould Belt Survey: A Quantitative Comparison Between SCUBA-2 Data Reduction Methods.

Mairs, S. et al. MNRAS 454:2557. 2015.

6. Synthetic Observations of the Evolution of Starless Cores in a Molecular Cloud Simulation: Comparisons with JCMT Data and Predictions for ALMA.

Mairs, S. et al. ApJ 783:60. 2014.

# Editor of the EAO Submillimeter Futures White Paper Series, including:

Submillimeter Transient Science in the Next Decade. Mairs, S. et al. 2019.

# **CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS**

"Science Highlights and Instrumentation at

"An Extraordinary Flare in a T Tauri Binary"

**Canadian Telescope Seminar Series** 

Click here to view an ADS library containing a full list of all 30+contributing author publications.

The full list of publications is also included, below, for convenience.

#### INVITED TALKS

# the JCMT" 2020 SMA Interferometry School "Combining Single Dish and Interferometric Data" Hilo, HI National Central University May 2019 "The Highlights and Future of Submillimetre Transient Science" Maunakea Science Seminar Mar 2019

# **Kyung-Hee University**

"A Tale of Two Surveys: Gould Belt and Seoul, Korea Transient Science"

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# SELECTED PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2013-Present. Regular School Visits and community events
- 2018-2020. Maunakea Wonders Teacher's Conference: DIY Astronomy for All Ages
- 2019. Rotary Club of South Hilo (Hilo, HI): Seeing the Unseeable: The Event Horizon Telescope.
- 2018. `Imiloa Astronomy Center.
- (Hilo, HI): Where do baby stars come from?
- 2016. Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Star Party (Victoria, Canada): How our Sun was Born and Other Night Time Stories.
- 2016. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Sunshine Coast, Canada): Star Formation in a Nutshell.

# **FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 2016-17 Charles S. Humphrey
   Award \$2,500
- 2014-17 NSERC Alexander Graham Bell CGS-D \$105.000
- 2012-13 University of Victoria Fellowship \$10,000
- 2012-13 Outstanding Graduate Entrance Award - \$5,000
- 2011-12 Deputy Vice Chancellor Scholarship \$1,000
- 2011 NSERC Undergrad Student Research Award - \$4,500
- 2010-11 Deputy Vice Chancellor Scholarship \$1,500
- 2010 NSERC Undergrad Student Research Award - \$4.500
- 2009-10 Trek Excellence Scholarship - \$1,500
- 2008 President's Entrance Scholarship - \$2,000

# **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

# **Sessional Instructor**

Jan 2019 - Jun 2019

University of Hawai`i at Hilo

Hilo, HI

ASTR 351L

- Practical Astronomical Observations Laboratory
- Submillimetre astronomy and instrumentation
- · Magnetic fields, spectral cube analysis, proposal writing

## **Public Education/Outreach Coordinator**

May 2015 - Aug 2017

**University of Victoria** 

Victoria, Canada

- Organised public events for astronomy department
- Managed weekly 32" observatory open houses
- Visited schools and led field trips to the campus observatory

#### **Sessional Instructor**

Jan 2016 - Jun 2016 Victoria, Canada

**University of Victoria** 

**ASTR 102** 

- Prepared and delivered lectures for Astronomy 102
- Basics of observational astronomy, brief history of astrophysics
- · Cosmology, stellar evolution, and life in the universe

# **Laboratory Instructor**

Sep 2012 - Dec 2016

**University of Victoria** 

Victoria, Canada

- Instructed a variety of undergraduate laboratory sections
- · Kinematics, Electricity & Magnetism, Spectral Lines
- Solar observations, stellar evolution, black holes, astrobiology

# **Astronomy Laboratory Developer**

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Jan 2015 - Dec 2015

**University of Victoria** 

Victoria, Canada

- Designed/tested new laboratory experiments for undergraduates
- Worked within a budget to produce engaging activities
- Wrote procedures to be included in existing lab manuals

# **Laboratory Instructor**

Jan 2010 - Jun 2012

**University of British Columbia** 

Kelowna, Canada

- Instructed physics and astronomy undergraduate laboratory sections for first and second year students
- Modified an 8" Celestron Telescope for optical observations

#### REFERENCES