

Claude Cournoyer-Cloutier

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Employment

Postdoctoral Fellow MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS (MPA)	Garching, Germany Since 10/2025
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Education

PhD in Astrophysics McMASTER UNIVERSITY	Hamilton, Canada 2021 - 2025
MSc in Astrophysics McMASTER UNIVERSITY	Hamilton, Canada 2019 - 2021
BSc in Physics, with Minor in Mathematics McGILL UNIVERSITY	Montreal, Canada 2016 - 2019

Awards

2026	IAU PhD Prize, Divison H (Interstellar Matter and Local Universe) Awarded for the most impactful PhD thesis defended in 2025, in a given field	
2025	MPA Postdoctoral Fellowship Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, awarded for 2025 and postponed to 2027	
2025-2027	NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	\$140,000 CAD
2025	Governor General's Academic Gold Medal McMaster University, awarded for highest academic standing at graduate level	
2025	Co-PI, ACCESS allocation PHY240335 U.S. National Science Foundation	2.6M CPU hours
2023	Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement, supporting research visit to MPA Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	\$6,000 CAD
2022-2025	Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	\$110,000 CAD
2021-2022	Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship in Science and Technology Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario	\$15,000 CAD

Presentations

CONFERENCE TALKS

Past five calendar years only. Invitation-only conferences are denoted by [†] and invited talks are denoted by ^{††}.

^{††} <i>Star Clusters as Guides to Galaxies</i> , IAU Symposium 411, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina	11/2026
<i>Challenges and Innovations in Computational Astrophysics VII</i> , IAU Commission B1 (virtual)	11/2026
<i>Journées Scientifiques Galaxies de l'ATCG 2026</i> , Paris, France	10/2026
<i>MIAPbP workshop: Bridging Gaps in High-Mass Star Research</i> , Garching bei München, Germany	09/2026
[†] <i>Computational Galaxy Formation 2026</i> , Ringberg Castle, Tegernsee, Germany	07/2026
[†] <i>Exploring the Paths from High-z to Local Globular Clusters and Cluster Systems</i> , Sexten, Italy	06/2026
[†] <i>Multiplicity Across Scales</i> , Heidelberg, Germany	04/2026
<i>Ringberg MPA/MPE Postdoc Meeting</i> , Ringberg Castle, Tegernsee, Germany	02/2026
<i>Bridging scales: star clusters and their host galaxies from the Local to the high-z Universe</i> , Matera, Italy	09/2025
[†] <i>Numerical Recipes in Star Formation</i> , Lorentz Center, Leiden, the Netherlands	07/2025

<i>Globular Clusters: From the Milky Way to High-Redshift Galaxies</i> , Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada	06/2025
<i>Annual CASCA Meeting</i> , Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada (runner-up, best talk)	06/2025
<i>Star formation across the scales: star clusters to galactic disks</i> , McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada	08/2024
† <i>2024 Alpbach workshop on clouds, star clusters & black holes</i> , Alpbach, Austria	06/2024
<i>Annual CASCA Meeting</i> , University of Toronto & York University, Toronto, Canada (runner-up, best talk)	06/2024
<i>Globular Clusters and Their Tidal Tails: From the Milky Way to the Local Group</i> , University of Toronto, Canada	05/2024
<i>"Two in a million" - The interplay between binaries and star clusters</i> , ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany	09/2023
<i>MODEST-23: Star clusters in the post-pandemic era</i> , Northwestern University, Evanston, USA	08/2023
<i>Great Lakes Clusters and Streams</i> , University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA	08/2023
<i>A multi-wavelength view on globular clusters near and far: from JWST to the ELT</i> , Sexten, Italy	07/2023
<i>Clusters @ McMaster Conference</i> , McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada	08/2022
<i>TORCH workshop</i> , Center for Computational Astrophysics, New York, USA	08/2022
<i>MODEST 21a Workshop</i> , Leiden University (virtual), Leiden, the Netherlands	07/2021
<i>Annual CASCA Meeting</i> , University of Waterloo (virtual), Waterloo, Canada	06/2021

INVITED SEMINARS & COLLOQUIA

Institute seminar, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Garching, Germany (colloquium)	09/2026
IAU Early-Career Summer Talk Series, International Astronomical Union (virtual, colloquium)	09/2026
Munich University Observatory, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany	05/2026
Austrian Institute of Technology, Klosterneuburg, Austria	05/2026
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (colloquium)	05/2026
Observatoire astronomique de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France	06/2024
Toronto Astrophysics Talks, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada	03/2024
University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany	09/2023
Galaxy Group Meeting, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Garching, Germany	06/2023
Anton Pannekoek Institute, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands	06/2023
Institute of Astronomy, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium	06/2023
Seminar on Stellar Astrophysics, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Garching, Germany	05/2023
ESO Informal Discussion, ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany	05/2023
Pizza Lunch Informal Talk, Columbia University (virtual), New York, USA	02/2021

Professional experience

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Co-supervision of MSc students Isabella Armstrong and Zayna Khadour with Dr. Alison Sills	2024 - 2026
Co-supervision of MITACS student Edwin Laverde-Villarreal with Dr. Alison Sills	2024

TEACHING

2020-2025	Head Teaching Assistant: Introductory Physics for Engineering Supervision of 55-60 TAs, guest lectures, development of marking schemes	1500 hours
2020-2022	Integrated Science Literature Review Course Expert consultant, supervision of 5-6 students per semester	50 hours
2019	Teaching Assistant: Introductory Physics for Engineering Leading labs and tutorials, grading and invigilating exams; 35 students	65 hours
2019	Teaching Assistant: General Interest Astronomy Leading tutorials, grading presentations; 35 students	65 hours

Service

SCIENTIFIC SERVICE

Referee for Astronomy & Astrophysics	2024-now
Member of hiring committee for an ERC-funded postdoctoral position, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics	2026
Student Member, Hiring Committee for Observational Exoplanet Astronomy, McMaster University	2021-2022
Student Member, Selection Committee for the Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies	2020
Organizer of the Stellar Astrophysics seminar series, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics	2025-now
LOC/SOC member, “Star formation across the scales: star clusters to galactic disks”, McMaster University	2024
LOC/SOC member, Clusters @ McMaster Conference, McMaster University	2022
Organizer of the summer colloquium series, Department of Physics & Astronomy, McMaster University	2022

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

External Postdoc Representative, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics	2026-now
Student Representative on Physics & Astronomy Faculty Meetings, McMaster University	2020-2024
Student Member, Departmental Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, McMaster University	2021-2022
Mentor to seven first-year MSc students, McMaster University	2020-2025
Active member & event organizer, Promoting Inclusion in Physics & Astronomy, McMaster University	2019-2025
Communication Officer, STEM Support Committee, McGill University	2018-2019

OUTREACH

2019-2025	Presenter for McMaster University’s on-campus planetarium Presentations for school groups (5-18 years old) and the general public, including the shows <i>The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations’ Night Sky</i> and <i>Onekwá:tara – the Seven Dancers of the Pleiades</i> , developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners. Design and presentation of a themed show focused on nebulae.	70+ shows
2022-2025	Presenter for McMaster University’s portable planetarium Including eclipse-related shows and <i>The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations’ Night Sky</i> .	50+ shows
2024	Invited speaker, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Toronto Centre Online public talk for amateur astronomers on binary stars and star clusters.	
2024	Eclipse ambassador for April 2024 total solar eclipse, McMaster University Outreach to the general public, seven media interviews for CBC and local media.	
2020	Invited presenter for Ask a Scientist Online talk answering children’s questions on stars and planets.	
2016-2018	Guide, Parks Canada National Historic Sites in Quebec City Guided tours and educational activities for school groups and the general public, in English and French. Development of guided tour scripts and training of new guides.	150+ tours

Professional development

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Teaching and Learning Certificate of Completion, MacPherson Institute, McMaster University	
Training in teaching methods and course development, three semester-long courses	2022
Professor Hippo-on-Campus Certificate of Completion, McMaster University	
Student mental health education program for educators	2022
Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health Commission of Canada	
Training course in how to assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis	2019