

Claude Cournoyer-Cloutier

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Employment

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

Education

PhD in Astrophysics Hamilton, Canada
MCMASTER UNIVERSITY 2021 - 2025

MSc in Astrophysics Hamilton, Canada
MCMASTER UNIVERSITY 2019 - 2021

BSc in Physics, with Minor in Mathematics Montreal, Canada
MCGILL UNIVERSITY 2016 - 2019

Awards

2025 **MPA Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, awarded for 2025 and postponed to 2027

2025-2027 **NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship** \$140,000 CAD
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

2025 **Governor General's Academic Gold Medal**
McMaster University, awarded for highest academic standing at graduate level

2025 **Co-PI, ACCESS allocation PHY240335** 2.6M CPU hours
U.S. National Science Foundation

2023 **Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement, supporting research visit to MPA** \$6,000 CAD
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

2022-2025 **Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral** \$110,000 CAD
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

2021-2022 **Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship in Science and Technology** \$15,000 CAD
Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario

Presentations

CONFERENCE TALKS

Past five years only. Conferences with invited contributions only are denoted by †.

† *Computational Galaxy Formation 2026*, Ringberg Castle, Tegernsee, Germany 07/2026

† *Exploring the Paths from High-z to Local Globular Clusters and Cluster Systems*, Sexten, Italy 06/2026

† *Multiplicity Across Scales*, Heidelberg, Germany 04/2026

Ringberg MPA/MPE Postdoc Meeting, Ringberg Castle, Tegernsee, Germany 02/2026

Bridging scales: star clusters and their host galaxies from the Local to the high-z Universe, Matera, Italy 09/2025

† *Numerical Recipes in Star Formation*, Lorentz Center, Leiden, the Netherlands 07/2025

Globular Clusters: From the Milky Way to High-Redshift Galaxies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada 06/2025

Annual CASCA Meeting, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada (**runner-up, best talk**) 06/2025

Star formation across the scales: star clusters to galactic disks, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada 08/2024

† *2024 Alpbach workshop on clouds, star clusters & black holes*, Alpbach, Austria 06/2024

Annual CASCA Meeting, University of Toronto & York University, Toronto, Canada (**runner-up, best talk**) 06/2024

Globular Clusters and Their Tidal Tails: From the Milky Way to the Local Group, 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

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 - 2025
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, DIVERSION & INCLUSION

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 W. J. McCallion Planetarium** 70+ shows
Presentations for school groups (5-18 years old) and the general public, including the shows *The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations' Night Sky* and *Onekwá:tara – the Seven Dancers of the Pleiades*, developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners. Design and presentation of a themed show focused on nebulae.

2022-2025 **Presenter for McMaster University's portable planetarium** 50+ shows
Presentations for school groups and the general public, including eclipse-related shows and presentations of *The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations' Night Sky*.

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** 150+ visits
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.

2016 **Volunteer for CEGEP Garneau's Physical Sciences Demonstration Centre**
Outreach to the general public and apparatus design for lab demonstrations.

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