

Kumail Zaidi

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Research Positions

Tufts University

PHD CANDIDATE

- Research focus: Formation and Evolution of Galaxies
- Advisor: Prof. Danilo Marchesini

Medford MA, USA

Aug. 2018 - June 2024

Sabancı Üniversitesi

RESEARCH INTERN

- Research focus: Galactic black hole transients.
- Advisor: Prof. Emrah Kalemcı

Istanbul, Turkey

Feb. 2018 - June 2018

Universitäts-Sternwarte München (USM) - LMU

RESEARCH INTERN

- Research focus: Stellar Evolution of massive stars
- Advisor: Prof. Joachim Puls

Munich, Germany

Jul. 2017 - Aug. 2017

Technische Universität Chemnitz

RESEARCH INTERN + CULTURAL EXCHANGE

- Research focus: Graphene-based humidity sensors
- Organized by: IAESTE
- Advisor: Ammar Al-Hamry

Chemnitz, Germany

Jun. 2016 - Aug. 2016

UNAM - Bilkent University

RESEARCH INTERN

- Research focus: Strongly correlated material - vanadium dioxide
- Advisor: Asst. Prof. T. Serkan Kasirga

Ankara, Turkey

Jun. 2015 - Aug. 2015

Education

Tufts University

PHD. CANDIDATE IN ASTROPHYSICS

- Research focus: Formation and Evolution of Galaxies
- Advisor: Prof. Danilo Marchesini

Medford MA, USA

Aug. 2018 - June 2024

Tufts University

MSc. IN ASTROPHYSICS

Medford MA, USA

Aug. 2018 - Jun. 2020

Bilkent University

B.Sc. IN PHYSICS

Ankara, Turkey

Feb. 2014 - Jan. 2018

Ludwig-Maximilians-University

SEMESTER ABROAD (ERASMUS EXCHANGE PROGRAM)

- Focused on Graduate-Level courses in Philosophy

Munich, Germany

Oct. 2015 - Feb. 2016

Leadership

International Student Chair

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

- Organized and planned events for international graduate students

Tufts University
Sep. 2021 - June 2022

Astronomy Seminar Host

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

- Invited speakers, and hosted talks and post-talk coffee sessions

Tufts University
Feb 2021 - May 2022

Leader of the Physics & Science Education Seminar for TAs

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

- Led the Physics and Science Education Research-based seminar for Freshman Physics Lab TAs to develop them as more effective teachers

Tufts University
Jan 2020 - May 2020

Teaching/Education Research

The Listening Project

EDUCATION RESEARCH

- The goal of this education research project was to become better listeners to student thinking in class in the hope of becoming more helpful teachers.
- The TAs and faculty, analyzed student artifacts (HWs, class discussion videos, etc.) together, in detail.
- Experienced members of the project served as coaches. I was a coach in my second year of joining the program.

Tufts University
Sep. 2019 - May 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

- PHY 103: Graduate Teaching Seminar: Teaching for TAs
Led the Physics and Science Education Research seminar for Freshman Physics TAs.
Led the cohort of Lab TAs, in general.
- PHY 1/11/2/12: Freshman Physics labs and recitations
- AST 10: Introductory Astronomy course for non-majors

Tufts University
Sep. 2018 - Jan 2021

Awards and Grants

JOHN F. BURLINGAME GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

- Departmental Graduate Fellowship given to outstanding PhD students to cover 1 yr. of stipend.

Sep 2023 - Aug 2024

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD)

- Grant amount: 1700 euros (for the duration of internship at TU Chemnitz, Germany)

Jun. 2016 - Aug. 2016

ERASMUS+

- Grant amount: 2000 euros (for the duration of semester abroad at LMU Munich, Germany)

Oct. 2015 - Feb. 2016

BILKENT UNIVERSITY HONORS AND HIGH HONORS

- High Honor in the last semester for attaining a GPA of 3.50
- Honor awarded in five other semesters for attaining a GPA greater than 3.00

Aug. 2013 - Jan. 2018

BILKENT UNIVERSITY MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

- Full tuition waiver equalling 14,000 U.S dollars/year

Aug. 2013 - Jan. 2018

BILKENT UNIVERSITY DORMITORY SCHOLARSHIP

- Free residence in dormitories for 4 years

Aug. 2013 - Aug. 2017

Skills

Programming languages Python, JAVA, MATLAB, LaTeX, (ghost), (github)
Astrophysics software SExtractor, eazy-py, BAGPIPES, halomod, halotools, CORRFUNC, GALFIT, Firedec,
Spoken languages English, Urdu, German, Turkish

Selected Presentations

First Stars VII meeting (upcoming, abstract accepted)

Flatiron Institute, NYC

TALK: THE STELLAR TO HALO MASS RELATIONSHIP IN THE UDS AND COSMOS FIELDS OUT TO $z=5$

May 2024

Pizza Lunch Talk

Columbia University, NYC

TALK: CONSTRAINING THE GALAXY-HALO CONNECTION

Jan 2024

CCA-NY area galaxy formation seminar

Flatiron Institute, NYC

TALK: THE STELLAR TO HALO MASS RELATIONSHIP IN THE UDS AND COSMOS FIELDS OUT TO $z=5$

Jan 2024

AAS 243rd meeting

New Orleans, Louisiana

TALK: THE STELLAR TO HALO MASS RELATIONSHIP IN THE UDS AND COSMOS FIELDS OUT TO $z=5$

Jan 2024

First Light Conference

MIT

POSTER: STELLAR-HALO MASS RELATIONSHIP IN UDS AND COSMOS OUT TO $z=5$

June 2023

PhD qualifier

Tufts University

TALK: THE GALAXY-HALO CONNECTION

May 2021

Journal Club

Tufts University

TALK: FIREDEC - AN IMAGE DECONVOLUTION ALGORITHM

Oct 2019

Journal Club

Tufts University

TALK: ULTRA-DIFFUSE GALAXIES

March 2019

Journal Club

Tufts University

TALK: GRAVITATIONAL WAVE ASTRONOMY – A PERSPECTIVE

Nov 2018

Publications (ORCID: 0000-0002-1163-7790)

Zaidi, K., D. Wake, D. Marchesini, et al.: *The FENIKS Survey: Stellar-Halo Mass relation of central and satellite galaxies in COSMOS and UDS out to $z \sim 5$* . In: (2024b; in prep.).

Zaidi, K., D. Marchesini, C. Papovich, J. Antwi-Danso, M. Nonino, M. Annunziatella, G. Brammer, K. Glazebrook, K. Iyer, I. Labbé, Z. C. Marsan, A. Muzzin, and D. A. Wake: *The FENIKS Survey: Multi-wavelength Photometric Catalog in the UDS Field, and Catalogs of Photometric Redshifts and Stellar Population Properties*. 2024a; ApJ submitted. arXiv: 2401.03107 [astro-ph.GA].

Forrest, B., ..., K. Zaidi, et al.: *MAGAZ3NE: High Stellar Velocity Dispersions for Ultramassive Quiescent Galaxies at $z \gtrsim 3$* . In: 938.2, 109 (Oct. 2022), p. 109. DOI: 10.3847/1538-4357/ac8747. arXiv: 2208.04329 [astro-ph.GA].

Antwi-Danso, J., ..., K. Zaidi, and Feniks Collaboration: “First Results from the Gemini F2 Extragalactic Near-IR K-Split (FENIKS) Survey”. In: *American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts*. Vol. 54. American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts. June 2022, p. 241.20.