

# JAMES F. STEINER (JACK)

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**CONTACT INFORMATION** Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Rm. B-402  
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**RESEARCH POSITIONS** Astrophysicist, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, CfA 2019 – present  
Research Scientist, MIT 2018 – 2019  
Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT 2015 – 2018  
Guest Faculty, Université Paris Diderot Spring 2017  
Hubble Postdoctoral Fellow, SAO 2012 – 2015  
Postdoctoral Associate, University of Cambridge 2012

**EDUCATION** Ph.D. *Astronomy*, Harvard University 2012  
Advisor: Jeffrey McClintock  
Thesis Title: Spin Measurements of Accreting Black Holes:  
A Foundation for X-ray Continuum Fitting  
B.S. *Astrophysics* & B.S. *Applied Mathematics*, Ohio University 2006

**PUBLICATION RECORD** NASA ADS bibliometrics *h*-index: 56 Total citations: > 10,000  
(as of July 2026) 168 Refereed articles (15 as 1<sup>st</sup> author)  
ADS library: <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/public-libraries/jWZGaceySNed1ocIVzwm1Q>

**SELECTED HONORS** Rossi Prize (shared among NICER team) 2022  
Bok Prize 2020  
Einstein Fellowship 2015 – 2018  
Hubble Fellowship 2012 – 2015  
Fireman Prize Fellowship 2012  
Harvard Merit Fellowship 2010  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching 2008, 2010

## Mission and Organizational Participation

Member of *Chandra* X-ray Center, ACIS Operations team (2019 – present).  
Science team member/affiliate for high-energy missions: *NICER*, *IXPE*, *Cal X-1*, *STROBE-X*, *LEM*, *PRAXyS*, & *HSEE/4piXIO/HREXI*.  
Black Hole Research Lead, AstroAI (2023–present).  
Co-lead of *STROBE-X* Strong-Gravity in X-ray Binaries working group (2022–2024).  
Lead of *LEM* Time Domain working group (2022–2024).

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES** **Conference Organization**  
SOC, Chandra 25 Year Symposium (2024).  
SOC, eROSITA First Results Symposium (2024).  
Organizer: Special session BH Spectral-Timing On All Scales with *NICER* HEAD 20th (2023).  
Co-Chair, EAS Symposium: Birth, Life, Death of Black Holes (2021).  
SOC, Chandra Frontiers in Time-Domain Science (2020).  
Organizer: Special session dedicated to Jeff McClintock at Accretion in Stellar Systems (2018).

## Service

Peer journal reviewer for ApJ, MNRAS, A&A, PASJ, JCAP, and Nature.  
Peer reviewer for NASA (multiple missions).  
AURA Member Representative for SAO (2023–2026).  
NuSTAR Users' Committee Representative (2018–2024).

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO  
EDUCATION**

**Classroom Lectures**

|                                                                 |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Pioneers of Tomorrow Astronomy Lectures (Princeton; 3 Lectures) | July 2024        |
| Hamilton College Astronomy Guest Lecturer                       | 2020-2026        |
| Harvard Astronomy (Astro-S35) Guest Lecturer                    | 2022             |
| Wheaton College Guest Lecture                                   | 2016, 2018, 2026 |
| Fudan Winter School on Black Holes (5 Lectures)                 | Feb. 2014        |

**Thesis Defense Committee**

|                                         |      |
|-----------------------------------------|------|
| A. West (PhD, WUSTL)                    | 2023 |
| K. Arur (PhD, Texas Tech)               | 2020 |
| Y. Ajay (Masters, IISER Tirupati & MIT) | 2022 |

**SUPERVISION  
&  
MENTORSHIP**

Postdoctoral Researchers

|           |                                      |                |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Y. Zhang  | Rubicon, SAO Postdoctoral Researcher | 2023 – present |
| O. Koenig | Postdoctoral Researcher              | 2024 – 2025    |
| R. Emami  | Postdoctoral Researcher              | 2023 – 2024    |

Graduate Students

|                  |                                        |                |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| S. Ravi          | MIT Graduate Student                   | 2024 – present |
| F. Zaidouni      | AstroAI Summer Student (MIT)           | 2024 – present |
| F. Redmen        | Southampton Masters Student            | 2024 – present |
| J. Sherwood      | Southampton Masters Student            | 2025 – 2026    |
| S. Ubach-Ramirez | CXC Predoctoral Scholar                | 2020 – 2025    |
| J. Wong          | CXC Predoctoral Scholar                | 2024 – 2025    |
| E. Tregidga      | Southampton Masters Student            | 2022 – 2023    |
| B. Ricketts      | Southampton Masters Student            | 2021 – 2022    |
| Y. Song          | Visiting Student (NAOC)                | 2024           |
| K. Roy           | COSPAR Capacity Building Fellow (RRI)  | 2024           |
| Y. Feng          | International Cooperation Fellow (CAS) | 2021 – 2022    |

Undergraduate Students

|           |                                     |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| C. Miller | University of Rhode Island          | 2024 – present |
| T. Kiker  | Columbia                            | 2024 – 2025    |
| N. Fan    | Visiting Student (Fudan University) | 2024           |

High-School Students

|          |                                 |                |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| R. Gupta | High Technology High School, NJ | 2024 – present |
| T. Kiker | Regeneron STS Scholar (Top 10)  | 2020 – 2023    |

**PROPOSAL  
RECORD**

**Successful NASA Guest Observer Proposals as PI / Science PI**

26 accepted proposals including with NICER, NuSTAR, IXPE, Swift, Chandra, and Suzaku.

**Successful NASA Guest Observer Proposals as Co-I or Collaborator**

28 accepted proposals.

**Successful Proposals as Co-I or Collaborator to non-US Missions**

7 accepted proposals, with INTEGRAL and AstroSAT.

**Magellan Observing Proposals at Las Campanas Observatory as PI or Advisor**

6 accepted proposals.

**Mission Proposals as Co-I or Collaborator**

PRAXyS, STROBE-X, LEM