

Nicholas Ballering

University of Virginia, Department of Astronomy
530 McCormick Road, Charlottesville, VA, 22904
Phone: (608) 772-1148 | Email: nb2ke@virginia.edu
www.nickballering.com

Education

- 2016 Ph.D. Astronomy, University of Arizona
Advisor: George Rieke
Dissertation: *Measuring the Structure and Composition of Circumstellar Debris Disks*
- 2008 B.S. Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics, Applied Math Engineering & Physics (AMEP),
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Research Appointments

- 2019–Present Origins Fellow, Virginia Initiative on Cosmic Origins, Department of Astronomy, University of Virginia
- 2016–2019 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona
- 2010–2016 Graduate Research Assistant, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona
- 2009 Research Intern, Department of Astronomy, University of Wisconsin
- 2007–2008 Research Assistant, IceCube Neutrino Detector, University of Wisconsin

Teaching Experience

- 2019–2023 Substitute Teaching (led five 50-minute lectures), Astronomy 1210: Introduction to the Sky and Solar System, University of Virginia
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Astronomy 202: Life in the Universe, University of Arizona
- 2013 Teaching Assistant, Astronomy 202: Life in the Universe, University of Arizona
- 2009 Tutor, Sylvan Learning Center, Madison, WI
- 2009 Tutor, AVID/TOPs Program, East High School, Madison, WI
- 2006–2008 Physics Tutor, Academic Advancement Program, University of Wisconsin
- 2006 Physics Tutor (volunteer), Greater University Tutoring Service, University of Wisconsin

Mentoring/Advising

- 2022–Present Shane Sawyer, University of Virginia Astronomy Major
Topic: fitting infrared ice spectra (co-advised with Dr. Ilse Cleeves)
- 2021–Present James Good, University of Virginia Astronomy Major
Topic: modeling a minimum mass extrasolar nebula
- 2020–2021 Colette Levens, Mary Baldwin University Applied Mathematics Major
Topic: modeling the G29-38 white dwarf dust disk
Next position: PhD student in Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Planetary Physics at the University of Oxford
- 2020 Ashini Modi, Junior at Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport, LA
Topic: analyzing disk chemical evolution models (co-advised with Dr. Ilse Cleeves)
- 2017–2019 Tyler Baines, University of Arizona Astronomy Major
Topic: modeling protoplanetary disk SEDs
Next position: Science Researcher at NASA GSFC

Honors and Awards

- ❖ ALMA Ambassador, NRAO, 2018
- ❖ Phi Beta Kappa Society, 2008
- ❖ Leadership Prize, AMEP Program, University of Wisconsin, 2008
- ❖ Albert Radtke Scholarship, Physics Department, University of Wisconsin, 2007
- ❖ Bernal-Johnson Scholarship, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin, 2006

Professional Service

2022–Present	Science Team, Far-IR Spectroscopy Space Telescope (FIRSST) Probe Concept
2019–2022	Co-organizer for University of Virginia Astronomy Astro-ph Journal Club
2018– Present	Referee, AAS Journals, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Astronomy & Astrophysics
2019	ALMA Ambassador Selection Committee, NRAO
2019	Co-author of four Astro2020 Science White Papers
2018	Workshop Organizer, University of Arizona ALMA Community Day
2017	External Reviewer, NASA ROSES Program
2013–2014	Author, Astrobites (www.astrobites.org)
2014	LOC, Search for Life Beyond the Solar System: Exoplanets, Biosignatures & Instruments, Tucson AZ
2014	Treasurer, Steward Observatory Graduate Student Council
2012–2013	Vice-President, Steward Observatory Graduate Student Council
2013	Graduate Student Rep, Astronomy Department Faculty Hiring Committee, University of Arizona
2012	Organizer, Steward Observatory Summer Computing Seminar

Selected Observing Proposals (as PI)

2022	Large Binocular Telescope, 5 hours, <i>ALES Observations of a Directly Imaged Methane Dwarf Discovered by Gaia</i>
2022	Large Binocular Telescope, 5 hours, <i>Characterizing Water Ice in the AB Aur Planet-Forming Disk</i>
2019–2020	SOFIA Cycles 8, 9, 6.0 hours (survey program), <i>Lurking Giants: Verifying and Characterizing Nearby Bright Debris Disks</i>
2018–2020	SOFIA Cycles 7, 8, 9, 13.9 hours, <i>Probing Protoplanetary Disk Dispersal with the 63 micron Oxygen Line</i>
2018	ALMA Cycle 6, 10.8 hours (12m), <i>Protoplanetary Disk Masses and Grain Properties in the Orion Nebula Cluster</i>
2018	Large Binocular Telescope, 0.5 nights, <i>Mapping the Distribution of PAHs in Transition Disks with the LBT/ALES Integral Field Spectrograph</i>

Selected Observing Proposals (as Co-I)

2021	VLA 2022A, 5.5 hours, PI: Ryan Boyden, <i>Constraining free-free emission and photoevaporation rates in NGC 2024 disks</i>
2021	ALMA Cycle 8, 14.9 hours (12m), PI: Feng Long, <i>Tracing planet-forming pebbles across the water snow line with the synergy of ALMA and JWST</i>
2021	HST Cycle 29, 32 orbits, PI: Schuyler Wolff, <i>A deep and complete characterization of the Vega debris disk in scattered light</i>
2021	JWST Cycle 1, 16.2 hours, PI: Ilse-dore Cleeves, <i>Illuminating Ice: A 3D View of Water Ice During Planet Formation</i>
2021	JWST Cycle 1, 19.1 hours, PI: Andrea Banzatti, <i>The infrared water spectrum as a tracer of pebble delivery</i>
2020	SOFIA Cycle 9, 6.2 hours, PI: Ilse-dore Cleeves, <i>Solving the Mystery of Missing Cold Water in Protoplanetary Disks</i>
2019	ALMA Cycle 7, 20.9 hours (12m) + 41.3 hours (ACA), PI: Patrick Sheehan, <i>A Complete Survey of Protostellar Disk Gas and Dust Structure in Taurus</i>
2019	HST Cycle 27, 8 orbits, PI: Andras Gaspar, <i>Imaging planetary perturbations in the epsilon Eridani debris disk</i>
2019	HST Cycle 27, 8 orbits, PI: Andras Gaspar, <i>Resolving the Asteroid-belt of the Fomalhaut planetary system</i>

Funding

- ❖ NSF AAG, co-PI: Ballering (PI: Ilse-dore Cleeves), 9/1/2022-8/31/2025, \$406,504 total, *Uncovering the Hidden Ice Reservoir During Planet Formation*
- ❖ JWST, PI: Ilse-dore Cleeves, 9/1/2022-8/31/2025, \$95,047 total, 1-month salary for co-I Ballering in year 1, *Illuminating Ice: A 3D View of Water Ice During Planet Formation*
- ❖ NASA XRP, PI: Kate Su, 1/1/2022-12/31/2023, \$261,786 total, \$42,703 for Co-I Ballering, *Characterizing Rejuvenated Exoplanetary Systems - A Comprehensive View of Dusty White Dwarfs Using Archival Spitzer Data*
- ❖ SOFIA, PI: Ballering, 7/1/2021-6/30/2023, \$139,400, *Probing Protoplanetary Disk Dispersal with the 63 micron Oxygen Line*

❖ SOFIA, PI: Ballering, 6/29/2020-6/28/2023, \$28,700, *Lurking Giants: Verifying and Characterizing Nearby Bright Debris Disks*

Public Outreach

03/2023 McCormick Observatory Public Night, public lecture
01/2020 Charlottesville Day School 3rd Grade Class, presentation and hands-on activity
03/2018 Huachuca Astronomy Club, public lecture
02/2018 Splendido Community Center, public lecture
01/2012 University of Wisconsin Space Place, public lecture
2006–2008 University of Wisconsin Space Place, star party volunteer

Presentations

04/2023 RIKEN Star and Planet Formation Laboratory, Tokyo, Japan, seminar talk
04/2023 Protostars and Planets VII, Kyoto, Japan, poster
04/2023 STScI Exoplanets, Star & Planet Formation Seminar, invited talk
12/2022 Virginia Initiative on Cosmic Origins Workshop, contributed talk
07/2022 Science with the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes VI, Stockholm, Sweden, contributed talk
03/2022 University of Washington in St. Louis Physics Colloquium, invited talk (virtual)
12/2021 UVa and NRAO Joint Colloquium, invited talk (virtual)
12/2021 SOFIA Colloquium, invited talk (virtual)
10/2021 Virginia Tech Colloquium, invited talk (virtual)
10/2021 Star Formation: From Clouds to Discs, A Tribute to the Career of Lee Hartmann, Dublin, poster (virtual)
09/2021 European Conference on Laboratory Astrophysics, Anacapri, Italy, contributed talk (virtual)
08/2021 NASA JPL, invited talk (virtual)
06/2021 Astrochemistry in the JWST Era, University of Leeds, UK, contributed talk (virtual)
06/2021 AAS #238, contributed talk (virtual)
05/2021 NRAO Postdoctoral Symposium, contributed talk (virtual)
04/2021 Origins Seminar, Steward Observatory, invited talk (virtual)
01/2021 AAS #237, contributed talk (virtual)
12/2020 Five Years After HL Tau, contributed talk (prerecorded)
11/2020 Threats from the Surroundings, contributed talk (virtual)
12/2019 Virginia Initiative on Cosmic Origins Workshop, contributed talk
10/2018 NASA JPL, invited talk
05/2018 University of Wisconsin Astronomy Department, lunch talk
04/2018 Origins Seminar, Steward Observatory
03/2018 Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest 2, Tucson, AZ, poster
11/2017 Habitable Worlds 2017, Laramie, WY, breakout session talk
11/2017 Habitable Worlds 2017, Laramie, WY, poster
03/2016 Steward Observatory Internal Symposium, contributed talk
01/2016 AAS #227, dissertation talk
05/2015 NOAO, FLASH talk
03/2015 Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest, Tucson, AZ, poster
08/2014 Lunar and Planetary Laboratory Conference, contributed talk
04/2014 Habitable Worlds Across Time and Space, STScI, Baltimore, MD, poster presentation
03/2014 The Search for Life Beyond the Solar System: Exoplanets, Biosignatures & Instruments, Tucson, AZ, poster
06/2013 IAU Symposium 299: Exploring the Formation and Evolution of Planetary Systems, Victoria, Canada, poster
07/2012 University of Wisconsin Astronomy Department, lunch talk
06/2012 Steward Observatory Summer Disk Seminar Series, contributed talk

Refereed First-Authored Publications

1. *The Geometry of the G29-38 White Dwarf Dust Disk from Radiative Transfer Modeling*
Nicholas P. Ballering, Colette I. Levens, Kate Y. L. Su, and L. Ilesore Cleeves
2022, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 939, 108

2. *Simulating Observations of Ices in Protoplanetary Disks*
Nicholas P. Ballering, L. Ilesedore Cleeves, and Dana E. Anderson
2021, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 920, 115
3. *Protoplanetary Disk Masses from Radiative Transfer Modeling: A Case Study in Taurus*
Nicholas P. Ballering and Josh A. Eisner
2019, *The Astronomical Journal*, 157, 144
4. *What Sets the Radial Locations of Warm Debris Disks?*
Nicholas P. Ballering, George H. Rieke, Kate Y. L. Su, and Andras Gaspar
2017, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 845, 120
5. *A Comprehensive Dust Model Applied to the Resolved Beta Pictoris Debris Disk from Optical to Radio Wavelengths*
Nicholas P. Ballering, Kate Y. L. Su, George H. Rieke, and Andras Gaspar
2016, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 823, 108
6. *Probing the Terrestrial Regions of Planetary Systems: Warm Debris Disks with Emission Features*
Nicholas P. Ballering, George H. Rieke, and Andras Gaspar
2014, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 793, 57
7. *A Trend between Cold Debris Disk Temperature and Stellar Type: Implications for the Formation and Evolution of Wide-orbit Planets*
Nicholas P. Ballering, George H. Rieke, Kate Y. L. Su, and Edward Montiel
2013, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 775, 55

Refereed Co-Authored Publications

1. *Hiding Dust around ϵ Eridani*
Schuyler Grace Wolff, Andras Gaspar, George H. Rieke, **Nicholas Ballering**, and Marie Ygouf
2023, *The Astronomical Journal*, 165, 115
2. *Small Protoplanetary Disks in the Orion Nebula Cluster and OMCI with ALMA*
Justin Otter, Adam Ginsburg, **Nicholas P. Ballering**, John Bally, Josh A. Eisner, Ciriaco Goddi, Richard Plambeck, and Melvyn Wright
2021, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 923, 221
3. *Protoplanetary Disk Properties in the Orion Nebula Cluster: Initial Results from Deep, High-Resolution ALMA Observations*
J. A. Eisner, H. G. Arce, **N. P. Ballering**, J. Bally, S. M. Andrews, R. D. Boyden, J. Di Francesco, M. Fang, D. Johnstone, J. S. Kim, R. K. Mann, B. Matthews, I. Pascucci, L. Ricci, P. D. Sheehan, J. P. Williams
2018, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 860, 77
4. *The Inner 25 au Debris Distribution in the ϵ Eri System*
Kate Y. L. Su, James M. De Buizer, George H. Rieke, Alexander V. Krivov, Torsten Löhne, Massimo Marengo, Karl R. Stapelfeldt, **Nicholas P. Ballering**, and William D. Vacca
2017, *The Astronomical Journal*, 153, 226
5. *The Correlation Between Metallicity and Debris Disk Mass*
Andras Gaspar, George H. Rieke, and **Nicholas P. Ballering**
2016, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 826, 171
6. *Magnetic Grain Trapping and the Hot Excesses Around Early-type Stars*
George H. Rieke, Andras Gaspar, and **Nicholas P. Ballering**
2016, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 816, 50
7. *Compact HI Clouds from the GALFA-H I Survey*
Ayesha Begum, Snezana Stanimirovic, Joshua E. Peek, **Nicholas P. Ballering**, Carl Heiles, Kevin A. Douglas, Mary Putman, Steven J. Gibson, Jana Grcevich, Eric J. Korpela, Min-Young Lee, Destry Saul, and John S. Gallagher III
2010, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 722, 395

Professional References

Ilsedore Cleeves
Assistant Professor
Department of Astronomy
University of Virginia
530 McCormick Road
Charlottesville, VA 22904
(434) 924-9569
lic3f@virginia.edu

George Rieke
Regents' Professor
Steward Observatory
University of Arizona
933 North Cherry Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-2832
grieke@arizona.edu

Kate Su
Research Professor
Steward Observatory
University of Arizona
933 North Cherry Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-3445
ksu@arizona.edu