

Dr. Jason Kalirai



Jason Kalirai is a new astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute, having joined the Institute in the fall of 2008. He grew up in a very small community in central British Columbia, Canada and moved to Vancouver to for his Bachelor's Degree at the University of British Columbia (UBC). After completing an Honours BSc in Physics & Astronomy, he focused on astronomical research as a Masters and PhD student at UBC, graduating in 2004. He then spent four years at the University of California at Santa Cruz as a Hubble Fellow postdoctoral researcher.

Jason's research interests involve studying the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies in the nearby Universe. He has done fundamental work on measuring the mass loss that stars suffer through their evolution, and searched for, discovered, and characterized the properties of the final end state of this evolution in stars like the Sun, white dwarfs. These burnt out stellar cinders have been the focus of several very large Hubble Space Telescope programs, and have shed light on a diverse range of astrophysical problems.

At the age of 30, Jason has published dozen of papers in major scientific journals tackling interesting problems that can be solved through the study of resolved stellar populations such as nearby star clusters. He enjoys very much interacting with both astronomers at other institutions and the general public. He has given dozens of invited talks all over the world and is a frequent visitor to Baltimore City Schools to promote science to young students.