

Language AI in the Space Sciences

March 9 – 12, 2026 at Space Telescope Science Institute – Schedule of Events

Monday, March 9, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
1:00pm	Registration		Lobby
1:35pm	Coordination for Tutorials		Auditorium
1:50pm	Tutorial Session A <ul style="list-style-type: none">“Building an AI Policy” with Michelle Ntampaka (Café Con)“AI Agents” with Lorenz Ehrlich., Miguel Doctor Yuste, Aitor Ibarra (Auditorium)		
2:50pm	Tutorial Session B <ul style="list-style-type: none">“Licensing and Property Rights” with Alberto Accomazzi, Kelly Lockhart, & Jan Reenrick (Café Con)“Tokenization and Context Engineering” with John Wu (Auditorium)		
3:50pm	Coffee Break		Café
4:00pm	Tutorial Session C <ul style="list-style-type: none">“AI and Trust” with Jonathan Hargis (Café Con)“Retrieval-Augmented Generation with Sultan Hassan (Auditorium)		
5:00pm	Welcome Reception (5:00pm-7:00pm)		Café

Shuttles will be available back to the host hotels.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
8:30am	Breakfast (Café)	**Speaker Tech Check for Session 1 (Auditorium)**	
Session 1 - Chair: Kelly Lockhart, Moderator: John Soltis			
9:00am	Welcome	Jenn Lotz, STScI Director Michelle Ntampaka, Chair	Auditorium
9:20am	Ethics & Social Sciences at the Intersection of NLP	Anjalie Field (I)	Auditorium
9:50am	Toward Community Standards for Generative AI in Astronomy	Ivelina Momcheva (C)	Auditorium
10:00am	Certifying the AI-Generated Stories We Tell About the Cosmos	Shanil Virani (C)	Auditorium
10:10am	Learning to Reason About Astronomy-Specific Technical Tasks with Large Language Models	Sanjib Sharma (C)	Auditorium
10:20am	Summary and Next Steps	Michelle Ntampaka, Chair	Auditorium
10:30am	Poster Pops: Adele Plunkett, Simone Astarita, Nicholas Susemihl, Sarah Burke-Spolaor		
10:45am	Break (Café)	**Speaker Tech Check for Session 2 (Auditorium)**	
	Posters Displayed: Adele Plunkett, Simone Astarita, Nicholas Susemihl, Sarah Burke-Spolaor		
Session 2 - Chair: Jan Reerink, Moderator: John Soltis			
11:15am	AI tools to enable literature research	Kartheik Iyer (C)	Auditorium
11:45am	Lessons from Nancy: Open RAG Infrastructure for Research Agents	Amber Malpas (C)	Auditorium
11:55am	From Authorship to Expertise: Scalable Name Disambiguation and Reviewer Matching	Vincente Amado Olivo (C)	Auditorium
12:05pm	Multilabel Text Classification for Concept Assignment in Astrophysics Literature	Atila Alkan (C)	Auditorium
12:15pm	AstroGenesis: A Domain-Aware Multi-Agent Model for Data-Driven Astrophysics	Ashish Mahabal (C)	Auditorium
12:25pm	Summary and Next Steps	Michelle Ntampaka, Chair	Auditorium
12:35pm	Poster Pops: David Rodriguez, Paco Holguin, Josh Speagle & Biprateep Dey, Jose Antonio Najera		
12:50pm	Lunch (Café)		
Session 3: Hack Time			
1:50pm	Breakout Discussion Session	Auditorium, Café Con, Café	
2:25pm	Hack Group Pitches		Auditorium
3:25pm	Break (Café)		
	Posters Displayed: David Rodriguez, Paco Holguin, Josh Speagle & Biprateep Dey, Jose Antonio Najera		
3:55pm	Hack Group Work Time	Auditorium, Café Con, Café	
5:00pm	End of Day		Auditorium
5:30pm	"Un-Banquet" at R.House *Optional* 301 W. 29th St. Baltimore, MD 21211 (5:30pm-7:30pm)		

Shuttles will be available back to the host hotels. There is no shuttle service to or from R. House.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
8:30am	Breakfast (Café)	**Speaker Tech Check for Session 4 (Auditorium)**	
Session 4 - Chair: Kelly Lockhart, Moderator: Ana Maria Delgado			
9:05am	Automated Mission Classification with Large Language Models	John Wu (I)	Auditorium
9:35am	Language AI-Driven Automation of MAST Bibliographic Classification	Jinmi Yoon (C)	Auditorium
9:45am	IRSA's prototype API assistant	Michael Jones (C)	Auditorium
9:55am	ESOFinder: an LLM-powered tool to help users navigate ESO documentation	Paula Sanchez Saez (C)	Auditorium
10:05am	Exploring Multi Agent Systems to support archival data discovery in Euclid	Miguel Doctor Yuste (C)	Auditorium
10:15am	Summary and Next Steps	Michelle Ntampaka, Chair	Auditorium
10:25am	Poster Pops: Aitor Ibarra, Lorenz Ehrlich, Ryan Thrill, Rafael Martinez-Galarza		
10:40am	Break (Café)	**Speaker Tech Check for Session 5 (Auditorium)**	
	Posters Displayed: Aitor Ibarra, Lorenz Ehrlich, Ryan Thrill		
Session 5 - Chair: Jan Reerink, Moderator: Ana Maria Delgado			
11:15am	Bringing the arxiv into focus with apture (with podcasts?!)	Joshua Speagle (I)	Auditorium
11:45am	AION-Search: Semantic searching galaxy images with synthetic captions	Nolan Koblichke (C)	Auditorium
11:55am	From Prompts to Queries: Accessing Astronomical Data using Natural Language	Roman Machacek (C)	Auditorium
12:05pm	A text-to-SQL framework for the SDSS SkyServer database	Peter Zsoldos (C)	Auditorium
12:15pm	Group Photo		Front Step
12:30pm	Lunch (Café)		
Session 6: Hack Time			
1:30pm	Hack Group Work Time	Auditorium, Café Con, Café	
3:00pm	Break (Café)		
	Posters Displayed: Rafael Martinez-Galarza, Rohit Raj, Dan Coe		
3:30pm	Hack Group Work Time	Auditorium, Café Con, Café	
5:00pm	SDAS Event (5:00pm-7:00pm)		Café

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Thursday, March 12, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
8:30am	Breakfast (Café) **Speaker Tech Check for Session 7 (Auditorium)**		
Session 7 - Chair: Alberto Accomazzi, Moderator: Mikaeel Yunus			
9:05am	Benchmarking and Evaluating NLP models	Jessy Li (I)	Auditorium
9:35am	Using Language Models to Scale Expert Morphology Classifications of Nearby Galaxies	Michael Koss (C)	Auditorium
9:45am	Large Language Model Driven Analysis of General Coordinates Network (GCN) Circulars	Vidushi Sharma (C)	Auditorium
9:55am	Text isn't all you need	Mike Smith (I)	Auditorium
10:25am	Poster Pops: Kiera McCormick, Hayley Roberts, Dan Coe, Yang Cheng, Clara Salditt, Benjamin Ramsey		
10:40am	Break (Café) **Speaker Tech Check for Session 8 (Auditorium)** Posters Displayed: Kiera McCormick, Hayley Roberts, Dan Coe, Yang Cheng, Clara Salditt		
Session 8 - Hack Group Presentations - Chair: Alberto Accomazzi, Moderator: Mikaeel Yunus			
11:10am	Hack Group Coordination and Prep <i>*Group presentations should be uploaded by 12:20pm*</i>		Auditorium, Café Con, Café
12:10pm	Lunch		Café
1:10pm	Hack Group Presentations		Auditorium
2:40pm	Coffee Break (Café) Posters Displayed: Benjamin Ramsey, Xiaowen Zhang, Simone Riggi		
3:10pm	Hack Group Presentations		Auditorium
4:10pm	Summary and Next Steps	Michelle Ntampaka, Chair	Auditorium

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