

Claire Lessler

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EDUCATION

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| University of Chicago , Chicago, IL Ph.D. Physics | September 2022 — Present Advisor: Prof. Jeff McMahon Overall GPA: 4.00 |
| Princeton University , Princeton, NJ A.B. Physics | August 2018 — May 2022 Overall GPA: 4.00 |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| Department of Physics & Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics, University of Chicago <i>Research Assistant in the McMahon Cosmology Lab</i> | September 2022 - Present Chicago, IL |
| Department of Physics, Princeton University <i>Undergraduate senior thesis & summer research student under the supervision of Prof. Suzanne Staggs</i> | June 2021 - May 2022 Princeton, NJ |
| Department of Physics, Princeton University <i>Junior research student under the supervision of Prof. Lyman Page</i> | February 2021 – May 2021 Princeton, NJ |
| Department of Physics, Princeton University <i>Junior research student under the supervision of Prof. Waseem Bakr</i> | September 2020 – January 2021 Princeton, NJ |
| Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics <i>Summer research intern under the supervision of Prof. Ignacio Cirac</i> | June 2020 - August 2020 Garching, Germany |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| PHYS 133: Waves, Optics & Heat <i>Teaching Assistant with Prof. David Reid</i> | Spring 2023 University of Chicago |
| PHYS 132: Electricity & Magnetism <i>Teaching Assistant with Prof. Stuart Gazes</i> | Winter 2023 University of Chicago |
| PHYS 131: Mechanics <i>Teaching Assistant with Prof. Savan Kharel</i> | Fall 2022 University of Chicago |

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

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| NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Fellow | Selected April 2024 |
| Honorable Mention, NSF GRFP competition | April 2024 |
| Physical Sciences Prize for Excellence in Teaching | University of Chicago, June 2023 |
| Eugene N. Parker Fellowship | University of Chicago, June–September 2023 |
| Honorable Mention, NSF GRFP competition | April 2022 |
| Allen G. Shenstone Prize in Physics | Princeton University, Spring 2022 and 2021 |
| Phi Beta Kappa, Early Inductee | Fall 2021 |
| Sigma Xi | Spring 2022 |
| Manfred Pyka Memorial Physics Prize | Princeton University, Spring 2020 |
| Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence | Princeton University, Fall 2019 |

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- In-Situ Optical Characterization of the Simons Observatory
Large-Aperture Telescope Receiver*** November 2024
Talk at CMB-Cal 2024, hosted by the University of Milano-Bicocca
- Calibration Technology Development for the Simons Observatory*** July 2024
Poster presented at 2024 Simons Observatory collaboration meeting
- Polarization Performance of Simons Observatory
Ultra-High-Frequency Detector Arrays*** June 2023
Oral presentation for internal Simons Observatory review

PUBLICATIONS

- Sierra, C. et al. (2025) *Simons Observatory: Pre-deployment Performance of a Large Aperture Telescope Optics Tube in the 90 and 150 GHz Spectral Bands*, ApJS **276** 31
- Simons Observatory Collaboration (2025) *The Simons Observatory: Science Goals and Forecasts for the Enhanced Large Aperture Telescope*, arXiv; submitted to JCAP

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Telescopes in Chile and the Origin of the Universe*** December 2024
Public talk through the UChicago Lifelong Learning program Chicago, IL
- Cosmology and Genesis*** October 2022
Public talk at Sephardic Synagogue Brooklyn, NY
- TiCuP (Towards an Inclusive Community of Undergraduate Physicists)** 2020-2022
Co-President & Events Chair Princeton University

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

- UChicago Society of Women in Physics** September 2024-Present
Mentor to undergraduate students
Students: Tate Flicker, Madelena Batista, Kate Wandrisco, Ella Riebli University of Chicago
- A&A/KICP Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program** September 2024-Present
Mentor to undergraduate student
Student: Joseph Yeung University of Chicago

SKILLS

- Programming Languages** Python, Java, MATLAB, Mathematica
Software Expertise SolidWorks, Altium, Zemax OpticStudio
Languages English (fluent), Hebrew (full professional proficiency),
French (working proficiency), Spanish (basic)