

Michael Greklek-McKeon

mgreklek-mckeon@carnegiescience.edu | mgreklek.github.io

[ADS](#) | [ORCID](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Planetary Science, California Institute of Technology	<i>June 2025</i>
Advisor: Prof. Heather Knutson	
Thesis: The Compositional Diversity of Small Planets Orbiting Low-Mass Stars	
Dual B.S. (Physics & Astronomy), University of Maryland, College Park	<i>May 2019</i>
Banneker/Key Scholar, Maryland Space Grant Scholar, Departmental High Honors	
Thesis: New Science with K2 Legacy Data (Advisor Prof. Drake Deming)	

APPOINTMENTS

Carnegie Science, Earth and Planets Laboratory — Postdoctoral Fellow	2026-
California Institute of Technology — Research Associate & Teaching Assistant	2019-2025
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center — Professional Space Weather Forecaster	2016-2021
Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai'i — Summer Research Associate	2018
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory — Summer Research Associate	2017

SELECTED GRANTS AND TELESCOPE TIME

Roman Space Telescope	2026-
Cycle 1 General Investigator, Medium Program, PI (\$450,000)	
Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite	2026-
Cycle 9 General Investigator, Small Program, PI (\$90,000)	
XMM-Newton Space Telescope	2022,2023-
Cycle 22 & 23 Guest Observer Programs, 45 ks total, PI (total \$104,000; 45 ks)	
James Webb Space Telescope	2025-
2x Cycle 5 General Observer Programs, co-I (total 53 hrs)	
Hubble Space Telescope	2025-
Cycle 32 Bridge Program, co-I (total 8 hrs)	
Las Campanas Observatory, 6.5m Baade Telescope	2025-
2x programs, FourStar & IMACs instruments, PI (total 7.5 observing nights)	
Palomar Observatory, 5.1m Hale Telescope	2021-
15x programs, Wide-Field Infrared Camera, PI (total > 120 observing nights)	
Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network	2022-2025
3x programs, Sinistro Imagers, PI (total 66 hours)	

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Summary: 37 Total, 34 Published + 3 In Review. Total citations = 938, h-index = 17. 6 Lead (1st Author), 9 Major Contribution (2nd or 3rd Author).

First Author Publications:

[6] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2026, "JWST and HST Confirm Transit Timing Variations for the Ultra-Hot Jupiter TOI-2109 b." (Submitted to *AJ*).

[5] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2026, "Validation of a Third Earth-sized Planet in the TOI-2267 Binary System." *AJ*, 171, 97G.

- [4] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2025, "Updated Mass, Eccentricity, and Tidal Heating Constraints for the Earth-sized Planet LP 791-18 d." *AJ*, 170, 65G.
- [3] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2025, "Tidally Heated Sub-Neptunes, Refined Planetary Compositions and Confirmation of a Third Planet in the TOI-1266 System." *AJ*, 169, 292G.
- [2] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2023, "Constraining the Densities of the Three Kepler-289 Planets with Transit Timing Variations." *AJ*, 165, 48.
- [1] **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2019, "Killing Planet Candidates with EVEREST." *AJ*, 157, 2.

Selected Major Contribution Publications (^ = mentee):

- [5] N. Wallack, P. Gao, & **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2026, "JWST COMPASS: NIRSpec/G395H Observations of the Sub-Neptune HD 15337 c." *AJ*, 171, 180W.
- [4] J. Gomez Barrientos^ & **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2025, "Validation of TESS Planet Candidates with Multicolor Transit Photometry and TRICERATOPS+." *AJ*, 170, 148G.
- [3] J. Pérez-González^ & **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2024, "Detection of an Atmospheric Outflow from the Young Hot Saturn TOI-1268b." *AJ*, 167, 214.
- [2] R. Cloutier & **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2024, "Masses, Revised Radii, and a Third Planet Candidate in the 'Inverted' Planetary System Around TOI-1266." *MNRAS*, 527, 5464.
- [1] S. Vissapragada, H. Knutson, & **M. Greklek-McKeon** et al. 2022, "The Upper Edge of the Neptune Desert Is Stable Against Photoevaporation." *AJ*, 164, 234.

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Kendra Nguyen, Pomona College Undergraduate —> Yale PhD Student	2023-
Haedam Im, MIT undergraduate	2024-2025
Jonathan Gomez Barrientos, Caltech PhD Student	2022-2025
Jorge Pérez-González, UCL Undergraduate —> MPIA PhD Student	2022-2023
Winnie Jeng, Georgia Inst. of Tech. Undergraduate —> Software Engineer	2021

SELECTED SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Carnegie EPL Astronomy Outreach Volunteer	2025-
Carnegie EPL Astronomy Seminar Organizer	2025-
Reviewer for AAS, A&A Journals	2024-
Fellowship Panel Reviewer, Schmidt Sciences	2026
Graduate Student Council Director Board of Directors	2020-2025
Service on the advocacy, budget & finance, and social committees	
Caltech <u>GPS Outreach Outdoors</u>	2021-2025
Lead developer of space science <u>lesson plans</u> , classroom volunteer	
UAW 2478, Caltech Graduate Student Union	2022-2025
Elected bargaining team member, inaugural treasurer, organizer	
Caltech <u>WAVE Program</u> Mentor	2021-2024
Skype a Scientist Volunteer	2020-2022
Caltech <u>RISE Program</u> Free Public High School Math Tutor	2020-2022
Caltech Dix Planetary Science Seminar Organizer	2021-2022
Caltech GPS Division Ombudsperson	2021-2022

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS SUMMARY

Since 2019: 12 invited seminar/colloquium talks, 2 conference contributed talks, 13 conference posters, and 5 public outreach lectures