

Samuel Lee Jackson

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

I am a PhD student with an interest in the study of small solar system bodies (comets and asteroids). I have a high level of experience in the operation of remote telescopes, processing & analysis of astronomical images and programming of software to support these tasks.

EDUCATION

PhD in Astronomy/Planetary Science

The Open University, Milton Keynes

October 2019 - Present

Astronomy, Space Science, and Astrophysics MPhys (First Class Honours)

University of Kent, Canterbury

September 2015 - June 2019

Westcliff High School for Boys

Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

2008-2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Research Project

October 2019 - Present

Project title: Asteroid Spin & surface Properties

Supervisors: Dr. Ulrich Kolb & Professor Simon Green, The Open University

Brief synopsis of research: Using the OpenScience Observatories, I will collect a large volume of photometric data for a sample of Near-Earth Asteroids in order to determine their rotational and physical properties. The project also largely focuses on characterising the performance of the observatory and developing data collection and analysis techniques to maximise scientific output.

Summer Research Placement

July 2019 - September 2019

Supervisor: Professor Stephen C. Lowry, University of Kent

Brief synopsis of research: Extraction of light curves for a sample of Near-Earth Asteroids to support an ongoing investigation into the YORP effect.

Master's Research Project

September 2018 - March 2019

Project title: Asteroid (1917) Cuyo: The Formation of a Binary Asteroid System?

Supervisor: Professor Stephen C. Lowry, University of Kent

Brief synopsis of research: An analysis of the rotational parameters of Near-Earth Asteroid (1917) Cuyo was undertaken by evaluating the periodic nature of its rotational brightness variations. By exploiting observations taken over many years, the presence of any long-term changes in these rotational parameters was evaluated and their potential causes evaluated.

AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Rotary Prize for the Faculty of Sciences, University of Kent (2019)
- Dean's Prize for the Faculty of Sciences, University of Kent (2018)
- Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (2017 - Current)

KEY SKILLS

Computing skills:

- Programming languages: Python, MATLAB, C#, Java, Bash, PHP, SQL, Fortran & HTML
- Operating systems: Linux (various), Windows

Other skills:

- Experienced in the operation and maintenance of remote telescopes, having conducted observing runs with the Beacon Observatory (Kent) and the OpenScience Observatories (Milton Keynes & Tenerife)
- During my projects I have worked as part of a group of students and academics researching small solar system bodies, gaining experience in collaborative research and communication to maximise scientific output
- Outreach & communication skills developed from facilitating online learning modules and giving talks at outreach events such as the North York Moors Dark Skies Festival

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The Open University

Night Duty Astronomer/Emergency Support Astronomer

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

October 2019 - Current (Various Contracts)

- Responsible for briefing undergraduate students on the safe operation of robotic telescopes before their observing session
- Deployment of robotic telescopes for use by undergraduates from external institutions (e.g. University of Edinburgh)
- Technical support and remote maintenance of observatories when required
- Gained experience handling queries from students and giving guidance where required in order to ensure prompt completion of their tasks

The Open University

Course Facilitator

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

February - March 2020

- Responsible for facilitation of the Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) 'In the Night Sky: Orion' provided by The Open University of FutureLearn
- Role included stimulating discussion between course participants, answering any questions they had about the content of the course, and moderation of participant interactions

Adams Joinery Ltd.

Dispatch/Temporary Labourer

Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

July-September 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018

- Responsible for the dispatch of manufactured goods to site, ensuring proper packaging and labelling
- Developed technical skills such as interpreting technical drawings and basic bench joinery
- Adaptability and attention to detail was key in this role due to flexible nature of the role, helping me to develop an ability to organise multiple tasks at once while maintaining a high standard of work

REFERENCES

References/referee contact details available on request.