National Science Foundation

EHT PRESS CONFERENCE PANELISTS

BIO FACTSHEET

KATHERINE (KATIE) L. BOUMAN - Assistant Professor of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Astronomy at Caltech

Katherine (Katie) L. Bouman is an assistant professor in the computing and mathematical sciences, electrical engineering, and astronomy departments at Caltech. Before joining Caltech, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian. She received her Ph.D. in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT in electrical engineering and computer science and her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. She is a Rosenberg Scholar; Heritage Medical Research Institute investigator; and recipient of the Royal Photographic Society Progress Medal and IST Electronic Imaging Scientist of the Year Award. As part of the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration, she is co-lead of the Imaging Working Group and acted as coordinator for the paper concerning the first imaging of the black hole M87*. She is also co-organizer of the Algorithms and Inference Working Group for the next-generation Event Horizon Telescope (ngEHT) effort.

VINCENT FISH - Research Scientist at MIT Haystack Observatory

Vincent Fish, an MIT research scientist, has been working with the Event Horizon Telescope, or EHT, since he joined MIT Haystack Observatory in 2007. An MIT graduate, he received a doctorate in astronomy from Harvard, then completed a Jansky Fellowship at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro, New Mexico. His early research focused on studying massive star-forming regions through very-long-baseline interferometry observations of masers. He has served as a member of the EHT Science Council and coordinator of the Science Operations Working Group. Currently, he is the EHT Operations Data Manager and Scheduler as well as the principal investigator of the major NSF award that supports the participation of 10 U.S. institutions in the EHT Collaboration. He also contributes to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array Phasing Project.

MICHAEL JOHNSON - Astrophysicist at Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian

Michael Johnson is an astrophysicist at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, a lecturer in the Harvard department of astronomy, and an inaugural member of the Harvard Black Hole Initiative. He is a member of the EHT Science Council and is the Project Scientist of the Next Generation EHT. His contributions across the EHT project include developing new imaging methods to produce movies of black holes, measuring magnetic fields near black holes by using polarization, characterizing the interstellar scattering of black holes, and studying black hole spacetimes through distinctive relativistic signatures in their images. Johnson graduated summa cum laude with bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of Southern California, and he holds master's and doctoral degrees in physics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

FERYAL ÖZEL - Professor of Astronomy and Physics at University of Arizona

Feryal Özel is a professor of astronomy and physics and the associate dean for research at the University of Arizona. She graduated with distinction from Columbia University and received her PhD in physics from Harvard University. She uses theoretical and computational tools to study the extreme environments and spacetimes of black holes. She made the first predictions of the images of nearby supermassive black holes at different wavelengths, which guided the development of the Event Horizon Telescope, or EHT, and the interpretation of its results. As a founding EHT member, she has been serving on the EHT Science Council and was lead of the Modeling Working Group. She has served as chair of NASA's large mission concept study Lynx X-ray Observatory and chair of NASA's Astrophysics Advisory Committee. She is a CoPI of the NSF Black Hole PIRE (Partnerships for International Research and Education) project.