

# Newsletter 18-50

Issue 18-50, December 8, 2018

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## OPAG FINDINGS FALL 2018

The Fall 2018 OPAG findings are now available on the OPAG website:

<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/meetings/archive/> [1]

The next OPAG meeting is scheduled for February 5-6, 2019, in Washington, DC.

Additional details will be provided on the website as they become available.

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## FORUM FOR NEW LEADERS IN SPACE SCIENCE 2019

The National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Space Studies Board of U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to invite applications to participate in the 9th and 10th Forums for

New Leaders in Space Science. The Forums, initiated in 2014, are designed to provide opportunities for a highly select group of young (<40 years old) space and Earth scientists to discuss their research activities in an intimate and collegial environment. The 9th and 10th Forums will be devoted to Earth observation from space and planetary science (i.e., studies of the solar system’s planets, satellites, and minor bodies) and will be held on 15-16 May 2019 (in Beijing, China) and 28-29 October 2019 (in Washington, DC). Additional details and application information available at [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB\\_086017](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_086017) [2].  
Application deadline 31 January 2019.

Many thanks,  
David H. Smith  
Space Studies Board

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**NASA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP – APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2019**

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers US and international scientists the opportunity to advance their research while contributing to NASA's scientific goals. The NPP supports fundamental science; explores the undiscovered; promotes intellectual growth; and encourages scientific connections.

Selected by a competitive peer-review process, NPP Fellows complete one- to three-year Fellowship appointments that advance NASA's missions in earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics, space bioscience, aeronautics and engineering, human exploration and space operations, and astrobiology.

Current NPP research opportunities in planetary science can be viewed here:

[NPP Planetary Sciences Research Opportunities](#) [3].

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in hand before beginning the fellowship, but may apply while completing the degree requirements.

U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, and foreign nationals eligible for J-1 status as a Research Scholar may apply.

Stipends start at \$60,000 per year, with supplements for high cost-of-living areas and for certain academic specialties. Financial assistance is available for relocation and health insurance, and \$10,000 per year is provided for professional travel.

Applications are accepted three times each year: March 1, July 1, and November 1.

For further information and to apply, visit: <https://npp.usra.edu/> [4]

Questions: [npphelp@usra.edu](mailto:npphelp@usra.edu) [5]

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#### SPITZER AT AGU AND AAS

#### Spitzer at the AGU

Spitzer will be at the NASA's Great Observatories exhibit at the American Geophysical Union meeting next week. Come hear about Spitzer's capabilities for doing exoplanet science and science in our solar system.

On Thursday 13 Dec at 12:15 PM, Sean Carey will present "TRAPPIST-1 and Other Amazing Exoplanet Tales from Spitzer Beyond" at the NASA Hyperwall.

## Spitzer at the AAS

Spitzer and IRSA staff will be available to answer questions at the IPAC booth at the AAS meeting in Seattle, Washington 6-10 January 2019. Come experience the TRAPPIST-1 exoplanetary system and learn about the Spitzer spacecraft in its orbit using virtual reality. There will be a special session on Spitzer as part of the Historical Astronomy Division focusing on the process of designing and building the observatory from the initial ideas to first light.

"The Spitzer Observatory" Sunday 6 Jan at 2:00 PM, Room 618/619

The following talks at the NASA Hyperwall will feature results from Spitzer:

"Spitzer Beyond" by Sean Carey, Wednesday 9 Jan at 9:10 AM

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## JOBS, POSITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES

A) RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN PLANETARY ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester  
Full Details:

<https://jobs.le.ac.uk/vacancies/718/research-associate-in-planetary-atmospheric-science.html> [6]

Salary Grade 7 - £34,189 to £39,609 per annum

Funding is available from 1 March 2019 to 31 March 2022

Closing date: 14 January 2019

The Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Leicester invites applications for a Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA) in Planetary Atmospheric Science.

You will join the planetary atmospheres team led by Dr Leigh Fletcher to address

the scientific aims of a European Research Council (ERC) grant to explore time-variable processes shaping the atmospheres of the giant planets.

The “GIANTCLIMES” programme seeks to investigate the natural cycles of meteorology, circulation, and chemical processes shaping the environments of the four giant planets over long spans of time. Inversions of planetary spectra, from the ultraviolet to the microwave, will be used to reconstruct these atmospheres in three dimensions to explore their temporal variability and the processes coupling different atmospheric regimes. Potential sub-projects include, but are not limited to: analysis of multi-instrument data from the Juno and Cassini spacecraft; assessments of the chemical distributions and radiative energy budgets of the four giants; numerical simulation of periodic and stochastic meteorological events (including wave phenomena); spectroscopic mapping techniques from Earth-based observatories; and assembly of data analysis pipelines to support “Guaranteed-Time” and “Early-Release” science activities ahead of the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope. You will be expected to carry out independent and collaborative research for this project and disseminate the results to the international scientific community.

There will be significant opportunities to collaborate within the Leicester’s Planetary Science team (whose existing research includes planetary magnetospheres, ionospheres, atmospheres and surface science), and with an international team specialising in radiative transfer and spectral inversion for planetary atmospheres.

In addition to the online application form, applicants are requested to provide:

[1] a CV and publication list; [2] two academic references; [3] a one-page cover letter detailing how your prior experience and future research aims are commensurate with the aims of the programme outlined above.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Dr Leigh Fletcher on

[leigh.fletcher@le.ac.uk](mailto:leigh.fletcher@le.ac.uk) [7] or 0116 252 3585

B) POST DOCTORAL POSITION

SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[https://resapp.swri.org/ResApp/Job\\_Search\\_Results.aspx?DETAIL=15-01330](https://resapp.swri.org/ResApp/Job_Search_Results.aspx?DETAIL=15-01330) [8]

Job code: 15-01330

Job Summary:

Join SwRI's Space Science and Engineering team by supporting the Lyman Alpha Mapping Project (LAMP) on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) mission as a postdoctoral planetary scientist. Our team's investigations include a variety of lunar science questions using far-UV albedo maps of the lunar surface. Topics of study include characterization of volatiles within permanently shaded regions at the lunar poles, mapping of surface water frost and hydrates, and identifying regional space weathering effects. The far-UV map and spectra analyses to be performed include map data product creation and comparisons with other LRO and lunar datasets for detailed surveys of regions of interest. Publish results in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at professional meetings. Lead and/or assist in new business proposals and teaching/mentoring experience through our UTSA-SwRI graduate program in Space Physics.

Education/Experience:

Requires a PhD degree in Planetary Science, Physics, Astrophysics, Space Science, Space Physics, Space Instrumentation, or Astronomy with 0 years experience. Must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Requires a PhD Must have at least 3 years of related academic research. Strong computing and programming skills with Interactive Data Language (IDL), Python, and/or ArcGIS are required. Must have experience with imaging and/or spectroscopy from space-based

observations. A background in scientific analysis and publication of planetary geology, volatiles, and surface reflectance spectral albedo topics is highly desirable.

This position requires passing the test.

Special Considerations:

This is a 1 year limited term assignment with possible 1 year extension.

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Send submissions to:

Anne Verbiscer, DPS Secretary ([dpssec@aaas.org](mailto:dpssec@aaas.org) [9])

You are receiving this email because you are a DPS member.

To unsubscribe or update your information, please send your request to [privacy@aaas.org](mailto:privacy@aaas.org) [10]. The more general AAS privacy policy is available online at <https://aas.org/about/policies/privacy-policy> [11].

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- [1] <https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/meetings/archive/>
- [2] [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB\\_086017](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_086017)
- [3] [https://npp.usra.edu/opportunities/?filter\\_keywords=&filter\\_fields=145](https://npp.usra.edu/opportunities/?filter_keywords=&filter_fields=145)
- [4] <https://npp.usra.edu/>
- [5] <mailto:npphelp@usra.edu>
- [6] <https://jobs.le.ac.uk/vacancies/718/research-associate-in-planetary-atmospheric-science.html>
- [7] <mailto:leigh.fletcher@le.ac.uk>



- [8] [https://resapp.swri.org/ResApp/Job\\_Search\\_Results.aspx?DETAIL=15-01330](https://resapp.swri.org/ResApp/Job_Search_Results.aspx?DETAIL=15-01330)
- [9] <mailto:dpssec@aaas.org>
- [10] <mailto:privacy@aaas.org>
- [11] <https://aaas.org/about/policies/privacy-policy>