

Sukanya Chakrabarti: Candidate for At-Large Trustee

Affiliation: Rochester Institute of Technology

Position/Title: Associate Professor

PhD institution: UC Berkeley, 2005

Areas of scientific interest:

- Galactic dynamics
- Radiation transport
- Time-domain and multi-messenger astronomy

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Member, 2020 – present, Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA)

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- SOC Chair, Lorentz Center Conference “Towards “real-time” Galactic Dynamics” scheduled for 2022
- Lead Coordinator, 2019, KITP Long-Term Program on “Dynamical Models for Stars and Gas in Galaxies in the Gaia Era”
- SOC Chair, 2013, AAS Topical Conference Series (TCS) meeting on “Probes of Dark Matter on Galaxy Scales”

Statement:

I am honored to accept the nomination for At-Large Trustee of the AAS. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the AAS and therefore has significant impact on our professional organization. If elected, I will continue to push for creating a more inclusive, professional, and forward-thinking environment for all astronomers, as we move into the next decade, where science advocacy and public science literacy are more crucial than ever before. As a woman of color, I am deeply committed to supporting diversity, and I am keenly aware of issues that can affect the success of minoritized groups.

For most of my career, I have worked to advance equity and inclusion for underrepresented groups in STEM. I recently began a term as a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA). One of my main goals is to analyze the demographics of hiring,



recruitment, and retention, paying attention to the impact on individuals at the intersections of multiple identities. I would especially like to see more progress in academia for people of color as they are particularly underrepresented. I would also like to see universities fully respect maternity leave — without penalizing women when they return by giving them teaching overloads "to catch them up".

As for my own research, I have been particularly interested in looking for connections between apparently disparate sub-fields in astronomy that can enable the cross-fertilization of ideas across different domains. I have worked very broadly; my research covers topics from Galactic dynamics, time-domain astronomy, and radiative transfer. I also enjoy connecting people to resources (whether software, ideas, or other people).

Should you elect me as an officer of our national professional organization, I will strive to serve our field at the broadest possible level.