

# Tommaso Treu

## Candidate for Vice President

**Affiliation:** University of California, Los Angeles

**Position/Title:** Professor

**PhD institution:** Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy), 2001

**Areas of scientific interest:**

- Fundamental Physics and Cosmology
- Galaxy Formation and Evolution
- Black Holes and Active Galactic Nuclei



**AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- Member, Annie Jump Cannon Award Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2022 – present

**Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2023
- Fellow, American Astronomical Society, 2022
- HST Co-Chair, NASA Senior Review, 2022
- Fellow, American Physical Society, 2021
- Member, panel on Galaxies, Astro2020 Decadal Review, 2019 – 2020
- Volunteer preschool astronomy teacher, 2019 – present
- Member, Advisory/Users Committee, JWST, 2016 – 2021
- Member, Oversight Committee, Spitzer Space Telescope, 2012 – 2016
- Member, panel on Galaxies across cosmic time, Astro2020 Decadal Review, 2009
- Member, Users Committee, Space Telescope Science Institute, 2006 – 2009

**Statement:**

Thank you for considering me for Vice President. As VP, my main roles consist of planning the AAS meeting and advising the President. I present below a concise summary of my priorities within each role.

I believe that AAS meetings must continue to evolve in order to remain a focal point of American astronomy, while addressing the enormous social justice and environmental challenges that we face. During the pandemic, the Society experimented with hybrid meetings and learned important lessons (<https://aas.org/posts/news/2023/08/future-virtual->

participation-aas-meetings). Building on this experience, as a VP I would work with the AAS leadership to find ways to reimagine the meetings. Can we find a way to exploit technology to allow broad participation of underrepresented groups by reducing costs and increasing flexibility for scientists with high teaching loads and family obligations, while preserving the quality of the science and human connection that is so important to all of us? I will also work to find trustworthy partners to offer carbon-offset schemes with the goal of making the AAS meetings carbon neutral. Finally, I will build on the important work that has been so far to continue to strengthen our ethics standards and make AAS meetings (and Astronomy in general) a truly safe and inclusive place for everyone. In parallel, I will draw from my experience organizing dozens of scientific meetings, publishing papers on a variety of topics with a variety of co-authors, and serving on many committees, to create an exciting scientific program with a diverse group of speakers.

In terms of policy, I believe that science and scientists play a crucial role in forming an educated and informed citizenry. Compared to other blue-sky science, astronomy has an almost unrivaled visibility and public appeal, and therefore it should be at the forefront of public outreach and scientific education. On this score, I will work with the President and AAS leadership to achieve the following goals. First, promoting scientific literacy by strengthening and supporting scientific outreach and education aimed especially at children and members of minoritized groups. Second, providing guidance for young aspiring scientists, from their initial experience as undergraduates to the choice of graduate school, and post-PhD career development. Third, lobbying Congress and funding agencies to continue to invest in Astronomical scientific research, realizing the priorities set out by the Astro2020 Decadal Survey.