

# Xiaohui Fan

## Candidate for Vice President



**Affiliation:** University of Arizona

**Position/Title:** Regents' Professor and Associate Department Head

**PhD institution:** Princeton University, 2000

**Areas of scientific interest:**

Quasars; Supermassive Black Holes; Cosmic Reionization; Intergalactic Medium;  
Galaxy Formation; Large Scale Structure; Large Surveys and Data Mining

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

- Chair, Selection Committee, Henry Norris Russell Lectureship, 2022 – 2025
- Representative, US National Committee for the International Astronomical Union, 2016 - 2019
- Member, Selection Committee, Helen B. Warner Prize/Newton Lacy Pierce Prize Committee, 2014 – 2017

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

- Member, Editorial Committee, *Annual Review for Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 2019 – 2024
- Member, Executive Committee, Sloan Digital Sky Survey III, IV, V Advisory Council, 2019 – present
- Member, Sloan Digital Sky Survey III, IV, V Advisory Council, 2008 – 2018
- Member, Steering Committee, International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), 2014 – present
- Member, Institutional Board, Dark Energy Spectroscopy Instrument (DESI) Project, 2014 – present
- Chair, Large Binocular Telescope Scientific Advisory Committee, 2013 – 2016
- Member, Large Binocular Telescope Scientific Advisory Committee, 2005 – 2012 and 2017 – 2019
- Member, Advisory Committee, Kavli Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, 2011 – 2013 and 2019 – present
- Member, ALMA - North American Science Advisory Committee, 2003 – 2007

**Statement:**

It is an honor to be nominated for the Vice President of the American Astronomical Society. We live in an extraordinary time of new discoveries in astronomy, as exciting results from facilities such as JWST are expanding our cosmic horizon at a breathtaking pace. On the other hand, we are also facing profound challenges in our community, in the broader society, on our planet, and in the sky above that is the dearest to our hearts. Below are some of the issues that I am passionate about in my role as an AAS VP:

-- Envision a Sustainable Future. One of the main roles of VP is the organization of AAS meetings. The recent AAS survey results demonstrated the key value of in-person interactions during those meetings, especially after the last few years of isolation. At the same time, there is an equally strong desire to make our meetings environmentally friendly. How do we build further meetings to be interactive, sustainable and equitable? I will work with AAS leadership and the entire community to find innovative approaches and creative solutions.

-- Embrace the Data Revolution. Next generation of survey data, and the new AI and machine learning tools to analyze these data, are reshaping my own research and the astronomical research and education in general. AAS should be active to help the community in providing resources and training, and in reexamining education and publication policies, to best position ourselves to embrace the data and AI revolution and their power of new discoveries.

-- Empower the Next Generation of Astronomers. As a university faculty, I am always inspired by the passion, curiosity and creativity of our early career colleagues, and at the same time I am keenly aware of the stress they are facing in their career development and work/life balance. AAS should continue to play a central role in promoting inclusive and equitable policies and practices that will empower the next generation astronomer to build a diverse community that respects their individual paths and helps them to realize the full potentials of their professional and personal growths.

In 1993, as a first-year grad student, I met Prof. Frank Shu, who was the AAS president at the time, and asked him about the role of the Society in our career. It was my first encounter with AAS. Three decades later, I had the privilege to chair the AAS Russell Lectureship Committee, which recommended Frank the Lectureship to recognize his career as a scientist, educator and leader, just a few months before Frank passed away. AAS has been a constant in my career that gives me the sense of community and common purpose. I hope to contribute to its future success with my service and vision.