

Fabio Pacucci

Curriculum Vitae & Publication List
Updated: April 20, 2026

Center for Astrophysics
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Academic Summary

Scientific Publications (as First Author)	223	(87)
Citations in ADS (Google Scholar)	7600+	(7600+)
H-index in ADS (Google Scholar)	49	(44)
m-index in ADS (Google Scholar)	3.5	(3.2)
Talks (Review, Invited, Contributed)	128	(14, 77, 37)
Student Direct Supervision (Graduate, Undergraduate)	32	(8, 24)
Directly Supervised Student-Led Papers	11	
Awards and Grants	\$1.2M	
Press Releases (Major) — covering my first-author work	6	(2)
Public Outreach Talks — in-person and virtual	100+	

Experience

- since 2025 **Staff Astrophysicist**,
Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA.
- since 2025 **Senior Member of the Institute for Theory and Computation**,
Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), USA.
- 2019–2025 **Clay Fellow & BHI Fellow**,
Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA.
- 2019 **NOVA Fellow**,
Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Netherlands.
- 2016–2018 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**,
Yale University — Department of Physics, New Haven (CT), USA.

Education

- 2013–2016 **Ph.D. in Physics**, *Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), Italy.*
THESIS TITLE: *The First Black Holes in the Cosmic Dark Ages*
ADVISOR: Prof. Andrea Ferrara, GRADE: 70/70 cum laude
- 2011–2013 **M.S. in Astrophysics with Honors**, *University of Rome, Sapienza, Italy.*
GRADE: 110/110 cum laude
- 2008–2011 **B.S. in Physics with Honors**, *University of Rome, Sapienza, Italy.*
GRADE: 110/110 cum laude

Biographical Information

Gender: Male
Birthplace: Taranto, Italy
Citizenship: Italy & USA

Current Research Interests

Black hole formation and evolution – Black hole seeding – Little Red Dots – Galaxy formation and evolution – High-redshift Universe – Cosmology – Wandering black holes – Intermediate-mass black holes – Supermassive black holes – Quasars – Multi-wavelength surveys – Time-domain astronomy – Tidal disruption events – Multi-wavelength data analysis – GR(R)MHD simulations – Cosmological simulations – N-body simulations – Machine learning – Astro-statistics

Prizes & Awards

- 2025 **"Anello di San Cataldo" Prize** – Awarded by the City of Taranto for outstanding contributions to the promotion and dissemination of scientific culture
- 2019 **Clay Fellowship (SAO)**
- 2019 **BHI Fellowship (Harvard University)**
- 2017 **Livio Gratton Prize** – Best Ph.D. Thesis in Astronomy in Italy (2014-2016)
- 2017 **American Astronomical Society "International Travel Grant" Award**
- 2016 **IAU Ph.D. Prize** – International Astronomical Union prize for Ph.D. Thesis
- 2016 **Yale Postdoctoral Scholars Travel Fund Award**
- 2012 **Enrico Persico Prize 2011-2012** – Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei prize for exceptional achievements in Physics
- 2012 **ASI-ISSNAF (Italian Space Agency) 2012 Internship Program Winner**
- 2007 – 2012 **Fellowship at the "Lamaro-Pozzani" University College in Rome**
- 2007 **Rotary Club Prize** – Exceptional achievements during high-school studies

Grants, Fellowships, and Observing Programs

Fellowships:

Name	Years	Award
Clay Fellowship	2022 – 2025	~ \$375,000
BHI Fellowship	2019 – 2022	~ \$360,000
NOVA Fellowship	2019	~ \$70,000

Awarded Observing Programs as Principal Investigator:

Telescope	Year	Type	Time	Target	Award
JWST	2026	GO	9.3 hrs	Nearby SMBHs	\$125,205
Chandra	2024	DDT	10 ks	Gaia BH3	\$31,790
JWST	2023	GO	12.38 hrs	Leo I dSph	\$88,455
Gemini-S	2023	DDT	6.5 hrs	Leo I dSph	N/A
VLA	2022	DDT	2 hrs	Leo I dSph	N/A
SMA	2022	DDT	6.7 hrs	Leo I dSph	N/A
VLA	2022	DDT	0.75 hr	Leo I dSph	N/A
Chandra	2022	DDT	30 ks	Leo I dSph	\$22,050
Chandra	2022	GO	250 ks	HD2	\$87,200
Keck	2018	GO	2 nights	CR7	N/A
Chandra	2017	THEORY	N/A	N/A	\$87,000

Publication Record (Highlights)

Number of scientific publications (papers, proceedings, funded proposals): 223

Number of first-author scientific publications: 87

Number of refereed papers: 138

Number of directly supervised student-led scientific publications: 10

Number of citations (ADS): 7600+

H-index (ADS): 49

m-index (ADS): 3.5

[Link to Personal ADS Library](#)

A full publication list is reported at the end of this document.

Teaching Recognition

May 2024 **Harvard Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning** recognition for exceptional teaching for the course FYSEMR 21G: Genesis of Stars and Life in the Universe, Spring 2024.

Teaching Experience

2024 **Teaching Assistant** for the Freshman Seminar classes in Spring 2024 at Harvard University (1 semester).

2023 **Guest Lecturer** for the course "Genesis of Stars And Life In The Universe" at Harvard University, for undergraduate students majoring in Astronomy (2 classes).

2017 **Guest Lecturer** for the course "Gravity, Astrophysics, and Cosmology" at Yale University for undergraduate students majoring in Astronomy (2 classes).

2013 – 2015 **Teaching Assistant** for several undergraduate courses (SNS, Italy): classical mechanics, electromagnetism, general relativity, linear algebra.

2015 **Teaching Assistant** for the graduate course "Structure Formation in the Early Universe" (SNS, Italy).

Experience as Research Advisor and Mentor

Graduate Students (8)

since 2024 Valentina La Torre, Tufts University
2024 Umasree Thekkemadam, University of Miami
since 2024 Emma Weller, Yale University
2024 Jasmine Gill, Harvard University
2024 Victoria DiTomasso, Harvard University
2023 Fabiola Cocchiararo, University of Milan-Bicocca
since 2023 Emmanuel Durodola, Dartmouth College
2023 Aurora Abbondanza, University of Rome – Sapienza

Undergraduate Students (24)

2026 Xavier Maple, Morgan State University
2025 Saphina Chisek-Singh, Harvard University
2024 Astrid Liu (HCRP program winner), Harvard University
2024 Sarah Pinto, Harvard University
2024 Truman Pauley Harvard University
2024 Emiliano Maldonado, Harvard University
2024 Callie Garcia, Harvard University
2024 Annika Geiersbach (HCRP program winner), Harvard University
since 2024 Cal Guia (HCRP program winner), Harvard University
since 2023 Bao (Tintin) Nguyen, University of Arizona
2023 Daria-Teodora Harabor (HCRP program winner), Harvard University
2023 Bruna Biz (PRISE program winner), Harvard University
2022 – 2023 Sofia Martinez (Senior Thesis), Harvard University
2022 Bella Tarantino, Harvard University
2022 – 2023 Rui Zhe Lee, Harvard University
2022 Rafid Quayum (PRISE program winner), Harvard University
2021 – 2023 Bryan Seepaul (PRISE program winner), Harvard University
2021 – 2023 Emma Weller (PRISE program winner), Harvard University
2020 – 2022 Lucia Gordon, Harvard University
2020 – 2022 Sarah Gardner, Ossining High School (NY)
2021 Ray Fitzgerald, Harvard University
2021 Kaylie Hausknecht, Harvard University
2021 Emmanuel Durodola, Bancker Institute Program at Harvard University and California State University

2018 Qingyuan Qian, Great Neck North High School (NY)

Professional Service and Collaborations

Peer-Review

- Referee: Nature, ApJ, ApJ Letters, Nature Astronomy, MNRAS, MNRAS Letters, Astronomy & Astrophysics, JCAP, Physical Review Letters
- Peer Reviewer: Chandra TAC
- Peer Reviewer: JWST TAC
- Peer Reviewer: NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences
- Peer Reviewer: NASA Astrophysics Division FINESST (multiple years)
- Peer Reviewer: AAS Chambliss award (multiple years)
- Peer Reviewer: NASA NICER GO (multiple years)

Service & Memberships

International Community Level

- 2025 – 2028 Member of the Executive Committee of NASA PhysPAG
- since 2025 Co-Chair of NASA's Habitable Worlds Observatory Science Interest Group (SIG)
- 2025 – 2028 Co-Chair of the X-ray Science Interest Group (SIG) of NASA Physics of the Cosmos Program
- since 2025 Co-Chair of the NASA Science Analysis Group (SAG) for the conceptual development of a "Lynx2030" mission for the Astro2030 Decadal Survey
- since 2024 Member of the Steering Committee of the AGN Working Group for the NASA Habitable Worlds Observatory
- since 2023 Member of the AXIS X-ray Telescope Science Team (selected for Phase A)
- since 2016 Full Member of the American Astronomical Society
- since 2025 Full Member of the American Physical Society
- since 2024 Full Member of International Astronomical Union
- since 2023 Member of the JWST/CEERS Collaboration
- since 2023 Member of NASA's New Great Observatories Science Analysis Group
- since 2023 Member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the ATA, Associazione Tuscolana di Astronomia
- 2023 Member of the AAS Congressional Visit Group 2023 in Washington, DC
- 2018 – 2014 Junior Member of International Astronomical Union
- 2018 – 2019 Member of the IAU Executive Committee for Junior Members
- since 2018 Associate Member of LISA Consortium
- since 2016 Member of Scuola Normale Superiore Alumni Association
- since 2012 Member of ISSNAF (Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation)

since 2013 Member of the Collegio Universitario "Lamaro-Pozzani" Alumni Association

University/Department Level

since 2023 Member of the CfA Early Career Workshop Committee.

2020 – 2024 Member of the Center for Astrophysics Postdoc Committee

2021 Member of the Postdoc Committee for the CfA Director's search

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

since 2024 Member of the [Working Group](#) of the AAS on International Students and Scholars

since 2024 Participant as a mentor in the pilot edition of the "Mentoring Constellation" program at the CfA to provide support and guidance for young scientists.

2023 – 2024 Co-Organizer of the AAS 243 Meeting Special Session "International Students and Researchers in Astronomy: Issues and a Path Forward"

since 2023 Early Career Researcher representative for the "IDEAS, Education and Public Engagement" committee of the CfA 10-year Strategic Plan.

since 2021 Original promoter and co-organizer of the "Distratis Scholarship" in memory of Cosimo Distratis – teacher, amateur scientist, and long-time supporter of science education. The scholarship funds the study of undergraduate students in Physics from underprivileged rural communities in the south of Italy.

2021 Attended "Intensive Science Undergraduate Mentoring Workshop at Harvard Faculty of Arts and Science" with a particular focus on promoting DEI practices in mentoring activities.

2021 Mentor for the Banneker Institute program at Harvard, which prepares undergraduate BIPOC students for graduate programs in astronomy, focusing on research, graduate coursework, and social science education.

since 2018 Mentored a very diverse cohort of students at the high school and undergraduate levels.

Scientific Organizing Committees

- SOC Chair of the MIT/Harvard Meeting: "BABAM! Boston-Area Blackhole Accretion Meeting" (2023)
- Co-Organizer of the AAS 243 Meeting Special Session "International Students and Researchers in Astronomy: Issues and a Path Forward" (2023)
- SOC Chair for the Annual BHI Conference (since 2020)
- SOC Member for the CfA Colloquium Series (since 2020)
- SOC Chair for the BHI Colloquium Series (since 2019)
- SOC Member for the Conference "Accretion History of AGN", Miami (FL), USA (2019)
- Session Chair for the AAS 240th Meeting (2022)
- Session Chair for the AAS 236th Meeting (2020)

Seminars and Colloquia

Review and Prize Talks

- December 2025 **Highlighted Talk, Smithsonian Institution Advancement Event, Boston Public Library**
UPBRINGING OF AN ASTRONOMER
- October 2025 **Keynote Talk, Harvard Science Research Conference 2025**
BLACK HOLES FROM THE NEARBY TO THE FARAWAY UNIVERSE
- October 2025 **Review Talk, AAS HEAD Meeting 2025**
NASA'S LYNX+ SCIENCE ANALYSIS GROUP: PREPARATION FOR ASTRO 2030
- August 2025 **Panelist, 2025 Santa Cruz Galaxy Meeting**
BLUMENTHAL, FABER, PRIMACK & REES AT 41: WHAT DID THEY GET RIGHT?
WHAT DID THEY GET WRONG? WHAT ARE THE BIG OPEN QUESTIONS?
- December 2023 **Review Talk, "Intermediate-Mass Black Holes: The Dawn of a Revolutionary Era" Conference, Belize**
INTERMEDIATE-MASS BLACK HOLE SEEDS
- September 2023 **Review Talk, ITC Discussion, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA**
OVERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES IN DWARF GALAXIES: THE STRANGE CASE OF LEO I
- August 2023 **Talk, Copenhagen Developers Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark**
SPACE AWE
- April 2023 **Clay Lecture, Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge (MA), USA**
SEARCHING FOR BLACK HOLES FROM THE NEARBY TO THE FARAWAY UNIVERSE
- August 2022 **PAX-22 Workshop, MIT, Cambridge (MA), USA**
OBSERVATIONAL SIGNATURES OF THE FIRST BLACK HOLES
- June 2022 **Astrophysics in the Next Decade: From the First Stars to Intelligent Life, Martha's Vineyard (MA), USA**
TO THE MOST DISTANT GALAXY AND BEYOND: A SCIENTIFIC JOURNEY
- June 2021 **Aspen Center for Physics, 2021 Summer Program, Aspen (CO), USA**
BLACK HOLE FORMATION AND GROWTH IN THE HIGH REDSHIFT UNIVERSE
- August 2018 **IAU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria**
IAU PH.D. PRIZE TALK: THE FIRST BLACK HOLES IN THE COSMIC DARK AGES
- July 2018 **The Early Growth of Supermassive Black Holes, Sexten, Italy**
A MULTI-WAVELENGTH VIEW ONTO THE FIRST BLACK HOLE SEEDS
- November 2017 **Workshop: "Titans of the Early Universe", Prato, Italy**
THE GROWTH OF THE FIRST BLACK HOLES

Invited Talks

- May 2026 Colloquium, UC Irvine: "JWST's Little Red Dots: Masters of Disguise in the Early Universe", Irvine (CA)
- April 2026 Colloquium, Wayne University: "JWST's Little Red Dots: Masters of Disguise in the Early Universe", Detroit (MI)

- March 2026 Colloquium, UMass Amherst: "JWST's Little Red Dots: Masters of Disguise in the Early Universe", Amherst (MA)
- March 2026 Talk, APS 2026 Meeting: "Updates from NASA's X-Ray Science Interest Group", Denver (CO)
- March 2026 Talk, APS 2026 Meeting: "Updates from NASA's HWO Science Interest Group", Denver (CO)
- January 2026 Talk, Sesto XI: "CSI Sesto: Cosmology Scene Investigation in Sesto. Joining Efforts to Solve JWST Mysteries in the Distant Universe", Sexten (Italy)
- January 2026 Talk, Sesto XI: "The growth of galaxies in the Early Universe", Sexten (Italy)
- September 2025 Lesson Series, Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Cambridge (MA)
- August 2025 Talk, 2025 Santa Cruz Galaxy Meeting, Santa Cruz (CA)
- April 2025 Colloquium, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio (TX)
- April 2025 Galaxy Lunch Talk, Yale University, New Haven (CT)
- January 2025 Talk, JWST High-z Meeting, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge, MA
- January 2025 Talk, Sexten Winter Workshop: 'The Growth of Galaxies in the Early Universe – X: the Physics of Early Galaxies', Sexten, Italy
- January 2025 Special Session of the Working Group on International Students and Scholars, AAS 245, National Harbor (MD), USA
- January 2025 PhysPAG Meeting at AAS 245, National Harbor (MD), USA
- January 2025 Special Session talk, AAS 245, National Harbor (MD), USA
- December 2024 Talk, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (MD)
- December 2024 Colloquium, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, virtual
- October 2024 Colloquium, Georgia Tech, Atlanta (GA)
- October 2024 Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin, Austin (TX)
- October 2024 Colloquium, NYU, New York City (NY)
- September 2024 Colloquium, Colby College, Waterville (ME)
- September 2024 Talk, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center AGN Seminar, GSFC, Greenbelt (MD)
- September 2024 Discussion Leader "To B or not to B, where B=Blackhole", KITP, Santa Barbara (CA)
- July 2024 TANDEM Seminary w/t Erandi Chavez, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
- April 2024 Talk, NASA Habitable Worlds Observatory AGN Working Group, virtual
- March 2024 Astrophysics Colloquium, UCLA, Los Angeles (CA), USA
- November 2023 Tufts Astro Colloquium, Tufts University, Medford (MA), USA
- October 2023 ASD Colloquium, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt (MD), USA
- June 2023 Colloquium, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy
- June 2023 Talk, ATA Frascati, Rome, Italy

May 2023 Talk, MIT, Erin Kara's Group Meeting, Cambridge (MA), USA
 April 2023 Colloquium, KITP Stanford, Stanford (CA), USA
 March 2023 Special Session talk, AAS HEAD 20, Waikoloa Village (HI), USA
 December 2022 Talk, ITC Luncheon, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
 November 2022 Talk, Theory Seminar Series, CIERA, Northwestern University, Evanston (IL), USA
 August 2022 Colloquium, University of Miami, Miami (FL), USA
 August 2022 Talk, AXIS Seminar Series, virtual
 June 2022 Talk, AXIS Working Group Meeting, virtual
 May 2022 Speaker at the "The Night of Ideas", Boston (MA), USA
 March 2022 Special Session talk, AAS HEAD 19, Pittsburgh (VA), USA
 November 2021 Talk, UConn, Storrs (CT), USA
 October 2021 Talk, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton (NJ), USA
 September 2021 Speaker at the "Futurological Congress", Bolzano, Italy
 September 2021 Colloquium, INAF Brera, Milan, Italy
 November 2020 Colloquium, SISSA, Trieste, Italy
 October 2020 AAS HEAD division talk, virtual
 October 2020 HEAD Talk, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
 September 2020 Colloquium, NRC Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics, virtual
 September 2020 Colloquium, University of British Columbia, virtual
 September 2020 Talk, "Origin, growth, and feedback of black holes in dwarf galaxies", virtual conference
 June 2020 Press conference and Science talk, AAS 236th meeting, virtual
 January 2020 Colloquium, ITC, Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), USA
 October 2019 Talk, AHA Workshop, University of Miami, Miami (FL), USA
 March 2019 Colloquium, University of Connecticut, Storrs, (CT), USA
 March 2019 Colloquium, Black Hole Initiative (Harvard University), Cambridge (MA), USA
 March 2019 HEAD Talk, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
 November 2018 Talk, ITC, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
 October 2018 Colloquium, Dartmouth College, Hanover (NH), USA
 March 2018 Physics Colloquium, University of Miami, Miami (FL), USA
 March 2018 CosmoClub Talk, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz (CA), USA
 October 2017 Colloquium, Yale Astronomy Department, New Haven (CT), USA

- October 2017 Colloquium, INAF - OAR, Astronomical Observatory of Rome, Italy
- August 2017 Talk, HEAD Meeting 2017, Sun Valley (ID), USA
- June 2017 Talk, Yale Society of Physics Student, New Haven (CT), USA
- June 2017 Talk, Elusive AGN in the Next Era, George Mason University, Fairfax (VA), USA
- March 2017 Talk, Science with the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes, Venice, Italy
- December 2016 Colloquium, The First Black Holes, CCA (Simons Foundation), NYC (NY), USA
- July 2016 Colloquium, Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Groningen, The Netherlands
- March 2016 Talk, Columbia University, NYC (NY), USA
- February 2016 Talk, Yale University, New Haven (CT), USA
- February 2016 Talk, ITC, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
- January 2016 Colloquium MPA Garching, Germany
- October 2015 Talk, X DAVID International Workshop, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy
- February 2015 Talk, IAP Paris, France
- October 2014 Talk, IX DAVID International Workshop, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy
- October 2013 Talk, VIII DAVID International Workshop, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

Contributed Talks

- December 2025 Talk, “Accretion History of AGN”, AHA conference 2025, Miami, FL, USA
- December 2025 Talk, “Highly Accreting Supermassive Black Holes Across all Cosmic Times” conference, Santiago, Chile
- November 2025 Talk, Narayan Group Meeting, Cambridge, MA, USA
- July 2025 Talk, “Towards the Habitable Worlds Observatory: Visionary Science and Transformational Technology” conference, Washington, DC, USA
- June 2025 Talk, “Vasto Accretion Meeting” conference, Vasto, Italy
- May 2025 Talk, “Cosmic Frontier Center” conference, UT Austin, Austin (TX), USA
- May 2025 Talk, “Unveiling massive black hole evolution with gravitational waves and light” conference, Paris, France
- May 2025 Talk, AXIS Science Team Meeting, Annapolis (MD), USA
- January 2025 Talk, ITC Luncheon, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
- January 2025 Talk, AAS 245, National Harbor (MD), USA
- December 2024 Talk, “25 Years of Science with Chandra” conference, Boston (MA), USA
- November 2024 Talk, JSI Meeting, Baltimore (MD), USA
- November 2024 Talk, AGN SWG HWO, virtual
- September 2024 Talk, “To B or Not to B, Where B=Blackhole”, Hernquist group meeting, Cambridge (MA), USA

- August 2024 Talk, “Cosmic Dawn Revealed by JWST: The Physics of the First Stars, Galaxies, and Black Holes” Conference, KITP, Santa Barbara (CA), USA
- June 2024 Talk, “Celebrating 50 Years of Narayan” Conference, Boston (MA), USA
- June 2024 Talk, AAS 244, Madison (WI), USA
- May 2024 Talk, Review on Overmassive Black Holes, Hernquist group meeting, Cambridge (MA), USA
- May 2024 Talk, "First Stars VII in NYC" Conference, NYC (NY), USA
- April 2024 Talk, "Massive Black Holes in the First Billion Years" Conference, Kinsale, Ireland
- January 2024 Talk, AAS 243, New Orleans (LA), USA
- December 2023 Talk, "Accretion History of AGN (AHA)" Conference, Miami (FL), USA
- November 2023 Talk, ITC Luncheon, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
- November 2023 Talk, Hernquist Group, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, Cambridge (MA), USA
- September 2023 Talk, "The First Year of JWST Science Conference", Baltimore (MD), USA
- June 2023 Talk, AAS 242, Albuquerque (NM), USA
- May 2023 Talk, NERQUAM Conference 2023, Kingston (RI), USA
- March 2023 Talk, eXtreme Black Holes, Aspen Winter Workshop, Aspen (CO), USA
- September 2022 Talk, VLA Sky Survey in the Multiwavelength Spotlight, Socorro (NM), USA
- June 2022 Talk, AAS Summer Meeting 2022, Pasadena (CA), USA
- May 2022 Talk, "IMBH: New Science from Stellar Evolution to Cosmology" workshop, Puerto Rico, USA
- December 2021 Talk, BLAST Workshop 2021, virtual
- January 2019 Talk, AAS Winter Meeting 2019, Seattle (WA), USA
- March 2018 Talk, AAS HEAD Meeting 2018, Rosemont (IL), USA
- June 2015 Talk, EWASS 2015 Conference, Spain
- September 2014 Talk, Meeting of the Italian Physical Society, Italy
- June 2014 Talk, Chalonge Meudon Workshop 2014 - Meudon Observatory, France

Public Outreach

Additional details and links about my outreach activities can be found on the [Outreach](#) page of my professional website.

- since 2022 **Regular science writer for Scientific American.** "Why Do Astronomers Seek the Most Distant Galaxies?" [op-ed](#); "How Taking Pictures of Nothing Changes Astronomy" [op-ed](#) also published in the December 2022 printed edition of Sci Am; "Invisible Numbers Are the Most Beautiful Part of Every 'Space' Image" [op-ed](#); "JWST's Smashing Success Shifts Focus to Astronomy's Blind Spots" [op-ed](#); "JWST Finds Strange Harmony in Early Galaxies and Black Holes" [op-ed](#); "JWST's 'Little Red Dots' Offer Astronomers the Universe's Weirdest Puzzle" [op-ed](#).
- 2024 **Writer of an invited feature article for Sky & Telescope.** Appeared in the May 2024 printed edition, it covers the first year of discoveries by JWST in the field of high-redshift black holes. Title: [Distant Lights in the Darkness](#).
- 2024 **Writer for The Conversation** covering the Little Red Dots. Title: [Tiny, compact galaxies are masters of disguise in the distant universe – searching for the secrets behind the Little Red Dots](#). At publication, it rapidly became the second most-read article of the week.
- since 2018 **Educator for 11 TED-Ed videos about science, many of them related to black holes.** For each video, I directed a team of ~ 10 people (animators, scriptwriters, narrators). Each video was viewed $\sim 200,000$ times on publication day, many of which have been translated into 25+ languages. Overall, the 11 published videos have 20+ million views. This effort was covered by an article on the [Harvard Gazette](#).
- 2023 **Science Editor for the book "Black Hole Aesthetics"**, by Lynn Gamwell
- 2022 **Guest for the podcast "Masters of Scale"** with Reid Hoffman, aired December 6, 2022.
- 2022 **Writer contributor** for the book "Shaping the Future: Sustainability and Technology at the Crossroads of Arts and Science", published by Graffeg (2023).
- 2021–2022 **Science Advisor** for the [Black Hole Symphony](#) show, produced by the Boston Museum of Science.
- 2019–2024 **Manager of public outreach** for the Black Hole Initiative at Harvard.
- 2018 **Development of the Black Hole Calculator:** online tool that provides a convenient summary of the properties of a black hole given its mass and spin. The calculator is a valuable tool for research and teaching, and it is used by a daily average of ~ 100 people worldwide.
- 2019 **Guest for a CBS/ZNET show:** What we know about the black hole information paradox.
- 2019 **Writer of one essay for the "Libro dell'Anno 2019" by Treccani** about the EHT image of the black hole in M87. Treccani is among the most prestigious encyclopedic institutions worldwide.
- 2018 **Astronomy on Tap – New Haven** with the talk "The Hunt for the First Black Holes in the Universe".

- 2016–2017 **Multiple invitations as a guest for the radio program "Aula 40"** on air from the National Research Center (CNR) in Pisa.
- 2013–2016 **Organizer of the Cosmology outreach program** for the Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy.
- 2013–2017 **Co-organizer of the local astronomy outreach events** for the "Night of the Researchers" in Italy.
- 2011 **Science Editor for the book "Cielo Tricolore"**: this [book](#) celebrated the 150th anniversary of Italy and was sent to the President of the Italian Republic.
- since 2005 **Presented 100+ public outreach talks**, both in-person (Italy, USA, Netherlands, Peru, Spain) and virtual.
- 2005 **Author of a section of the book "Astronomia in rete: gli studenti fanno vedere le stelle"** published by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. The [section](#) described a method to measure the distance of close-by astronomical objects, easily implementable in schools.

Press Coverage

Additional details and links about the press coverage of my research can be found on the [Press Coverage](#) page of my professional website.

- August 2025 **Coverage of a new model to explain the origin of the Little Red Dots**, revealed by JWST in the very distant Universe. The news was covered by many outlets, including the Harvard Gazette, ScienceDaily, Universe Today, Sky & Telescope, Phys.org.
- January 2024 **Extensive coverage of the discovery that black holes detected by JWST in the faraway Universe are significantly overmassive**. Among others, it was covered by the [Sky & Telescope](#), [Big Think](#), and [phys.org](#). See also the beautiful [animation](#) created for the press release.
- April 2022 **Extensive coverage of the discovery of the most distant galaxy candidates ever found and their physical interpretation**. According to an analysis by the CfA press office, the news reached 1.5 billion readers worldwide. Among others, it was covered by the [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#), [Boston Globe](#).
- June 2020 **Coverage of a new model to describe how black holes grow across cosmic time**, which was presented at a press conference during the 236th meeting of the AAS. The news was covered by Sky & Telescope, Phys.org, Universe Today, IFLScience magazine, Cosmos Magazine, Repubblica, and Media INAF.

- January 2019 **Coverage of the discovery of the first strongly lensed quasar at $z > 6$, for which I was a collaborator, along with its physical interpretation and consequences for the broader populations of high- z quasars.** The news was covered by Yale University, Keck Observatory, Hubble Space Telescope, and ESA press releases. Media outlets, such as USA Today, Space.com, Astronomy.com, Discover magazine, Science Daily, Sky & Telescope, Cosmos Magazine, WSHU Public Radio, Sci-News, ScienMag, EarthSky, Repubblica and Messaggero, among many other outlets.
- May 2016 **Extensive coverage of the discovery of the first Direct Collapse Black Hole candidates.** The discovery was presented by a [NASA press release](#) and featured on ABC News, Daily Mail, WIRED, Space.com, CBS, ESA, Chandra website, Repubblica, Corriere della Sera, Messaggero, among many others.
- since 2016 **Routinely interviewed by media outlets to comment on recent discoveries in astronomy,** mostly regarding black holes. Examples of recent interviews: [Discover Magazine](#), [Yale Daily News](#), [Pop Sci](#), [Zeppelin](#), [Repubblica](#).

Long-Term Visits

- Jan–Mar 2016 **Yale University — Department of Astronomy, New Haven (CT), USA.**
SUPERVISOR: Prof. Priyamvada Natarajan, RESEARCH TOPIC: Black hole outflows
- Jan–Apr 2015 **Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris (IAP), Paris, France.**
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Peer-Reviewed Publication List

Note: This list includes papers accepted or submitted to refereed journals. For co-authored papers, when more than 10 authors are present, only the first and the total number of authors are indicated. A star symbol (★) indicates directly supervised student-led papers.

1. Zou, F., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (10 authors) *Revisiting the Claim for a Direct-Collapse Black Hole in UHZ1 at $z = 10.05$* , 2026, submitted to ApJ

2. Bulichi, T. E., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (19 authors) *MEOW: The increase in the obscured AGN fraction in mid-infrared from $0 < z < 6$ with JWST MIRI*, 2026, submitted to ApJ
3. Iani, E., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (38 authors) *JWST Reveals Two Overmassive Black Hole Candidates in Dwarf Galaxies at $z \approx 0.7$: Pushing Black Hole Searches into the Dwarf-Galaxy Regime*, 2026, submitted to ApJ
4. Davis, K., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (31 authors) *Extreme Emission Line Galaxies in CEERS Are Powered by Star Formation, not AGN*, 2026, submitted to ApJ
5. McGrath, E. J., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (45 authors) *A Morphology Catalog of Galaxies in CEERS: Evolution in the Size and Color Gradients of Galaxies Since Cosmic Dawn*, 2026, ApJ Letters, 999, L6
6. Han, J. J., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (96 authors) *A Path to an All-Sky Survey with Roman*, 2026, white paper
7. Nguyen, D. D., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (9 authors) *Dynamical Evidence for a Billion Solar Mass Black Hole in Galaxy NGC 4061 from ALMA 12CO(2-1) Kinematics*, 2026, submitted to ApJ
8. **Pacucci F.**, Ferrara A. & Kocevski, D. D. *The Little Red Dots Are Direct Collapse Black Holes*, 2026, submitted to Nature
9. ★ Guia C. F. & **Pacucci F.**, *Radio Constraints Disfavor Little Red Dots as Scaled-down Super-Eddington Quasars*, 2025, Research Notes of the AAS, 9 355
10. Bisigello, L., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (28 authors) *HELM's deep: Highly Extincted Low-Mass galaxies seen by JWST*, 2026, A&A, Volume 706, id.A363, 17 pp.
11. LaChance, P., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (11 authors) *From ASTRID to BRAHMA – The role of overmassive black holes in little red dots in cosmological simulations*, 2025, submitted to ApJ
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13. Scoggins, M. T., Haiman, Z., **Pacucci F.**, *Heavy black hole seed survivors in dwarf galaxies: a case study of Leo I*, 2025, submitted to MNRAS
14. Koss, M., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (398 authors) *The Advanced X-ray Imaging Satellite Community Science Book*, 2025
15. Cox, I. G., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (38 authors) *The CEERS Photometric and Physical Parameter Catalog*, 2025, submitted to ApJ
16. Jones, B. L., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (21 authors) *The $M_{\text{BH}} - M_{\star}$ Relationship at $3 < z < 7$: Big Black Holes in Little Red Dots*, 2025, submitted to ApJ
17. Perry, M. N., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (18 authors) *The Prevalence of Bursty Star Formation in Low-Mass Galaxies at $z = 1 - 7$ from $H\alpha$ -to-UV Diagnostics*, 2025, ApJ, Volume 994, Issue 1, id.14, 11 pp.
18. Merlin, E., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (20 authors) *Witnessing Downsizing in the Making: Quiescent and Breathing Galaxies at the Dawn of the Universe*, 2025, The Open Journal of Astrophysics, Volume 8
19. **Pacucci F.**, Hernquist L., Fujii M. *Little Red Dots Are Nurseries of Massive Black Holes*, 2025, ApJ, Volume 994, Issue 1, id.40, 9 pp.
20. Ronayne, K., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (15 authors) *MEGA: Spectrophotometric SED Fitting of Little Red Dots Detected in JWST MIRI*, 2025, submitted to ApJ
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22. Ngo, H. N., [...] **Pacucci F.**, et al., (12 authors) *Revisiting the supermassive black hole mass of NGC 7052 using high spatial resolution molecular gas observed with ALMA*, 2025, accepted on ApJ
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28. **Pacucci F.** & Loeb A., *Cosmic Outliers: Low-Spin Halos Explain the Abundance, Compactness, and Redshift Evolution of the Little Red Dots*, 2025, ApJ Letters, Volume 989, Number 2
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