



Published



Edit

**This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible**[Show Due Dates](#)**Z3 Zoom Chat with Scientist/Alumni, 3 pm Fri 2/4**Erin O'Connor

Jan 31 at 12:09am

24

Zoom Chat with Scientist / Alumni, Friday 2/4 at 3 pm (Optional Attendance)**Meeting ID: 977 5426 1438, Passcode: 873684**<https://sbcc.zoom.us/j/97754261438?pwd=MINJZXBpcGRNVk5XNjh5MG5sYjFSQT09>[\(https://sbcc.zoom.us/j/97754261438?pwd=MINJZXBpcGRNVk5XNjh5MG5sYjFSQT09\)](https://sbcc.zoom.us/j/97754261438?pwd=MINJZXBpcGRNVk5XNjh5MG5sYjFSQT09)

- Dr. Isabel Lipartito recently defended her PhD in (Astro)Physics from UCSB and will share with the class her journey in science and the challenges women in STEM face in a competitive male dominated academic field. Her areas of research at UCSB include binary, cluster, and exoplanet studies, and she has co-hosted many "Astronomy on Tap" events with Las Cumbres Global Observatory in Santa Barbara (pre-pandemic of course). She is currently working as a Senior Systems Integration and Test Engineer at Lockheed Martin. She welcomes questions from the class. Feel free to email her at Isabel.Lipartito@gmail.com (<mailto:Isabel.Lipartito@gmail.com>) or find her on Facebook.

We had a great Zoom Meeting. Here is the recording:https://youtu.be/MCW_VyWCab8 [\(https://youtu.be/MCW_VyWCab8\)](https://youtu.be/MCW_VyWCab8)

Each week we will set up a Zoom meeting with a scientist working with astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, or science and engineering, or an alum of SBCC from our astronomy program to see what they are doing now with school, education, or their lives and careers. Some of our former students are doing amazing things. I will be reaching out to contacts I've made over my teaching career so that we can personalize and humanize the material and create more of an "in person" classroom environment.

These Zoom meetings are optional. You are not required to attend, but you are certainly invited. These meetings will be at random various times during the week, subject to the availability of our prestigious guests. The meetings are not lectures. I'm more interested in chatting with our guests to have them tell you a bit about their school, work, and interest in astronomy and to give you an opportunity to ask questions and interact with them yourselves.

If you can not attend, that is fine, you will still get full credit by watching the recording and participating in a discussion about the Zoom meeting.

After participating in the Zoom Meeting and/or watching a recording of the Zoom Meeting, please post your reaction to the meeting. What did you find most interesting about what they are doing

or what they had to say? How is it relevant to your life or educational pursuits? What qualities about their approach or perspective to education (or life) do you think has helped them succeed and to get to a place where a Black Holes Class teacher would want to invite them for a Zoom Meeting with their class (haha).

**Sarah Savage** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/375381>)

Feb 4, 2022

I really enjoyed attending today's guest speaker session! It was eye-opening to hear Isabel speak about how few women were in the UCSB Physics/Astrophysics PhD program during her years there. I hope that will change drastically over the coming years. Her comment about her small size being a physical asset for some of the hands-on work she has done was definitely unexpected. She had a very positive outlook on being a woman in STEM and that is inspiring.

As an Astronomy major, I really appreciated hearing about her real-world experience in an advanced program and how it affected her life.

Edited by **Sarah Savage** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/375381>) on Feb 4 at 9:22pm

**Franco Diaz Campo** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/403036>)

Feb 12, 2022

Hi Sarah,

It is true that she had some mishaps during her professional career, and she had a lot of mental strength to continue her goals. I found it incredible how she expresses her words, and she is an excellent professional.

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:23pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Yes, and I hope you are part of that change at UCSB (or wherever you plan to continue with school). We need more talented energetic women in STEM and you clearly are dedicated and committed. I look forward to hearing what you do.

← [Reply](#)



(https://

Victor Jensen (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/416476>)

Feb 6, 2022

I am surprised there are infrared cameras looking for exoplanets on the ground. I would think the level of interference from the atmosphere would make such a faint signal absolutely unusable. Regardless, I am certain that scientists working in exoplanets are very grateful for the James Webb telescope's ability to see faint infrared signals with borderline no interference.

Interested in seeing how her conversation about Physics versus Engineering applies to me, since I would like to major in Engineering Physics as a bachelor. I am unsure what it entails, but I am unsure what I want to specialize in, so Engineering Physics seemed like a good way to save choosing until Graduate school. I am fascinated by Astronomy, but the lack of available jobs concerns me about majoring in it. My physics professor is actually an Astronomy PhD that struggled to find an interesting career in Astronomy.

← [Reply](#)



(http

Sarah Savage (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/375381>)

Feb 8, 2022

Victor, I'm curious who your physics professor is. I'd like to pick their brain about their experience in having a hard time finding jobs in the astronomy field.

← [Reply](#)



(http

Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:21pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Physics is a good major since it allows you to work as an engineer (I did that). It also gives you a big overview picture that is very helpful as an engineer. Who is your physics teacher. Is it Michael Young or Doug Folsom here at SBCC? Doug also went to Harvey

Mudd where I went (but different years). Michael has been teaching for a long time but I don't remember either of them being Astro majors.

← [Reply](#)



Brian Wolden (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/274832>)

Feb 6, 2022

I really enjoyed Dr. Lipartito's talk and hearing her perspective on grad school at UCSB. One thing that I found particularly interesting was her comments about the time it took for her to feel comfortable contributing to the research as a graduate student and the transition from student to researcher. I am thinking about (eventually) going to grad school as well and I am already a little nervous about feeling like I have something to contribute. I worked in computer engineering for many years (and still do part time) and I experienced that feeling there, though as Dr. Lipartito mentioned, the feeling did eventually go away. Being able to contribute intellectually in graduate school seems even more daunting as there you are frequently dealing with entirely new ground in your field. Hearing her share that she had those same doubts at one point, and that she eventually got past them, was encouraging.

← [Reply](#)



Abigail Jacobs (She/Her) (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/367167>)

Feb 13, 2022

Hi Brian!

I think it's amazing that her information was close to your feelings as well about going to grad school and being able to contribute to things intellectually and that she was able to share her journey and to be honest about it!

← [Reply](#)



Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:24pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Nice thoughtful response. You have a really refreshing approach and I think you will do well as you continue in science (whatever specific direction you take).

← [Reply](#)



Naomi Xu (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/27955>)

Feb 9, 2022

I've always known that there were less women in stem, the higher my math and science classes get, the less women I see, but it was still so shocking that she was one of the TWO women in her grad research group, and even the support club for women only get one or two new member per year. It makes me want to work towards that so that there are more and more women who can be encouraged to pursue something they find interest in with a community that can support them, like Isabel does in her support club as well as "Astronomy on Tap". I am very bummed that I was not of age to attend AoT pre-pandemic, but I hope to experience it soon.

← [Reply](#)



Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:25pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

I want to see you be part of that change at UCSB (or wherever you plan to continue with school). We need more talented energetic women in STEM and you clearly are dedicated and committed. I look forward to hearing what you do. Will you invite me to Sweden when you get the Nobel Prize? :)

← [Reply](#)



Malcolm Tircuit (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/427388>)

Feb 11, 2022

It was very interesting learning about the cameras that take photos through giant telescopes. I was also very surprised to hear that not many people actually look through the telescopes with their bear eyes anymore. It was also interesting learning about how the cameras have to be cooled by refrigerators built for that purpose. I really liked hearing Isabel talk about the community and collaboration part of science as opposed to the stereotypical isolation science that we have come to know through popular media. Overall I really enjoyed hearing about her journey and her experiences with science and technology.

← [Reply](#)



Franco Diaz Campo (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/403036>)

Feb 12, 2022

Hi Malcolm,

I have to admit the part I liked most at this conference was when she talked about telescopes and all those related things. It is one of the topics that I like most, and I hope we still have a lot of conferences like it.

← [Reply](#)



Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:23pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

It's a shame that some telescopes now are set up so you can't look through them at all ever. But the equipment they attach produces amazing pictures, so I guess in the end, it's for the best.

← [Reply](#)



Franco Diaz Campo (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/403036>)

Feb 12, 2022

Hi Everyone,

First of all, I want to thank Professor O'Connor for bringing us this exciting zoom meeting with Dr. Isabel Lipartito. It was an exciting meeting; it had everything a good meeting needs to have. I'm a bit sad because I haven't had the opportunity to assist to one of these meetings because of the time, and I would love to ask a lot of questions since physics is one of the most things I love in life. I found it interesting when she talked about telescopes; it is a topic I love to hear about, and it was pretty interesting all the development these materials have advanced through the years. I also liked it a lot when she talked about all the processes in her career, and I like how she expresses herself a lot.

Edited by **Franco Diaz Campo** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/403036>) on Feb 12 at 3:58pm

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:19pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Thoughtful responses. Hopefully you can join us for future Zoom Chats. I'm going to be giving extra credit to those who attend.

 [Reply](#)**Luke Rutherford** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/373514>)

Feb 13, 2022

It was enjoyable hearing Dr. Lipartito talk about her journey and what she did, my favorite part was when she talked about the importance of teamwork and having a community. This could relate to my life because having a team and an additional set of eyes or thoughts can be helpful in any case. It was interesting hearing her talk about her journey when choosing what she wanted to do and how she found a major that included all of her interests. It gives me the motivation to learn new areas of study and possibly find a major that I enjoy more.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:22pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Yes, the importance of community and teamwork should not be understated.

 [Reply](#)**Abigail Jacobs (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/367167>)

Feb 13, 2022

I really enjoyed how passionate she was about the building of the telescope and how they were looking for planets outside of our solar system! This is very important work and it's tough

to create these. She seems to be very knowledgeable and very much excited about her work and the amazing things that she has accomplished.

← [Reply](#)



Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:21pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Nice thoughtful response. Hopefully you can join us for future Zoom Chats. I am going to be giving extra credit for those that can join us live.

← [Reply](#)



Alak Fryt (He/Him) (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/354278>)

Feb 13, 2022

I think that one of the most interesting things to hear Dr. Lipartito talk about was how she was one of just two women in her class when joining UCSB. I mean to just think about how intimidating it could be to walk into a class of seemingly only guys would be kind of scary to me. But I think that it's really awesome that she was able to find the other women in her class as well as in the rest of the physics department. I also liked her message as well about finding your community within the majority because having the sense of connection with other people that share similar qualities with you is very important because like Dr. Lipartito said, it's hard being the only one.

← [Reply](#)



Erin O'Connor (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:19pm

Originally Posted 2/27/22

Nice thoughtful response. Hopefully you can join us for future Zoom Chats. I am going to be giving extra credit for those that can join us live.

← [Reply](#)

**Lukas Gott** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/417976>)

Feb 13, 2022



I found it really amazing how Dr. Isabel was able to design and build her own astronomy cameras then actually use them to explore space in hopes of finding new planetary systems revolving stars. I think it shows a lot of determination (and a lot of heart not to get burnt out) to stick with a Physics and Astronomy major while using it to actually make progress in space exploration.

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

4:20pm



Originally Posted 2/27/22

Nice thoughtful response. Hopefully you can join us for future Zoom Chats. I am going to be giving extra credit for those that can join us live.

[← Reply](#)