San Mateo County Astronomical Society

SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday March 6, 2020

Dr. Dan Weisz

UC Berkeley, Assistant Professor of Astronomy

Resolving the Local Universe with the Hubble and James Webb Telescopes

Friday, March 6, 2020 , College of San Mateo, Building 36
SMCAS General meeting at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110
Presentation at 8:00 p.m. Planetarium
Free and open to the public, free parking.

In his talk, Dr. Weisz highlights the amazing science and images produced by Hubble observations of local galaxies from the past three decades. The pinnacle of these studies is the Panchromatic Hubble Andromeda Treasury (PHAT) program, an 800-hour Hubble survey of our sibling galaxy Andromeda, and one of the largest Hubble programs ever conducted. Weisz will describe the PHAT survey and its scientific impact and discuss plans for the James Webb Space Telescope, which will succeed Hubble as the most sensitive telescope in existence following its launch in 2021.

Daniel Weisz is an Assistant Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley, and an observational astronomer. His research is centered around the local Universe. He uses facilities such as the Hubble Space Telescope, Keck, and (soon) the James Webb Space Telescope along with "archaeological" techniques to reconstruct the formation histories of local galaxies. He has been at the forefront of near-field cosmology, which connects that fossil record of local galaxies to our theoretical and observational knowledge of the very early Universe. He has received national and international recognition for his research, including an Alfred. P Sloan Fellowship, an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, and the 2019 Newton Lacy Pierce Prize for outstanding achievements in observational astronomy, awarded by the American Astronomical Society. As principle investigator of the James Webb Space Telescope Early Release Science Program for Resolved Stellar Populations, Weisz will be one of the first people to use the James Webb telescope.