

# ITAMP News

Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian  
[itamp.harvard.edu](http://itamp.harvard.edu)

2021- 2022

On March 10, 2020, Harvard mandated the closure of the campus. ITAMP officially closed on March 18 and all in-person activities ceased. At the time, two long-term visitors, Fulbright fellow- Rosario Gonzalez Ferez- from the University of Granada, and Janine Shertzer from the College of Holy Cross, were in residence. Rosario had arrived on March 1. Given the precarious conditions in Spain at the time, she chose to stay in Cambridge. The scientific staff and fellows transitioned to virtual with their teaching and research from home and the administrative staff worked through the remaining paperwork, including the all-important reimbursements and travel. One such immediate work was processing the paperwork for the just-concluded ITAMP/B2 Winter School at Biosphere from February 23-29. Harvard entered its phase one of reopening near the end of May with reopening of some laboratory spaces under extreme and restrictive guidelines. Testing for the virus was slowly ramped up. Those who were cleared for access, could return to office with daily attestation and limited hours, later in the summer. Beginning in Fall 2020, when freshmen

returned to campus, and confined to their houses, self-testing became the norm. Students had to self-test with Test Kits three times a week and all others once a week. Results would usually become available in less than 24 hours.

Starting in Fall 2020, ITAMP started a new seminar series in AMO- Special Seminars During the Pandemic- where keynote speakers were invited from the US and overseas and met individually with senior and junior fellows across the Cambridge AMO scene and delivered hour-long Zoom. All lectures from this special series are available on the ITAMP YouTube channel. The first ITAMP all-virtual workshop was conducted in November 2020 with an average session attendance at over 150 participants.

Harvard has announced that it will bring faculty and staff to offices, starting in August 2021. While many of the details about the reopening have yet to be announced, such as whether the buildings will remain under gated access policy- we at ITAMP are excited that there's a good possibility that sometime in the Fall, ITAMP can fully reopen and resume in-person activities. So, stay tuned.

## Workshops & Schools

**Correlated Insulating States in Two Dimensions**  
November 5-6, 2020

**ITAMP/B2 Institute Winter Graduate School on AMO Physics, Theme on Astrochemistry**  
University of Arizona- Biosphere 2  
February 23-29, 2020.

## Up and Coming Visiting Fellows

Bretislav Friedrich, Fritz-Haber Institute Fall 2021 - Spring 2022  
Timur Tscherbul, Nevada-Reno, Spring 2022  
Naduvath Balakrishnan, UNLV, Spring 2022  
Tomasso Macri, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Fall 2021- Spring 2022

**ITAMP 2022 Postdoctoral Fellowship** application will open on fall 2021.

<https://pweb.cfa.harvard.edu/opportunities/fellowships-visiting-scientist-positions/itamp-postdoctoral-fellowship>

Donate to *Dalgarno* Memorial Lectures  
Endowment Fund

<https://lweb.cfa.harvard.edu/itamp-lectures/dalgarno-memorial-lectures>



**SEND YOUR STUDENTS TO THE  
ITAMP/B2INSTITUTE  
2022 WINTER SCHOOL!**

The ITAMP/B2 Institute Winter Graduate School in AMO Physics on Rydberg Physics, will be held on the Biosphere Campus near Tucson, Arizona from February 20-26, 2022.

Visit:  
<https://lweb.cfa.harvard.edu/itamp-events/winterschool>

## 2021 Postdoctoral Fellows

ITAMP Welcomes the 2021 edition of postdoctoral fellows.



### Annabelle Bordt

Annabelle was appointed a fellow at ITAMP in Fall 2020, but due to the restrictions brought about by the pandemic only started her official position in May 2021. She conducted her dissertation research at Technical Univ. Munich on quantum simulations of strong correlations

in many-body systems under the guidance of Michael Knap, himself a former ITAMP fellow. She will bring considerable expertise in quantum simulations to ITAMP as well as a sharp talent for soccer.



### Semion Mistakidis

Simeon will join as a fellow in Fall 2021. He performed his research on quantum dynamics of the non-equilibrium phases of trapped bosons with Peter Schelmcher at ZOQ in Hamburg.



### Ceren Burcak Dag

Ceren obtained her PhD from the University of Michigan with Luming Duan on thermalization and information scrambling in quantum systems. She will join in Fall 2021 as an ITAMP fellow.



### Vasil Rokaj

Vasil obtained his PhD from the University of Hamburg working under the guidance of Angel Rubio at Max-Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter on simulations of strong coupling of condensed matter systems to cavity QED.

He will join ITAMP in fall 2021.

ITAMP continues to offer videos from workshops and the Winter Schools on YouTube. Videos can be found by searching for “ITAMP/Physics” at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

## To New and Better things



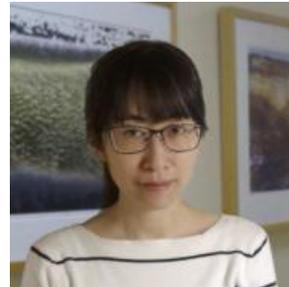
### Rivka Bekenstein

Rivka will soon leave the US back to Israel and will join the Hebrew University as a faculty. She will take with her the 2018 Debbie Jin thesis prize and a welcome addition to her family.



### Nicole Yunger Halpern

Nicole will move to Maryland as a NIST physicist in Fall 2021, building her research group as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the UMD. Nicole will take with her the 2019 Ilya Prigogine thesis prize and the International Quantum Technology Emerging Researcher Award.



### Bihui Zhu

Bihui will join the faculty of physics at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2021 as a new member of the OU Center for Quantum Research and Technology.



### Tijs Karman

Tijs joined the faculty of Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Radboud- Nijmegen in February 2021 where he's already established a group.

Contact the ITAMP Coordinator **Naomi Tariri** for information and questions at [ntariri@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:ntariri@cfa.harvard.edu) <http://itamp.harvard.edu>

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