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# Yale Physics

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## Upcoming Events

Due to COVID-19 all events have been cancelled or postponed for the immediate future.

[More events](#)

## News



**Luyao Jiang defends graduate thesis “Nonreciprocal dynamics in a cryogenic optomechanical system”**

On March 2, 2020 Luyao Jiang successfully defended his thesis: “Nonreciprocal dynamics in a cryogenic optomechanical system” (Advisor: Jack Harris).

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### **Brooke Russell's journey of firsts, in physics and at Yale**

Yale News featured Wright Lab alum Brooke Russell, Ph.D. '19 in an article called "Brooke Russell's journey of firsts, in physics and at Yale". Russell is the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. in physics from Yale and has recently joined the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California as an Owen Chamberlain Postdoctoral Fellow.

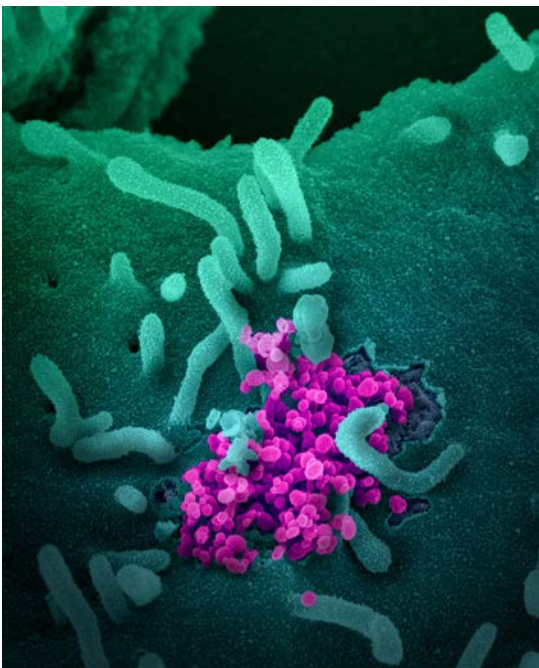
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### **Arpit Dua defends graduate thesis "Structure of fracton stabilizer models"**

On February 28, 2020 Arpit Dua successfully defended his thesis: "Structure of fracton stabilizer models" (Advisor: Meng Cheng/Liang Jiang).

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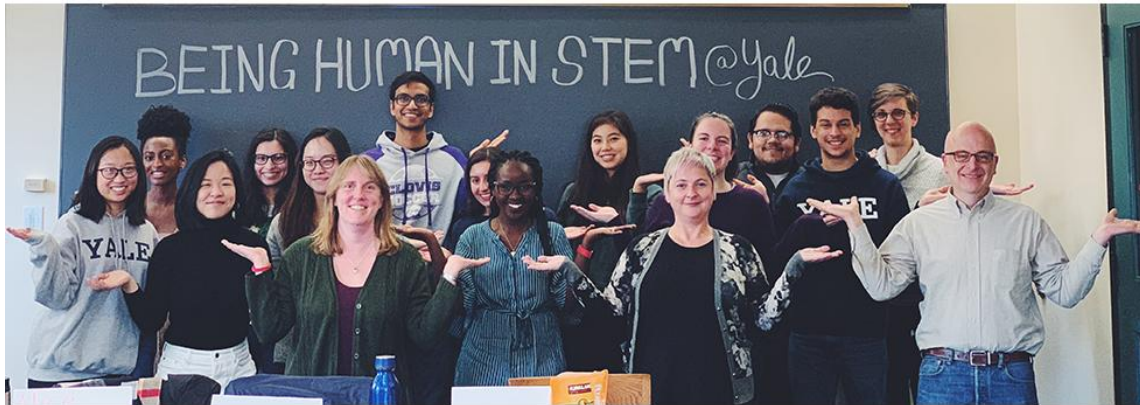


### **COVID-19 Update – Travel, Yale Health Guidance, and University Planning and Response**

We write to inform you of important updates to travel and health guidance. The spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues across the U.S. and the world, and our response must remain fluid. In these challenging times, we are especially grateful to members of the Yale community for contributing to the health and safety of those within and outside of our campus. Please continue to safeguard one another's health by following the updated guidance found on Yale's COVID-19 website along with other important information and news.

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# Community



## Climate and Diversity Committee

Some compelling reading for Spring Break of actionable items we, the department, our professional societies, and the broader community, can take to try to tackle the unique problems faced by African Americans in physics and astronomy. This new article ( [www.aip.org/teamup](http://www.aip.org/teamup) ) from the AIP titled "The Time is Now: Systemic Changes to Increase African Americans with Bachelor's Degrees in Physics and Astronomy," finds that African Americans in physics and astronomy face different challenges to those of other under represented groups. This report is based on a 2-year long student-centered, social science research-based assessment of the factors that lead to, or detract from, African Americans earning a bachelor's degree. The executive summary reports "Perhaps the first thing individual physicists and astronomers should do is consider their role in establishing their departmental cultures and commit to creating an environment where African American students and those from other marginalized communities can thrive. Consequently, this report's highest-priority recommendation is to read and discuss this and related reports (Recommendation 6b under Change Management). Professional societies, working with departmental representatives, should utilize sensemaking and shared leadership to develop theories of change for individual departments and professional societies and should also establish faculty networks, learning communities, and skill-building workshops (Recommendations 6a and 6c under Change Management). The APS Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Alliance (APS-IDEA, Appendix 10) provides a framework for these efforts.

*If interested in joining the CDC, please contact [Helen Caines](mailto:Helen.Caines@yale.edu), Chair of CDC. You may contact the whole committee at [physics-cdc@mailman.yale.edu](mailto:physics-cdc@mailman.yale.edu)*



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*For further information, or to contribute to the newsletter, please send email to [Daphne Klemme](mailto:Daphne.Klemme@yale.edu).*

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P.O. BOX 208120, New Haven, CT, 06520-8120 United States

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