



Andrés A. Plazas Malagón

Rubin Operations Scientists, Fundamental Physics Directorate

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Andrés A. Plazas Malagón is a Colombian-American astrophysicist who obtained his degree in physics at Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. He subsequently moved to the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) to obtain a doctoral degree in physics and astronomy. At Penn, he received the Zaccheus Daniel Foundation for Astronomical Science award. He also became part of the Dark Energy Survey (DES) project, working on weak gravitational lensing and testing the detectors of the Dark Energy Camera used by DES at the Department of Energy Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Fermilab. He continued his work on observational cosmology and weak lensing as a research associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he became part of the Dark Energy Science Collaboration of the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST). For his work in characterizing systematic errors in weak gravitational lensing, he received in 2016 the Fundación Alejandro Ángel Escobar National Prize in Natural and Exact Sciences, considered the highest scientific recognition in his native Colombia.

He joined the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2015 as a Caltech Postdoctoral Scholar, working on understanding systematic errors in weak lensing from the infrared detectors that will be used by the wide-field imager of NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Dr. Plazas Malagón also has worked as a Research Scientist at the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, as part of the Cosmoquest project for community science. Subsequently, he worked at Princeton University as an Associate Research Scholar in the Department of Astrophysical Sciences as part of the Algorithms and Pipelines team of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory.

He currently works as Rubin Operations Scientist in the Rubin Community Science Team as part of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford University, and the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (SLAC/Stanford University).

Dr. Plazas Malagón is also an Affiliate at the Department of Physics of Harvard University, a Visiting Research Scientist at Boston University, and a Visiting Scientist at the Department of Physics of Washington University in St. Louis. He is the founder of the Astronomy on Tap satellite branches in St. Louis and Trenton (NJ), the creator and co-host of the astronomy podcast in Spanish "Visión Cósmica", the proposer and co-organizer of the first ever Tower Grove Park Astronomy Festival in St. Louis, the proposer and co-organizer of the first-ever outreach event in Spanish at the Harvard College Observatory, and frequently participates in Science Education and Public Outreach events in Spanish and English as a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador volunteer.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- PhD, University of Pennsylvania , Physics and Astronomy (2012)
- MSc, University of Pennsylvania , Physics and Astronomy (2009)

- BSc, Universidad de Los Andes , Physics (2007)

LINKS

- Personal website: plazasmalagon.com
- LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/plazasmalagon/>