
Education and Research Experience

- University of Innsbruck INNSBRUCK, TYROL, AUSTRIA
Postdoctoral Researcher Nov 2023 – Mar 2025
Project: *How Solid is a Supersolid?*
(Supervised by [Dr. Thomas Bland](#) and [Prof. Francesca Ferlaino](#))
 - Investigated the supersolid phases of Bose-Einstein Condensates with long-ranged dipolar interactions.
- University of Alberta EDMONTON, AB, CANADA
Ph.D. – Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics (GPA : 3.83/4.00) Sep 2018 – May 2024
Thesis: *Unconventional Cooper Pairing and Confinement*
(Co-supervised by [Prof. Joseph Maciejko](#) and [Prof. Frank Marsiglio](#))
 - Investigated novel quantum phases of superfluid helium-3, and mixed-symmetry superconductivity in the extended Hubbard model; both in the presence of confining boundaries.
- University of Victoria VICTORIA, BC, CANADA
M.Sc. – Condensed Matter Physics (CGPA : 8.14 / 9.00) Sep 2015 – Dec 2017
Thesis: *Non-Local Electrodynamics of Superconducting Wires: Implications for Flux Noise and Inductance*
(Supervised by [Prof. Rogério de Sousa](#))
 - Investigated the effects of non-local electrodynamics on the properties of superconducting qubits.
- Carleton University OTTAWA, ON, CANADA
B.Sc. – Honours Theoretical Physics (CGPA : 10.07 / 12.00) Sep 2010 – Apr 2015
Honours Thesis: *Supersymmetry Phenomenology*
(Supervised by [Prof. Thomas Gregoire](#))
 - Investigated signatures of supersymmetric particles using simulated LHC collision data.
- Simon Fraser University BURNABY, BC, CANADA
NSERC Undergraduate Student Researcher May 2015 – Aug 2015
Under [Prof. Karen Kavanagh](#) :
 - Used electron holography to investigate properties of Manganese Phosphide nanoclusters.
- TRIUMF - Canadian Particle Accelerator Centre VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA
Research Assistant in UltraCold Neutron (UCN) Group Jan 2014 – Aug 2014
Under [Prof. Rüdiger Picker](#):
 - Supported the development of PENTrack, the UCN experiment's Monte Carlo simulation for UCN physics.
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Awards

- Postdoctoral**
- NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025
C\$70,000/year × 2 years: National Level
- NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship (**Declined**) 2023
C\$45,000/year × 2 years: National Level
- University of Alberta**
- Friends of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Scholarship 2024
C\$1,500: University Level
- Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize 2023
C\$5,000: University Level
↔ *Awarded for excellence in research at the doctoral level*
- Devendra Jindal Graduate Scholarship 2022
C\$1,600: Faculty Level
↔ *Awarded for superior academic achievement*
- Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship 2022 & 2019
C\$12,000: Provincial Level
- Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship 2020 – 2022
C\$31,000/year × 3 years: Provincial Level
- Dr Isaac Yakoub Isaac Graduate Scholarship in Physics 2020
C\$1,000: Department Level
↔ *Awarded for academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, and commitment to volunteer work*

Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral Level C\$7,500: Provincial Level	2018
Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship 2018 C\$10,000: University Level	2018

University of Victoria

Charles S. Humphrey Graduate Student Award C\$2,500: University Level	2017
UVic Graduate Award C\$4,000/year \times 3 years: Department Level	2015 – 2017

Carleton University

N SERC Undergraduate Student Research Award C\$4,500: University Level	2015
Carleton University Deans' Honour List	2015 & 2011
Carleton University President's Scholarship C\$8,000: University Level	2010 – 2012

Publications

8. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Guo, X., Maciejko, J., Marsiglio, F. *Mixed-symmetry superconductivity and the energy gap*, *Physica C: Superconductivity and its Applications* **633**, 1354719 (2025); arXiv:2502.04739 [cond-mat.supr-con].
7. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Bland, T. *Supersonic shear waves in dipolar supersolids*, arXiv:2410.16060 (2024) [cond-mat.quant-gas].
6. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, *Unconventional Cooper Pairing and Confinement: Studies of lattice superconductivity and superfluid helium-3 enclosed by surfaces*, PhD Thesis, University of Alberta Education and Research Archive (2024).
5. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Boyack, R., Maciejko, J. *Triangular pair-density wave in confined superfluid ^3He* , *Physical Review Letters* **128**, 015301 (2022); arXiv:2104.15125 [cond-mat.supr-con].
4. Rudd, M. J., **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Shook, A.J., Maciejko, J., Davis, J. P. *Strong-coupling corrections to hard domain walls in superfluid $^3\text{He-B}$* , *Physical Review B* **104**, 094520 (2021); arXiv:2106.02065 [cond-mat.supr-con].
3. Shook, A.J., Vadakumbatt, V., **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Doolin, C., Boyack, R., Kim, P. H., Popowich, G. G., Souris, F., Christani, H., Maciejko, J., Davis, J. P. *Stabilized Pair Density Wave via Nanoscale Confinement of Superfluid ^3He* , *Physical Review Letters* **124**, 015301 (2020) – **Selected as Editor's Suggestion and reported on by Phys.org**; arXiv:1908.01779 [cond-mat.supr-con].
2. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, Makaro, T., de Sousa, R. *Impact of Nonlocal Electrodynamics on the Flux Noise and Inductance of Superconducting Wires*, *Physical Review Applied* **11**, 024041 (2019); arXiv:1806.09705 [cond-mat.supr-con].
1. **Senarath Yapa, P.**, *Non-local electrodynamics of superconducting wires: Implications for flux noise and inductance*, MSc. Thesis, University of Victoria Libraries (2017).

Presentations

Academic Oral Presentations

18. "Of superconductors and supersolids: two short tales of unconventional Cooper pairing" (Invited Talk), **CMP Seminar**, University of Geneva, Switzerland, April 2025.
17. "What type of solid is a dipolar supersolid?" (Invited Talk), **CQD Colloquium**, University of Heidelberg, Germany, December 2024.
16. "How solid is a dipolar supersolid?", **APS DAMOP Meeting 2024**, Fort Worth, TX, USA, June 2024.
15. "How solid is a dipolar supersolid?" (Invited Talk), **CMP Seminar**, University of Alberta, AB, Canada, May 2024.
14. "Supersolidity in Confined Superfluid Helium-3", (Invited Talk), **Ultracold Seminar**, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, November 2023.
13. "Mixed-symmetry Superconductivity in the Extended Hubbard Model" (Invited Talk), **Quanta CREATE Student Symposium 2023**, Edmonton, AB, Canada, August 2023.
12. "Inhomogeneous Superconductivity due to Surfaces", **APS March Meeting 2023**, Las Vegas, NV, USA, March 2023.
11. "Theory of a 2D Spatially-Modulated Phase in Superfluid Helium-3 under Confinement", **Quanta CREATE Student Symposium 2022**, Edmonton, AB, Canada, August 2022.
 \hookrightarrow *Awarded an Honourable Mention in Oral Presentation Competition.*
10. "Triangular Pair-Density Wave in Confined Superfluid ^3He ", **APS March Meeting 2022**, Chicago, IL, USA, March 2022.

9. "Creating a Superfluid Crystal in Helium-3" (Invited Talk), **Alberta Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers Workshop** (Online), December 2021.
8. "Triangular Pair-Density-Wave in Confined Superfluid ^3He " (Invited Talk), **International Conference on Quantum Fluids and Solids 2021** (Online), August 2021.
7. "Triangular Pair-Density-Wave in Confined Superfluid ^3He ", 2021 CAP Congress (Online), June 2021.
 - ↪ *Awarded 1st place in CMP Division Oral Presentation Competition.*
 - ↪ *Awarded 2nd place Overall in the Oral Presentation National competition.*
6. "(Near) 2D Helium-3 and Superfluid Crystals", **University of Alberta Graduate Physics Student Association Symposium 2021**, (Online), University of Alberta, AB, Canada, Jan 2021.
 - ↪ *Awarded 3rd place in Oral Presentation Competition.*
5. "Superfluid 3-He: Within the Confines" (Invited Talk), **Quantum Fluids in Isolation Seminar Series**, (Online) Nov 2020.
4. "Superfluid 3-He: Within the Confines", **TRU Virtual Physics Conference 2020**, Online, May 2020.
3. "Impact of Non-Local Electrodynamics on Flux Noise and Inductance of Superconducting Qubits", **APS March Meeting 2018**, Los Angeles, CA, USA, March 2018.
2. "Topological Phase Transitions: The 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics", **UVic Professional Development Workshop for High School Physics Teachers**, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, February 2017.
1. "PENTrack, Field Folding and the MicroRoughness Model", **UltraCold Neutron (UCN) Collaboration Meeting, TRIUMF**, Vancouver, BC, August 2014

Academic Poster Presentations

9. "Supersonic shear waves in dipolar supersolids", **3rd quantA Workshop**, Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria, November 2024.
8. "Shear waves in a two-dimensional dipolar supersolid", **International Conference on Quantum Optics and Quantum Information: IQOQI 20 Years**, Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria, September 2024.
7. "Triangular Pair Density Wave in Confined Superfluid Helium-3", **Quanta CREATE Student Symposium 2022**, Edmonton, AB, Canada, August 2022.
6. "Triangular Pair Density Wave in Confined Superfluid Helium-3", **Boulder Summer School for Condensed Matter and Material Physics 2022**, July 2022.
5. "Triangular Pair Density Wave in Confined Superfluid Helium-3", **2022 CAP Congress**, June 2022.
4. "Triangular Pair Density Wave in Confined Superfluid Helium-3", **Quantum Days 2022 Conference** (Online), February 2022.
 - ↪ *Awarded an Honourable Mention in Graduate Student Poster Competition.*
3. "Exotic Phases of Confined Helium-3: A Theoretical Study", **International Conference on Quantum Fluids and Solids**, Edmonton, AB, Canada, August 2019.
2. "Exotic Phases of Confined Helium-3: A Theoretical Study", **Quantum Alberta Workshop**, Edmonton, AB, Canada, July 2019.
1. "Determining the Mean Inner Potential of MnP using Electron Holography", **NSERC Summer Student Poster Presentation**, Kavanagh Research Group, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, August 2015.

Outreach

8. "Discovering Quantum States of Matter", **NcodeX**, (Invited Talk), Online, January 2022.
7. Invited Keynote Speaker, **Sanofi Biogenius Canada High School Science Competition**, April 2021.
6. Invited Speaker on Physics as an Academic Career for High School Students, **Find Your STEM Career**, Morrin Centre, March 2021.
5. "Will You Take the Red P-Wave or the Blue P-Wave?", **Science Telephone Podcast**, (Invited Podcast Guest), Online, Nov 2020.
4. "Do Birds Understand Fluid Mechanics?", **NerdNite Victoria**, (Invited Talk), Victoria Events Centre, Victoria, BC, Oct 2020.
3. "Quantum Stuff Swirls for Days", **Nerdin' About Podcast**, (Invited Podcast Guest), Online, Aug 2020.
2. "History of Quantum Mechanics", **Science Literacy Week, St. Albert Public Library**, (Invited Talk), Edmonton, AB, Sep 2019.
1. "Fundamental Physics as a Torchlight to the Unknown", **TedxCarletonU**, (Invited Talk), Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, April 2015.

Teaching Experience

University of Alberta

Teaching Assistant (TA) for Undergraduate Physics Courses

- Taught 1st year laboratory course and worked in the Physics Tutorial Center

EDMONTON, AB, CANADA

Fall 2018 - Winter 2019

University of Victoria

VICTORIA, BC, CANADA

Teaching Assistant (TA) for Undergraduate Physics Courses

Fall 2015 - Winter 2017

- Graded assignments in 4th year Quantum Mechanics course and taught 1st year laboratory courses

Tutor with UVic Learning Assistance Program

Sep 2016 – Aug 2018

- Tutored undergraduate students with learning disabilities in Physics and Math.
 - Created personalized lesson plans and learning strategies tailored to each student.
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Professional Activities

5. Referee for Physical Review Letters, Physical Review A, and Journal of Low Temperature Physics.
 4. Invited panelist on “Science Communication” at the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) Congress 2022.
 3. Selected to attend the 2022 Boulder Summer School for Condensed Matter and Material Physics.
 2. Selected to attend the Perimeter Institute Online School on Ultra Quantum Matter, August 2020.
 1. Lead Organizer (alongside Prof. Mark Paetkau) of the TRU Virtual Physics Conference 2020; an international, multidisciplinary online Physics conference, with 11 Plenary speakers + 28 Graduate Students from across North America and Europe, May 2020.
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Leadership and Outreach Activities

Graduate Physics Student Association (GPSA)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

President

Nov 2019 - Nov 2021

Vice President Academic

Dec 2018 - Nov 2019

- Developed Graduate Student Mentorship Program to pair incoming and current graduate Physics students.
- Primary organizer for the Graduate Physics Symposium, an annual graduate research showcase and Public Lecture involving over 100 researchers and 300 members of the public.

Science Graduate Student Association Council (SGSAC)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Executive Secretary and Department Representative

Nov 2018 - Dec 2021

- Initiated meetings with the Dean of Science and Associate Deans of Graduate studies and EDI regarding supervision policy. This has led to new policies and committees being formed within the Faculty of Science.
- Organized social events for graduate students in different Departments within the Faculty of Science to socialize.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committees

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Graduate Student Representative

Sep 2020 - Dec 2021

- Representative on EDI committees at the Faculty of Science and the Department of Physics levels, as well as on the leadership team of the UAlberta Physicists for Justice + Equity + Diversity + Inclusion group.
- Helped develop policy for creating an equitable environment within the Faculty of Science and Department of Physics, and creating resources for EDI efforts.
- Organized talks and events to highlight EDI issues and promote marginalized groups in Science, such as Wikipedia-Edit-A-Thons to create Wikipedia articles for Canadian Physicists from marginalized communities.

ComSciConCAN Science Communication Workshops

Lead Organizer and Advisory Board Member

Oct 2019 - Aug 2023

- Organizer of a 3-day Science Communication Conference for Canadian STEM graduate students, held virtually, July 2020, and lead organizer for the Western Canadian chapter conference held in November.
- Fundraised C\$9,000 from Western Canadian Universities; organized multiple workshops on Science Storytelling, Canadian Outreach and Equitable Science Communication.

Royal Canadian Institute of Science Instagram Takeover

Science Communicator

August 2020

- Taught concepts in Condensed Matter Physics to the general public via a takeover of the RCIScience Instagram account.

Pint of Science Edmonton

Organizer

May 2020 - May 2021

- Helped organize and was a host for Pint of Science Canada 2020, a virtual Science Public Outreach event, with multiple professors from the University of Alberta.
- Organized and moderated a panel on Quantum Technology for the Pint of Science 2021 virtual event.

EQUUS Quantum Art Award - 2nd Place

Sep 2020

- Created a [hip-hop song](#) about low-temperature physics and plasma physics along with another University of Alberta Graduate Student.
- Chosen as the runner-up by ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems at their Quantum Art competition.

Dance Your PhD 2018 Winner

Feb 2019

- Created a 10 minute mini-musical depicting low-temperature physics through the medium of swing dancing, seen by over 100,000 people.
- Chosen as the overall winner by Science Magazine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science from over 50 entries in a global competition.

Physics & Astronomy Graduate Student Society (PAGSA)

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Academic Chair

Sep 2016 - Apr 2018

- Organized monthly graduate student seminar series, career development workshops and developed Graduate Student Mentorship program.

Carleton University Physics Society (CUPS)

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Chief Administrator

Sep 2014 - Apr 2015

- Organized seminar series featuring department researchers and a field trip to the SNOLAB research laboratory.

Let's Talk Science National Science Outreach Organization

Graduate Volunteer

Sep 2014 - Aug 2017

- Developed and delivered particle physics workshop to over 200 middle and high-school students.
- Judged Science Olympics event with middle-school students from multiple schools on Vancouver Island.