

Postdoctoral Position in Extrasolar Planet Research-HARVARD-SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR ASTROPHYSICS

No. 20759

Postdoctoral Position in Extrasolar Planet Research
HARVARD-SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR ASTROPHYSICS

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Attention: Wesley A. Traub

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position in the field of extrasolar planets, with emphasis on modeling the spectra and biomarkers of extrasolar terrestrial planets. The successful applicant will work with Dr. Wesley A. Traub and collaborators in the following areas. (a) Develop visible and infrared model spectra of the types of extrasolar terrestrial and gas giant planets that are expected to be found around nearby stars. The effects of heterogeneous atmospheres, scattering, time variability, polarization, and composition will be considered. (b) Develop diagnostic tools to characterize these planets, based on color and low-resolution spectra. (c) Critically examine the planet characteristics that can be measured or inferred using these tools. (d) Validate these methods by comparison with the spectra of Solar System planets, including the Earth. (e) Connect these tools with the expected capabilities of planned ground- and space-based observations.

The position is funded for a two-year appointment to begin immediately, with a possible extension to three years. The stipend ranges from \$45K per year, plus health insurance. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, list of publications, statement of research interest, and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to: Dr. W.A. Traub, M/S 19, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138, by 15 June 2004. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

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