

# Thea Kozakis

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCHER

Granada, Spain

✉ theakozakis@gmail.com | 🌐 theakozakis.com

## About me

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I am a quantitative researcher with 10+ years of experience building/testing computational models, evaluating evidence, and communicating my science across disciplines; skills I have developed through astrophysics research. I now want to use these skills to help the world, specifically by applying them to rigorously assess the work of impact-focused evaluators, helping to ensure that charitable giving can be done effectively based on evidence.

## Core skills

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### Research & analysis:

- Quantitative modeling
- Evidence evaluation
- Data visualization
- Interdisciplinary mindset
- Cost-effectiveness analysis (developing)

### Technical:

- Computer programming
- Large dataset management
- Code automation

### Communication:

- Technical/general writing
- Science communication
- Public speaking

### Leadership & collaboration:

- Event organization
- Empathetic counseling
- Team management

## Professional experience

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### Postdoctoral Researcher

Granada, Spain

INSTITUTO DE ASTROFÍSICA DE ANDALUCÍA

October 2024 - present

- Built automation tools (Python/shell scripting) to run multiple quantitative models with minimal input, allowing hundreds of models to be started in the time that it originally took to start one model
- Enabled faster comparison and interpretation of hundreds of quantitative models by developing automation and visualization tools (Python), allowing trends and conclusions to be extracted more efficiently

### Postdoctoral Researcher

Lyngby, Denmark

NATIONAL SPACE INSTITUTE, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK

September 2020 - March 2024

- Developed and led research project closely examining a widespread assumption in the field, identifying critical flaws in said assumption and sparking new research into how this assumption needs to be reworked in order to be useful
- Initiated and managed a seminar series to invite visiting scholars, creating more opportunities for collaborations that could enhance research quality

### Graduate researcher

Ithaca, New York, USA

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

August 2013 - June 2020

- Took initiative to teach myself an entirely new discipline (atmospheric chemistry) to conduct interdisciplinary research that filled previously neglected knowledge gaps
- Organized seminars for students and postdoctoral researchers to enforce a sense of community and provide a low-pressure environment for practicing public speaking

### Student researcher

Charleston, South Carolina, USA

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

May 2011 - July 2013

- Automated my research group's data reduction pipeline, speeding up and streamlining workflow, freeing up users to spend more time on data analysis
- Organized social events for students to increase a sense of community, as well as local observatory nights to teach basic science to the general public

## Relevant volunteer and organizational work

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### Cornell University Empathy And Referral Services

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR/TRAINER

2015 - 2020

*Walk-in services: counseled ~3-4 people per week. Training: team of ~10 trainers, weekly training sessions during academic year, ~150 trainees total for lectures, ~10-15 trainees for individual small group training*

- Provided empathetic counseling to community members navigating mental health challenges, giving them a safe space without judgement and identifying helpful referrals to professional services when necessary
- Trained new prospective counselors both by giving lectures to large groups (~150 trainees) and leading discussion and practice sessions with smaller groups (~10-15 trainees), focusing on empathetic and reflective listening skills, education on mental health issues, and suicide prevention training

### Expanding Your Horizons

*Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA*

WORKSHOP DESIGNER/ORGANIZER

2015 - 2020

*Team of ~10 volunteers, ~40 attendees yearly, ages 12-16*

- Organized and ran yearly outreach event focused on teaching STEM concepts to young girls who are typically not encouraged to pursue scientific careers
- Wrote yearly applications for event approval, working as liaison between my team and the Expanding Your Horizons general board members

### Museum in the Dark

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

ORGANIZER

2014 - 2017

*Team of ~15 volunteers, ~150-200 attendees yearly of all ages*

- Organized/ran this yearly Halloween-themed outreach event hosted by a local museum that taught basic science/astronomy to the general public
- Acted as liaison between the museum and my team, ensuring that the event space would suit our changing needs, and helping to advertise to the local community

## Advocacy

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### Cornell Graduate Student Union

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

PUSH TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

2018 - 2020

- Wrote *op-ed in local newspaper* calling out Cornell University's non-response to our demands to improve mental health services, which is widely believed to be the reason Cornell publicly announced their concrete plans to improve these services the day after the op-ed was published
- Helped distribute and explain the petition stating our demands for improved mental health services, resulting in over 900 students (nearly a third of the university's graduate students) to cosign

### Sunrise Movement

*Ithaca, NY, USA*

CLIMATE ACTIVISM GROUP

2019 - 2020

- Ran for city council in 2 week write-in campaign, opening up a productive dialog with my opponent, causing them to vote for more "green policies"; results showed I earned 11% of vote
- Helped plan/run climate change protests on Cornell University's campus to encourage the university to divest from fossil fuels, a decision the university publicly announced shortly after we staged several disruptive protests

## Education

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### PhD Astrophysics

*Ithaca, New York, USA*

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

August 2020

### Masters of Science Astrophysics

*Ithaca, New York, USA*

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

May 2017

### Bachelor of Science Astrophysics, Physics

*Charleston, South Carolina, USA*

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

May 2013