

Michael J. Koss

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

High Energy Astrophysics, Instrumentation, Active Galaxies, Multiwavelength Surveys

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Ph.D., Astrophysics, August 19, 2011

- Thesis: The Host Galaxies of Ultra Hard X-ray Selected AGN
- Advisor: Richard Mushotzky

M.S., Astrophysics, August 2008

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Bachelor of Science, Physics, Magna Cum Laude, May 2002

AWARDS & HONORS

- NASA Achievement Award-Resolving Cosmic X-ray Background **2017**
- BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey (BASS,www.bass-survey.com) Leader **2016-Pres**
- Ambition Fellowship-Switzerland **2014-2016**
- Head Graduate Student, University of Maryland **2008-2011**
- Japanese Science Society Fellowship **2008**
- Maryland State Senatorial Scholarship **2006-2009**
- NASA Graduate Fellowship, High Energy Astrophysics **2005-2007**
- DARPA Award/Medal-Grand Challenge **2007**
- 3M Technology Fellowship **2003**
- Top Physics Major, University of Notre Dame **2002**
- Top Male Student Athlete and Team Captain, University of Notre Dame **2002**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Leading scientific researcher in observational astrophysics with a background in instrumentation. Led as principle investigator (PI) 64 successful space, instrumentation, and ground based telescope proposals in the X-ray, UV, optical, NIR, and submillimeter wavelengths with over \$2.7 million in associated funds for observing, instrumentation, software development, and postdoctoral fellowships. I have supervised 8 Masters Thesis and 9 Undergraduate Thesis. Authored or coauthored 128 refereed papers in astronomy, nuclear physics, and aerospace engineering with over 4500 citations. I have been lead author of NASA press conference, press releases, and astronomy pictures of the day. My first author research has been in Nature, the top trending story on Reddit, and covered by a variety of popular news outlets such as CBS and Fox news.

RESEARCH AND
TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

- Eureka Scientific**, Seattle, WA **Sept 2016 – Pres**
NASA Funded Research Grants
Independent astrophysics research scientist working with data from NASA satellites.
- Institute for Astronomy**, Zurich, Switzerland **Nov 2013 – Aug 2016**
Ambition Fellow Swiss National Science Foundation
Independent fellow studying black hole growth and galaxy mergers.
- Institute for Astronomy**, Honolulu, Hawaii **Sep 2011 – Oct 2013**
Postdoctoral Fellow AGN Studies
Observational studies of AGN postdoctoral fellowship studying the starburst AGN connection using FIR and submillimeter properties of AGN galaxies.
- Nagoya University X-ray Lab**, Nagoya, Japan *JSPS Fellow* **2008**
Designed camera hardware and star matching code for the camera pointing system on the Infocus balloon experiment.
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**, Greenbelt, Maryland **2006-2011**
Graduate Assistant Swift Satellite
Developed software for satellite diagnostics data, classified optical AGN sources in the ultra hard X-ray all sky survey, and provided 39 gamma ray burst GCN notices.
- Airborne Technologies**, Sterling, VA *Subject Matter Expert DARPA*, **2007**
Subject matter expert for DARPA in route development using GPS and robotic sensors for the 2007 Urban Challenge vehicle race.
- SRS Technologies**, Arlington, VA *DARPA Engineering Consultant* **2003 – 2005**
Led route team surveying 1000+ miles of desert to create differential GPS route as part of DARPA directors office core staff for \$2 million Grand Challenge robot vehicle race.
- 3M**, Saint Paul, MN *Engineer* **2003**
Created library of viscosities and melt flows of polymer samples used in optical films. Completed program with University of Saint Mary's to integrate 3M research in the high school classroom.
- Trinity High School**, Bloomington, MN *Teacher Science/Math* **2002-2003**
Taught advanced physics, science colloquium, calculus, geometry, pre-calculus, life science, and earth science to over 150 students.

	Year	Role	PI	Time	Grant
Grants					
	NASA Data Analysis	2018	PI	M. Koss	\$639k
	NASA Data Analysis	2015	PI	M. Koss	\$352k
	Swiss Ambition	2014	PI	M. Koss	\$430k
	Swiss NSF	2014	Co PI	M. Koss	\$224k
	Japan JSPS	2008	PI	M. Koss	\$60k
	Maryland Senatorial	2006-2009	PI	M. Koss	\$8k
	NASA Graduate	2006-2008	PI	M. Koss	\$80k
Instrumentation					
	Balloon Star Trackers	2008	PI	M. Koss	\$15k
Space Satellites					
	HST	2019	PI	M. Koss	124 orbit SNAP
	HST	2019	PI	M. Koss	2 orbits \$62
	XMM	2019	PI	M. Koss	443 ks \$110k
	Chandra	2018	PI	M. Koss	Archival \$156k
	NuSTAR	2018	PI	M. Koss	120 ks \$8k
	XMM	2018	PI	M. Koss	103 ks \$54
	XMM	2017	PI	M. Koss	128 ks
	XMM	2017	PI	M. Koss	216 ks \$77k
	Chandra (ACIS)	2015	PI	M. Koss	100 ks \$35k
	Coor NuSTAR	2015	PI	M. Koss	260 ks
	Chandra (ACIS)	2015	PI	M. Koss	313 ks \$87k
	HST (STIS)	2015	PI	M. Koss	8 orbits \$45k
	XMM	2014	PI	M. Koss	26 ks
	XMM	2014	PI	M. Koss	172 ks
	Coor NuSTAR	2014	PI	M. Koss	100 ks
	HST (COS)	2014	PI	M. Koss	4 orbits \$25k
	Swift TOO	2014	PI	M. Koss	15 ks
	XMM	2013	PI	M. Koss	115 ks
	Coor NuSTAR	2013	PI	M. Koss	100 ks
	Swift TOO	2013	PI	M. Koss	20 ks
	NuSTAR GTO	2013	PI	M. Koss	200 ks
	Chandra (ACIS)	2012	PI	M. Koss	Archival \$85k
	Chandra (ACIS)x2	2010-11	Observing PI	M. Koss	358 ks \$176k
Ground Telescopes					
	APEX	2016-2017	PI	M. Koss	150 hrs
	Keck (NIRC2)x3	2012-13	PI	M. Koss	7 nights
	JCMT (SCUBA2)x3	2012-13	PI	M. Koss	14 nights
	Gemini N (GMOS)x2	2011-13	PI	M. Koss	3 nights
	IRTF (SPEX)x4	2010-13	PI	M. Koss	10 nights
	UH 2.2m (SNIFS)x4	2012-13	PI	M. Koss	22 nights
	JCMT (RXA3)x3	2012	PI	M. Koss	8 nights
	JCMT (HARP)	2011	PI	M. Koss	8 nights
	KP 4m (FLAM)x3	2010-11	PI	M. Koss	12 nights
	KP 2.1m (GCAM)x2	2008-09	PI	M. Koss	14 nights
	KP 2.1m (T2KB)x2	2008	PI	M. Koss	17 nights

PI LED
SUCCESSFUL
PROPOSALS

8 Masters Thesis, 9 Undergraduate Thesis

- Jakob den Brok (Undergraduate and Master's-ETH) **2017-Pres**
Xshooter observations of the BASS sample. Working on data reductions using high resolution observations with Xshooter.

- Tamara Rahimi (Undergraduate and Master's-ETH) **2016-2018**
SCUBA2 Observations of Hard X-ray Selected AGN. Working on data reductions of 63 observations of BAT detection AGN at 850 μm . Received JSPS graduate fellowship to work on project at Kyoto University.

- Benjamin Strittmatter (Undergraduate-ETH) **2016**
APEX observations of X-ray detected AGN. Working on data reduction in large APEX program.

- Dominick Stark (Undergraduate-ETH) **2016**
Merging AGN host galaxies. Project on measuring accretion rates with separation in AGN.

- Isabella Lamperti (Undergraduate and Master's Thesis-ETH) **2014-2016**
NIR spectral properties of BAT AGN. Published paper to MNRAS with me as second author. Just started PhD program at University College London. Undergraduate thesis contributed to velocity dispersion measurements in a paper on BAT AGN.

- Linda Baronchella (Undergraduate and Master's Thesis-ETH) **2014-2016**
Identification of Compton-thick AGN at $z > 2$ using the Spectral Curvature. MNRAS with me as second author. In PhD program in the Max Planck in the high energy astrophysics group. Undergraduate thesis contributed to paper that disproved a previous claimed binary AGN in NGC 3393.

- Andrea Scanzio (Undergraduate Thesis and Master's Thesis-ETH) **2014-2016**
Project in X-ray emission in galaxy mergers and using galaxy zoo to detect a recoiling black hole.

- Dario Kermanschah (Undergraduate Thesis-ETH) **2015**
Analyzing IFU data of optically elusive AGN.

- Christian Tschudi (Undergraduate Thesis-ETH) **2015**
Producing optical spectra of BAT AGN with Gemini.

- Philipp Bernhard (Masters-ETH) **2014-2015**
Reductions of NIR AO observations of X-ray Selected AGN which led to nature paper.

- Simon Berney (Masters Thesis-ETH) **2014-2015**
Optical spectroscopy of X-ray Selected AGN. Led to conference presentation at NuSTAR conference and MNRAS first author paper with me as second author. Now working in banking industry.

- Krista Smith (Masters Thesis-Maryland) **2012-2014**
Supervised master's thesis using my IRTF data on X-ray bright optical neutral galaxies. Led to AAS poster & ApJ paper with me as second author. Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford.

- SOC for ESO BASS Conference **2018**
- AXIS High Resolution X-ray Imager Science Team **2017-Pres**
- STROBE-X Science Team **2017-Pres**
- HST Review Panel Member **2016**
- NASA Astrophysical Data Analysis Program Panel Member **2016**
- Chandra AGN Panel Member **2016**
- X-ray Surveyor Synergy and AGN and LSS Science Panel **2016-Pres**
- Conference Organizer and Head of SOC
The X-ray View of Black Hole Activity in the Local Universe
(<https://sites.google.com/site/xrayuniverse2016/>) **2016**
- BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey (BASS) Lead (www.bass-survey.com) **2016-Pres**
- NuSTAR Swift BAT AGN Legacy Survey **2013-Pres**
- NuSTAR Extragalactic Legacy Survey **2013-Pres**
- NuSTAR Obscured AGN Legacy Survey **2013-Pres**
- Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy **2013-Pres**
- Journal Referee (ApJ, ApJL, MNRAS, Nature, A&A) **2011-Pres**
- American Astronomical Society **2010-Pres**
- Swift BAT Survey Science Team **2007-Pres**

OUTREACH

- **Faulkes Telescope Program**-Led high school student Faulkes Telescope campaign to observe newly detected hard X-ray AGN galaxies. Program has observed 17 AGN with 10 different high schools in the United States and Australia (see <http://www.faulkes-telescope.com/news/2317>).
- **Public Outreach Presentations**-Over 30 public presentations to nursing homes, high schools, and community centers in DC, Minnesota, Colorado, Maryland, Hawaii, and Switzerland.
- **University of Hawaii Hi STAR program**- Led summer student astronomy program on galaxies for 8–11th grade students for two summers.
- **Science Fair and Engineering Fair Judge** Judge for annual district science fair and future city competitions from 2005-2010.
- **AIAA Public Policy Workshop**-2 years -Met with representatives and senators over a week to discuss importance of science and education funding.
- **Teachers Working in Science and Technology Program**-Developed high school student labs that bring leading industrial science from 3M into the classroom.
- **High School Physics Lectures**-Created high school lectures for general relativity, special relativity, and quantum mechanics, used by Trinity Schools in Minnesota.

Richard PhD Adviser, Professor Maryland, richard@astro.umd.edu
Mushotzky

Meg Urry Professor, Yale University, AAS president, meg.urry@yale.edu

REFERENCES

Sylvain Veilleux PhD Co-adviser, Professor Maryland, veilleux@astro.umd.edu

Fiona Harrison PI NuSTAR Satellite, Professor/Dean Caltech,
fiona@srl.caltech.edu

Dave Sanders Professor, Graduate Chair, Hawaii, sanders@ifa.hawaii.edu

128. **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey – XXI: Molecular Gas in Nearby Hard X-ray Selected AGN*, ApJ, submitted.
127. Davies, R.; Baron, D.; Shimizu, T.; Netzer, H.; Burtscher, L.; de Zeeuw, P. T.; Genzel, R.; Hicks, E. K. S.; **Koss, M.**, et al., *Ionized outflows in local luminous AGN: what are the real densities and outflow rates?*, MNRAS, submitted.
126. Kammoun, E. Miller, J. M.; **Koss, M.**, et al., *A hard look at local, optically-selected, obscured Seyfert galaxies*, ApJ, submitted.
125. Annuar, A.; Alexander, D.; Gandhi, P.; Lansbury, G. B.; Asmus, D.; Balokovi?, M.; Ballantyne, D. ; Bauer, F. ; Boorman, P. ; Brandt, W.; Brightman, M.; Chen, C. -T. J.; Del Moro, A.; Farrah, D.; Harrison, F. A.; **Koss, M.**, et al., *NuSTAR Observations of Four Nearby X-ray Faint AGN: Low Luminosity or Heavy Obscuration?*, MNRAS, 2020, accepted.
124. Bolin, B., Lisse, C., Kasliwal, M., Quimby, R., Tan, H., Copperwheat, C., Lin, Z., Morbidelli, A., Abe, L., Bendjoya, P., Burdge, K., Coughlin, M., Fremling, C., Itoh, R., **Koss, M.**, et al., *Characterization of the Nucleus, Morphology, and Activity of Interstellar Comet 2I/Borisov by Optical and Near-infrared GROWTH, Apache Point, IRTF, ZTF, and Keck Observations*, 2020, AJ, 160, 26B.
123. Liu, T., **Koss, M.**, et al., *The BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey. XVIII. Searching for Supermassive Black Hole Binaries in X-Rays*, 2020, ApJ, 896, 122.
122. Smith, K., Mushotzky, R., **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey - XV: The High Frequency Radio Cores of Ultra-hard X-ray Selected AGN*, 2020, MNRAS, 492, 42.
121. Rojas, A., Sani, E., Gavignaud, I., Ricci, C., Lamperti, I., et al., **Koss, M.**, *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey - XIX. Type 1 versus type 2 AGN dichotomy from the point of view of ionized outflows*, 2020, MNRAS, 491, 5867.
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119. Lamperti, I., Saintonge, A., **Koss, M.**, et al., *The CO(3-2)/CO(1-0) Luminosity Line Ratio in Nearby Star-forming Galaxies and Active Galactic Nuclei from xCOLD GASS, BASS, and SLUGS*, 2020, ApJL, 889, 103.
118. Caglar, T., Burtscher, L., Brandl, B., Brinchmann, J., Davies, R., Hicks, E., **Koss, M.**, et al, *LLAMA: The MBH- σ_* relation of the most luminous local AGNs*, A&A, 634, A114.
117. Shimizu, T., Davies, R., Lutz, D., Burtscher, L., Lin, M., Baron, D., Davies, R., Genzel, R., Hicks, E., **Koss, M.**, et al., *The multiphase gas structure and kinematics in the circumnuclear region of NGC 5728*, 2019, MNRAS, 490, 5860.
116. Kamraj, N., Balokovic, M., Brightman, M., Stern, D., Harrison, F., Assef, R., **Koss, M.** et al., *The Broadband X-Ray Spectrum of the X-Ray-obscured Type 1 AGN 2MASX J193013.80+341049.5*, ApJ, 887, 255.
115. Fischer, T.; Smith, K.; Kraemer, S.; Schmitt, H.; Crenshaw, D.; **Koss, M.** et al., *A Dissection of Spatially Resolved AGN Feedback across the Electromagnetic Spectrum*, ApJ, 2019, 887, 200.

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113. Bar, R., Trakhtenbrot, B., Oh, K., **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey - XIII. The nature of the most luminous obscured AGN in the low-redshift universe*, 2019, MNRAS, 489, 3073.
112. Baek, J., Chung, A., Schawinski, K., Oh, K., Wong, I., Koss, M., **Koss, M.**, *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey - XVII. The parsec-scale jet properties of the ultrahard X-ray-selected local AGNs*, 2019, MNRAS, 488, 4317.
111. Masini, A., Comastri, A., Hickox, R. C., **Koss, M.**, *Measuring the Obscuring Column of a Disk Megamaser AGN in a Nearby Merger*, 2019, ApJ, 882, 83.
110. Paliya, V., **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey. XVI. General Physical Characteristics of BAT Blazars*, 2019, ApJ, 154, 12.
109. Oh, K., Ueda, Y., Akiyama, M.; Suh, H., **Koss, M.**, et al. *An Observational Link between AGN Eddington Ratio and N II 6583/H α at $0.6 < z < 1.7$* , 2019, ApJ, 880, 2, 112.
108. Kammoun, E., Miller, J., Zoghbi, A., Oh, K., **Koss, M.**, et al., *A hard look at NGC 5347: Revealing a nearby Compton-thick AGN*, 2019, ApJ, 877, 102.
107. Porquet, D., Done, C., Reeves, J. N., Grosso, N., Marinucci, A., Matt, G., Lobban, A., Nardini, E., Braito, V., Marin, F., Kubota, A., Ricci, C., **Koss, M.**, et al., *A deep X-ray view of the bare AGN Ark 120. V. Spin determination from disc-Comptonisation efficiency method*, 2019, A&A, 623A, 11P
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103. **Koss, M.**, et al., *A population of luminous accreting black holes with hidden mergers*, Nature, 2018, 563, 214.
102. Brightman, M., Balokovic, M., **Koss, M.**, *A long hard-X-ray look at the dual active galactic nuclei of M51 with NuSTAR*, 2018, ApJ, 867, 110.
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97. Shimizu, T., Davies, R., **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey–VIII. Type 1 AGN With Massive Absorbing Columns*, 2017, MNRAS, 856, 154.
96. Oh, K., **Koss, M.**, et al., *The 105-Month Swift-BAT All-sky Hard X-Ray Survey*, 2017, ApJS, 235, 4.
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94. Rosario, D. J.; Burtscher, L.; Davies, R. I.; **Koss, M.** et al., *LLAMA: nuclear stellar properties of Swift-BAT AGN and matched inactive galaxies*, 2018, MNRAS, 473, 5658.
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91. Ricci, C., Trakhtenbrot, B, **Koss, M.** et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey-V: Xray Properties of the Swift/BAT 70-month Catalog*, 2017, ApJS, 233, 17.
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87. Ricci, C., Trakhtenbrot, B., **Koss, M.**, et al., *The close environments of accreting massive black holes are shaped by radiative feedback*, 2017, 549 488.
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82. Lamperti, I., **Koss, M.**, et al., *BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey-IV: Near-Infrared Coronal Lines, Hidden Broad Lines, and Correlation with Hard X-ray Emission*, 2017, MNRAS 467, 540.
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