

Kathryn Volk

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Planetary Sciences, The University of Arizona, 2013

B.S. Physics, Russian Area Studies, Wittenberg University, 2006 *Summa Cum Laude*.

POSITIONS

Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute **2022–present**

Senior Staff Scientist, University of Arizona **2018–2023**

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Arizona 2015–2018
Supervisor: Renu Malhotra

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of British Columbia 2013–2015
Supervisor: Brett Gladman

Graduate Research Associate, University of Arizona 2006–2013
Advisor: Renu Malhotra
Dissertation: Dynamical Studies of the Kuiper Belt and the Centaurs

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- SOC Chair for the Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) Meeting (2024)
- Member of the LSST Survey Cadence Optimization Committee (2023-present)
- Active member of the LSST Solar System Science Collaboration (2018-present)
- AAS Task Force on Green Astronomy member (2022-2023)
- Past Chair of the AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA) (2021-2022)
- Chair of the DDA (2020-2021)
- DDA Meeting Scientific/Virtual Organizing Committee Member (2021)
- Chair of the DDA Meeting Scientific/Virtual Organizing Committee (2020)
- AAS Strategic Assembly Member (2020-2021)
- Vice-Chair of the DDA (2019-2020)
- DDA committee member (2017-2019)
- DPS Meeting SOC member (2017)

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

2022 Vera Rubin Early Career Prize, AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy

2021 Art of Planetary Science 2nd place award for data art

2013 College of Science Outstanding Scholarship Award, University of Arizona

2013 Gerard P. Kuiper Memorial Award, University of Arizona

2011, 2009 Galileo Circle Scholar, University of Arizona

2010 Department of Planetary Sciences Service Award, University of Arizona

2007 College of Science Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Arizona

2006 Department of Planetary Sciences Graduate Teaching Award, University of Arizona

2006 Departmental Honors in Physics, Wittenberg University

2006 Award for Excellence in the Russian Studies Program, Wittenberg University

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- PI, “Tools for Advanced Dynamical Characterization of Solar System Small Bodies”, NASA Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration, and Tools (2022-2025)
- PI, “Constraining Neptune’s migration using the surface properties of resonant trans-Neptunian objects”, NASA Emerging Worlds (2021-2024)
- Co-I, “The Classical and Large-a Distant Solar System Survey: the Importance of Outer Resonances in Constraining Solar System History”, NASA Solar System Observations (2023-2026; PI R. Pike)
- Co-I, “Investigating Centaur surface colors: connecting surface transformation to thermal and dynamical history”, NASA Solar System Observations (2023-2026; PI E. Lilly)
- PI, “Dynamics of sticky resonances and detached Kuiper belt objects”, NASA Solar System Workings (2019-2023)
- PI, “Dynamical Characterization of Solar System Small Bodies”, Preparing for Astrophysics with LSST Kickstarter grant (2021-2022)
- Co-I, “Distribution of planet masses, planet-planet separations and dynamical lifetimes of planetary systems”, NASA Exoplanet Research Program (2018-2021, PI: R. Malhotra)
- Co-I, “Kuiper Belt Dynamics with a Distant Unseen Planet”, NSF (2018-2021, PI: R. Malhotra)
- Co-I/Science PI, “Current dynamics of Neptune’s distant mean motion resonances”, NASA Solar System Workings (2015-2019, PI: R. Murray-Clay)
- Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics National Fellow (2013-2015)

SPACECRAFT MISSION PROPOSAL INVOLVEMENT

- Co-I, “Chimera: Orbital Exploration of 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann as a Gateway to the Centaurs and the Secrets of Small Body Formation” (proposed in response to the 2019 NASA Discovery Mission Announcement of Opportunity, PI Walt Harris, University of Arizona – not selected)

REVIEW ARTICLES/CHAPTERS

- Kaib & **Volk** (2022), “Dynamical Population of Comet Reservoirs”, chapter for Comets III, in press
- Fraser, Dones, **Volk**, Womack & Nesvorný, (2022), “The Transition From The Kuiper Belt To The Jupiter-Family Comets”, chapter for Comets III, in press
- Gladman & **Volk** (2021), “Transneptunian Space”, Annual Reviews of Astronomy & Astrophysics.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Noonan, **Volk**, Nesvorný, & Bottke 2024. Dynamical feasibility of (3) Juno as a parent body of the H chondrites, Icarus.

- Pike, Fraser, **Volk** et al. (2023), “Col-OSSOS: The Distribution of Surface Types in Neptune’s Resonances”, PSJ.
- Balaji et al. (2023), “Can the orbital distribution of Neptune’s 3:2 mean motion resonance result from stability sculpting?”, MNRAS.
- Beaudoin et al. (2023), “OSSOS XXIX: The Population and Perihelion Distribution of the Detached Kuiper Belt”, PSJ.
- Petit et al. (2023), “The hot main Kuiper belt size distribution from OSSOS”, ApJ Letters.
- Fraser et al. (2023), “Col-OSSOS: The Two Types of Kuiper Belt Surfaces”, PSJ.
- Schwamb, Jones, Yoachim, **Volk** et al. (2023), “Tuning the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) Observing Strategy for Solar System Science”, ApJS.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2022), Orbital dynamics landscape near the most distant known trans-Neptunian objects, ApJ.
- Lisse et al. (2022), “29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann: A Rosetta Stone for Amorphous Water Ice and CO to CO₂ Conversion in Centaurs and Comets?”, PSJ.
- Abedin et al. (2022), “OSSOS XXVI. On the Lack of Catastrophic Collisions in the Present Kuiper Belt”, AJ.
- Crompvoets, Lawler, **Volk**, et al. (2022), OSSOS XXV: Large Populations and Likely Ongoing Scattering-Sticking in the Distant Transneptunian Resonances, PSJ.
- Huang, Gladman, & **Volk** (2022), “Free inclinations for transneptunian objects in the main Kuiper Belt”, ApJS.
- Buchanan et al. (2022), “Col-OSSOS: Probing Ice Line/Colour Transitions within the Kuiper Belts Progenitor Populations”, PSJ.
- Kavelaars et al. (2021), “OSSOS finds an Exponential Cutoff in the Size Distribution of the Cold Classical Kuiper belt”, ApJ Letters.
- Alexandersen et al. (2021), “OSSOS XXII: 2013 VZ70 and the Temporary Coorbitals of the Giant Planets”, PSJ.
- Fink, Harris, Doose, **Volk**, Woodney, Farnham, & Womack (2021), “Dust outburst dynamics and hazard assessment for close spacecraft-comet encounters”, PSJ.
- Fraser et al. (2021), “Col-OSSOS: The Distinct Colour Distribution of Single and Binary Cold Classical KBOs”, PSJ.
- Hardegree-Ullman et al. (2021), “K2-138 g: Spitzer Spots a Sixth Planet for the Citizen Science System”, AJ.
- Abedin et al. (2021), “Collision Probabilities in the Edgeworth-Kuiper belt”, AJ.
- Kareta et al. (2021), “Contemporaneous Multi-Wavelength and Precovery Observations of Active Centaur P/2019 LD2 (ATLAS)”, PSJ.
- Lin, Chen, **Volk**, et al. (2021), “OSSOS: The Eccentricity and Inclination Distributions of the Stable Neptunian Trojans”, Icarus.
- Steckloff, Sarid, **Volk**, et al. (2020), “P/2019 LD2 (ATLAS): An Active Centaur in Imminent Transition to the Jupiter Family”, ApJ Letters.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2020), “Dynamical instabilities in systems of multiple short-period planets are likely driven by secular chaos: a case study of Kepler-102”, AJ.
- Smullen & **Volk** (2020), “Machine Learning Classification of Kuiper Belt Populations”, MNRAS.
- Kareta, **Volk**, et al. (2020), “An Extremely Temporary Co-orbital: The Dynamical State of Active Centaur 2019 LD2”, RNAAS.
- Nesvorný et al. (2020), “OSSOS XX: The Meaning of Kuiper Belt Colors”, AJ.

- Ashton et al. (2020), “OSSOS: XI. An upper limit on the number of distant planetary objects in the Solar System”, *Icarus*.
- Marsset et al. (2020), “COL-OSSOS: Compositional homogeneity of three binaries found in the Outer Solar System Origins Survey”, *PSJ*.
- Karetta et al. (2020), “Carbon Chain Depletion of 2I/Borisov”, *ApJ Letters*.
- Pike et al. (2020), “OSSOS XVI: The missing small members of the Haumea family”, *Nature Astronomy*.
- Karetta et al. (2019), “Physical Characterization of the December 2017 Outburst of the Centaur 174P/Echeclus”, *AJ*.
- Chen, Gladman, **Volk**, et al. (2019), “OSSOS XVIII: constraining migration models with the 2:1 resonance using the outer solar system origin survey”, *AJ*.
- Sarid, **Volk**, Steckloff, Harris, Womack, & Woodney (2019), “29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 1, A Centaur in the Gateway to the Jupiter-Family Comets”, *ApJ Letters*.
- Alexandersen et al. (2019), “OSSOS: XII. Variability studies of trans-Neptunian objects using the Hyper-Suprime Camera”, *ApJS*.
- Nesvorný et al. (2019), “OSSOS XIX: Testing Early Solar System Dynamical Models using OSSOS Centaur Detections”, *AJ*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2019), “Not a simple relationship between Neptune’s migration speed and Kuiper belt inclination excitation”, *AJ*.
- Van Laerhoven, Gladman, **Volk**, et al. (2019), “OSSOS XIV : The Plane of the Kuiper Belt”, *AJ*.
- Schwamb et al. (2019), “Col-OSSOS: the colours of the Outer Solar System Origin Survey”, *ApJS*.
- Lawler et al. (2019), “OSSOS: XIII. Fossilized resonant dropouts tentatively confirm Neptune’s migration was grainy and slow”, *AJ*.
- Marsset et al. (2019), “Col-OSSOS: a distinct inclination distribution for each color seen in the dynamically excited trans-neptunian populations”, *AJ*.
- Cabral et al. (2019), “OSSOS: XV. No active Centaurs in the Outer Solar System Origins Survey”, *A&A*.
- Schwamb et al. on behalf of the LSST Solar System Science Collaboration (2019), “A Software Roadmap for Solar System Science with the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope”, *RNAAS*.
- Malhotra, Lan, **Volk**, & Wang (2018), “Neptune’s 5:2 Resonance in the Kuiper Belt”, *AJ*.
- Yu, Murray-Clay, & **Volk** (2018), “Trans-Neptunian Objects Transiently Stuck in Neptune’s Mean Motion Resonances: Numerical simulations of the current population”, *AJ*.
- **Volk** et al. (2018), “OSSOS IX : two objects in Neptune’s 9:1 resonance – implications for resonance sticking in the scattering population”, *AJ*.
- Lawler et al. (2018), “OSSOS VIII – two size distribution slopes in the scattering disk”, *AJ*.
- Bannister, Gladman, Kavelaars, Petit, **Volk**, Chen, Alexandersen, Gwyn, & the OSSOS collaboration (2018), “OSSOS: 800+ trans-Neptunian objects – the complete data release”, *ApJS*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2017), “The curiously warped mean plane of the Kuiper belt”, *AJ*.
- Pike et al. (2017), “Col-OSSOS: z band photometry reveals three distinct TNO surface types”, *AJ*.
- Shankman et al. (2017), “OSSOS VI. Striking biases in the detection of large semimajor axis trans-Neptunian objects”, *AJ*.

- Bannister, Shankman, **Volk**, et al. (2017), “OSSOS: V. Diffusion in the orbit of a high-perihelion distant Solar System object”. *AJ*.
- Fraser et al. (2017), “All planetesimals born near the Kuiper belt formed as binaries”, *Nature Astronomy*.
- Bannister et al. (2016), “OSSOS: IV. Discovery of a dwarf planet candidate in the 9:2 resonance with Neptune”, *AJ*.
- **Volk** et al. (2016), “OSSOS III - Resonant Trans-Neptunian Populations: Constraints from the first quarter of the Outer Solar System Origins Survey”, *AJ*.
- Malhotra, **Volk**, & Wang (2016), “Corralling a distant planet with extreme resonant Kuiper belt objects”, *ApJ Letters*.
- Bannister et al. (2016), “The Outer Solar System Origins Survey I: design and first-quarter discoveries”, *AJ*.
- Shankman et al. (2015), “OSSOS II: A sharp transition in the absolute magnitude distribution of the Kuiper belt’s scattering population”, *AJ*.
- **Volk** & Gladman (2015), “Consolidating and Crushing Exoplanets: Did it Happen Here?”, *ApJ Letters*.
- Pike, Kavelaars, Petit, **Volk**, & Shankman (2015), “The 5:1 Neptune Resonance as Probed by CFEPS: Dynamics and Population”, *AJ*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2013), “Do Centaurs preserve their source inclinations?”, *Icarus*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2012), “Long-term dynamical stability of the Haumea (2003 EL61) collisional family”, *Icarus*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2011), “Inclination mixing in the classical Kuiper belt”, *ApJ*.
- **Volk** & Malhotra (2008), “The scattered disk as the source of the Jupiter family comets”, *ApJ*.
- Cui, Yelle, & **Volk** (2008), “Distribution and escape of molecular hydrogen in Titan’s thermosphere and exosphere”, *JGR*.

WHITE PAPERS

- Harris, Fernandez, Sarid, Steckloff, **Volk**, Womack, & Woodney (2020), “Active Primordial Bodies: Exploration of the primordial composition of ice-rich planetesimals and early-stage evolution in the outer solar system”, White Paper submitted for the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032.
- Woodney, Rivkin, Harris, et al. (2020), “Strength In Diversity: Small Bodies as the Most Important Objects in Planetary Sciences”, White Paper submitted for the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032 (arXiv:2008.06411).
- Schwamb, **Volk**, Lin, et al. (2018), “A Northern Ecliptic Survey for Solar System Science”, LSST Cadence Optimization White Paper (arXiv:1812.01149).
- **Volk** et al. (2018), “The Effects of Filter Choice on Outer Solar System Science with LSST”, LSST Cadence Optimization White Paper (arXiv:1812.01149).

RECENT SEMINARS AND INVITED TALKS

“Using distant small body populations to reveal the solar system’s dynamical history”, invited Rubin prize lecture, DDA meeting, 2023, Lansing, MI.

“Orbital resonances in the outer solar system: dynamical details and their links to the solar systems history”, invited virtual talk, XXI Coloquio Brasileiro de Dinamica Orbital, December 2022.

“Orbital resonances in the outer solar system: probing their surprising prevalence and using them to understand the solar systems history”, Colloquium, Brigham Young University, November 2022.

“Using distant small body populations to reveal the solar systems dynamical history”, Seminar, Planetary Science Institute, March 2022.

“Orbital resonances in the outer solar system: how they help reveal the solar systems history”, Virtual Colloquium, Institute for Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, March 2021.

“Active Centaurs in context: understanding future members of the Jupiter family comets”, Invited Plenary Talk, DPS Virtual Meeting, October 2020.

“Combining theory and observations of trans-Neptunian objects to pin down Neptune’s migration history”, Theoretical Astrophysics Program Colloquium, October 2019, Tucson, AZ.

“Solar System Shake-up: how planet migration rearranged our system”, invited talk, Breakthrough Discuss Conference, April 2019, Berkeley, CA.

“Combining theory and observations of trans-Neptunian objects to pin down Neptune’s migration history”, Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics Colloquium, March 2019, Taipei, Taiwan.

SELECTED RECENT CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2023: K. Volk et al. “Using Resonant TNO populations to Constrain Neptunes Migration”. DPS Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

2022: K. Volk et al. “Close enough? How variations in the giant planets’ final orbits in migration simulations affect predicted resonant transneptunian populations”. DDA Meeting, New York, NY.

2021: K. Volk, R. Malhotra, & S. Graham. “Mapping Neptune’s resonances into the distant solar system”. DPS Virtual Meeting.

2020: K. Volk & R. Malhotra. “Kepler-102: a case study for using dynamical constraints to characterize exoplanet systems”. AAS, Honolulu, HI.

TELESCOPE TIME AWARDED

PI, Large Binocular Telescope (MODS), 0.5 nights in 2019B, ‘Searching for Cold Classical Interlopers in the 3:2 Neptune Resonance’

Co-I, Large Binocular Telescope (MODS, LBC), 7 nights in 2018A-2019B, “Constraining Neptune’s Migration: Surfaces of Resonant TNOs” (PI: R. Murray-Clay)

PI, Large Binocular Telescope (LBC), 1.5 nights in 2018A, “Constraining Neptune’s Migration: Surfaces of Resonant TNOs”

TEACHING

Instructor, University of Arizona, Fall 2015 – PTYS/ASTR 170B2 The Universe and Humanity: Origins and Destiny (general education introductory astronomy course; ~ 120 students)

Graduate Teaching Assistant Instructor/Co-Instructor, University of Arizona, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2012 – LASC 297a: Letters, Arts, and Science Specialty Training Workshop (9-week course to improve scientific literacy and help students become peer mentors in their science classes; ~ 20 students per class)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Arizona, Fall 2006, Spring 2008, Spring 2009 – various general education astronomy/planetary science undergraduate courses

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for AAS journals, PSJ, A&A, MNRAS, Nature, Nature Astronomy, Science, Icarus, Cel. Mech. & DA, Astrophysics & Space Science, Astronomy & Computing

External grant reviewer for NASA Research Programs

Panelist for NASA Research Program grant reviews

Panelist for NSF Astronomy grant reviews

Reviewer for telescope proposal calls (Spitzer, Gemini, K2)

2019-2020 Staff Representative, Dept. of Planetary Sciences, University of Arizona

2018-2019 LPL representative on the Steward Observatory Telescope Allocation Committee

RECENT OUTREACH/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

2023, 2022 Evening lecture at the Grand Canyon South Rim Visitor Center

2023 Science City volunteer at the Tucson Festival of Books

2022 published feature article “The Comet Highway” in Sky & Telescope Magazine

2021 speaker for the Tallahassee Science Society

2019 Discussion Moderator for the Tucson Festival of Books

2019, 2017, 2015 speaker for Astronomy on Tap, Tucson

2018 speaker for Astronomy on Tap, Seattle

2018 Phoenix Comic Fest panelist

2016-2017 guest lecturer for the University of Arizona’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

2017, 2016 Judged the Southern Arizona Research, Science & Engineering Foundation Science Fair

2015-2022 volunteer for numerous Lunar & Planetary Lab outreach events

2015-2018 invited speaker at several local amateur astronomy associations