



# Caltech Postdoc Association

2024 - 2025  
New Postdoc Orientation, October 21, 2024



## Our Mission for Our Community

The Caltech Postdoctoral Association (CPA) seeks to foster a **sense of community**, provide resources for **career and personal development**, and provide a framework for **representation** on campus and in the **local community** for postdoctoral scholars from all departments of the Institute.

Also serve: JPL and Carnegie affiliates

**We are here  
for you  
to make  
your postdoc  
life better!**

**Caltech**



## Board & Organization

### Chair



Dennis Ko, CCE

### Communications



Martijn Oei, PMA

### Secretary



Arpit Gupta, CCE

### Treasurer



Matthew Gherman, PMA





# Communication

## Responsibilities:

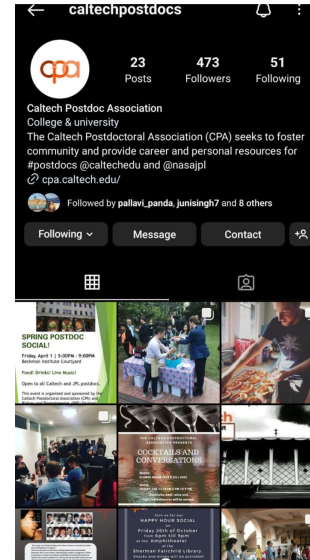
Disseminating information, managing communication platforms, event announcements, external requests, etc.

## Get connected! All our channels:

- Mailing list: [cpa-announcement@caltech.edu](mailto:cpa-announcement@caltech.edu); [postdoc-announcement@caltech.edu](mailto:postdoc-announcement@caltech.edu).
- Slack
- Instagram (follow us [@caltechpostdocs](https://www.instagram.com/caltechpostdocs))
- Facebook ([Caltech Postdoc Association](https://www.facebook.com/CaltechPostdocAssociation))

More information:

<https://cpa.caltech.edu/about-the-cpa>



**Martijn Oei, PMA**  
[oei@caltech.edu](mailto:oei@caltech.edu)



# Career

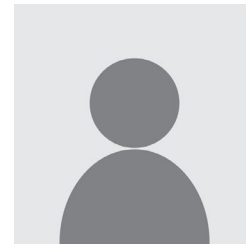
- ❑ Interfaces with CALE & CTLO
- ❑ Demystifying Faculty Hiring Process
- ❑ Networking opportunities with Industries
- ❑ Workshops:
  - a. LinkedIn
  - b. Teaching statements
  - c. Design your postdoc life



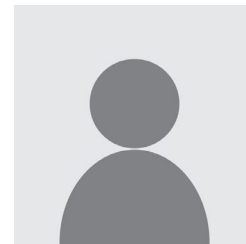
Demystifying Faculty Hiring



McKinley Informational Event



TBD



TBD



# Outreach

Vision: Connect postdocs with our larger community!

Reviving our pre-pandemic programs:

- CPA for STEM

In talks with Polytechnic school

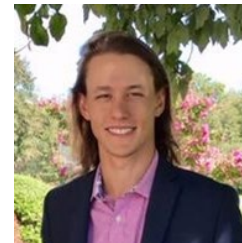
- Explore Caltech: a Caltech open house with booth tables and short talks by grad students, postdocs and faculties with over 5000 participants from the community pre-pandemic.



Community Engagement Lecture

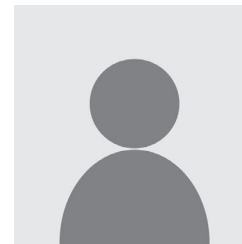


Explore Caltech Event



**Matthew Gherman, PMA**

[mgherman@caltech.edu](mailto:mgherman@caltech.edu)



TBD



# Social

Here to bring us all together :)  
We do an event every month, based  
on YOUR responses to our survey

Upcoming events:

- New Postdoc Meet & Greet + Happy Hour (Oct 24th)
- Diwali celebrations (Nov 8th)



Hiking Trip



**Arpit Gupta, CCE**  
arpit@caltech.edu



**Martijn Oei, PMA**  
oei@caltech.edu



Caltech Spouse club Social



Diwali Celebrations



- Ongoing Disability in STEM seminar series
- Cultural food events: Potluck!
- Ongoing Social Justice in LA seminar series
- Drag bingo
- DEI-themed movie nights
- LA Pride Parade float

Any other ideas from the postdoc community are welcome!



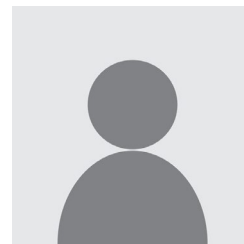
Disability Seminar



LA Pride Parade



**Riccardo Caniato, PMA**  
rcaniato@caltech.edu



TBD





# Advocacy

The **CPA advocacy** committee is here for you, and we are here to ensure your academic experience at Caltech is fulfilling. So, in line with that:

- We have set up weekly a ***CPA advocacy listening helpdesk***: a space for sharing concerns, issues, specific requests regarding (but not limited to) **housing, healthcare, safe work environment** (we follow an anti-bullying policy and we ensure protection especially for international postdocs) and anything else that may have come up at Caltech. The **helpdesk** is open once a week (**Friday at 10am**) in **Caltech hall 907** . Every single session last for 15 minutes and the **helpdesk** is open for 1h.
- We are working closely with the **Postdoctoral Scholars Office** and the **Institutional Research Office**.
- The **minimum salary** for postdocs is currently \$68,000/year. If at any point you are being paid less than that, reach out to us or the union.

If you have any other questions or concerns, reach out to the advocacy co-chairs.



**Catherine Babecki, PMA & EAS**  
cbabecki@caltech.edu



**Utkarsh Giri, PMA**  
ugiri@caltech.edu



# What's Next!

## Meet and Greet Social

Thursday, 10/24  
Schlinger Patio  
5pm

## Diwali Social

November 8th  
Chen Breezway  
5pm

## Caltech Postdocs Launch

Every other Friday, 12pm Caltech Hall

Sponsored by Caltech Postdoc  
Association, Caltech Divisions and  
Caltech Library

Contact: [pprakash@caltech.edu](mailto:pprakash@caltech.edu)

Cross-disciplinary speakers  
Candid Q&A Session  
Free Lunch for attendees  
Gift cards for speakers

Next seminars: 10/25, 11/8, 11/22

**Caltech**



# Division Representatives

**Act as  
Liaisons  
between the  
Division and  
CPA**

Identify areas and issues to work on with CPA

Help CPA organize:

Cool Ales

Writing sessions

Postdoc L(a)unch

**EAS**

TBD

**HSS**

TBD

**PMA**

TBD

**GPS**

TBD

**CCE**

TBD

**BBE**

TBD

**Caltech**



<https://cpa.caltech.edu>

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## Caltech Postdoctoral Association



**Get Involved in the capacity that works  
for you!**

Attend our events  
Join our advocacy efforts  
Share your brilliant ideas  
Connect with Us

**Caltech**



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Home

# Caltech Postdoctoral Association



## Sign-up/Join

Mailing list: [cpa\\_announcement](#)  
Slack  
Instagram  
Facebook

## Email

**Dennis Ko (Chair)**  
[ko@caltech.edu](mailto:ko@caltech.edu)

## Contact

**Any CPA member or  
Division Representatives**

**Thank you!**

**Caltech**

Previous + Extra slides

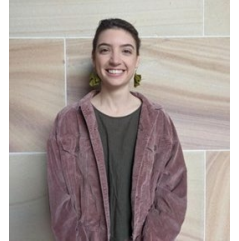
# Childcare & parent support

- We work closely with Caltech Spouses club **ask us about joining!**
- Goals for this year:
  - **Understand & quantify postdoc parents' needs!**
  - Advocate for better Childcare Policies
  - Work with CEC & CCC for better allocations and plans for postdoc parents
  - Advocate for improved family health insurance plans + housing
  - Better support for international postdocs & families

We'd also love to get to know the new parents so **please reach out** to the co-chairs!



**Tridip Das, CCE**  
tridip@caltech.edu



**Ariane Mora, CCE**  
amora@caltech.edu

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# We are here for you to make your postdoc life better!



Get Involved in the capacity that works for you:

- Attend our events
- Join our advocacy efforts
- Share your brilliant ideas
- Connect with Us

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# CPA Social, CPA Childcare

## Social Co-Chairs



Juni Singh, HSS

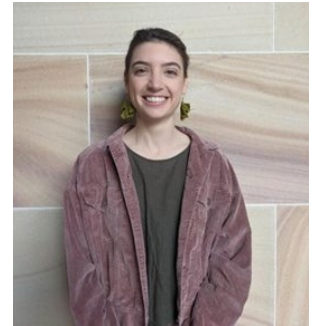


Aditya Khuller, JPL

## Childcare & Support Co-Chairs



Tridip Das, CCE



Ariane More, CCE

Team at  
a glance

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# CPA Career & CPA Diversity

Career Co-chairs

Diversity Co-chairs



Samuel Lanthaler, EAS



Manu Tom, JPL



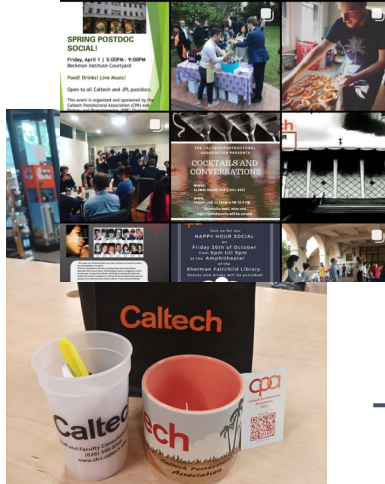
Danial Panahandeh  
Shahraki, EAS



Riccardo Caniato, PMA

Sofia Fatagoni, PMA

## Team at a glance



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Disseminating information, managing communication platforms, event announcements, external requests, etc.

- Get connected! All our channels:

Mailing list: [cpa\\_announcement](mailto:cpa_announcement), Slack, Instagram, Facebook

<https://cpa.caltech.edu/about-the-cpa>

More coming: LinkedIn, Newsletters

- CPA postdoc welcome gift bag

<https://cpa.caltech.edu/incoming-postdocs/gift-bag>

If you have any other questions or concerns, please reach out to:

- Hanxun: [hjin@caltech.edu](mailto:hjin@caltech.edu)

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# CPA Career

Career Co-chairs

Diversity Co-chairs

Sofia Fatagoni, PMA

Riccardo Caniato, PMA

## Team at a glance

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# CPA, CPA Outreach

Advocacy Co-Chairs

Outreach Co-Chairs



Elisabetta Benazzi, CCE



Isabel Scherl, EAS

Team at  
a glance

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- We advocate to ensure a safe work environment bargaining for an anti-bullying policy and protection especially for international postdocs.
- We are working closely with the Postdoctoral Scholars Office and the Institutional Research Office.
- We are working with Caltech Housing division too.
- The minimum salary for postdocs is \$68,000/year. If at any point you are being paid less than that, reach out to us.
- If you have any other questions or concerns, reach out to:
  - Isabel:
  - Elisabetta:

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# Career



- Interfaces with CALE & CTLO
- Demystifying Faculty Hiring Process
- Networking opportunities with Industries
- Workshops:
  - LinkedIn
  - Teaching statements
  - Design your postdoc life
- If you have any other questions or suggestions, reach out to:
  - Samuel: [slanth@caltech.edu](mailto:slanth@caltech.edu)
  - Dan: [shahraki@caltech.edu](mailto:shahraki@caltech.edu)
  - Manu: [manu.tom@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:manu.tom@jpl.nasa.gov)

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# Outreach



- Reviving our pre pandemic programs in style
- Vision: Connect postdocs with our larger community!
- CPA for STEM
  - In talks with Polytechnic school
- Science for March - over 5000 participants from the community
- If you have questions or suggestions, reach out to:
  - Matthew Gherman: [mgherman@caltech.edu](mailto:mgherman@caltech.edu)



# Social



- Here to bring us all together :)
- We do an event every month, based on YOUR responses to our survey
- Upcoming events:
  - New Postdoc Meet & Greet + Happy Hour (April 19)
  - JPL Visit (TBD)
- If you have any event suggestions please contact:
  - Juni: [jsingh7@caltech.edu](mailto:jsingh7@caltech.edu)
  - Aditya: [aditya.r.khuller@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:aditya.r.khuller@jpl.nasa.gov)

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# Team at a glance

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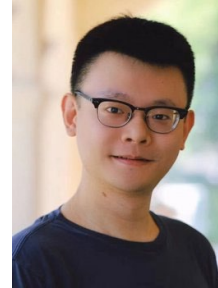
# Board & Organizational

Chair



Nivedita Mahesh, PMA

External Affairs & Communications  
Chair



Hanxun Jin, EAS

Secretary

Treasurer

John Bostick, BBE

Roni Goldshmid, EAS

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# Division Representatives

## BBE Div Reps



Sayan Dutta, BBE



Emma Boxer, BBE



Pallavi Panda, BBE

Team at  
a glance

**Call for representatives from other divisions have been sent,  
Come Join us!!**



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# Division Representatives

- GPS - JJ
- PMA - Sridip
- HSS - Tessa, Zeynep
- CCE - Prabhat
- EAS - still looking?

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# Division reps

- Each division look out for calls and come join our amazing team!
- As division reps:
  - Act as Liaisons
  - Organize:
    - Cool beans
    - Writing sessions
    - Postdoc L(a)unch
- BBE reps have already successfully started our Cool beans this year
- If have any questions feel free to email me: [nmahesh@caltech.edu](mailto:nmahesh@caltech.edu)

