2026 Rubin Prize Winner - Juliette Becker

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The American Astronomical Society’s Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA) is pleased to

award the 2026 Vera Rubin Early Career Prize to Juliette Becker of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. This award recognizes Dr. Becker's influential and wide-ranging contributions to planetary dynamics and exoplanetary science, combining theoretical insight with observational discovery to transform our understanding of planetary system architectures.

Since earning her Ph.D. in 2019 at the University of Michigan, Becker has led seminal work identifying and interpreting unexpected dynamical configurations, including the discovery of additional planets in the WASP-47 system, which challenged prevailing theories of hot Jupiter formation and migration. Her research has greatly expanded our understanding of the dynamical processes that shape planetary systems and spans the dynamics of compact multi-planet systems, the structure of the outer Solar System, and the role of dynamical evolution in ultra-short-period planets and white dwarf planetary systems.

Beyond her scientific achievements, Dr. Becker has had a profound impact on the dynamical astronomy community through mentorship, leadership, and service. She has built a highly productive and inclusive research group, mentoring students at all levels and fostering numerous student-led publications, while also founding and leading the DDA Mentoring Program, which has significantly expanded participation and support for early-career scientists. Her contributions to teaching, community-building, and equity initiatives exemplify the spirit of the Vera Rubin Prize.

Dr. Becker's combination of scientific excellence, creativity, and dedication to the advancement of the field marks her as a leader in dynamical astronomy, with exceptional promise for continued impact in the years ahead.

Dr. Hadden will be invited to give a lecture at the 58th annual DDA meeting, which will be held in Bloomington, Indiana in May 2027.

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