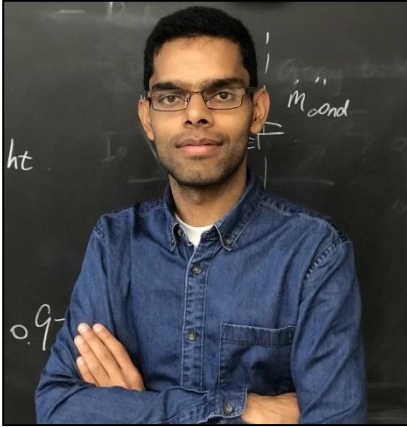




**Kishore Patra, The 2018-2019  
Carl and Betty Helmholtz Gateway Fellow  
at International House, UC Berkeley**



I was born in a remote village on the eastern coast of India. Growing up, one of my favorite pastimes was to identify constellations in the night sky, pitch dark due to irregular electricity supply. It was in these formative years that I was drawn towards astronomy.

I studied in a government-funded school in India until I was 16, before moving to the UK to study the IB Diploma with a full scholarship. Thus, I became the first person from my community to cross international boundaries in pursuit of education. Later, I would also become the first person in my community to have a college degree.

As an undergraduate at MIT, I majored in Physics. I worked at MIT's Wallace Astrophysical Observatory, Lowell Observatory Flagstaff and remotely at the Whipple Observatory, Arizona. In July 2017, I authored his first paper on possibly the first detection of orbital decay in exoplanets.

Besides astronomy and playing cricket, I enjoy writing short stories and poems. I am also learning astrophotography and enjoy nighttime adventures in search for the elusive Milky Way. At I-House, I look forward to an enriching multicultural experience, full of adventures and learning, and sharing my passion for astronomy, writing and cricket. Having lived previously among other international students at MIT, I would bring great stories, music and food I have gathered from all over the world.



**The Carl and Betty Helmholtz Gateway Fellowship** was initiated by Professor of Biophysics, Emeritus, Howard Mel. After Carl Helmholtz passed away in 2004, this endowed fund began accepting donations from various friends of the family to honor Carl and Betty for their many contributions, and was later established as a fellowship in 2007. Carl served as Chair of the Physics Department and Betty, who recently passed away, served on the International House Board of Directors for nine years.