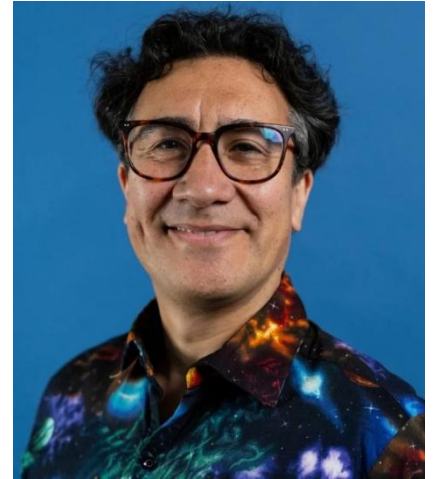


**Dr. Luis Agustín Chavarría Garrido,
Visiting Assistant Professor and Astronomer,
UNC Asheville**

Dr. Luis Chavarría's path in astronomy began in Chile, under some of the clearest skies on Earth. After earning his BSc and PhD in Science with a major in Astronomy from the University of Chile, he traveled north to the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, where he carried out his doctoral research and deepened his fascination with how stars are born. His career then took him across continents — from Chile to France and Spain — for postdoctoral work centered on the mysteries of star formation.



In 2013, he returned to Chile's mountains and observatories, joining the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) as Support Astronomer and Chilean coordinator for the APEX telescope. Just a few years later, he became Director of the Astronomy Program, helping shape national strategies to strengthen international collaboration and ensure that the extraordinary scientific infrastructure located in Chile benefits the local community.

In 2021, Dr. Chavarría reached a historic milestone: he became the first Chilean to serve as the European Southern Observatory's Representative in Chile in the organization's 60-year history. In this role, he represents ESO and its Director General in all matters and relations with Chilean governmental, regional, and local authorities where ESO facilities and observatory sites are located, as well as with the diplomatic missions representing ESO Member States in Chile. He also coordinates the representation of ESO's political and legal interests in Chile and promotes the positive relationship of ESO with Chile as a whole.

Today, Dr. Chavarría is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UNC Asheville. There, he blends research, observatory management, institutional outreach, and community engagement — inviting students to explore the bridges between astronomy, society, and the arts, and to see the sky not just as a scientific frontier but as a shared human experience.