## The 59th Winter Nuclear & Particle Physics Conference (WNPPC2022)



Contribution ID: 44 Type: QCD and Hadrons

## $\eta$ Meson Photoproduction with the GlueX Experiment

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Studies of the exclusive production of the  $\eta$  meson in photonuclear reactions offer a wide range of physics insight. These include constraining models of hadron photoproduction, insight into the spectrum of excited N\* states, and may even provide a probe into the structure of the nucleon at wide-angles of production. GlueX, a high-intensity photoproduction experiment located at Hall D of Jefferson Lab, measures exclusive  $\eta$  mesons off the proton with large statistics and comparatively low background. We present cross section measurements of  $\eta$  photoproduction at  $E_{\gamma}=6$ -11 GeV and find consistent results using the decay modes  $\eta \to \gamma \gamma$ ,  $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ , and  $\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0$ . When studied as a function of Mandelstam t, these cross sections can constrain models describing  $\eta$  production in terms of t-channel Reggeon exchange. Such measurements inform future searches for exotic hybrid mesons and serve as a benchmark for the Jefferson Lab Eta Factory, a future upgrade to the existing GlueX facility focused on rare  $\eta$  decays.

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## Please select: Experiment or Theory

Experiment

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