

# Brandon Radzom

PHD CANDIDATE · ASTRONOMY

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## Education

### Indiana University (IU) - Bloomington

Bloomington, IN 47405-7000

#### PH.D. ASTRONOMY

Aug. 2020 - May 2026

- Thesis: *Observational and Numerical Constraints on the Dynamical Origins of Hot Jupiters*
- Advisor: Prof. Songhu Wang

#### M.A. ASTRONOMY

Aug. 2020 - May 2023

- Minor: Scientific Computing

### University of Wisconsin (UW) - Madison

Madison, WI 53706-1507

#### B.S. ASTRONOMY-PHYSICS, B.S. PHYSICS

Sept. 2016 - May 2020

- Minor: Computer Science
- Thesis: *Characterizing AGN Activity in the SSA22 Field*
- Advisor: Prof. Amy Barger

## Professional Experience

- 2021- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Dept. of Astronomy, IU-Bloomington
- 2020-2024 **Graduate Associate Instructor**, Dept. of Astronomy, IU-Bloomington
- 2018-2022 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Dept. of Astronomy, UW-Madison
- 2017-2020 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Dept. of Physics, UW-Madison

## Awards & Grants

### PROPOSALS

- 2025-2026 **Co-PI: Indiana Outreach Project Space Grant**, NASA \$5,550
- Brandon T. Radzom**, Samir Salim, et al: "PyIU: Python Workshops to Forge Future Astronomers in Indiana"

### FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2026 **Visiting Graduate Fellowship**, Caltech/IPAC
- 2025-2026 **College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship**, IU-Bloomington \$24,000
- 2025 **Carl Sagan Workshop Travel Support Award**, NExSci/Caltech
- 2025 **Joseph & Frances Morgan Swain Graduate Fellowship**, IU-Bloomington \$1,000
- 2024-2025 **Sullivan Research Fellowship**, Dept. of Astronomy, IU-Bloomington \$31,000
- 2024 **Frank and Margaret Edmondson Prize for Teaching**, IU-Bloomington \$500
- 2023 **Goethe Link Prize for Outreach and Public Education in Astronomy**, IU-Bloomington \$500
- 2022 **College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award**, IU-Bloomington \$200
- 2020 **Thesis of Distinction**, UW-Madison College of Letters & Science
- Lowell Doherty Award for Excellence in Astronomy**, Dept. of Astronomy, UW-Madison \$500
- Member of the Dean's List**, College of Letters & Science, UW-Madison
- 2019 **Member of the Dean's List**, College of Letters & Science, UW-Madison
- Liebenberg Family Undergraduate Research Scholarship**, UW-Madison \$2,000
- David H. Durra Scholarship**, UW-Madison \$3,000
- 2018 **John Karl Scholz Sophomore General Scholarship**, UW-Madison \$500
- 2017 **Member of the Dean's List**, College of Letters & Science, UW-Madison

## Software Skills

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- Programming languages: Python, MATLAB, C++, Java, LabView
- Misc: git & GitHub, Linux shell, VS Code, HTML,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Maple, Mathematica, Windows Office Suite

## Publications

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### REFEREED

Jessica Ranshaw, **Brandon T. Radzom**, Songhu Wang, Xian-Yu Wang, Jennifer Burt, and Juan I. Espinoza-Retamal 2025. *K2-232c: A Cold Jupiter Redefining the Origins of Hot and Warm Jupiters*, in prep.

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Songhu Wang, Bonan Pu, Hareesh Guatham Bhaskar, and Malena Rice 2025. *Hot Jupiters' Isolation Is Not Unique to High-Eccentricity Tidal Migration*, submitted to ApJ

Samuel Quinn, Joseph Rodriguez, Karen Collins, Allyson Bieryla, W.J. Brennom, Jiayin Dong, Kyle Hixenbaugh, David Latham, **Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. 2025. *TOI-2494 c and TOI-5143 c: a hot Saturn and a hot Jupiter with interior planetary companions*, submitted to ApJ

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Jiayin Dong, Malena Rice, Xian-Yu Wang, Kyle Hixenbaugh, George Zhou, Chelsea X. Huang, Songhu Wang 2025. *Evidence for Primordial Alignment II: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Hot Jupiters in Compact Multi-planet Systems*, AJ 169 189

R. Kent Honeycutt, Jeff Robertson, **Brandon T. Radzom** 2025. *Stunted Outbursts and Z Cam-like Behaviors in the Long-term Light Curves of Novalike Cataclysmic Variables*, ApJS 277 29

Cassandra Seltzer, Rudi Lien, **Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. 2025. *THUNDER: A Titan orbiter mission concept for the New Frontiers program*, PSJ 6 45

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Jiayin Dong, Malena Rice, Xian-Yu Wang, Samuel W. Yee, Tyler R. Fairnington, Cristobal Petrovich, Songhu Wang 2024. *Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact Sub-Saturn Systems*, AJ, 168 116

Jack Lubin, Xian-Yu Wang, Malena Rice, Jiayin Dong, Songhu Wang, **Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. 2023. *TOI-1670 c, a 40 day Orbital Period Warm Jupiter in a Compact System, Is Well Aligned*, ApJL, 959 L5

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Anthony J. Taylor, Amy J. Barger, Lennox L. Cowie 2022. *X-ray Sources in the Chandra Field SSA22*, ApJ, 940 114

Xian-Yu Wang, Malena Rice, Songhu Wang, Bonan Pu, Gudmundur Stefánsson, Suvrath Mahadevan, **Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. 2022. *The Aligned Orbit of WASP-148 b, the Only Known Hot Jupiter with a Nearby Warm Jupiter Companion, from NEID and HIRES*, ApJL, 926 L8

### NON-REFEREED

W. Garrett Levine, **Brandon T. Radzom** et al. 2025. *Emerging Researchers in Exoplanetary Science (ERES) Symposium: Developing Community-Driven Mission & Vision Statements*, to be submitted to BAAS

**Brandon T. Radzom** 2020. *Characterizing AGN Activity in the SSA22 Field*, UW-Madison Dept. of Astronomy Senior Thesis

## Presentations

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### PROFESSIONAL TALKS

Seminar Talk. *Hot and (Un)Bothered: Leveraging Compact Multi-planet Systems to Constrain the Origins of Hot Jupiters*. Center for Exoplanets and Habitable Worlds Seminar, Penn State Astronomy, September 22, 2025.

Seminar Talk. *Hot and (Un)Bothered: Leveraging Compact Multi-planet Systems to Constrain the Origins of Hot Jupiters*. Astronomy Seminar, Carnegie EPL, September 12, 2025.

Seminar Talk. *Hot and (Un)Bothered: Leveraging Compact Multi-planet Systems to Constrain the Origins of Hot Jupiters*. SEEC Exoplanet Seminar, NASA/Goddard, September 10, 2025.

Seminar Talk. *Hot and (Un)Bothered: Leveraging Compact Multi-planet Systems to Constrain the Origins of Hot Jupiters*. ESPF Seminar, Space Telescope Science Institute, September 9, 2025.

Flash Talk. *Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact Giant Systems*. Carl Sagan Summer Workshop, Caltech, July 21–25 2025.

Contributed Talk. *Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact Giant Systems*. ERES IX, Cornell University, July 2024.

Seminar Talk. *NASA PSSS: A Lightning-Fast Lesson in Mission Design and the THUNDER That Follows*. Astronomy Seminar, IU, January 2024.

Contributed Talk. *Post-formation Dynamics: A Mechanism to Explain the Companionship Properties of Hot and Warm Jupiters*. Great Lakes Exoplanet Area Meeting (GLEAM), IU, October 27–28, 2023.

Invited Talk. *Measuring Stellar Obliquities To Constrain the Origins of Exoplanets*. Virtual WIYN Board Meeting, October 2023.

Contributed Talk. *Post-disk Dynamical Evolution: A Mechanism to Explain the Companionship Dichotomy Between Hot Jupiters and Warm Jupiters*. Division on Dynamical Astronomy Meeting #54, Michigan State University, May 2023.

Contributed Talk. *In Situ Origins of Hot Jupiter Isolation*. GLEAM 2022, The Ohio State University, November 2022.

Seminar Talk. *The X-ray Luminosity Function of Optically Narrow and Broad-line AGNs Out To  $z \sim 4$* . Astronomy Seminar, IU, September 2020.

## PUBLIC TALKS

*Exoplanets in the Media: Fact or Fantasy?* Astronomy on Tap, Bloomington, IN, September 2024.

*Astronomy in the News: NASA's DART Mission*. Astronomy on Tap, Bloomington, IN, March 2024.

*The Night Sky*. Indiana Master Naturalist Astronomy Event, Bloomington, IN, October 2021.

## CONFERENCE POSTERS

**Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. (2025) “To High-e or Not to High-e: Hot Jupiters in Compact Multi-Planet Systems Are Aligned”, NOIRLab Solar System In Context. September 29–October 2, 2025.

**Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. (2025) “Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact Giant Systems”, Carl Sagan Summer Workshop. July 21–25, 2025.

**Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. (2025) “PyIU Python Workshops: Forging Future Astronomers in Indiana”, Spring 2025 Statewide Engagement Institute. March 13, 2025. 10.5281/zenodo.15015534

**Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. (2024) “Evidence for Primordial Alignment: Insights from Stellar Obliquity Measurements for Compact TESS Systems”, TESS Science Conference 3, July 29–August 2, 2024. 10.5281/zenodo.13117605

Cassandra Seltzer, Rudi Lein, **Brandon T. Radzom**, et al. (2024) “THUNDER: A New Frontiers-class Titan orbiter mission concept from the NASA JPL Planetary Science Summer School”, 55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, March 11–15, 2024.

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Songhu Wang, and Bonan Pu (2022) “In Situ Origins of Hot Jupiters”, Emerging Researchers in Exoplanet Science (ERES) VII, July 31–August 2, 2022. 10.5281/zenodo.6944743

**Brandon T. Radzom**, Amy J. Barger, and Anthony J. Taylor. (2020) “Characterizing AGN Activity in the SSA22 Field”, American Astronomical Society Meeting #236, June 1–3, 2020. id.137.03

Minho Kwon, Christopher Young, Matthew Ebert, Sebastian Malewicz, **Brandon Radzom**, et al. (2018) “Progress toward entanglement of atomic ensemble qubits via Rydberg blockade”, International Conference on Atomic Physics, July 22–27, 2018.

## Teaching Experience

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### Instructor of Record

*IU Astronomy Dept.*

- Astronomy 100: The Solar System (Summer 2023 & 2024)

## Associate Instructor

IU Astronomy Dept.

- Astronomy 451: Stellar Astrophysics (Spring 2024)
- Astronomy 305: Modern Observational Techniques (Fall 2023)
- Astronomy 100: The Solar System (Spring 2023)
- Astronomy 107: The Art of Astronomy (Spring 2023, Fall 2020)
- Astronomy 103: Search For Life In The Universe (Fall 2021)
- Astronomy 222: General Astronomy II (Spring 2021)

## Guest Lecturer

IU Astronomy Dept.

- Astronomy 222: General Astronomy II (Spring 2025)
- Astronomy 100: The Solar System (Spring 2024)
- Astronomy 103: Search for Life in the Universe (Spring 2024)
- Astronomy 515: Exoplanets and Orbital Dynamics (Fall 2023)
- Astronomy 100: The Solar System (Spring 2023)

## Community Involvement & Leadership

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### SERVICE

2025	<b>Hands-on Session Helper</b> , Carl Sagan Summer Workshop	Pasadena, CA
2025	<b>Reviewer</b> , Astronomy & Astrophysics Journal	
2025	<b>Steering Committee Member</b> , Concerned Scientists at IU/Advocates for Science at IU	Bloomington, IN
2025	<b>AAS Advocacy Representative</b> , AAS Congressional Visits Day	Washington, D.C.
2024-2025	<b>Task Lead</b> , ERES Mission & Vision Committee	
2024, 2025	<b>Informal Mentor</b> , Alice-Palma Undergraduate Research Program	Bloomington, IN
2023-2025	<b>Seminar Talk Coordinator</b> , IU Astronomy Graduate Leadership	Bloomington, IN
2022-2025	<b>Founder and Lead Organizer</b> , PyIU: A Workshop Series on Python Essentials	Bloomington, IN
2022-2025	<b>Undergraduate Research Coordinator</b> , IU Astronomy Graduate Leadership	Bloomington, IN
2023	<b>SOC &amp; LOC Member, Session Chair</b> , GLEAM 2023 Conference	Bloomington, IN
2023	<b>Formal Mentor (Arnob Rasul)</b> , Alice-Palma Undergraduate Research Program	Bloomington, IN
2019-2020	<b>Vice President</b> , UW-Madison Astronomy Club	Madison, WI
2018-2019	<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b> , UW-Madison Astronomy Club	Madison, WI

### PUBLIC OUTREACH

2025	<b>Kirkwood Observatory Community &amp; School Partnerships Tour</b> , Tour guide	Bloomington, IN
2025	<b>Kirkwood Observatory Media School Staff Tour</b> , Tour guide	Bloomington, IN
2025	<b>Kirkwood Observatory Sustainability Class Tour</b> , Tour guide	Bloomington, IN
2022-2025	<b>PyIU: A Workshop Series on Python Essentials</b> , Instructor, Lecturer, Code Developer	Bloomington, IN
2021-2025	<b>Kirkwood Observatory Open Nights</b> , Telescope operator & tour guide	Bloomington, IN
2024	<b>Astronomy on Tap</b> , Public Speaker: <i>Exoplanets in the Media</i>	Bloomington, IN
2024	<b>Boy Scout Astronomy Night</b> , Observatory Tour Guide	Bloomington, IN
2024	<b>Astronomy on Tap</b> , Public Speaker: <i>NASA's DART Mission</i>	Bloomington, IN
2024	<b>Eclipse IU</b> , Solar eclipse viewing aid and guide	Bloomington, IN
2021-2024	<b>IU Science Fest</b> , Astronomy demo leader	Bloomington, IN
2023	<b>Kirkwood Observatory High School Class Tour</b> , Telescope operator & tour guide	Bloomington, IN
2023	<b>STEAM Night at McCormick's Creek Elementary</b> , Astronomy demo leader	Spencer, IN
2023	<b>International Day of Women and Girls in Science</b> , Astronomy demo leader	Bloomington, IN
2022, 2023	<b>Indianapolis Children's Museum STEM Exploration Day</b> , Astronomy demo leader	Indianapolis, IN
2022	<b>Boys and Girls Club: Streets Paved With Gold (Alpha Phi Alpha)</b> , Astronomy demo leader	Bloomington, IN
2021	<b>Indiana Master Naturalist Event</b> , Guest speaker, telescope operator	Bloomington, IN
2020	<b>Girl Scout Astronomy Night</b> , UW-Madison Astronomy Club volunteer	Madison, WI
2019	<b>Moon Over Monona Terrace</b> , UW-Madison Astronomy Club volunteer	Madison, WI

2019	<b>My UW Days</b> , UW-Madison Astronomy & Physics Dept. representative	<i>Madison, WI</i>
2019	<b>UW Space Place OAO-2 Anniversary Event</b> , Orbital Astronomical Observatory (OAO) guide	<i>Madison, WI</i>
2018	<b>UW STEM Immersion Day</b> , UW Astronomy/ Astronomy Club representative	<i>Madison, WI</i>
2017	<b>UW Space Place Family Science Night</b> , Physics and Astronomy demo leader	<i>Madison, WI</i>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Fall 2022-Present: PyIU: A Workshop Series on Python Essentials**, *IU Astronomy Dept.* Founder and lead organizer of the PyIU program: a free, graduate student-led Python workshop series intended to equip undergraduate and high school students of various backgrounds to engage in astronomy and physics research. This program is also funded by the Indiana Space Grant (co-PIs: Brandon Radzom and Samir Salim) for the 2025-2026 academic year. All content is posted to a public GitHub repository: [github.com/BrandonRadzom/pyiu](https://github.com/BrandonRadzom/pyiu).

**Summer 2025: Carl Sagan Summer Workshop Silver Jubilee: Exoplanet Demographics**, *NExSci/Caltech* In-person participant, POP poster presenter, and helper for the hands-on “Exoplanet Occurrence Rates” and “Distant Giant Planets with Astrometry” sessions. Poster: [nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2025/posters/Poster\\_BrandonRadzom\\_90.pdf](https://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2025/posters/Poster_BrandonRadzom_90.pdf)

**Summer 2023: JPL Planetary Science Summer School**, *JPL*. Was selected to participate in an 11-week planetary mission design school. Received training on mission formulation from NASA mentors and worked with a multi-disciplinary cohort of 17 other early-career scientists and engineers to design a New Frontiers-class orbiter at Saturn’s moon, Titan. Assumed the role of Deputy PI and Science Objective Lead throughout the program. During the culminating week, also served as Science Chair and worked with NASA’s Team-X at JPL to finalize the mission design before presenting it to a NASA review panel. The concept study is published in the Planetary Science Journal. Media interview: [news.iu.edu/college/live/news/35938-graduate-students-summer-experience-at-nasas-jet](https://news.iu.edu/college/live/news/35938-graduate-students-summer-experience-at-nasas-jet)

**Summer 2023: Code/Astro Software Engineering Workshop**, *Northwestern University*. Was selected to participate in the week-long 2023 Code/Astro Workshop which covered best practices for producing and publishing open-source astronomy software. Topics included managing Python environments, git and GitHub, de-bugging tools, releasing code to PyPI and GitHub, documentation of code (using docstrings & Sphinx), and software testing. In parallel, worked with a small group to develop a pip-installable package for planning observations at IU’s Kirkwood Observatory called *kirkwoodnight* (GitHub: [github.com/ag161920/kirkwoodnight](https://github.com/ag161920/kirkwoodnight), PyPI: [pypi.org/project/kirkwoodnight](https://pypi.org/project/kirkwoodnight)). Program link: [semaphorep.github.io/codeastro](https://semaphorep.github.io/codeastro).

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Astronomical Society (2020-2025)