

# COLIN J. BURKE

## PERSONAL

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** *in progress*  
Ph.D. Astronomy  
Advisor: Professor Xin Liu  
**Purdue University**, West Lafayette May 2018  
B.S. Physics  
Minor in Astronomy  
Certificate of learning beyond the classroom

## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research** December 2018 - Present  
*Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Advisor: Professor Xin Liu
- Searching for largest uniform sample of intermediate mass black holes in Dark Energy Survey images.

**R&D Intern, Space and Missions Systems** June 2018 - August 2018  
*Engility Corporation (currently SAIC)* June 2017 - August 2017

- Developed computational models and simulations for communications and remote sensing satellites for various US government customers.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** February 2014 - May 2018  
*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Purdue University*

- Advisor: Professor John R. Peterson
- Developer of internal image simulation code, *PhoSim*, for LSST.
- Extended and modified *PhoSim* for use with JWST, which resulted in a modest contract for our group with the University of Arizona.

## AWARDS

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**Illinois Graduate Survey Science Fellow** 2019 - 2020  
*Center for Astrophysical Surveys*  
*National Center for Supercomputing Applications & Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Teacher Ranked as Excellent** Spring 2019  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Recognizes the Department's outstanding physics junior and senior. Typically awarded for excellence in research.

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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H. Guo, **C. J. Burke**, X. Liu, K. A. Phadke, K. Zhang, Y.-C. Chen, C. Lidman, Y. Shen, and DES Collaboration. "Dark Energy Survey Identification of a low-mass Active Galactic Nucleus at Redshift 0.82 from Optical Variability." *MNRAS* **submitted**.

**C. J. Burke**, V. F. Baldassare, X. Liu, R. J. Foley, Y. Shen, A. Palmese, G. Hengxiao, and DES Collaboration. "The curious case of PHL 293B: A long-lived transient in a blue compact dwarf galaxy" *ApJ Letters* **accepted (2020)**.

F. J. Sánchez, C. W. Walter, H. Awan, J. Chiang, S. F. Daniel, E. Gawiser, T. Glanzman, D. P. Kirkby, R. Mandelbaum, A. Slosar, W. M. Wood-Vasey, Y. AlSayyad, **C. J. Burke**, S. W. Digel, M. Jarvis, T. Johnson, H. Kelly, S. Krughoff, R. H. Lupton, P. J. Marshall, J. R. Peterson, P. A. Price, G. Sembroski, B. Van Klaveren, M. P. Wiesner, B. Xin. "The LSST DESC Data Challenge 1: Generation and Analysis of Synthetic Images for Next Generation Surveys." *MNRAS* **submitted**.

**C. J. Burke**, P. D. Aleo, X. Liu, J. R. Peterson, G. H. Sembroski, Y.-C. Chen, Y.-Y. Lin. "Deblending and Classifying Astronomical Sources with Mask R-CNN Deep Learning." *MNRAS* **490**, 3952 (2019).

**C. J. Burke**, J. R. Peterson, E. Egami, J. M. Leisenring, G. H. Sembroski, Marcia J. Rieke. "PhoSim-NIRCam: photon-by-photon image simulations of the James Webb Space Telescope's near-infrared camera." *JATIS* **5(3)**, 038002 (2019).

J. R. Peterson, E. Peng, **C. J. Burke**, G. Sembroski, J. Cheng. "Deformation of Optics for Photon Monte Carlo Simulations." *ApJ*. **873**, 98 (2019).

## OBSERVING PROPOSALS ACCEPTED

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**Blanco 4-meter Telescope: DECam** 0.5 nights: 2019A  
*Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, Chile*

D. Thomas (PI), S. Kahn, K. L. Smith, R. Blum, Ž. Ivezić, **C. J. Burke**. "Probing Short Duration Stellar Variability with Star Trail Images of Four K2 Fields"

**WIYN 3.5-meter Telescope: ODI** 1 night: 2018B-0374  
*National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Kitt Peak, AZ*

J. R. Peterson (PI), G. H. Sembroski, **C. J. Burke**, K. Graves, M. Geckler. "Weak Lensing in Clusters of Galaxies with *PhoSim*"

**WIYN 3.5-meter Telescope: ODI** 5 nights: 2017B-0824  
*National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Kitt Peak, AZ*

J. R. Peterson (PI), G. H. Sembroski, E. Peng, **C. J. Burke**. "Weak Lensing in Clusters of Galaxies with *PhoSim*"

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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J. Peterson, G. Sembroski, **C. Burke**, C. Remocaldo; A. Dutta, G. Jernigan. “PhoSim: A Comprehensive Observational Simulation Tool for Precision Astronomy.” **AAS Meeting Abstracts #223 (2019)**

D. Thomas, S. M. Kahn, F. B. Bianco, Z. Ivezić, C. M. Raiteri, A. Possenti, J. R. Peterson, **C. J. Burke**, R. D. Blum, G. H. Jacoby, S. B. Howell, G. Madejski. “Unveiling the Rich and Diverse Universe of Subsecond Astrophysics through LSST Star Trails.” **LSST Cadence Optimization White Paper (2018)**

## TALKS

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Selected Contributed Talk. “New Faces of Black Holes” conference, Joint Space-Science Institute. Annapolis, MD.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Referee for *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

## TEACHING & OUTREACH

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Teaching Assistant: ASTR 122: Stars and Galaxies (Spring 2019; Ranked as excellent teacher)

Teaching Assistant: ASTR 350: Big Bang, Black Holes, and the Universe (Fall 2018)

Secured thousands of dollars in grant money for purchase and distribution of 10,000 solar eclipse glasses to schools and libraries near Purdue’s campus in 2017

Co-taught middle school physics in joint Purdue–Jiangsu Second Normal University service learning trip to Nanjing, China (May 2017)

Purdue Astronomy Club (Vice President 2016 - 2017; Outreach Coordinator 2016 - 2017)

Volunteer, Purdue Physics and Astronomy Outreach (2015 - 2018)