

# Caprice L. Phillips

## Curriculum Vitae

The Ohio State University  
Department of Astronomy  
140 W. 18th Ave  
McPherson Laboratory 4036  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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brown dwarf and exoplanet atmosphere detection and characterization, habitability, and substellar evolution

## EDUCATION

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- **The Ohio State University** Columbus, OH  
*Ph.D. Astronomy* Expected 2024  
- Graduate Certificate In College Education and University Teaching (In Progress)
- **The University of Texas at Austin** Austin, TX  
*M.A. Astronomy* May 2019  
Thesis Title: *2M0443+3723 B: A Young Companion at the Substellar Boundary with Potential Membership in the  $\beta$  Pictoris Moving Group*
- **University of Arkansas at Little Rock** Little Rock, AR  
*B.S. Physics; Minor: Mathematics* December 2015

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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- **Graduate Student Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Ji Wang** Columbus, OH  
*Department of Astronomy, The Ohio State University* 2019–Present
  - Investigating whether the potential biosignature ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) on gas dwarfs/terrestrial-like planets is detectable on the upcoming *JWST* & *Twinkle* missions
- **Graduate Student Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Brendan Bowler** Austin, TX  
*Department of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin* 2017–2019
  - Characterized the physical and empirical properties of a candidate benchmark brown dwarf companion in the  $\beta$  Pictoris Moving Group
- **Undergraduate Student Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Tony Hall** Little Rock, AR  
*Department of Physics & Astronomy, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock* 2014–2015
  - Performed a comparative study of meteorites & unknown samples for composition determination using Raman spectroscopy, petrography, and a chemical test for nickel
- **Undergraduate Student Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Alois Adams** Little Rock, AR  
*Department of Physics & Astronomy, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock* 2014
  - Investigated the probability of intelligent observers on confirmed exoplanets identifying Earth as a confirmed exoplanet through the transit method of detection

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS

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○ 2 <sup>nd</sup> place <a href="#">BlackInX Interdisciplinary Twitter Research Poster Competition</a>	2021
○ OSU College of Arts & Sciences, ASC Student Success Grant (\$2500)	2021
○ Hayes Graduate Research Forum Mathematical and Physical Sciences -Third Place (OSU)	2021
○ Two Sigma Diversity PhD Research Grant (\$2000)	2021
○ Hayes Graduate Research Forum Selected Participant (OSU)	2021
○ Two Sigma Diversity PhD Fellowship Finalist	2021
○ ExoExplorers Program (ExoPAG Executive Committee/NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program)	2021
○ 3 <sup>rd</sup> place BlackInPhysics 3MT competition	2020
○ Inclusive Graduate Education Network Travel Award	2019
○ LSSTC Data Science Fellowship (Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Corporation)	2018
○ Dean's Strategic Fellowship (UT Austin)	2016
○ Astronomy Graduate Excellence Fellowship (UT Austin)	2016
○ Outstanding Senior Award (McNair Scholars Program)	2016
○ Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program (UALR)	2014-2016
○ College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences Ambassador (UALR)	2014-2015
○ Friday Fellows Scholarship Program for Leadership and Service (UALR)	2012-2014
○ Shepherd Poverty Studies Intern (UALR)	2013

## OBSERVING EXPERIENCE

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Keck II, NIRC2, LGS, Mauna Kea Observatory, (P.I. B. Bowler)	1 night
LBT, MODS/LBC, Mount Graham International Observatory, (Queue Observing)	8 nights

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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**Phillips, C.,** Wang, Ji., Edwards, B, Gaudi, S, *Exploring the Lower Boundary of the Fulton Gap with Twinkle: A Biosignature Study of the Terrestrial-like Planet - LTT 1445 Ab, in prep*

**Phillips, C.,** Wang, Ji., Kendrew, S., Green, T., Hu, R., Valenti,J., Panero, W, Schulze,J, *Detecting Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarfs Planets with the James Webb Space Telescope, accepted to ApJ, [arXiv:2109.12132](#)*

**Phillips, C.,** Bowler, B., Mace, G., Liu, M., Sokal., K, 2020, The Astrophysical Journal, 896, 173, [2MASS J04435686+3723033 B: A Young Companion at the Substellar Boundary with Potential Membership in the  \$\beta\$  Pictoris Moving Group](#)

## SEMINARS & COLLOQUIA

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STScI Exoplanet, Star, and Planet Formation Seminar Series ( <i>virtual</i> )	January 2022
The Pennsylvania State University CEHW Astronomy Seminar ( <i>virtual</i> )	November 2021
National Society of Black Physicists Innovate Seminar Series ( <i>virtual</i> )	September 2021
American Physical Society: "Quarks to Cosmos" ( <i>virtual</i> )	April 2021
NASA JPL Exoplanet Seminar ( <i>virtual</i> )	March 2021
Exoplanet Explorers (ExoExplorers) Science Series ( <i>virtual</i> )	February 2021
College of Charleston, Department of Physics and Astronomy Colloquium ( <i>virtual</i> )	October 2020

## CONFERENCE RESEARCH TALKS

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Detectability of Biosignatures in Temperate Gas Dwarfs with Twinkle (contributed talk), *Twinkle and the Next Generation of Exoplanet Scientists Conference*, September 2021

Detecting Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarf Planets with the James Webb Space Telescope (contributed talk), *AbGradCon*, September 2021

Constraining Detection Limits for Potential Biosignatures in super-Earth Atmospheres with JWST (contributed talk), *ExoPAG 23*, January 2021, virtual due to COVID-19

Detecting Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarf Planets with the James Webb Space Telescope (contributed talk), *Bay Area Exoplanet Meeting*, June 2021, virtual due to COVID-19

Constraining Detection Limits for Potential Biosignatures in super-Earth Atmospheres with JWST (contributed talk), *National Society of Black Physicists*, November 2020, virtual due to COVID-19  
2M0443+3723 B: A Young Companion at the Substellar Boundary with Potential Membership in the  $\beta$

Pictoris Moving Group (contributed talk), *National Society of Black Physicists*, November 2019, Providence, RI

Detecting Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarf Planets with the James Webb Space Telescope, *Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum*, April 2021

Can We Detect Ammonia in the Atmospheres of super-Earths with the James Webb Space Telescope?, *Black In Physics 3MT Competition*, October 2020

## RESEARCH POSTERS

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Detecting Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarf Planets with the James Webb Space Telescope, *BlackInX Conference* (poster), July 2021

**Phillips, C.**, Bowler, B., Liu, Michael C., Mace, Gregory N., Sokal, Kimberly, American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts (poster), 231, 349.04

Martinez, R, Bozek, B, Drew, P, Manning, S, **Phillips, C**, Equity & Inclusivity Efforts of the Department of Astronomy at The University of Texas at Austin, *Women in Astronomy IV Conference* (poster), July 2017, Austin, TX

## DEI & OUTREACH CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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The ExoExplorers: Early-Career Perspectives on the Intersection of Exoplanet Science and DEI in Astronomy, American Astronomical Society 239<sup>th</sup> Meeting (*special session*), Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2022

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

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- **Academic Facilitator, URSA Program** Columbus, OH  
*Polaris Program, The Ohio State University* March - August 2021
  - Created and implemented physics and astronomy curriculum, along with teaching and leading discussions during daily courses focused on exoplanets for incoming underrepresented first-year undergraduates to OSU
- **Teaching Assistant, ASTR 1141, “Life in the Universe”** Columbus, OH  
*Department of Astronomy, The Ohio State University* Fall 2020 & Spring 2021
  - Graduate TA for undergraduate course with focus on astrobiology and nature of life in the universe
- **Teaching Assistant, ASTR 3350, “Astronomical Observation and Data Analysis”** Columbus, OH  
*Department of Astronomy, The Ohio State University* Fall 2020

- Graduate TA for undergraduate course with focus on modern astronomy with contemporary data analysis methods implemented in the Python programming language

- **Teaching Assistant, ASTR 309N, “Lives and Deaths of Stars”** Austin, TX  
*Department of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin* Spring 2019
  - Graduate TA for undergraduate course on supernovas, white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes

- **Teaching Assistant, ASTR 321, “The Future of Humanity”** Austin, TX  
*Department of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin* Spring & Fall 2018
  - Graduate TA for upper-division undergraduate writing astronomy course based on technological advancement. Graded and provided constructive feedback on written assignments

- **Teaching Assistant, ASTR 309C, “Birth of Stars & Planets”** Austin, TX  
*Department of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin* Fall 2017
  - Graduate TA for undergraduate astronomy course focused on star & planet formation

## ADVISING & MENTORING

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- **The SciAccess Zenith Mentorship Program** Columbus, OH  
*Informal graduate student mentor for high school student in Space Science Mentoring Program* Fall 2020
- **TAURUS Summer Research Program** Austin, TX  
*Informal graduate student mentor and developed imposter syndrome graduate student panel seminar* 2017-2018

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- **BlackInAstro** Virtual  
*Lead organizer of [BlackInAstro](#)* 2020-Present
- **Black In Physics** Virtual  
*Documentation lead organizer for Black In Physics Week 2021* August - October 2021
- **Executive Secretary**  
*NASA UVOIR: SubO-Exoplanet Panel* 2021
- **The Ohio State University Department of Astronomy Diversity Committee** Columbus, OH  
*Graduate student representative* 2019-Present

## PRESS/MEDIA COVERAGE

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- *‘Twinkle’ satellite to scan for potentially habitable worlds* ([Link](#)) 2021
- *Scientists May Detect Signs of Extraterrestrial Life in the Next 5 to 10 Years* ([Link](#)) 2021
- *Astrobiters: #BlackInAstro Experiences - Caprice Phillips* ([Link](#)) 2021

## INVITED OUTREACH

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- **Friends of Ohio State Astronomy and Astrophysics (FOSAA) event** Virtual  
*“Detecting Potential Biosignatures in the Atmospheres of Gas Dwarfs with JWST”* October 2021
- **Columbus School for Girls** Virtual  
*Invited speaker at the Columbus School for Girls* April 2021
- **The Big Fib Podcast** Virtual  
*Invited guest on podcast featuring stars & planets* June 2021

- **Science Around Cincy** Columbus, OH  
*Invited Guest for YouTube series* June 2021
- **Dear Grad Student Podcast** Virtual  
*Invited guest on podcast discussing life as a graduate student and graduate school general experiences* September 2020
- **Space Draft: Tucson's Flavor of Astronomy on Tap** Virtual  
*Invited speaker: Virtual public talk: "Super-Earths to Brown Dwarfs: Mysterious In-between Objects"* July 2020
- **Making Space for All Webinar Series** Virtual  
*Invited for talk on exoplanets and habitability for inclusive and accessible astronomy webinar series* May 2020
- **Movement Consulting** Virtual  
*Invited speaker for discussion of unspoken rules of academia* July 2020

## INVITED PANELS

- **American Geological Union** Virtual  
*Invited panelist for exoplanet science with JWST* October 2021
- **APS Public Engagement Webinar Series** Virtual  
*Invited panelist for talk on social media* July 2021
- **Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy AAS Panel** Columbus, OH  
*Virtual Panelist for Anti-Blackness in Astronomy* January 2021
- **BlackInPhysics Panel** Columbus, OH  
*Virtual panelist for undergraduate discussion: "How to be a Successful Student"* October 2020
- **Women in Space Panel** Virtual  
*Live Q&A about astronomy careers for elementary, middle and high school students, virtual panel* September 2020

## SELECTED OUTREACH

- **Black In Astro Undergraduate Research Competition** Virtual  
*Co-organized & moderated undergraduate research competition* November 2021
- **StriveHigher Inc** Virtual  
*Women's Herstory month: meet an astrophysicist and astronomer* March 2021
- **Girls in STEM Program: Sponsored by the Museum of Discovery** Virtual  
*Presented a mentoring talk with girls aged 12-15* March 2021
- **Q&A Session with JWST** Virtual  
*Instagram outreach for James Webb Space Telescope* February 2021
- **Westview High School** Virtual  
*Discussed with high school physics class about astronomy career* February 2021
- **The Women+ of Color Project** Virtual  
*Volunteer statement of purpose reading / feedback for program attendees* October 2020
- **American Astronomical Society Journal Author Series** Virtual  
*Discussion of paper published by the American Astronomical Society Journals* September 2020
- **The Columbus Astronomical Society** Virtual  
*Presented a virtual talk with graduate students on the history of women in astronomy* March 2020
- **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park** Mineral King, CA  
*Designed evening program on natural skies & pop-up activities on natural skies & natural sounds* Summer 2019
- **UT Austin College of Natural Sciences** Austin, TX  
*Presented a poster on Black Women in Astronomy for the Black Excellence in STEM Festival* 2019
- **Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference** Austin, TX  
*Graduate student judge* 2018

# PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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American Astronomical Society	Junior Member
National Society of Black Physicists	Full Member