

EVAN J. ARENA

Lecturer and Lab Coordinator ◊ Department of Physics ◊ Bryn Mawr College
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theoretical astrophysics and cosmology, including general relativity, gravitational lensing, modified gravity, large-scale structure, 21 cm cosmology, dark energy, inflation, dark matter, radio astronomy, and gravitational waves.

EDUCATION

Drexel University

Ph.D. in Physics

June 2024

Thesis: “Flexion in gravitation and cosmology”

Advisor: David M. Goldberg, Ph.D., Co-advisor: David. J. Bacon, Ph.D.

M.S. in Physics

June 2020

Stony Brook University

B.S. in Physics, second major: Astronomy/Planetary Sciences

May 2017

Cum Laude

Departmental Honors in Physics

POSITIONS HELD

Bryn Mawr College

2024 – Present

Lecturer of Physics and Lab Coordinator

Department of Physics

Drexel University

2018 – 2024

Doctoral Research Fellow, Doctoral Teaching Fellow, And CoAS Dean’s Fellow

Department of Physics

Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory

2015 – 2019

Research Assistant

SBU Department of Physics & Astronomy and BNL Department of Physics

Brookhaven National Laboratory

2012 – 2013

Intern

Department of Physics

FUNDED GRANTS

National Science Foundation (NSF) **Grant №2427091** “*ExpandQISE: Track 2: Research and Education Center for Quantum Materials and Sensing at a Women’s College*”

2024 – 2029

Co-PI

NSF organization: Office of Strategic Initiatives

Award amount: \$5,000,000

National Science Foundation (NSF) **Grant №2306989** “*Cosmic Flexion*”

2023 – 2026

Funded Graduate Student

NSF organization: Division of Astronomical Sciences
 NSF program: Extragalactic Astronomy & Cosmology
 Award amount: \$359,436.00
 Contribution: Wrote significant portion of proposal.

AWARDS AND HONORS

<i>Graduate College Continuing Excellence in Teaching Assistance Award</i> , Drexel University	2023
<i>Graduate College Continuing Excellence in Teaching Assistance Award</i> , Drexel University	2022
<i>Graduate College Continuing Excellence in Teaching Assistance Award</i> , Drexel University	2021
<i>Graduate College Teaching Assistant Excellence Award</i> , Drexel University	2020
<i>Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society Member</i> , Drexel University	2019
<i>College of Arts and Sciences (CoAS) Dean's Fellowship</i> , Drexel University	2018
<i>Sigma Pi Sigma National Physics Honor Society Member</i> , Stony Brook University	2017
<i>Presidential Scholarship</i> , Stony Brook University	2013

RESEARCH HISTORY

2018 – Present	Weak gravitational lensing Developed a novel method for measuring the second-order weak gravitational lensing effect known as flexion; Created a full theoretical formalism for “cosmic flexion” – a family of cosmological weak lensing signals originating from the large-scale structure of the universe; Discovered previously unknown cosmological weak lensing signals and posited the existence of non-commutativity in weak lensing; Measurement of flexion in the Dark Energy Survey, including building the largest flexion catalogue to date as well as making the first ever detection of cosmic flexion; Discovered unique weak lensing signatures for negative mass compact objects and exotic objects such as the Ellis wormhole.
2015 – 2019	Low redshift 21 cm intensity mapping Cosmological parameter and modified gravity forecasts for a general 21 cm cosmology experiment, member of the DOE Cosmic Visions Dark Energy 21 cm Working Group, and design and construction of the radio telescope used for the 21 cm Baryon Mapping eXperiment at Brookhaven National Laboratory.
2013	Gravitational waves New method for the indirect detection of gravitational waves.
2012	Modified Newtonian Dynamics Investigated the plausibility of Modified Newtonian Dynamics on a local scale based on rotation curves of the Milky Way.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

3. **Arena, E. J.**, “*Weak gravitational flexion in various spacetimes: Exotic lenses and modified gravity*,” *Phys.Rev.D* **106**, 064019 (2022) [[arXiv:2207.07784](#)]
2. **Arena, E. J.**, Goldberg, D. M., and Bacon, D. J., “*Cosmic flexion*,” *Phys.Rev.D* **105**, 123521 (2022) [[arXiv:2203.12036](#)]
1. Fabritius, J. M., **Arena, E. J.**, and Goldberg, D. M. “*Shape, color, and distance in weak gravitational flexion*,” *Mon.Not.Roy.Astron.Soc.* **501**, 4103 (2021) [[arXiv:2006.03506](#)]

In preparation:

1. **Arena, E. J.**, Goldberg, D. M., Bacon, D. J., and the Dark Energy Survey Collaboration, “*Evidence for cosmic flexion in the Dark Energy Survey Year 3 data*,” in preparation.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, SCIENCE BOOKS, WHITE PAPERS

3. Timbie, P. et al., including **Arena, E. J.**, “*Research and Development for HI Intensity Mapping*,” ArXiv e-prints (2019) [[arXiv:1907.13090](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.13090)]
2. Slosar, A. et al., including **Arena, E. J.**, “*Packed Ultra-wideband Mapping Array (PUMA): A Radio Telescope for Cosmology and Transients*,” Bull.Am.Astron.Soc. **51**, 53 (2019) [[arXiv:1907.12559](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.12559)]
1. Cosmic Visions 21 cm Collaboration, including **Arena, E. J.**, “*Inflation and Early Dark Energy with a Stage II Hydrogen Intensity Mapping experiment*,” ArXiv e-prints (2018) [[arXiv:1810.09572](https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.09572)]

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Invited Talks

2. Astro Lunch Seminar at the University of Sussex; “*Constraining the dark universe with light bananas*,” Falmer, East Sussex, United Kingdom; 16 Nov. 2023
1. Colloquium at the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, University of Portsmouth; “*Constraining the dark universe with light bananas*,” Portsmouth, Hampshire, United Kingdom; 9 Nov. 2023

Contributed Talks

5. Dark Energy Survey Fall Collaboration Meeting; “*The DES Y3 Weak Lensing Flexion Catalogue*,” NCSA at UI Urbana-Champaign; Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA; 10 Oct. 2023
4. AstroPhilly ‘23; “*Constraining the small-scale matter power spectrum with cosmic flexion*,” Villanova University; Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA; 27 July 2023
3. Talk to DES Weak Lensing Working Group; “*Weak gravitational flexion in the Dark Energy Survey*,” Virtual Meeting; 11 May 2022
2. Research talk to incoming graduate students; “*Hybrid analytic image modeling and image moments approach to gravitational lensing*,” Drexel University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; 17 Sep. 2019
1. High School Research Program conference; “*Observation of gravitational waves through precision stellar redshift measurement*,” Brookhaven National Laboratory; Brookhaven, New York, USA; 16 Aug. 2013

Poster Presentations

2. First-year graduate student presentations; “*Hybrid analytic image modeling and image moments approach to gravitational lensing*,” Drexel University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; 11 Jun. 2019
1. High School Research Program conference; “*Dark matter and its alternatives*,” Brookhaven National Laboratory; Brookhaven, New York, USA; 27 Nov. 2012

SOFTWARE DEVELOPED

Authored

F-SHARP	Code for computing weak gravitational lensing correlations. <i>Publicly available code written in Python.</i> https://github.com/evanjarena/F-SHARP
Lenser	A tool for measuring weak gravitational flexion. <i>Publicly available code written in Python.</i> https://github.com/DrexelLenser/Lenser
21cmMG	A suite for probing modified gravity with 21 cm cosmology. <i>Publicly available code written in Python.</i> https://github.com/evanjarena/21cmMG

Fisher21cm Fisher forecast for a general 21 cm experiment. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://github.com/evanjarena/Fisher21cm>

Contributed

PythonOpenMPI A generalizable utility for efficient task-based parallel programming using the mpi4py library. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://github.com/seanlabeau/PythonOpenMPI>

LensTools Useful computing tools for weak lensing analyses. *Publicly available code written in Python.* <https://github.com/apetri/LensTools>

TEACHING

Bryn Mawr College

Lecturer

PHYS B101, *Introductory Physics I* Fall 2024

This is the first of two courses in the introductory physics sequence intended primarily for students on the pre-health professions track. Emphasis is on developing an understanding of how we study the universe, the ideas that have arisen from that study, and on problem solving. Topics are taken from among Newtonian kinematics and dynamics, relativity, gravitation, and fluid mechanics. An effective and usable understanding of algebra and trigonometry is assumed.

F'24: Undergraduate lecture section (with accompanying recitation), 37 students

PHYS B102, *Introductory Physics II* Spring 2025

This is the second of two courses in the introductory physics sequence intended primarily for students on the pre-health professions track. Emphasis is on developing an understanding of how we study the universe, the ideas that have arisen from that study, and on problem solving. Topics are taken from among waves and sound, electricity and magnetism, electrical circuits, light and optics, quantum mechanics, and atomic and nuclear physics. An effective and usable understanding of algebra and trigonometry is assumed.

S'25: Undergraduate lecture section (with accompanying recitation), 30 students

Lab Coordinator

PHYS B101 Lab, *Introductory Physics I Laboratory* Fall 2024

Lab run independently from parent course.

F'24: Undergraduates and Post-baccalaureates, 97 students

PHYS B102 Lab, *Introductory Physics II Laboratory* Spring 2025

Lab run independently from parent course.

S'25: Undergraduates and Post-baccalaureates, 87 students

PHYS B122 Lab, *Classical Mechanics Laboratory* Spring 2025

Lab run independently from parent course.

S'25: Undergraduates, 27 students

Drexel University

Teaching Assistant (Recitation and Lab Instructor)

PHYS 100, *Preparation for Engineering Studies* Winter: 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019

This is a basic mathematics foundational course to prepare the students for the beginning sequence of Engineering Physics. Topics include (but are not limited to): linear and quadratic equations, simultaneous equations, basic geometry, use of trigonometric functions, vectors, translational kinematics, and Newton's Laws.

W'23: 3 recitation sections, 65 students total

W'21: 3 recitation sections, 63 students total

W'20: 4 recitation sections, 105 students total

W'19: 3 recitation sections, 86 students total

PHYS 152, *Introductory Physics I*

Spring: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

This class is the first part of a three-course algebra-based sequence that provides a comprehensive introduction to physics and covers the fundamentals of mechanics. Topics include motion in one or more dimensions, Newton's laws, gravitation, energy, momentum, and rotational motion. This course includes in-person labs that are intended to enrich the concepts presented in lecture and recitation section.

S'23: 3 recitation sections, 43 students total

S'22: 3 recitation sections, 50 students total

S'21: 4 recitation section, 87 students total

S'20: 1 recitation section, 70 students total

S'19: 4 recitation sections, 70 students total

PHYS 154, *Introductory Physics III*

Fall: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018

This class is the third part of a three-course algebra-based sequence providing a comprehensive introduction to physics and covers the fundamentals of electricity and magnetism. Topics include electric charges, electric fields, electric potential, DC circuits, magnetic induction, electromagnetic waves, special relativity, and optical interference. This course includes labs that are intended to enrich the concepts presented in lecture and recitation section.

F'22: 3 recitation sections, 64 students total

F'21: 3 recitation sections, 58 students total

F'20: 2 recitation sections and 1 lab section, 84 students total

F'19: 4 recitation sections, 92 students total

F'18: 1 recitation section and 1 lab section, 42 students total

Grader

PHYS 131, *Survey of the Universe*

Winter 2022

This is a three-credit elective course that provides an overview of modern astronomy including the scientific method, telescopes, stars and star clusters, stellar evolution, galaxies and the large-scale structure of the universe, and the Big Bang. The online version of this course is designed to engage students in an investigation of astronomy in a more active way; the hope is that, with this interactive video game platform, students will achieve a greater understanding and appreciation of astronomy.

PHYS 231, *Introductory Astrophysics*

Winter 2022

Guest Lecturer

PHYS 231, *Introductory Astrophysics*

Winter 2022

This is an introductory astrophysics course aimed for science majors. Topics include a treatment of orbits, Kepler's laws, celestial coordinates, light, blackbodies, optics, stellar structure and evolution, galactic formation, and large scale evolution and structure of the universe.

W'21: 1 Lecture, 25 students total

Stony Brook University

Lecturer

Della Pietra High School Applied Math Program

Spring 2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Collaborations

External Collaborator, Dark Energy Survey (DES)
Member, Packed Ultra-wideband Mapping Array (PUMA) [Inactive]
Member, Baryon Mapping eXperiment (BMX) [Inactive]

Working Groups

Member, DOE Cosmic Visions Dark Energy 21 cm Working Group [Inactive]

Media Appearances

Appeared on *Good Day Philadelphia* on FOX Philadelphia 29 for Halloween to talk about “zombie stars” – the binary star system T Coronae Borealis and its pending nova event:

<https://www.fox29.com/video/1541250> (31 Oct. 2024)

Appeared on *Good Day Philadelphia* on FOX Philadelphia 29 to talk about Earth’s “second moon” as well as a glacial landslide in Greenland and how it relates to climate change:

<https://www.fox29.com/video/1523179> (27 Sep. 2024).

Appeared on the *Anthony Gargano Show* to discuss the solar eclipse viewing from Philadelphia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkbAUbbIH20> (8 Apr. 2024).

Outreach Activities and Service

Bryn Mawr College

Ran a pedagogy workshop for first-year graduate TAs in the Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, titled “*Becoming an effective TA: Pedagogies to support learning*” (28 Aug. 2024).

Drexel University

Organized and ran a public solar eclipse viewing at Drexel University (8 Apr. 2024).

Helped run the Kaczmarczik Lecture Series Open House, hosted by the Drexel University Department of Physics (7 Mar. 2024).

Free physics tutoring at the Stony Brook University Veterans Student Organization (2023).

Assist in running the monthly Drexel Physics Department open house, where we open the the Joseph R. Lynch Observatory for public viewing (2018 – Present).

Invited to appear on the Drexel University Teaching Assistant Orientation Panel, as part of the Teaching Assistant Orientation and Preparation Course GRAD T580 (17 Sep. 2020).

Helped run the Kaczmarczik Lecture Series Open House, hosted by the Drexel University Department of Physics (14 Nov. 2018).

Committee Work

Bryn Mawr College

Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee for the Physics Department (2024)

Drexel University

Treasurer of the Drexel University Physics Graduate Student Association (2020 – 2021).

Professional Development

Completed the Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI) Faculty Pedagogy Seminar course at Bryn Mawr College (Fall 2024).

Completed the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) three-week, graduate-level course *First Year Faculty Teaching Academy* at the University of Florida, remotely (Summer 2024).

Completed the course Interdisciplinary STEM (ISTM) 511: *Foundations in Evidence-Based STEM Pedagogy* at Drexel University, a graduate level introduction to evidence-based approaches to teaching STEM undergraduates (Winter 2024).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient in *Python*.

Proficient in Bash and Linux environments.

Extensive experience with supercomputing clusters and performing parallel computation.