

Carnegie Institution of Washington
The Observatories
813 Santa Barbara St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
<https://jamesjohnson.space>

James W. Johnson
Curriculum Vitae
jjohnson10@carnegiescience.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Carnegie Institution of Washington – The Observatories Pasadena, California
2023 – Present **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Carnegie Theoretical Astrophysics Center (CTAC)
Supervisor: Dr. Ana Bonaca

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio
July 2023 **Ph.D. in Astrophysics**, Dissertation Advisor: Prof. David H. Weinberg
From Dwarfs to Spirals: Chemical Evolution of Galaxies across Stellar Mass and the Implications for Nucleosynthesis

Vanderbilt University Nashville, Tennessee
May 2017 **B.A.**, Physics (major), Astronomy (minor), *cum laude*
Highest Honors in Astronomy, Thesis Advisor: Prof. Andreas A. Berlind

RESEARCH

25	8	17	580+	13
Journal Publications	1st & 2nd Author	Contributing Author	Citations	H-Index

Interests

Galactic chemical evolution – The Milky Way – Dwarf galaxies – The astrophysical origin of the elements – Big bang nucleosynthesis – Near field cosmology – Astronomical software

[NASA ADS Libraries](#) (A full list of my journal publications is included.)

All My Papers <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/public-libraries/rIqfpNKmSdaOMIAhkk2VzQ>
1st & 2nd Author <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/public-libraries/go1WSseGTMeft2SxdESAgw>
Co-Author https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/public-libraries/sZkjSf_XRSKSRykqBe6B_w

Seminars & Conference Presentations

Contributed Talk	Sloan Digital Sky Survey Collaboration Meeting	2025
Invited Seminar	University of California, Davis (Davis, CA)	2025
Invited Seminar	Uppsala Universitet , Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, (Uppsala, Sweden)	2025
Poster	Small Galaxies, Cosmic Questions - II	2024
	University of Durham (Durham, United Kingdom)	
Contributed Talk	DHWFEST: Dark, Hot, Warm, and Fuzzy matter in Space and Time	2024
	University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	
Contributed Talk	Sloan Digital Sky Survey Collaboration Meeting	2024

Invited Seminar	Lund University , Dept. of Physics (Lund, Sweden)	2024
Contributed Talk	ADONIS: Abundance Gradients in the Local Universe Munich Institute for Astro-, Particle, and BioPhysics (MIAPbP) (Munich, Germany)	2024
Contributed Talk	Surveying the Milky Way: The Universe in Our Own Backyard California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA)	2023
Dissertation Talk	241st American Astronomical Society Meeting	2023
Contributed Talk	Sloan Digital Sky Survey Collaboration Meeting	2021
Contributed Talk	Galactic Archaeology with Hermes Science Meeting	2021
Contributed Talk	Sloan Digital Sky Survey Collaboration Meeting	2020
Poster	236th American Astronomical Society Meeting	2020
Invited Seminar	University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)	2019

Astrophysical Software Development



Versatile Integrator for Chemical Evolution (VICE)

Lead developer and license owner (Spring 2018 – Present)

Documentation: <https://vice-astro.readthedocs.io>

Source Code: <https://github.com/giganano/VICE.git>

Install: <https://pypi.org/project/vice>

Observing Programs

PI: *The First Extragalactic Measure of the Helium Isotopic Ratio – A New Test of Fundamental Physics*

2024B WINERED spectrograph, 18 hours (Clay 6.5-m Telescope, Las Campanas Observatory)

2025A MIKE spectrograph, 6 hours (Clay 6.5-m Telescope, Las Campanas Observatory)

HONORS & AWARDS

2023	CTAC Postdoctoral Fellowship , Carnegie Science
2022	Ann S. Tuttle Paper Prize , Ohio State, Dept. of Astronomy Annual award to the top graduate student-led publication of the previous year Paper: Johnson J.W., et al., 2021, MNRAS, 508, 4484 (arxiv:2103.09838)
2022 – 2023	Presidential Fellowship , Ohio State, College of Arts & Sciences Financial support for final-year graduate students
2017 – 2018	University Fellowship , Ohio State, College of Arts & Sciences Financial support for first-year graduate students
2017	Larry Ross Cathey Award , Vanderbilt, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy Outstanding graduating senior studying astronomy
Inducted 2015	Sigma Pi Sigma Physics National Honor Society , Vanderbilt Chapter
7 of 8 semesters	Dean's List , Vanderbilt, College of Arts & Sciences

MENTORSHIP

Cal-Bridge Summer Research Program

2025 – Present	Christopher Giudice (undergraduate), San Francisco State University Project: The Chemical Equilibration Timescale of the Milky Way Disk
2024 – 2025	Damien Tessmer (undergraduate), San Diego State University Project: Identifying trends in stellar nucleosynthesis with SDSS-V data

The Ohio State University

2022 – Present	Daniel A. Boyea (undergraduate), Dept. of Astronomy Project: Investigating the astrophysical origin of carbon Now: M.Sc. student at University of Victoria (Victoria, BC, Canada)
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- 2021 – Present **Liam O. Dubay** (graduate), Dept. of Astronomy
 Projects: Galactic chemical evolution models of the Milky Way disk
 (arxiv:2404.08509)
- 2021 – 2023 **Miqaela K. Weller** (graduate), Dept. of Astronomy
 Project: Investigating the astrophysical origin of helium (arxiv:2404.08765)
- 2022 – 2023 **Lindsey Stultz** (undergraduate), Dept. of Physics
 Polaris Near-Peer Mentorship Program

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Carnegie Science Observatories

- 2024 – Present **Research Mentor**, Cal-Bridge Summer Research Program (2 students)
- 2024 **Advancing Inclusive Mentoring**
 12+ hours of instruction and discussion on equitable mentorship practices

Polaris Near-Peer Mentorship Program

Graduate student-leg organization at Ohio State dedicated to fostering a more inclusive environment and improving retention of underrepresented minority groups in the Dept. of Physics and the Dept. of Astronomy. Website: <https://u.osu.edu/polaris>.

- 2022 – 2023 **Leadership Committee**, budget: ~\$60,000/year
- 2022 **Academic Facilitator**, Undergraduate Residential Summer Access Program
 Early-arrival program for first-year undergraduate students
- 2022 – 2023 **Near-Peer Mentor** (1 student)

TEACHING

Python Coding Workshops

- Program Creator**, six sessions, ~20 hours of instruction and exercises
 Website: <https://jamesjohnson.space/bootcamp>
 Source material: <https://github.com/giganano/PythonBootcamp>
- 2020 – 2023 **Full program (annually)**: Summer undergraduate research students
 The Ohio State University, Dept. of Astronomy
- 2022 **Full program**: 1st- & 2nd-year graduate students
 The Ohio State University, Dept. of Astronomy
- 2024 **Select sessions**: CASSI & Cal-Bridge undergraduate research students
 Carnegie Science Observatories

The Ohio State University, Department of Astronomy: Graduate Teaching Assistant

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|-------------|---|------------|
| 2018 – 2020 | Astronomy 1101: From Planets to Cosmos | 5 sections |
| 2019 | Astronomy 1142: Black Holes | 1 section |
| 2019 | Astronomy 1221: Astronomy Data Analysis | 1 section |
| 2018 | Astronomy 1140: Planets and the Solar System | 1 section |

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2022 – Present **Manuscript Referee**: ApJ, MNRAS, PASJ, A&A
- 2024 – Present **Working Group Co-Chair**, Galactic Genesis, Sloan Digital Sky Survey-V
- 2024 – Present **“Morning Tea” co-organizer** (daily arXiv discussion), Carnegie Science

- 2024 **External Panelist**, Hubble Space Telescope Proposal Review, Cycles 32 & 33
- 2021 – 2023 **“Galaxy Hour” meeting organizer**, Ohio State, Dept. of Astronomy
- 2017 – 2023 **Diversity Journal Club**, Ohio State, Dept. of Astronomy
- June 2020 **Real Scientists Germany Online Outreach**
 Blog: <https://tinyurl.com/jamesjohnsonrealscientistsDE>
 Twitter: https://twitter.com/realsci_DE
- 2015 – 2017 **Undergraduate Tutor, Proctor, Grader**
 Vanderbilt University, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
- 2015 **Cosmic Ray Observatory Project**, Instrumentation lab
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dept. of Physics

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

First & Second Author (reverse chronological order)

1. *Rising from the Ashes II: The Bar-driven Abundance Bimodality in the Milky Way*
 Beane A., **Johnson J.W.**, Semenov V., Hernquist L., Chandra V., Conroy C.
 2024, ApJ, 985, 221 – 233 arxiv:2410.21580
2. *The Milky Way Radial Metallicity Gradient as an Equilibrium Phenomenon: Why Old Stars are Metal-Rich*
Johnson J.W., et al.
 2024, ApJ, 988, 8 – 35 arxiv:2410.13256
3. *Dwarf galaxy archaeology from chemical abundances and star formation histories*
Johnson J.W., et al.
 2023, MNRAS, 526, 5084 – 5109 arxiv:2210.01816
4. *Binaries drive high Type Ia supernova rates in dwarf galaxies*
Johnson J.W., Kochanek C.S., Stanek K.Z.
 2023, MNRAS, 526, 5911 – 5918 arxiv:2210.01818
5. *Empirical constraints on the nucleosynthesis of nitrogen*
Johnson J.W., Weinberg D.H., Vincenzo F., Bird J.C., Griffith E.J.
 2023, MNRAS, 520, 782 – 803 arxiv:2202.04666
6. *Stellar migration and chemical enrichment in the Milky Way disc: a hybrid model*
Johnson J.W., et al.
 2021, MNRAS, 508, 4484 – 4511 arxiv:2103.09838
7. *The impact of starbursts on element abundance ratios*
Johnson J.W., Weinberg D.H.
 2020, MNRAS, 498, 1364 – 1381 arxiv:1911.02598
8. *The secondary spin bias of dark matter haloes*
Johnson J.W., Maller A.H., Berlind A.A., Sinha M., Holley-Bockelmann J.K.
 2019, MNRAS, 486, 1156 – 1166 arxiv:1812.02206

Contributing Author (reverse chronological order)

1. *The Nineteenth Data Release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey*
 SDSS Collaboration, et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
 2025, submitted to AAS Journals, under peer review arxiv:2507.07093

2. *Sloan Digital Sky Survey-V: Pioneering Panoptic Spectroscopy*
Kollmeier J.A., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2025, submitted to AJ, under peer review arxiv:2507.06989
3. *Many Elements Matter: Detailed Abundance Patterns Reveal Star-formation and Enrichment Differences among Milky Way Structural Components*
Griffith E.J., Hogg D.W., Hasselquist S., **Johnson J.W.**, Price-Whelan A., Sit T., Stone-Martinez A., Weinberg D.H.
2024, ApJ, 169, 280 – 297 arxiv:2410.22121
4. *Modeling the Galactic Chemical Evolution of Helium*
Weller M.K., Weinberg D.H., **Johnson J.W.**
2024, MNRAS, 583, 1517 – 1534 arxiv:2404.08765
5. *Galactic Chemical Evolution Models Favor an Extended Type Ia Supernova Delay-Time Distribution*
Dubay L.O., Johnson J.A., **Johnson J.W.**
2024, ApJ, 973, 55 – 80 arxiv:2404.08059
6. *The APO-K2 Catalog. II. Accurate Stellar Ages for Red Giant Branch Stars Across the Milky Way*
Warfield J.T., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2024, AJ, 167, 208 – 231 arxiv:2403.03249
7. *Nature vs. Nurture: Distinguishing effects from stellar processing and chemical evolution on carbon and nitrogen in red giant stars*
Roberts J.D., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2024, MNRAS, 530, 149 – 166 arxiv:2403.03249
8. *The Scale of Stellar Yields: Implications of the Measured Mean Iron Yield of Core Collapse Supernovae*
Weinberg D.H., Griffith E.J., **Johnson J.W.**, Thompson T.A.
2023, ApJ, 973, 122 – 136 arxiv:2309.05719
9. *Untangling the Sources of Abundance Dispersion in Low-Metallicity Stars*
Griffith E.J., Johnson J.A., Weinberg D.H., Ilyin I., **Johnson J.W.**, Rodriguez-Martinez R., Strassmeier K.G.
2022, ApJ, 944, 47 – 67 arxiv:2210.01821
10. *Birth of the Galactic Disk Revealed by the H3 Survey*
Conroy C., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2022, submitted to AAS Journals, under peer review arxiv:2204.02989
11. *Primordial Helium-3 Redux: The Helium Isotope Ratio of the Orion Nebula*
Cooke R.J., Noterdaeme P., **Johnson J.W.**, Pettini M., Welsh L., Peroux C., Murphy M.T., Weinberg D.H.
2022, ApJ, 932, 60 – 76 arxiv:2203.11256
12. *Residual Abundances in GALAH DR3: Implications for Nucleosynthesis and Identification of Unique Stellar Populations*
Griffith E.J., Weinberg D.H., Buder S., Johnson J.A., **Johnson J.W.**, Vincenzo F.
2021, ApJ, 931, 23 – 50 arxiv: 2110.06240

13. *Chemical Cartography with APOGEE: Mapping Disk Populations with a Two-Process Model and Residual Abundances*
Weinberg D.H., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2021, ApJS, 260, 32 – 77 arxiv:2108.08860

14. *CNO dredge-up in a sample of APOGEE/Kepler red giants: Tests of stellar models and galactic evolutionary trends of N/O and C/N*
Vincenzo F., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2021, submitted to MNRAS, under peer review arxiv:2106.03912

15. *The Impact of Black Hole Formation on Population-averaged Supernova Yields*
Griffith E.J., Sukhbold T., Weinberg D.H., Johnson J.A., **Johnson J.W.**, Vincenzo F.
2021, ApJ, 921, 73 – 94 arxiv:2103.09837

16. *Nucleosynthesis signatures of neutrino-driven winds from proto-neutron stars: a perspective from chemical evolution models*
Vincenzo F., Thompson T.A., Weinberg D.H., Griffith E.J., **Johnson J.W.**, Johnson J.A.
2021, MNRAS, 508, 3499 – 3507 arxiv:2102.04920

17. *The Similarity of Abundance Ratio Trends and Nucleosynthetic Patterns in the Milky Way Disk and Bulge*
Griffith E.J., et al., incl. **Johnson J.W.**
2021, ApJ, 909, 77 – 101 arxiv:2009.05063