Matthew C. Brennan

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Education

Harvard University

2022 Ph.D. in Earth & Planetary Sciences

2020 M.A. in Earth & Planetary Sciences

University of Chicago

2017 B.S. with Honors in Geophysical Sciences / B.S. in Environmental Sciences

Research Positions

June 2023 – now **Harold Agnew National Security Postdoctoral Fellow**
Static High Pressure Team, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Project: "Material Characterization and Synthesis with High Pressure Static Compression"

Jan. 2023 – May 2023 **Glenn T. Seaborg Institute Postdoctoral Fellow**
Static High Pressure Team, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Project: "High Pressure–Temperature Synthesis and Characterization of Uranium Intermetallics"

Sep. 2022 – Dec. 2022 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Static High Pressure Team, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Project: "Equations of State and Material Synthesis using High-Pressure Experimental Techniques"

Aug. 2017 – June 2022 **Graduate Student**
Laboratory for Mineral Physics, Harvard University
Dissertation: "Investigating Planetary Core Formation with Geophysical Modeling and High-Pressure Mineralogy"

2016 – now **Synchrotron X-ray user**
GSECARS & HP-CAT, Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory
Beamline 12.2.2, Advanced Light Source, Berkeley National Laboratory

Nov. 2015 – June 2017 **Laboratory Technician**
Laboratory for Mineral Physics, University of Chicago
Thesis: "Molten Iron – Solid Silicate Interactions in Earth's Deep Interior"

June 2016 – Aug. 2016 **Department of Energy SULI Program Researcher**
Energy Systems Division, Argonne National Laboratory
Project: "Water Use for Power Generation in the United States"

Publications

In review "**Nonlinearity of the post-spinel transition and its expression in slabs and plumes worldwide**" J. Dong, R. A. Fischer, L.P. Stixrude, M. C. Brennan, K. Daviau, T. Suer, K. M. Turner, Y. Meng, V. B. Prakapenka

In review "**Investigating E-MORB and OIB petrogenesis using machine learning**" Z.T. Eriksen, S.B. Jacobsen, C. H. Langmuir, J. Dong, M.C. Brennan, J.T. Gu

2023 **"Comparisons of the core and mantle compositions of earth analogs from different terrestrial planet formation scenarios**" J. Gu, R. A. Fischer, M. C. Brennan, M. Clement, S. A. Jacobsen, N. A. Kaib, D. P. O'Brien, S. N. Raymond (2023). *Icarus* 394, 115425.

2022 "**Water storage capacity of the Martian mantle through time**" J. Dong, R.A. Fischer, L. Stixrude, C. Lithgow-Bertelloni, Z. T. Eriksen, M.C. Brennan (2022) *Icarus* 385, 115113.

2022 "**Timing of Martian core formation from models of Hf–W evolution coupled with N-body simulations.**" M.C. Brennan, R. A. Fischer, F. Nimmo, D. P. O'Brien (2022) *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 316, 295–308.

2021 "**High-Pressure deformation of iron–nickel–silicon alloys and implications for Earth's inner core.**" M.C. Brennan, R. A. Fischer, S. Couper., L. Miyagi, D. Antonangeli, G. Morard (2021). *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* 126, e2020JB021077.

2020 "**Equation of state of TiN at high pressures and temperatures: A possible host for nitrogen in planetary mantles.**" K. Daviau, R. A. Fischer, M. C. Brennan, J. Dong, T. Suer, S. Couper, Y. Meng, V. B. Prakapenka, (2020). *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* 126, e2020JB020074.

2020 "**Core formation and geophysical properties of Mars.**" M.C. Brennan, R. A. Fischer, J. C. Irving (2020). *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 530, 115923.

Presentations

2023 "**The First Thermal Equation of State for U_6Fe**", Invited Talk (Dynamic Material Properties Meeting, Los Alamos National Laboratory)

2023 "**Update on the U_6Fe Equation of State**", Oral Presentation (Production Science Chemistry L2 Review, Department of Energy)

2022 "**High-Pressure Deformation of Iron–Nickel–Silicon Alloys and Implications for Earth's Inner Core**", Invited Talk (Materials at Extreme Conditions Group, Stony Brook University)

2022 "**Static Deformation of Iron–Nickel–Silicon Alloys at High Pressures**", Invited Talk (Shock & Detonation Physics Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory)

2022 "**A Mineral Physics Perspective on the Martian Core**", Invited Talk (Planetary Geophysics Group, ETH Zürich)

2021 "**A Mechanically Strong Inner Core Implied by Deformation of Silicon-bearing Alloys**", Poster Presentation (AGU Fall Meeting)

2021 "**Deep Mars**", Invited Talk (Harvard EPS Colloquium)

2020 "**High pressure deformation and texturing of Fe–Ni–Si alloys**", Oral Presentation (COMPRES Annual Meeting)

2019 "**Martian Core Formation: Implications from the Hf–W System**", Poster Presentation (Goldschmidt Conference)

2019 "**Using Core Formation and Geophysical Modelling to Predict the Core Radius and Seismic Properties of Mars**", Oral Presentation (Lunar and Planetary Science Conference)

2018 "**A Core Formation Model with Implications for the Properties of the Martian Interior**", Oral Presentation (AGU Fall Meeting)

2018 "**The Composition and Seismic Properties of the Martian Interior**", Oral Presentation (Goldschmidt Conference)

2017 "**Deep-Earth Partitioning between Molten Iron Alloys and Solid Silicates**", Poster Presentation (AGU Fall Meeting)

Teaching

Fall 2021 **Head Teaching Fellow**, A Brief History of the Earth (Harvard EPS 10)

Spring 2021 **Teaching Fellow**, Stellar and Planetary Astronomy (Harvard ASTRON 16)

Fall 2020 **Teaching Fellow**, A Brief History of the Earth (Harvard EPS 10)

Fall 2019 **Teaching Fellow**, Mineralogy (Harvard EPS 142)

Service and Outreach

2023 – 2025 **Users' Executive Committee Member** (Advanced Photon Source)

2023 **Guest speaker**, "The Mysteries of the Deep Earth" (Pajarito Environmental Education Center)

2023 **Proposal reviewer**, Centers of Excellence for Characterization of Materials Properties under Extreme Conditions (Stewardship Science Academic Alliance)

2022	**Featured speaker**, "From Blue to Red: How Mars Got and Lost its Water" (Science in the News Public Seminar Series)
2022	**Curatorial assistant**, Mineral Type Specimens (Harvard Mineralogical & Geological Museum)
2021	**Guest speaker** (Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Astronomy Club)
2021	**Program leader**, Summer Short-Term Student Program (Harvard Earth & Planetary Sciences)
2020 – now	**Peer reviewer** (*Nature Communications*, *Nature Reviews: Earth & Environment*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*)
2020	**Panelist**, "Conducting research and managing your career in the time of pandemic" (COMPRES Annual Meeting)
2020	**Science Education Partner** (Harvard Museum of Natural History)
2018 – 2020	**Museum volunteer trainer** (Harvard Museum of Natural History)
2018 – 2019	**Graduate Outreach Chair** (Harvard Earth & Planetary Sciences)
2018	**Tutor**, Cambridge School Volunteers (Cambridge Public Schools)
2017 – 2022	**Laboratory Safety Officer**, Department of Environmental Health & Safety (Harvard University)

Honors and Awards

2023 – 2025	**Harold Agnew National Security Postdoctoral Fellowship**
2022 – 2024	**Glenn T. Seaborg Nuclear Science Fellowship**
2021	**Derek Bok Center Teaching Certificate**
2019 – 2022	**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship**
2019 – 2020	**Associate Member of Sigma Xi Honor Society**
2017	**Departmental Honors in Geophysical Sciences** (University of Chicago)
2014 – 2017	**Dean's List** (University of Chicago)