

# BRENDON J. BREWER

Department of Statistics, The University of Auckland

Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~brewer/>

(contact details available on website)

## EDUCATION

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**The University of Sydney** 2005–2008

PhD (Astrophysics)

Charlene Heisler Prize for most outstanding PhD thesis (Astronomical Society of Australia)

**The University of Sydney** 2001–2004

BSc (Advanced) (Physics)

Honours Class I and the University Medal

## POSITIONS HELD

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**The University of Auckland** July 2012–Present  
*Senior Lecturer (appointed at Lecturer, promoted 2014-02-01)* *Auckland, New Zealand*

**University of California, Santa Barbara** June 2009–June 2012  
*Postdoctoral Scholar* *Santa Barbara, CA, USA*

**The University of New South Wales** May 2008–January 2009  
*Research Associate* *Kensington, NSW, Australia*

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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2013–2016, Primary Investigator, Marsden Fast Start Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand (Total value \$300,000 NZD)

2016, Teaching commendation from Dean of Science

2009, Charlene Heisler Prize (best PhD thesis, Astronomical Society of Australia)

2006, Best talk, Mt Stromlo Xmas Student Symposium

2003, 2001, Cadbury-Schweppes Julius Sumner Miller Scholarship, The University of Sydney

2002, Science Foundation Scholarship, The University of Sydney

## SKILLS

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**Programming** C++, Python. Some Julia, R, Haskell.

**Computing** GNU/Linux, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, git, JAGS

**Languages** English (native speaker), Spanish (A2–B1, not certified)

## SERVICE

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I was a member of the editorial board for the journal *Entropy* from 2015 to 2017. I have also reviewed a book for Cambridge University Press, and papers for Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia, The Astrophysical Journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, The Open Astronomy Journal, MaxEnt Conference Proceedings 2009 & 2013, Entropy, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics, and the Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports.

I was part of the local organising committee for the following conferences: MaxEnt 2013 (Canberra, Australia, December 2013), Oz Lens (The University of Sydney, 2008), and Dark2007 (The University of Sydney, 2007).

I am a member of Heterodox Academy.

## RESEARCH STUDENTS

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<sup>1</sup> = as primary supervisor

<sup>2</sup> = as co-supervisor (half-share or approximately so)

<sup>3</sup> = as co-supervisor (minor share)

### Current:

Satnam Singh <sup>1</sup>	MSc, The University of Auckland, 2017–2018
Oliver Stevenson <sup>1</sup>	PhD, The University of Auckland, 2017–
Lia Lee <sup>3</sup>	PhD, The University of Auckland, 2017–
Syarafana Abdul Rahman <sup>1</sup>	BSc (Hons), The University of Auckland, 2017
Mat Varidel <sup>3</sup>	PhD, The University of Sydney, 2016–
Tom Elliott <sup>3</sup>	PhD, The University of Auckland, 2015–
Patricio Maturana Russel <sup>2</sup>	PhD, The University of Auckland, 2013–
David Huijser <sup>1</sup>	PhD, The University of Auckland, 2013–

### Completed:

Tim Chen <sup>1</sup>	MSc, The University of Auckland, 2016–2017
Oliver Stevenson <sup>1</sup>	MSc, The University of Auckland, 2016–2017
John Wilcox <sup>2</sup>	MA, The University of Auckland, 2015–2016
Yilin Guo <sup>1</sup>	BSc (Hons), The University of Auckland, 2015
Anna Pancoast <sup>3</sup>	PhD, UC Santa Barbara, 2009–2015
Courtney Donovan <sup>1</sup>	BSc (Hons), The University of Auckland, 2014
Tom Elliott <sup>1</sup>	BSc (Hons), The University of Auckland, 2013
Ryan Feyter <sup>1</sup>	Summer Scholar, The University of Auckland, 2012/2013
Timothy White <sup>3</sup>	BSc (Hons), The University of Sydney, 2009

## TEACHING

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Applied Stochastic Modelling (2017)

*Third year undergraduate course, ~40 students. 17 lectures, 5 tutorials.*

Data Technologies (2017, 2016, 2015), The University of Auckland

*Second year undergraduate course, ~120 students. 12 lectures, 6 laboratory tutorials.*

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (2017, 2016, 2014, 2013), The University of Auckland

*Third year undergraduate course, ~100 students. 24 lectures, 12 laboratory tutorials.*

Introduction to Operations Research (2014, 2013), The University of Auckland  
*Second year undergraduate course, ~100 students. 12 lectures, 3 tutorials.*

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (2012), The University of Auckland  
*Third year undergraduate course, ~100 students. 24 lectures, 12 laboratory tutorials.*

Bayesian Reasoning (2009), The University of Sydney  
*Physics Honours half-course, ~20 students. Two lectures, contributed assignment and exam questions.*

## INVITED TALKS

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(accepted invitations only)

2017, Invited Lecturer, Data Analysis and Statistics Workshop, European Space Astronomy Centre, Madrid, Spain

2015, Invited Lecturer, Astro Hack Week, New York University, NY, USA

2014, Invited Lecturer, XXVI Canary Islands Winter School of Astrophysics

2012, Stanford Cosmology Seminar, Stanford University, CA, USA

2011, Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy V, Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA

2011, Center for Time Domain Informatics, UC Berkeley, CA, USA

2009, Caltech Astronomy Seminar, Caltech, CA, USA

2008, Interpretation of Asteroseismic Data, Wrocław, Poland

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Bayesian inference, information theory, and related topics

Nested Sampling

Astrostatistics: Applications in gravitational lensing, reverberation mapping, asteroseismology

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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### Summaries from Google Scholar:

49 peer-reviewed publications (19 as first author)

1505 total citations

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1. *Computing Entropies with Nested Sampling*

**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2017, accepted for publication in *Entropy*.

2. *DNest4: Diffusive Nested Sampling in C++ and Python*

**Brendon J. Brewer** and Daniel Foreman-Mackey, 2017, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Statistical Software*.

3. *Bayesian survival analysis of batsmen in Test cricket*

Oliver G. Stevenson and **Brendon J. Brewer**, 2017, *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, 13(1): 25–36.

4. *Red nuggets grow inside-out: evidence from gravitational lensing*

Lindsay Oldham, Matthew W. Auger, Christopher D. Fassnacht, Tommaso Treu, **Brendon J. Brewer**, L.V.E. Koopmans, David Lagattuta, Philip Marshall, John McKean, Simona Vegetti, 2017, *MNRAS*, 465, 3185.

5. *The elusive stellar halo of the Triangulum Galaxy*  
B. McMonigal, G. F. Lewis, **B. J. Brewer**, M. J. Irwin, N. F. Martin, A. W. McConnachie, R. A. Ibata, A. M. N. Ferguson, A. D. Mackey, S. C. Chapman, 2016, MNRAS, 461, 4374.
6. *Uncovering the planets and stellar activity of CoRoT-7 using only radial velocities*  
J. P. Faria, R. D. Haywood, **B. J. Brewer**, P. Figueira, M. Oshagh, A. Santerne, N. C. Santos, 2016, Astronomy & Astrophysics, 588, A31.
7. *Trans-Dimensional Bayesian Inference for Gravitational Lens Substructures*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, David Huijser, Geraint F. Lewis, 2016, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 455, 1819-1829.
8. *Space Telescope and Optical Reverberation Mapping Project. IV. Anomalous behavior of the broad ultraviolet emission lines in NGC 5548.*  
M. R. Goad and many co-authors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2016, ApJ, 824, 11.
9. *Space Telescope and Optical Reverberation Mapping Project. III. Optical Continuum Emission and Broad-Band Time Delays in NGC 5548*  
M. M. Fausnaugh and many co-authors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2016, ApJ 821, 56.
10. *The Lick AGN Monitoring Project 2011: Spectroscopic Campaign and Emission-Line Light Curves*  
Barth, A. J. and many coauthors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2015, The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series, 217, 26.
11. *Fast Bayesian Inference for Exoplanet Discovery in Radial Velocity Data*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Courtney P. Donovan, 2015, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 446, 3206.
12. *Dissecting magnetar variability with Bayesian hierarchical models*  
D. Huppenkothen, **B. J. Brewer**, D. W. Hogg, I. Murray, M. Frean, C. Elenbaas, A. L. Watts, Y. Levin, A. J. van der Horst, C. Kouveliotou, 2015, The Astrophysical Journal, 810, 66.
13. *Space Telescope and Optical Reverberation Mapping Project. II. Swift and HST Reverberation Mapping of the Accretion Disk of NGC 5548*  
R. Edelson and many coauthors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2015, The Astrophysical Journal, 806, 129.
14. *Space Telescope and Optical Reverberation Mapping Project. I. Ultraviolet Observations of the Seyfert 1 Galaxy NGC 5548 with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph on Hubble Space Telescope*  
G. De Rosa and many coauthors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2015, The Astrophysical Journal, 806, 128.
15. *Modeling reverberation mapping data I: improved geometric and dynamical models and comparison with cross-correlation results*  
Anna Pancoast, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, 2014, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 445, 3055.
16. *Modeling reverberation mapping data II: dynamical modeling of the Lick AGN Monitoring Project 2008 dataset*  
Anna Pancoast, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, Daeseong Park, Aaron J. Barth, Misty C. Bentz, Jong-Hak Woo, 2014, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 445, 3073.
17. *Hierarchical Reverberation Mapping*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Tom M. Elliott, 2013, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 439, L31.
18. *The SWELLS Survey. VI. hierarchical inference of the initial mass functions of bulges and discs*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Philip J. Marshall, Matthew W. Auger, Tommaso Treu, Aaron A. Dutton, Matteo Barnabè, 2014, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 437, 1950.

19. *A transdimensional Bayesian method to infer the star formation history of resolved stellar populations*  
J. J. Walmswell, J. J. Eldridge, **B. J. Brewer** and C. A. Tout, 2013, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 435, 2171.
20. *Probabilistic Catalogs for Crowded Stellar Fields*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Daniel Foreman-Mackey, David W. Hogg, 2013, The Astronomical Journal, 146, 7.
21. *The Lick AGN Monitoring Project 2011: Fe II Reverberation from the Outer Broad-Line Region*  
Aaron J. Barth, Anna Pancoast, Vardha N. Bennert, **Brendon J. Brewer**, and many coauthors, 2013, The Astrophysical Journal, 769, 128.
22. *The SWELLS survey - V. A Salpeter stellar initial mass function in the bulges of massive spiral galaxies*  
A. A. Dutton, T. Treu, **B. J. Brewer**, P. J. Marshall, M. W. Auger, M. Barnabè, D. C. Koo, A. S. Bolton, L. V. E. Koopmans, 2013, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 428, 3183.
23. *The Lick AGN Monitoring Project 2011: Dynamical Modeling of the Broad Line Region in Mrk50*  
Anna Pancoast, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, Aaron J. Barth and many coauthors, 2012, The Astrophysical Journal, 754, 49.
24. *The SWELLS survey. IV. Precision measurements of the stellar and dark matter distributions in a spiral lens galaxy*  
Matteo Barnabè, Aaron A. Dutton, Philip J. Marshall, Matthew W. Auger, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, Adam S. Bolton, David C. Koo, Léon V. E. Koopmans, 2012, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 423, 1073.
25. *The SWELLS survey. III. Disfavouring "heavy" initial mass functions for spiral lens galaxies*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Aaron A. Dutton, Tommaso Treu, Matthew W. Auger, Philip J. Marshall, Matteo Barnabè, Adam S. Bolton, David C. Koo, Léon V. E. Koopmans, 2012, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 422, 3574.
26. *The Lick AGN Monitoring Project 2011: Reverberation Mapping of Markarian 50*  
A. J. Barth and many coauthors (including **B. J. Brewer**), 2011, The Astrophysical Journal, 743, L4.
27. *The Mass of the Black Hole in Arp 151 from Bayesian Modeling of Reverberation Mapping Data*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, Anna Pancoast, Aaron J. Barth, Vardha N. Bennert, Misty C. Bentz, Alexei V. Filippenko, Jenny E. Greene, Matthew A. Malkan, and Jong-Hak Woo, 2011, The Astrophysical Journal Letters, 733, L33.
28. *The SWELLS survey. II. Breaking the disk-halo degeneracy in the spiral galaxy gravitational lens SDSS J2141-0001*  
A. A. Dutton, **B. J. Brewer**, P. J. Marshall, M. W. Auger, T. Treu, D. C. Koo, A. S. Bolton, B. P. Holden, L. V. E. Koopmans, 2011, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 417, 1621.
29. *The SWELLS Survey. I. A large spectroscopically selected sample of edge-on late-type lens galaxies*  
T. Treu, A. A. Dutton, M. W. Auger, P. J. Marshall, A. S. Bolton, **B. J. Brewer**, D. Koo, L. V. E. Koopmans, 2011, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 417, 1601.
30. *Modelling of the Complex CASSOWARY/SLUGS Gravitational Lenses*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Geraint F. Lewis, Vasily Belokurov, Michael J. Irwin, Terry J. Bridges, N. Wyn Evans, 2011, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 412, 2521.

31. *Geometric and Dynamical Models of Reverberation Mapping Data*  
Anna Pancoast, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Tommaso Treu, 2011, The Astrophysical Journal, 730, 139.
32. *Diffusive Nested Sampling*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, Livia B. Pártay, Gabor Csányi, 2011, Statistics and Computing, 21, 4, 649-656.
33. *A Compact Early-type Galaxy at  $z = 0.6$  Under a Magnifying Lens: Evidence For Inside-out Growth*  
M. W. Auger, T. Treu, **B. J. Brewer**, P. J. Marshall, 2010, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society Letters, 411, L6.
34. *A comparison of Bayesian and Fourier methods for frequency determination in asteroseismology*  
Timothy R. White, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Timothy R. Bedding, Dennis Stello, Hans Kjeldsen, 2010, Communications in Asteroseismology, 161, 39.
35. *AAOmega Observations of 47 Tucanae: Evidence for a Past Merger?*  
Richard R. Lane, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Laszlo L. Kiss, Geraint F. Lewis, Rodrigo A. Ibata, Arnaud Siebert, Timothy R. Bedding, Peter Szekely, Gyula M. Szabo, 2010, The Astrophysical Journal Letters 711, L122-L126.
36. *Entropic Priors and Bayesian Model Selection*  
**B. J. Brewer** and M. J. Francis, 2009, The 29th International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering. AIP Conference Proceedings, Volume 1193, pp. 179-186.
37. *Gaussian Process Modelling of Asteroseismic Data*  
**B. J. Brewer** and D. Stello, 2009, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 395, 2226.
38. *Unlensing HST Observations of the Einstein Ring 1RXS J1131-1231: A Bayesian Analysis*  
**B. J. Brewer**, G. F. Lewis, 2008, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 390, 39.
39. *A Molecular Einstein Ring at  $z=4.12$ : Imaging the Dynamics of a Quasar Host Galaxy Through a Cosmic Lens*  
Dominik A. Riechers, Fabian Walter, **Brendon J. Brewer**, Christopher L. Carilli, Geraint F. Lewis, Frank Bertoldi and Pierre Cox, 2008, The Astrophysical Journal, 686, 851.
40. *Solar-like oscillations in the metal-poor subgiant nu Indi: II. Acoustic spectrum and mode lifetime*  
F. Carrier, H. Kjeldsen, T. R. Bedding, **B. J. Brewer**, R. P. Butler, P. Eggenberger, F. Grundahl, C. McCarthy, A. Retter, C. G. Tinney, 2007, Astronomy and Astrophysics, 470, 1059.
41. *Solar-like oscillations in the G2 subgiant beta Hydri from dual-site observations*  
Timothy R. Bedding, Hans Kjeldsen, Torben Arentoft, Francois Bouchy, Jacob Brandbyge, **Brendon J. Brewer**, R. Paul Butler, Joergen Christensen-Dalsgaard, Thomas Dall, Soeren Frandsen, Christoffer Karoff, Laszlo L. Kiss, Mario J.P.F.G. Monteiro, Frank P. Pijpers, Teresa C. Teixeira, C. G. Tinney, Ivan K. Baldry, Fabien Carrier, Simon J. O'Toole, 2007, The Astrophysical Journal, 663, 1315.
42. *Bayesian Inference from Observations of Solar-Like Oscillations*  
**B. J. Brewer**, T. R. Bedding, H. Kjeldsen and D. Stello, The Astrophysical Journal, 2007, 654, 551B.
43. *The evolution of host mass and black hole mass in QSOs from the 2dF QSO Redshift Survey*  
S. Fine, S. M. Croom, L. Miller, A. Babic, D. Moore, **B. Brewer**, R. G. Sharp, B. J. Boyle, T. Shanks, R. J. Smith, P. J. Outram, N. S. Loaring, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 2006, 373, 613F.

44. *Solar-like oscillations in the metal-poor subgiant nu Indi: constraining the mass and age using asteroseismology*  
T. R. Bedding, R. P. Butler, F. Carrier, F. Bouchy, **B. J. Brewer**, P. Eggenberger, F. Grundahl, H. Kjeldsen, C. McCarthy, T. B. Nielsen, A. Retter, C. G. Tinney, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2006, 647, 558.
45. *The Einstein Ring 0047-2808 Revisited: A Bayesian Inversion*  
**B. J. Brewer** and G. F. Lewis, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2006, 651, 8.
46. *Strong Gravitational Lens Inversion: A Bayesian Approach*  
**B. J. Brewer** and G. F. Lewis, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 2006, 637, 608.
47. *The light curve of the semiregular variable L2 Puppis: II. Evidence for solar-like excitation of the oscillations*  
T. R. Bedding, L. L. Kiss, H. Kjeldsen, **B. J. Brewer**, Z. E. Dind, S. D. Kawaler, A. A. Zijlstra, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 2005, 361, 1375.
48. *Probing Sub parsec Structure in the Lyman Alpha Forest with Gravitational Microlensing*  
**B. J. Brewer** and G. F. Lewis, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 2005, 356, 703.
49. *When Darwin met Einstein: Gravitational Lens Inversion with Genetic Algorithms*  
**B. J. Brewer** and G. F. Lewis, *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*, 2005, 22, 128.

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. *Model selection and parameter inference in phylogenetics using Nested Sampling*  
Patricio Maturana R, **Brendon J. Brewer**, and Steffen Klaere, 2017, arXiv preprint.
2. *What Experts Do and Don't Know*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2016, article in Quillette Magazine.
3. *The Mathematics of Happiness*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2016, article in Quillette magazine.
4. *Unscrambling the second law of thermodynamics*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2016, article in Quillette magazine.
5. *The Great Statistical Schism*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2015, article in Quillette magazine.
6. *Properties of the Affine Invariant Ensemble Sampler in high dimensions*  
David Huijser, Jesse Goodman, **Brendon J. Brewer**, 2015, arXiv preprint.
7. *Bayesian Inference and Computation: A Beginner's Guide*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2015, contribution to the XXVI Winter School of Astrophysics. To be published by Cambridge University Press.
8. *Inference for Trans-dimensional Bayesian Models with Diffusive Nested Sampling*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2014, arXiv preprint.

9. *Bayesian Analysis of Reverberation Mapping Data*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2011, in *Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy V*.
10. *The Implications of the Early Formation of Life on Earth*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2008, arXiv preprint.
11. *Getting Your Eye In: A Bayesian Analysis of Early Dismissals in Cricket*  
**Brendon J. Brewer**, 2008, arXiv preprint.