

## *Curriculum Vitae of Samuel Patrick Dennis Birch*

**Email:** sb2222@cornell.edu

**Webpage:** <https://geomorph-sbirch.com>

**Phone:** 510-712-0270

**Current Address:**

426 Space Sciences Bldg.

Ithaca, NY 14853-6801

### **PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Published 7 first author papers, co-authored 15 more. NESSF Fellow (2015). Cassini RADAR Associate Team Member. Rosetta OSIRIS Graduate Student Collaborator. CAESAR Co-Investigator. AGU Planetary Sciences Section Early Career Representative (2019-2020). Advisor for 13 graduate, undergraduate and high school students (6 presently).

### **CURRENT AFFILIATION**

*Cornell Center for Astrophysics and Planetary Science, Cornell University*

### **EDUCATION**

- **Ph.D.** – *Cornell University, Ithaca NY* May 2018
  - Concentration: Planetary Science (Minors: Geophysics/Astronomy)
- **B.A. (High Honors)** – *University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA* May 2014
  - Concentration: Geophysics

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Excellence in Research Award (2018)
- NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (2015 – 2018)
- Distinguished Honors in Geophysics (2014)
- Berkeley International Undergraduate Student Tuition Grant (2013 – 2014)

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- Cornell University; *Research Associate*: May 2018 – Present
- Cornell University; *PhD Student*: August 2014 – May 2018
- Cornell University; *REU Summer Intern*: June 2013 – August 2013
- UC Berkeley; *Geological Fluid Dynamics Lab Manager*: January 2013 – July 2014

### **CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS**

1. Titan Geomorphology & Surface Processes
2. Cometary (and Small Body) Geology & Surface Processes
3. Numerical Landscape Evolution Modeling
4. Sublimation Erosion & Surface Processes in the Outer Solar System

### **JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (\*Indicates paper was led by a student advisee)**

**h-index: 10      i10-index: 11      Citations: 214      Researcher ID: L-1249-2017**

- [23] J-B. Vincent, **S.P.D. Birch**, A. Jindal, K. Zacny, A.G. Hayes, N. Oklay, and P. Cambianica. Bouncing boulders on Comet 67P. *MNRAS*, in review (2019).
- [22] J.D. Hofgartner, A.G. Hayes, D.B. Campbell, J.I. Lunine, G.J. Black, S.M. MacKenzie, **S.P.D. Birch**, C. Elachi, R.D. Kirk, and S.D. Wall. The Root of Specular Reflections from Solid Surfaces on Saturn's moon Titan. *Nature Communications*, in review (2019).
- [21] M.J. Malaska, J. Radebaugh, R. Lopes, K.L. Mitchell, T. Verlander, A.M. Schoenfeld, M.F. Florence, A. Le Gall, A. Solomonidou, A.G. Hayes, **S.P.D. Birch**, M.A. Janssen, L. Schurmeier, T. Cornet, C. Ahrens, T.G. Farr, and the Cassini RADAR Team. Labyrinth Terrain on Titan. *Icarus*, in review (2019).

- [20] **S.P.D. Birch**, A.G. Hayes, and 10 others. Migrating Scarps as a Mechanism for Recycling Material on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. *GRL*, in press (2019).
- [19] R.M.C. Lopes, M.J. Malaska, A.M. Schoenfeld, A. Solomonidou, **S.P.D. Birch**, M. Florence, A.G. Hayes, D.A. Williams, J. Radebaugh, T. Verlander, E.P. Turtle, A. Le Gall, S. Wall, and the Cassini RADAR Team. A Global Geomorphologic Map of Saturn's Moon Titan. *Nature Astronomy*, in press (2019).
- [18] A. Solomonidou, A. Le Gall, M. Malaska, **S.P.D. Birch**, and 17 others. Spectral and emissivity analysis of the raised ramparts around Titan's northern lakes. *Icarus*, in press (2019).
- [17] R.M.C. Lopes, S.D. Wall, C. Elachi, **S.P.D. Birch**, and 44 others. Titan as Revealed by the Cassini RADAR. *Space Science Reviews*, **215**:33 (2019).
- [16] V. Poggiali, M. Mastrogiuseppe, A.G. Hayes, R. Seu, J.P. Mullen, **S.P.D. Birch**, and M.C. Raguso. High-resolution Topography of Titan Adapting the Delay/Doppler Algorithm to the Cassini RADAR Altimeter Data. *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* **57**, 7262-7268 (2019).
- [15] Y. Tang\*, **S.P.D. Birch**, A.G. Hayes, R. Kirk, N. Kutsop, J-B. Vincent, and S. Squyres. Generation of Photoclinometric DTMs for Application to Transient Changes on the Surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, in press (2019).
- [14] S.M. MacKenzie, J.W. Barnes, J.D. Hofgartner, **S.P.D. Birch**, M.M. Hedman, A. Lucas, S. Rodriguez, E.P. Turtle, and C. Sotin. The case for seasonal surface changes at Titan's lake district. *Nature Astronomy* **3**, 506-510 (2019).
- [13] **S.P.D. Birch**, A.G. Hayes, and 7 others. Raised Rims around Titan's Sharp-Edged Depressions. *GRL* **46**, 5846-5854 (2018).
- [12] **S.P.D. Birch**, A.G. Hayes, and 9 others. Morphological evidence that Titan's southern hemisphere basins are paleoseas. *Icarus* **310**, 140-148 (2017).
- [11] A.G. Hayes, **S.P.D. Birch**, and 12 others. Topographic constraints on the evolution and connectivity of Titan's lacustrine basins. *GRL* **44**, 11745-11753 (2017).
- [10] P. Corlies, A.G. Hayes, **S.P.D. Birch**, R.D. Lorenz, B. Stiles, R.L. Kirk, V. Poggiali, H. Zebker, and L. Iess. Titan's topography and shape at the end of the Cassini mission. *GRL* **44**, 11754-11761 (2017).
- [9] M. Mastrogiuseppe, A.G. Hayes, V. Poggiali, J.I. Lunine, R.D. Lorenz, R. Seu, A. Le Gall, C. Notarnicola, K. Mitchell, M. Malaska, and **S.P.D. Birch**. Bathymetry and Composition of Titan's Ontario Lacus derived from Monte Carlo-based waveform inversion of Cassini RADAR altimetry data. *Icarus* **300**, 203-209 (2017).
- [8] **S.P.D. Birch**, Y. Tang, A.G. Hayes, and 10 others. Geomorphology of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. *MNRAS* **469**, S50-S67 (2017).
- [7] **S.P.D. Birch**, A. Hayes, and 19 others. Geomorphologic Mapping of Titan's polar terrains: Constraining Surface Processes and Landscape Evolution. *Icarus*, **282**, 214-236 (2017).
- [6] V. Poggiali, M. Mastrogiuseppe, A.G. Hayes, R. Seu, **S.P.D. Birch**, R. Lorenz, C. Grima, and J.D. Hofgartner. Liquid-filled canyons on Titan. *Geophysical Research Letters*, **43**, 7887-7894 (2016).
- [5] M.J. Malaska, R.M.C. Lopes, D.A. Williams, C.D. Neish, A. Solomonidou, J. Soderblom, A.M. Schoenfeld, **S.P.D. Birch**, A.G. Hayes, A. Le Gall, M.A. Janssen, T.G. Farr, R.D. Lorenz, J. Radebaugh, and E. Turtle. Geomorphologic map of the Afekan Crater region, Titan: Terrain relationships in Titan's blandlands. *Icarus* **270**, 130-161 (2016).
- [4] **S.P.D. Birch**, A. Hayes, A.D. Howard J. Moore, and J. Radebaugh. Alluvial Fan Morphology, Distribution and Formation on Titan. *Icarus* **270**, 238-247 (2016).

- [3] Radebaugh, J., D. Ventra, R.D. Lorenz, T. Farr, R. Kirk, A. Hayes, M.J. Malaska, **S. Birch**, Z. Y-C. Liu, J. Lunine, J. Barnes, A. Le Gall, R. Lopes, E. Stofan, S. Wall and P. Paillou. Alluvial and fluvial fans on Saturn's moon Titan reveal processes, materials and regional geology. *In, Ventra, D. & Clarke, L. E. (eds) Geology and Geomorphology of Alluvial and Fluvial Fans: Terrestrial and Planetary Perspectives. Geological Society, London, Special Publications 440* (2016).
- [2] R.M.C. Lopes, M. J. Malaska, A. Solomonidou, A. Le Gall, M. A. Janssen, C.D. Neish, E.P. Turtle, **S.P.D. Birch**, A. G. Hayes, J. Radebaugh, A. Coustenis, B. W. Stiles, R. L. Kirk, K.L. Mitchell, and K. J. Lawrence. Nature, Distribution, and Origin of Titan's Undifferentiated Plains, *Icarus 270*, 162-182 (2015).
- [1] **S.P.D. Birch**, M. Manga, B. Delbridge, and M. Chamberlain. Penetration of spherical projectiles into wet granular media, *Physical Review E 90*, 032208 (2014).

#### **INVITED TALKS & COLLOQUIA**

---

- [4] **S.P.D. Birch**. Evolution of Cometary Surfaces. Department of Geological Sciences Colloquium, University of Idaho, June 2019.
- [3] **S.P.D. Birch**. The Lakes and Seas of Titan. Geology and Geophysics Seminar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, April 2019.
- [2] **S.P.D. Birch**. Sediment Transport and Landscape Evolution on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. PICS Seminar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, April 2018.
- [1] **S.P.D. Birch**. Investigating the Morphology and Topography of Titan's Polar Lacustrine Features. PALS Seminar, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, March 2018.

#### **SELECTED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**

---

- [13] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Local Migration of Smooth Terrain Material in Imhotep on Comet 67P, *EPSC-DPS*, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2019.
- [12] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** A Precise, Fast & Versatile Numerical Landscape Evolution Tool with Applications to Titan, *Titan After Cassini*, Madrid, Spain, September 2019.
- [11] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Migrating Scarps on Comet 67P. *LPSC, Abstract #2106*, Woodlands TX, March 2019.
- [10] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Raised Rims around Titan's Small Lakes. *COSPAR 2018*, Pasadena, CA, July 2018.
- [9] **S.P.D. Birch**. Numerical Landscape Evolution Simulations Applied to Comet 67P. Rosetta SWT 49, Rhodes, Greece, June 2018.
- [8] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** The Raised Rims of Titan's Small Lakes. *LPSC, Abstract #2076*, Woodlands TX, March 2018
- [7] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Sediment Transport and Landscape Evolution on Comet 67P/C-G. *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, December 2017.
- [6] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Geomorphology of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. *LPSC, Abstract #2036*, Woodlands TX, March 2017
- [5] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Geomorphology of Titan's polar terrains. *Titan Surface Workshop*, Paris, France, November 2016.
- [4] **S.P.D. Birch, et al.** Geomorphology of Titan's polar terrains: Using the landscape's topographic form to constrain surface processes. *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, December 2015.
- [3] **S. Birch**. Titan Hydrology: Past, Present and Future. *Planetary Systems: A Synergistic View*, Quy Nhon, Vietnam, July 2015.
- [2] **S. Birch, et al.** Geomorphology of Titan's Polar Regions. *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, December 2014.

- [1] **S. Birch, et al.** Scaling Laws for Impacts into Wet Substrates, Applied to the Bomb Sag at Home Plate, Mars. *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, December 2013.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

Cornell University; *Lead Lecturer & Course Designer*

- EAS/Astro3150: “Geomorphology” (Spring 2019)

Cornell University; *Guest Lecturer*

- Astro1102: “Our Solar System” (2x Spring 2018)
- Astro2202: “A Spacecraft Tour of the Solar System” (2x Fall 2016, 4x Fall 2017-2019)
- Astro2212: “The Solar System: Planets, Small Bodies, New Worlds” (1x Fall 2017/2018)
- Astro6577: “Planetary Surface Processes” (2x Spring 2017)

Cornell University; *Teaching Assistant*

- Astro1102: “Our Solar System” (Spring 2015 & 2016)
- Astro6577: “Planetary Surface Processes” (Spring 2017)

University of California Berkeley; *Grader*

- EPS 3: “The water planet” (Spring 2014)
- EPS 20: “Earthquakes in your backyard” (Fall 2013)

## **ADVISING**

---

### **Graduate (\*on auxillary projects related to work with their primary advisor):**

- Megan Barrington; Cornell University; 04/2019 – Present
  - A Comprehensive Catalog of Change Detection on Comet 67P
- Ngoc Truong; Cornell University; 01/2019 – Present
  - Modeling Volatile Entrapment in Cometary Ices
- Abhinav Jindal; Cornell University; 06/2018 – Present
  - Measuring Fallback on Comet 67P using High Resolution Topography

### **Undergraduate:**

- Cece Thieberger; Cornell University; 07/2019 – Present
  - Modeling Cometary Smooth Terrains using High Resolution Topography
- Alexandro Ochoa (Summer REU); 05/2019 – 08/2019
  - Evolution of 67P’s Imhotep Region
- Samantha Moruzzi; Cornell University; 07/2018 – Present
  - Photometric modeling of smooth terrains on 67P
- Julia Miller; Cornell University; 08/2017 – Present
  - A Complete Mapping of Titan’s Hydrology
- Alexandra Dobbs (Summer REU); 05/2018 – 08/2018
  - Photometric modeling of smooth terrains on 67P
- Andrew Nowak (Summer REU); 05/2018 – 08/2018
  - SAR Backscatter Modeling of Representative Terrains on Titan
- Harry Tang; Cornell University; 04/2015 – 08/2018
  - Photoclinometry on 67P to Understand Transient Changes
  - Published a paper in *Astronomy & Astrophysics* in August 2018
- Ian Cullings; Cornell University; 01/2017 – 12/2018
  - The longevity of the Jezero crater delta using DTMs
- Ryan de Freitas Bart; Cornell University; 04/2015 – 04/2017
  - Generating a fully three-dimensional model of Comet 67P/C-G

### **High School:**

- Leslie VanDeMark; Ithaca High School; New Visions Program; 11/2014 – 05/2015
  - Hydraulic mapping on Titan

## **MISSION PARTICIPATION**

---

- CAESAR [NASA New Frontiers 5] – Comet Surface Science Co-Lead; *Co-Investigator*
- Trident [NASA Discovery] – Science Team; Collaborator
- CAESAR (Not Selected) [NASA New Frontiers 4] – Science Team; *Grad Student Co-I*
- Cassini [NASA/ESA/ASI] – RADAR Team; *Associate Team Member*
- Rosetta [ESA] – OSIRIS; *Grad Student Collaborator*
- Mars 2020 Rover [NASA Flagship] – MastcamZ; *Landing Site Selection Working Group*
- Oceanus (Not Selected) [NASA New Frontiers 4] – Science Team; *Grad Student Co-I*

## **TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE**

---

**Funding Proposals:** Co-I\* of Rosetta Data Analysis Program (0.5 FTE 2019-2022); Co-I of Discovery Data Analysis Program (0.17 FTE 2019-2022).

**\*Cornell does not allow postdocs to be a PI**

**Journal Reviewer:** Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (2); Planetary and Space Science (1); Journal of Geophysical Research (3); Astronomy & Astrophysics (1); Nature Communications (1); Journal of Geophysical Research-Planets (1)

**Community Service/Engagement:** AGU Planetary Sciences Section Early Career Representative (2019-2020); AGU Fall Meeting OSPA Judge (2018), LPSC Dwornik Award Judge (2019)

**Conference Session Chair/Convener:** Co-Chair Titan Surface Workshop (2016); Co-Chair AGU Fall Meeting, Titan Session (2018); Chair AGU Fall Meeting, Icy World Evolution (2019)

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

---

- Creator of the *Winnipeg Planet Walk* in Winnipeg MB, Canada (In Development)
- Keynote speaker at *AstroFest*, Kopernik Observatory, Vestal NY (October 2018)
- Cornell Astronomy “Ask an Astronomer” Team Member (January 2015 – Current)
- Volunteer with Cornell’s Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility (August 2014 – Current)
- Named “Winnipeg Lacus” on Titan

## **SELECTED FIELD EXPERIENCE**

---

- **Mojave Desert / Death Valley, CA** (2015/2017) [Student/Teaching Assistant]  
Research Objective: Ground truth of remote sensing data and planetary analogs (Cornell Class Astro6577).
- **Eel River / Angelo Coast Range Reserve, CA** (2014) [Student]  
Research Objective: Morphology and Dynamics of Eel River Tributaries (UC Berkeley Class EPS217).

## **REFERENCES**

---

- Professor Alexander Hayes, Cornell University  
**Relationship:** Ph.D. Thesis Advisor      **Email:** hayes@astro.cornell.edu
- Professor Steven Squyres, Cornell University  
**Relationship:** Ph.D. Co-Advisor      **Email:** squyres@astro.cornell.edu
- Dr. Rosaly Lopes, Jet Propulsion Lab  
**Relationship:** Collaborator      **Email:** rosaly.m.lopes@jpl.caltech.edu
- Dr. Jeffrey Moore, NASA Ames Research Center  
**Relationship:** Collaborator      **Email:** jeff.moore@nasa.gov

- Dr. Michael Malaska, Jet Propulsion Lab  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** michael.j.malaska@jpl.nasa.gov
- Dr. Steven Wall, Jet Propulsion Lab  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** swall@jpl.caltech.edu
- Professor Jani Radebaugh, Brigham Young University  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** janirad@byu.edu
- Professor Dennis Bodewits, Auburn University  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** dennis@auburn.edu
- Professor Jonathan Lunine, Cornell University  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** jlunine@astro.cornell.edu
- Dr. Orkan Umurhan, NASA Ames Research Center  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** orkan.umurhan@gmail.com
- Dr. Jason Soderblom, MIT  
**Relationship:** Collaborator **Email:** jms4@mit.edu
  
- Additional references are available upon request