

# Joshua H. Brake

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## Education

**2019** California Institute of Technology, Ph.D. Electrical Engineering  
**2016** California Institute of Technology, M.S. Electrical Engineering  
**2014** LeTourneau University, M.S. Engineering, Electrical Concentration  
**2013** LeTourneau University, B.S. Engineering, Electrical Concentration

## Academic Appointments

**2019 - Present** Harvey Mudd College  
Dept. of Engineering, Assistant Professor of Engineering

## Consulting Experience

**2024 - Present** Praxis, New York, NY. Venture Partner for Studio Seminars.  
**2021 - 2022** Aquillius Corporation, San Diego, CA. Embedded systems development and testing.  
**2020** Jetpack Aviation, Chatsworth, CA. Electrical engineering testing and support.

## Publications

### Journal Papers

- 2024** J. Branning, Jr., K. Faughnan, A. Tomson, G. Bell, S. Isbell, A. DeGroot, L. Jameson, K. Kilroy, M. Smith, R. Smith, L. Mottel, E. Branning, Z. Worrall, F. Anderson, A. Panditaradyula, W. Yang, J. Abdelmalek, **J. Brake**, K. Cash. "Multifunction Fluorescence Open-Source In Vivo/In Vitro Imaging System (openIVIS)." PLOS ONE (2024). [doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0299875](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0299875)
- 2022** H. Ayaz, W. B. Baker [and 58 others including **J. Brake**.] "Optical imaging and spectroscopy for the study of the human brain: status report." Neurophotonics 9(S2), S24001 (2022). [doi:10.1117/1.NPh.9.S2.S24001](https://doi.org/10.1117/1.NPh.9.S2.S24001).
- S. Gigan, O. Katz, [and 43 others, including **J. Brake**.] "Roadmap on Wavefront Shaping and deep imaging in complex media." Journal of Physics: Photonics (2022). [doi:10.1088/2515-7647/ac76f9](https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7647/ac76f9).
- A. Abdelfattah, S. Ahuja, [and 69 others, including **J. Brake**.] "Neurophoton tools for microscopic measurements and manipulation: status report." Neurophotonics 9(S1), 013001 (2022). [doi:10.1117/1.NPh.9.S1.013001](https://doi.org/10.1117/1.NPh.9.S1.013001).
- 2020** J. Xu, A. K. Jahromi, **J. Brake**, J. E. Robinson, C. Yang. "Interferometric speckle visibility spectroscopy (ISVS) for human cerebral blood flow monitoring." APL Photonics 5, 126102 (2020). [doi:10.1063/5.0021988](https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0021988).
- Y. Huang, M. Cua, **J. Brake**, Y. Liu, C. Yang. "Investigating ultrasound–light interaction in scattering media." Journal of Biomedical Optics 25(2), 025002 (2020). [doi:10.1117/1.JBO.25.2.025002](https://doi.org/10.1117/1.JBO.25.2.025002).
- 2018** M. Jang\*, Y. Horie\*, A. Shibukawa\*, **J. Brake**, Y. Liu, S. M. Kamali, A. Arbabi, H. Ruan, A. Faraon, and C. Yang. "Complex wavefront shaping with disorder-engineered metasurfaces." Nature Photonics 12(2), 84-91 (2018). [doi:10.1038/s41566-017-0078-z](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41566-017-0078-z).

- 2017** H. Ruan\*, **J. Brake**\*, J. E. Robinson, Y. Liu, M. Jang, C. Xiao, C. Zhou, V. Gradinaru, and C. Yang. “Deep tissue optical focusing for optogenetic applications with time-reversed ultrasonically encoded light.” *Science Advances* 3(12), eaao5520(2017). [doi:10.1126/sciadv.aao5520](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aao5520).
- H. Ruan, T. Haber, Y. Liu, **J. Brake**, J. Kim, J. M. Berlin, and C. Yang. “Focusing light inside scattering media with magnetic-particle-guided wavefront shaping.” *Optica* 4(11), 1337-1343 (2017). [doi:10.1364/OPTICA.4.001337](https://doi.org/10.1364/OPTICA.4.001337).
- M.M. Qureshi\*, **J. Brake**\*, H.-J. Jeon, H. Ruan, Y. Liu, A. M. Safi, T. J. Eom, C. Yang, E. Chung. “In vivo study of optical speckle decorrelation time across depths in the mouse brain.” *Biomedical Optics Express* 8(11), 4855-4864 (2017). [doi:10.1364/BOE.8.004855](https://doi.org/10.1364/BOE.8.004855).
- 2016** E.H. Zhou, A. Shibukawa, **J. Brake**, H. Ruan, C. Yang. “Glare suppression by coherence gated negation.” *Optica* 3(10),1107-1113 (2016). [doi:10.1364/OPTICA.3.001107](https://doi.org/10.1364/OPTICA.3.001107).
- J. Brake**\*, M. Jang\*, and C. Yang. “Analyzing the relationship between decorrelation time and tissue thickness in acute rat brain slices using multispeckle diffusing wave spectroscopy,” *Journal of the Optical Society of America A* 33(2), 270-75 (2016). [doi:10.1364/JOSAA.33.000270](https://doi.org/10.1364/JOSAA.33.000270).
- 2015** D. Wang, E.H. Zhou, **J. Brake**, H. Ruan, M. Jang, and C. Yang. “Focusing through dynamic tissue with millisecond digital optical phase conjugation,” *Optica* 2(8), 728-735 (2015). [doi:10.1364/OPTICA.2.000728](https://doi.org/10.1364/OPTICA.2.000728).

## Books and Book Chapters

- 2021** **J. Brake**, D. Harris, and S. Harris. Chapter 9: Embedded I/O Systems. In *Digital Design and Computer Architecture: RISC-V Edition*, 2021.
- 2012** **J. Brake**. “The Engineer’s Guide to Introductory Circuit Analysis.” New York: McGraw-Hill, 2012.

## Patents

- 2024** Interferometric speckle visibility spectroscopy. [US11867505B2](https://www.uspto.gov/patents/US11867505B2). (Granted 01/09/24)
- 2022** Interferometric speckle visibility spectroscopy. [US20200386535A1](https://www.uspto.gov/patents/US20200386535A1). (Granted 05/31/22)
- 2019** Glare suppression through fog by optical phase conjugation assisted active cancellation. [US10194100B2](https://www.uspto.gov/patents/US10194100B2). (Granted 01/29/21)

## Conference Papers

- 2022** A. Vercruyse, M. W. Miller, **J. Brake**, D. Harris. “A Tutorial-style Single-cycle Fast Fourier Transform Processor.” In Proceedings of 2022 Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI (GLSVLSI’22), June 6–8, 2022, Irvine, CA. ACM, New York, NY, USA (2022). [doi:10.1145/3526241.3530329](https://doi.org/10.1145/3526241.3530329).
- 2021** D. Harris, **J. Brake**, S. L. Harris. “A Digital Design and Computer Architecture MOOC.” ACM/IEEE Workshop on Computer Architecture Education (WCAE) (2021). [doi:10.1109/WCAE53984.2021.9707613](https://doi.org/10.1109/WCAE53984.2021.9707613).
- 2020** K. Pezeshki, C. Norfleet, E. Meike, T. Jenrungrot, M. Spencer, **J. Brake**, D. Harris. “A Board and Projects for an FPGA/Microcontroller-Based Embedded Systems Lab.” In Proceedings of Great Lakes Symposium on VLSI (GLSVLSI’20), September 7–9, 2020, Virtual Event, China. ACM, New York, NY, USA (2020). [doi:10.1145/3386263.3406930](https://doi.org/10.1145/3386263.3406930).

## Presentations and Posters

- 2022 J. Brake.** “Teaching Optics with 3d-printed Microscopes.” Gordon Research Conference: Image Science. Newry, ME, July 2022.
- 2019 J. Brake, J. Xu, A.K. Jahromi, and C. Yang.** “Interferometric speckle visibility spectroscopy for improved measurement of blood flow dynamics.” Engineering Conferences International: Advances in Optics for Biotechnology, Medicine and Surgery XVI. Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada, June 2019.
- J. Brake and C. Yang.** “Optical Scattering in Biomedicine: Friend and Foe?” Physics of Quantum Electronics. Snowbird, Utah, January 2019.
- 2018 J. Brake, H. Ruan, J. E. Robinson, Y. Liu, V. Gradinaru, and C. Yang.** “Deep-Tissue Optical Focusing for Optogenetics Using Wavefront Shaping.” Gordon Research Seminar: Image Science. Easton, MA, June 2018.
- J. Brake, H. Ruan, J. E. Robinson, Y. Liu, V. Gradinaru, and C. Yang.** “Time-reversed ultrasonically encoded (TRUE) focusing for deep-tissue optogenetic modulation.” SPIE Photonics West, BiOS. San Francisco, CA, January 2018.
- 2017 J. Brake.** “Wavefront shaping in living tissue.” Engineering Conferences International: Advances in Optics for Biotechnology, Medicine and Surgery XV. Aspen, CO, July 2017.
- 2016 J. Brake, M. Jang, and C. Yang.** “The relationship between decorrelation time and sample thickness in acute rat brain tissue slices.” SPIE Photonics West, BiOS. San Francisco, CA, February 2016.
- 2015 S. Cho, J. Brake, C. Joy, and S. Kim.** “Refractive index measurement using an optical cavity based biosensor with a differential detection.” SPIE Photonics West, BiOS. San Francisco, CA, February 2015.
- 2014 J. Brake, S. Kim.** “An optical cavity based biosensor with chained differential detection to improve sensitivity and fabrication tolerance.” SPIE Photonics West, BiOS. San Francisco, CA, February 2014.

## Talks

- 2023 J. Brake, W. Menefee-Libey.** "Talking Teaching: ChatGPT." Harvey Mudd College Internal Talking Teaching talk.

## Public Writing

Weekly Substack Newsletter, [The Absent-Minded Professor](#), writing about technology, education, and human flourishing.

**J. Brake.** “Experience and Extend.” Virtues & Vocations Magazine, Fall 2024. [in press]

## Grants

### Current Research

NSF CAREER	05/2023-04/2028
CAREER: Next-generation Rhizosphere Monitoring - Non-invasive Plant Phenotyping and Health Monitoring Using the Light-piping Properties of Plant Stems	
Role: PI	\$560,428
NSF Engineering Research Initiation	06/2023-05/2025
ERI: RUI: Wavefront shaping through flexible multicore fiber bundles for coherent light focusing and imaging in neurophotonics	
Role: PI	\$173,904

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) Scialog Advancing BioImaging Award  
openIVIS: Democratizing Access to Macroscopic Bioimaging  
Role: PI

10/2022-09/2024

\$57,500

## **Completed Research**

NIH F31 NRSA  
Improved Light Delivery for Optogenetics via Digital TRUE  
Role: PI

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Harvey Mudd College**

#### **Courses**

E155 Microprocessor-based Systems: FA24, FA23, FA22, FA21, FA20, FA19  
E85 Digital Design and Computer Architecture: FA23, SP21, SP20  
E80 Experimental Engineering: SP24, SP23, SP22  
E79 Practicum: FA22  
E190BD: Introduction to Optical Engineering: SP22

#### **Engineering Clinic (Faculty Advisor)**

**2023-2024** Auburn University & United State Department of Agriculture  
**2022-2023** Silvus Technologies  
**2020-2021** Millennium Space Systems  
**2019-2020** Leidos

#### **Caltech**

EE166 Optical Methods for Biomedical Imaging and Diagnosis: SP17  
EE151 Electromagnetic Engineering: SP16, SP15

#### **LeTourneau University**

Head Supplemental Instructor: FA12  
Electric Circuits 1, Lead Supplemental Instructor: SP14, FA13, SP13, FA12, SP12, FA11, SP11  
Electric Circuits 1, Lab Assistant: FA13, SP11

## **Teaching Professional Development**

**2020** Stanford Life Design Virtual Studio  
**2017** Caltech E110: Principles of University Teaching & Learning in STEM  
**2016** Caltech Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach – ABCs of Course Design Short Course

## **Awards, Honors, & Fellowships**

**2023-2024** AI Faculty Fellow, Claremont Colleges Center for Teaching and Learning  
**2021-2023** Scialog® – Advancing Bioimaging Fellow  
**2015-2019** Caltech Biotechnology Leadership Program Fellow  
**2018** SPIE Photonics West Student Travel Grant Recipient 2018  
**2015-2017** NIH F31 NRSA Fellow 2015-2017  
**2017** 2nd Place Poster Award, Engineering Conferences International: Advances in Optics for Biotechnology, Medicine and Surgery XV  
**2015** NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program: Honorable Mention  
**2014** LeTourneau University R.G. LeTourneau Outstanding Senior Engineering Student  
**2013** 2nd Place, IEEE Region 5 Circuit Design Competition  
**2013** LeTourneau University Gold Key Society Member  
**2013** LeTourneau University Outstanding Junior Engineering Student  
**2011-2014** LeTourneau University Engineering Honor Society Member

## Research Advising

- 2024** Audrey Gruian, Ben Hartley, Erin Wang, Hailey Knolton, Ruby Peterman, Zoe Worrall, Fred Kim
- 2023** Jose Guerrero, Ellie Sindler, Fred Kim, Ashrit Panditaradyula, Zoe Worrall, William Yang, Frances Anderson
- 2022** Katrina Nelson, Ashrit Panditaradyula, Erina Iwasa, Ellie Sindler, Rohan Huang, Max de Somma
- 2021** Sathvika Anand, Kevin Kim, Kanthi Pandhigunta, George Wang
- 2020** Christina Dong, Erin Obermayer, Samuel Perales, Rosey Sams, Shreya Sanghai, Alec Vercruysse, Xingzi Xu

## Work Experience

- 2016** R&D Intern: Advanced Technology Development, Instrumentation Laboratory

## Research Experience

### Caltech

- 2014-2019** **Research Assistant**  
Developed optical methods in wavefront shaping and time-reversal for suppressing the scattering of light in biological tissue.

### LeTourneau University

- 2012-2014** **Research Assistant**  
Built and tested new photonic biosensor architecture to sense refractive index changes.

## Leadership, Service, & Workshops

### Professional Service

Reviewer for: Optica, Applied Optics, Optics Express, Optics Letters, and Biomedical Optics Express, Scientific Reports

### College Service

- 2024-2025** Nelson Lecture Series Committee
- 2023-2024** Research, Presentation Days, and Institutional Review Board Committee (FA23 only)
- 2022-2023** Research, Presentation Days, and Institutional Review Board Committee
- 2021-2022** Research, Presentation Days, and Institutional Review Board Committee
- 2020-2021** Watson Fellowship Committee

### Department Service

- 2024-2025** Engineering Student Experience Coordinator
- 2022-2023** Honors Committee Chair
- 2021-2022** Honors Committee Chair
- 2020-2021** Prototyping Mindset – Student Experience Committee

### Workshops

- 2024** Praxis Forum on Redemptive Applications of Artificial Intelligence
- 2022** NSF CAREER Workshop and Mock Panel
- 2021** ASEE DELTA Junior Faculty Institute
- 2021** NSF CAREER Workshop
- 2021** Stanford Life-Design Studio