

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Odest Jenkins

PERSON

Jenkins, Odest C., 1942-

**Alternative Names:** Odest Jenkins;

**Life Dates:** January 9, 1974-

**Place of Birth:** Washington, District of Columbia,  
USA

**Work:** Ann Arbor, MI

**Occupations:** Robotics engineer; Computer Scientist

## Biographical Note

Computer scientist Odest Chadwicke Jenkins was born on xx/xx/1975 in [city], [state]. Jenks attended Alma College, where he graduated with his B.S. degrees in computer science and mathematics in 1996. He enrolled in graduate school at Georgia Technical Institute and received his M.S. degree in computer science in 1998. There he was a graduate research assistant and a graduate teaching assistant. Jenkins went on to attend the University of Southern

California, Los Angeles, where earned his Ph.D. degree in computer science in 2003.

Upon graduating, Jenkins was awarded a postdoctoral research award in the Computer Science Department at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. In 2004, Jenkins joined the faculty in the Department of Computer Science at Brown University as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 2010. Jenkins is the leader of Robotics, Learning and Autonomy Group at Brown University. The group explores topics related to human-robot interactions and robot learning with a specific focus on robot learning from human demonstration and robot software systems. Jenkins works with Brown University faculty and graduate students to develop methods for autonomous robot control and perception. In 2011, Jenkins worked to develop the “PR2 Remote Lab,” a remote-controlled computer laboratory designed to promote collaborative research and documentation.

Jenkins’ research has been published in numerous scholarly and professional journals, including Human-Robot Interaction, Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. In 2010, Jenkins published *Creating Games: Mechanics, Content, and Technology*. He has also served on the editorial board for *International Journal of Robotics Research*, and the *International Journal of Humanoid Robotics*.

Jenkins is a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for his work in physics-based human tracking from video. In 2009, Jenkins was the recipient of the Sloan Research Fellowship, and, was as selected as the National Academy of Science’s Kavi Fellow. He has received research funding from the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation. In 2010, *Popular Science Magazine* named Jenkins one of their “Brilliant 10.” Jenkins lives in Providence Massachusetts.

Odest Chadwicke Jenkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 8, 2012.

## Related Entries

**University of Southern California** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Alma College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics**

**Georgia Institute of Technology** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S. in Computer Science**

**Ford Systems Integration Center** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199405 to 199408]

**Systems Intern**

**Intel Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199706 to 199708]

**CAD Engineer**

**Brown University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 201007 to 2012]

**Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science**

**Georgia Institute of Technology** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199708 to 199806]

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, College of Computing**

**University of Southern California** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1949 to ?]

**Postdoctoral Researcher**

**PRISM Lab** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199405 to 199408]

**Undergraduate Research Intern, Computer  
Science Engineering**

**Alma College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to ?]

**Resident Assistant**