

**Sarah M. Larson**

Assistant Professor  
 Department of Marine, Earth, & Atmospheric Sciences  
 North Carolina State University

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**EDUCATION**

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- 2016      **Ph.D.**, University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)  
 Meteorology & Physical Oceanography  
 Dissertation: *ENSO Predictability*
- 2011      **B.S.**, University of South Alabama  
 Meteorology

**EMPLOYMENT**

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- 2018 –      Assistant Professor  
 MEAS, North Carolina State University
- 2016 – 2018      NOAA Climate & Global Change Postdoctoral Fellow  
 University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2016      Postdoctoral Researcher  
 University of Miami Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Science (CIMAS)
- 2011 – 2016      Graduate Research Assistant & Graduate School Fellow  
 University of Miami RSMAS
- 2010      NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar  
 NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML), Miami, FL

**AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

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- 2016      NOAA Climate & Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2016      F. G. Walton Smith Prize, University of Miami, annual award for outstanding PhD dissertation
- 2016      Outstanding Oral Presentation, 96<sup>th</sup> AMS Annual Meeting, Climate Variability & Change
- 2015      RSMAS Career Development Award, University of Miami
- 2013      Best Student Seminar in Meteorology & Physical Oceanography, University of Miami
- 2011 – 2016      University of Miami Graduate School Fellowship
- 2011      Outstanding Senior in Meteorology, University of South Alabama
- 2010      Dr. Bill Williams Scholarship in Meteorology, University of South Alabama
- 2010      Outstanding Presentation, NOAA Headquarters Student Science & Ed. Symposium
- 2009 – 2011      NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**In Progress** (graduate student or postdoc underlined)

- [27] McMonigal, K., **S. M. Larson**, and S. Hu: Wind driven ocean redistribution of heat leads to increased anthropogenic warming over 1979-2014, in prep.
- [26] Sutton, M., **S. M. Larson**, and E. J. Becker: ENSO reduces interannual mid-level atmospheric variability over North America, *Climate Dynamics*, in prep.
- [25] Hasan, M., **S. M. Larson**, and K. McMonigal: Future changes in the role of Ekman heat flux on SST variability, *Geophysical Research Letters*, submitted.

- [24] **Larson, S. M.**, K. McMonigal, Y. Okumura, D. Amaya, A. Capotondi, K. Bellomo, I. R. Simpson, and A. C. Clement.: Ocean realism shapes seas surface temperature variability in a CESM2 coupled model hierarchy, *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, submitted.
- [23] Shu, Q., Y. Zhang, D. J. Amaya, **S. M. Larson**, Y. Kosaka, J.-C. Yang, and X. Lin: Role of Ocean Advections during the Equatorward Propagation of the Pacific Meridional Modes, *Journal of Climate*, in review.

**Peer-Reviewed** (graduate student or postdoc underlined)

- [22] Zhang, Y., S. Yu, S.-P. Xie, D. J. Amaya, Q. Peng, Y. Kosaka, X. Lin, J.-C. Yang, **S. M. Larson**, and A. J. Miller (2022): Role of ocean dynamics in equatorial Pacific decadal variability, *Climate Dynamics*, accepted.
- [21] Lee, S.-K., H. Lopez, G. R. Foltz, D. Kim, **S. M. Larson**, E.-P. Lim, K. Pujana, D. L. Volkov, S. Chakravorty, and F. A. Gomez. (2022): Java-Sumatra Niño/Niña and associated regional rainfall variability, *Journal of Climate*, accepted.
- [20] **Larson, S. M.**, Y. Okumura, K. Bellomo, and M. Breeden (2022): Destructive interference of ENSO on North Pacific SST and North American precipitation associated with Aleutian low variability. *Journal of Climate*, 35, 3567-3585.
- [19] McMonigal, K. and **Larson, S. M.** (2022): ENSO explains the link between Indian Ocean Dipole and meridional ocean heat transport. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 49, e2021GL095796.
- [18] Chakravorty, S., R. C. Perez, B. T. Anderson, **S. M. Larson**, B. S. Giese, and V. Pivotti (2021): Ocean dynamics are key to extratropical forcing of El Niño. *Journal of Climate*, 24, 8739-8753.
- [17] Zhang, Y., S. Yu, D. J. Amaya, Y. Kosaka, **S. M. Larson**, X. Wang, J.-C. Yang, M. F. Stuecker, S.-P. Xie, A. J. Miller, and X. Lin (2021): Pacific Meridional Modes without Equatorial Pacific Influence. *Journal of Climate*, 34, 5285-5301.
- [16] Chakravorty, S., R. C. Perez, B. T. Anderson, B. S. Giese, **S. M. Larson**, and V. Pivotti (2020): Testing the trade wind charging mechanism and its influence on ENSO variability. *Journal of Climate*, 33, 7391-7411.
- [15] Capotondi, A., C. Deser, A. S. Phillips, Y. Okumura, and **S. M. Larson** (2020): ENSO and Pacific Decadal Variability in the Community Earth System Model Version 2. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, e2019MS002022.
- [14] Pegion, K., C. M. Selman, **S. M. Larson**, J. C. Furtado, and E. J. Becker (2020): The Impact of the Extratropics on ENSO Diversity and Predictability. *Climate Dynamics*, 54, 4469-4484.
- [13] **Larson, S. M.**, M. Buckley, and A. Clement (2020): Extracting the Buoyancy-Driven Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation. *Journal of Climate*, 33, 4697-4714.
- [12] **Larson, S. M.**, and K. V. Pegion (2020): Do asymmetries in ENSO predictability arise from different recharged states? *Climate Dynamics*, 54, 1507-1522.
- [11] Small, R. J., F. O. Bryan, S. P. Bishop, **S. M. Larson**, and R. A. Tomas (2020): What Drives Upper-Ocean Temperature Variability in Coupled Climate Models and Observations? *Journal of Climate*, 33, 577-596.
- [10] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. P. Kirtman (2019): Linking Preconditioning to Extreme ENSO events and reduced ensemble spread. *Climate Dynamics: Special Collection on ENSO Diversity*, 52, 7417-7433.
- [9] **Larson, S. M.**, K. V. Pegion, and B. P. Kirtman (2018): The South Pacific Meridional Mode as a thermally-driven source of ENSO amplitude modulation and uncertainty. *Journal of Climate*, 31, 5127-5145.
- [8] **Larson, S. M.**, D. J. Vimont, A. Clement, and B. P. Kirtman (2018): How momentum coupling affects SST variance and large-scale Pacific climate variability in CESM. *Journal of Climate*, 31, 2927-2944.
- [7] **Larson, S. M.**, B. P. Kirtman, and D. J. Vimont (2017): A Framework to Decompose Wind-driven Biases in Climate Models Applied to CCSM/CESM in the Eastern Pacific, *Journal of Climate*, 30, 8763-8782.
- [6] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. P. Kirtman (2017): Drivers of coupled model ENSO error growth dynamics and the spring predictability barrier. *Climate Dynamics*, 48, 3631-3644.
- [5] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. P. Kirtman (2015): An alternate approach to ensemble ENSO forecast spread: Application to the 2014 forecast. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 42, 9411-9415.

- [4] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. P. Kirtman (2015): Revisiting ENSO Coupled Instability Theory and SST Error growth in a fully coupled model. *Journal of Climate*, 28, 4724–4742.
- [3] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. P. Kirtman (2014): The Pacific Meridional Mode as an ENSO Precursor and Predictor in the North American Multi-Model Ensemble. *Journal of Climate*, 27, 7018-7032.
- [2] **Larson, S. M.**, and B. Kirtman (2013): The Pacific Meridional Mode as a trigger for ENSO in a high-resolution coupled model. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 40, 3189–3194.
- [1] **Larson, S. M.**, S.-K. Lee, C. Wang, E.-S. Chung, and D. Enfield (2012): Impacts of non-canonical El Niño patterns on Atlantic hurricane activity. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 39, L14706.

## Other

- Larson, S. M. and K. Pegion, (2021): Do asymmetries in ENSO predictability arise from different recharged states? Extended Summary, Climate Prediction S&T Digest, 45th NOAA Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop, Virtual Online, DOC/NOAA, 11. DOI: 10.25923/tpfe-4n87.
- Kirtman, B., J. Infanti, and **S. Larson** (2013): The diversity of El Niño in the North American multi-model prediction system. *US CLIVAR Variations*, 11, 18-23.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

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### 2020-present (graduate student or postdoc underlined)

- 2022 McMonigal, K., **S. M. Larson**, and S. Hu: Wind Driven Ocean Redistribution of Heat Leads to Increased Anthropogenic Surface Warming over 1979-2014 in CESM2, AGU Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 Hasan, M., **S. M. Larson**, and K. McMonigal: Future Changes in the Role of Ekman Heat Flux on SST Variability, AGU Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 **Larson, S. M.**, Y. Okumura, K. Bellomo, and M. Breeden: Destructive Interference of ENSO on North American Precipitation Associated with Aleutian Low/PNA Variability, AGU Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 Bellomo, K., V. L. Meccia, R. D’Agostino, F. Fabiano, **S. M. Larson**, O. Mehling, J. von Hardenberg, S. Corti: Precipitation impacts of a weaker AMOC over the Euro-Atlantic region in the EC-Earth3 climate model, AGU Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 McMonigal, K., M. Buckley, O. Gozdz, and **S. M. Larson**: *Drivers of Atlantic SST variability in a coupled model hierarchy*, AMS Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics conference, Breckenridge, CO, 2022.
- 2022 McMonigal, K., and **S. M. Larson**: *Anthropogenically forced wind driven ocean redistribution of heat leads to increased warming over the historical period*, US CLIVAR Pattern Effect Workshop, Boulder, CO, 2022.
- 2022 Hasan, M., **S. M. Larson**, and K. McMonigal: *Future Changes in the Role of Ekman Heat Flux on Pacific SST Variability*, NCAR Climate Variability and Change Working Group, CESM Annual workshop, virtual.
- 2022 Hasan, M., **S. M. Larson**, and K. McMonigal: *Future Changes in the Role of Ekman Heat Flux on Pacific SST Variability*, George Mason University Graduate Student Symposium, Fairfax, VA.
- 2022 **Larson, S. M.**: *Using coupled models to better understand the ocean’s role in extra-tropical climate variability*, George Mason University, Atmosphere, Ocean, and Earth Sciences Department Seminar, virtual (invited).
- 2022 **Larson, S. M.**: *Using coupled models to better understand the ocean’s role in extra-tropical climate variability*, NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office, Seminar Series on Earth System Science, virtual (invited).

- 2022 McMonigal, K., and **S. M. Larson**: *ENSO explains the link between Indian Ocean Dipole and meridional ocean heat transport*, NCAR Climate Variability and Change Working Group winter meeting, virtual.
- 2022 McMonigal, K., and **S. M. Larson**: *ENSO explains the link between Indian Ocean Dipole and meridional ocean heat transport*, AGU Ocean Sciences, virtual.
- 2021 Hasan, M., **S. M. Larson**, and K. McMonigal: *Air-Sea Interaction Plays a Different Role in North Pacific Turbulent Heat Flux Exchange in Summer Versus Winter*, AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2021 **Larson, S. M.**: *Subtropical Pacific SST variability: insights on forcings and links to the tropics*, University of Hawaii, Department of Oceanography (invited).
- 2021 **Larson, S. M.**: *A coupled model hierarchy approach to studying climate variations in the midlatitudes*, WCRP-CLIVAR International Workshop for Mid-latitude Air-Sea Interaction, virtual (invited).
- 2021 Hasan, M., and **S. M. Larson**: *The seasonally varying relationship between air-sea fluxes and large-scale SST in a coupled model hierarchy*, WCRP-CLIVAR International Workshop for Mid-latitude Air-Sea Interaction, virtual.
- 2021 McMonigal, K., and **S. M. Larson**: *The role of ENSO on Pacific and Indian Ocean Heat Transport Variability in CESM1*, WCRP-CLIVAR International Workshop for Mid-latitude Air-Sea Interaction, virtual.
- 2021 Sutton, M. and **S. M. Larson**: *ENSO-Driven Suppression of Interannual Atmospheric Variability Over the United States*, NCAR Climate Variability & Change working group winter meeting.
- 2021 Zhang, Y., S. Yu, D. Amaya, Y. Kosaka, **S. M. Larson**, X. Wang, J.-C. Yang, M. Stuecker, S.-P. Xie, A. Miller, and X. Lin: *Pacific Meridional Modes without Equatorial Pacific Influence*, Asian Oceania Geosciences Society.
- 2021 **Larson, S. M.**, S.-K. Lee, and N. Johnson: *Untangling the Mechanisms of Indian Ocean Dipole Variability*, WCRP-CLIVAR Workshop on Climate Interactions among the Tropical Basins, virtual (invited).
- 2021 **Larson, S. M.**: *Collaborative insight from graduates with varied career paths*, AMS Student Conference, AMS Annual Meeting, virtual (invited).
- 2021 Sutton, M. and **S. M. Larson**: *ENSO-Driven Suppression of Interannual Atmospheric Variability Over the United States*, AMS Annual Meeting, virtual.
- 2020 Zhang, Y., S. Yu, D. Amaya, Y. Kosaka, **S. M. Larson**, X. Wang, J.-C. Yang, M. Stuecker, S.-P. Xie, A. Miller, and X. Lin: *Pacific Meridional Modes without Equatorial Pacific Influence*, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 Chakravorty, S., R. Perez, B. Anderson, **S. M. Larson**, B. Giese, and V. Pivotti: *Extratropical Atmospheric Variability on El Nino: Contrasting Thermodynamic versus Dynamic Coupling*, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 **Larson, S. M.**, M. Buckley, and A. Clement: *Momentum and Buoyancy Contributions to Atlantic Ocean Circulation Variability*, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA (invited)
- 2020 **Larson, S. M.**, and K. Pegion: *The Southern Hemisphere as a Thermodynamic Modulator of ENSO Amplitude*, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 **Larson, S. M.**, and K. Pegion: *Do asymmetries in ENSO predictability arise from different recharged states?* 45<sup>th</sup> NOAA Annual Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop, virtual, 2020.
- 2020 **Larson, S. M.**, M. Buckley, and A. Clement: *Extracting the Buoyancy-Driven Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation*, AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

**Prior to 2020 (Larson as presenting/1<sup>st</sup> author only)**

- 2019 *Can Oceanic Heat Content Predict ENSO in a Realistic Forecast Setting?* (invited)  
AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *Extracting the Buoyancy-Driven Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation*

- AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *The South Pacific Meridional Mode as a Source of ENSO Amplitude Modulation and Uncertainty* (invited)  
Meridional Modes Workshop, Ohio State University
- 2019 *Air-sea interaction and Large-scale Sea Surface Temperature Variability* (invited)  
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 2019 *A Process-Based Model Hierarchy to Decompose Climate Drivers* (invited)  
NOAA Climate & Global Change Summer Institute, Steamboat Springs, CO
- 2019 *Why are long lead-time El Nino predictions challenging?* (keynote)  
Southeastern Coastal & Atmospheric Sciences Symposium, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
- 2019 *The South Pacific Meridional Mode as a Thermally-Driven Source of ENSO Amplitude Modulation & Uncertainty*  
AMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- 2018 *Impact of Momentum Coupling on Large-Scale Pacific and Atlantic Climate*  
AGU Fall Meeting, Washington D. C.
- 2018 *Does the equatorial recharge/discharge increase ENSO predictability?* (invited)  
International ENSO Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador
- 2018 *How Momentum Coupling Affects SST Variance and Large-Scale Pacific Climate in CESM*  
AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR
- 2018 *The Impact of Internal Variability on ENSO Predictability* (invited)  
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada
- 2018 *The Impact of Internal Variability on ENSO Predictability* (invited)  
Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, IN
- 2018 *The Impact of Internal Variability on ENSO Predictability* (invited)  
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA
- 2017 *A framework to decompose wind-driven biases in climate models applied to CCSM/CESM in the eastern Pacific* (poster)  
AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Using a Mechanically Decoupled CESM to Study Climate* (invited)  
National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Climate & Global Dynamics
- 2017 *The Impact of Internal Variability on ENSO Predictability* (invited)  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2017 *Linking Preconditioning to Extreme El Niño and ENSO Predictability*  
AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
- 2016 *Linking Preconditioning to Extreme El Niño and ENSO Predictability*  
AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 *ENSO Predictability in a Fully Coupled Model* (invited)  
Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2016 *The Pacific Meridional Mode as an ENSO Precursor & Predictor in the NMME*  
AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 *Revisiting coupled instability and SST error growth in a fully coupled model* (invited)  
AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 *ENSO Predictability: Precursors versus perturbation growth* (invited)  
University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI

- 2015 *Revisiting coupled instability and SST error growth in a fully coupled model*  
Graduate Climate Conference, Woods Hole, MA
- 2015 *ENSO Predictability: Precursors versus perturbation growth* (invited)  
University of California – Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2015 *Revisiting coupled instability and SST error growth in a fully coupled model*  
CLIVAR Workshop – Evaluation of ENSO in Climate Models: ENSO in a Changing Climate, Paris, France
- 2014 *Revisiting coupled instability and SST error growth in a fully coupled model*  
AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *Impacts of non-canonical El Niño patterns on Atlantic hurricane activity*  
AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 *Impacts of non-canonical El Niño patterns on Atlantic hurricane activity*  
NOAA Headquarters Student Science and Education Symposium, Silver Spring, MD

## FUNDED PROPOSALS

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### At NCSU

- 2022 – 2025 *Collaborative Research: Determining the Role of Ocean Dynamics in Atlantic Sea Surface Temperature Variations. Using a Hierarchy of Coupled Models*  
**Role:** Institutional PI; Lead PI: M. Buckley (GMU)  
**Agency:** NSF Physical Oceanography, NCSU: \$207,801
- 2022 – 2023 *Impact of Future Climate Events on NC Animal Agriculture Systems*  
**Role:** Co-PI; Lead PI: S. Shashaani (NCSU Industrial and Systems Eng.)  
**Agency:** NCSU Research and Innovation Seed Funding Program (RISF), \$25,000.
- 2020 – 2023 *Mechanisms of Intrinsic and Anthropogenically Forced Climate Variations*  
**Role:** PI  
**Agency:** NSF Climate & Large-Scale Dynamics, NCSU: \$643,860

### Prior to NCSU

- 2016 – 2018 *Disentangling ENSO's Influence on Climate*  
**Role:** PI  
**Agency:** NOAA Climate & Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship, UCAR, \$150,000.
- 2016 *To conduct regional workshop on writing successful scientific grant proposals.*  
**Role:** Co-PI (with Adeyemi Adeyibi)  
**Agency:** University of Miami Career Development Fund, \$2000.
- 2015 – 2017 *Revisiting Coupled Instability Theory and the Initiation of ENSO.*  
**Role:** Proposal writer; Lead PI: B. Kirtman  
**Agency:** NSF Climate & Large-Scale Dynamics, U. of Miami: \$177,632.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2019-present Instructor, North Carolina State University  
MEA 421 Atmospheric Dynamics 1 (3 times)
- 2019-present Instructor, North Carolina State University  
MEA 593 Climate Predictability (4 times)
- Guest Lecturer, Quantitative Analysis of Climate Change (2019, 2020)
- Content Contributor, MEA 140 Catastrophic Earth (2019)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / INVITED WORKSHOPS

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CLIVAR International workshop for mid-latitude air-sea interaction: advancing predictive understanding of regional climate variability and change across timescales (2021)  
WCRP-CLIVAR Workshop on Climate Interactions among the Tropical Basins (2021)  
SERC Early Career Geoscience Faculty Workshop (2020)  
45<sup>th</sup> NOAA Annual Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop (2020)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meridional Modes Workshop, Ohio State University (2019)

## STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS SUPERVISED

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### Postdoctoral Scholars

2020 -present Kay McMonigal

### Graduate Students

2022 – present Kaitlin Karaffa (M.S.) *co-advised with Kathie Dello*  
2022 – present Henry Goff (Ph.D.) *co-advised with Anantha Aiyyer*  
2021 – present Sam Michlowitz (M.S.)  
2020 – present Mahdi Hasan (Ph.D.)  
2021 Margaret Sutton (M.S.)  
*ENSO-Driven Impacts on Wintertime Climate Anomalies over North America*

### Undergraduate Students

2021 – 2022 Henry Goff  
2020 – 2021 Lauren Pressley

## SERVICE (condensed)

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### Internal

2022 – present Community Climate Committee  
2022 Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Science Symposium Organizing Committee  
2021 Pack Promise Coach  
2020 – 2021 Cluster Hiring Committee  
2020 – present NCSU liaison for the Central NC Chapter of the American Meteorological Society: implemented graduate student lightning talks into monthly chapter meetings  
2019 – present Faculty Advisor: American Meteorological Society Student Chapter, NCSU  
2018 – present Web Committee  
2018 – 2020 Computing Committee

### External

2022 – 2025 Invited panelist, NCAR Computational and Informational Systems Laboratory (CISL) HPC Allocation Panel (CHAP): panel that accepts and reviews requests for large allocations of NCAR resources  
2021 – present Co-Chair, NCAR Climate Variability and Change working group  
2021 Member, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) HPC User Group (NHUG)  
2019 – 2022 Scientific Organizing Committee: “Prospects for Multi-year Climate Predictability and Societally-relevant Climate Predictions” Workshop, CLIVAR (COVID-19 delay)  
2019 – present Member, NCAR Climate Variability and Change working group

### Professional Contributions

Journal Referee *Climate Dynamics, Geophysical Research Letters, Journal of Climate, Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres, Journal of Geophysical Research – Oceans, Nature, Nature Climatic*

*Change, Weather and Forecasting, Progress in Oceanography, Progress in Oceanography, Nature Communications*

**Other Activities**

American Geophysical Union, Member

American Meteorological Society, Member