

## Xian Wu

Department of Sustainable Earth Systems Sciences,  
The University of Texas at Dallas

Email: [xian.wu@utdallas.edu](mailto:xian.wu@utdallas.edu) Website: <https://www.xianwuclimate.com/>

### Education

---

- Ph.D. Geological Sciences (Research area: Climate Dynamics) 2015–2020  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Dissertation: “*Duration of El Niño and La Niña Events: Mechanisms and Multiyear Predictability*” Advisor: Yuko Okumura
- B.S. Atmospheric Sciences (Climatology) 2011–2015  
Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST)

### Academic Appointments

---

- Assistant Professor, Sustainable Earth Systems Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas 01/2025–present
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, Princeton University & NOAA GFDL 03/2023–12/2024  
Project: “*Understanding Equatorial Pacific Climate Processes via Hierarchical Coupled Modeling*” Mentor: Andrew Wittenberg
- ASP Postdoctoral Fellow, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) 09/2020–03/2023  
Project: “*Decadal Predictability and Prediction Skill in the Pacific Ocean*”  
Mentors: Stephen Yeager and Clara Deser
- Graduate Research Assistant, UT Austin 08/2016–08/2020

### Research Interests

---

Ocean-atmosphere interaction, climate variability and change, climate predictability

### Fellowships and Awards

---

- NCAR Advanced Study Program Postdoctoral Fellowship 2020
- UT Austin, Institute for Geophysics Graduate Fellowship 2020
- Outstanding Student Presentation Award, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2019
- UT Austin, Institute for Geophysics Entry Fellowship 2015–2016
- Excellent Honor Graduate Award, NUIST 2015
- First-Class Scholarship, NUIST 2011–2015

## Publications

---

### *Published:*

11. **Wu, X.**, S. G. Yeager, C. Deser, A. Capotondi, A. T. Wittenberg, and M. J. McPhaden, 2024: Predictability of tropical Pacific decadal variability is dominated by oceanic Rossby waves, *npj Clim. and Atmos. Sci.*, 7, 292 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-024-00851-7>.
10. Bilbao, R., P. Ortega, D. Swingedouw, L. Hermanson, P. Athanasiadis, R. Eade, M. Devilliers, F. Doblas-Reyes, N. Dunstone, A.-C. Ho, W. Merryfield, J. Mignot, D. Nicolì, M. Samsó, R. Sospedra-Alfonso, **X. Wu**, and S. Yeager 2024: Impact of volcanic eruptions on CMIP6 decadal predictions: A multi-model analysis, *Earth Syst. Dynam.* <https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-2023-36>.
9. **Wu, X.**, 2023: Long La Niña events could rise in frequency as the planet warms. *Nature*, 619, 702–703, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-02331-z>. (Invited commentary by *Nature News & Views*; not peer-reviewed)
8. **Wu, X.**, S. G. Yeager, C. Deser, N. Rosenbloom, and G. A. Meehl, 2023: Volcanic forcing degrades multiyear-to-decadal prediction skill in the tropical Pacific. *Science Advances*, 9, eadd9364, <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.add9364>.
7. Maher, N., R. C. J. Wills, P. N. DiNezio, J. Klavans, S. Milinsk, S. C. Sanchez, S. Stevenson, M. F. Stuecker, and **X. Wu**, 2023: The future of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation: Using large ensembles to illuminate time-varying responses and inter-model differences. *Earth Syst. Dynam.*, <https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-2022-26>.
6. Yeager, S. G., N. Rosenbloom, A. A. Glanville, **X. Wu**, I. Simpson, H. Li, M. J. Molina, K. Krumhardt, S. Mogen, K. Lindsay, D. Lombardozzi, W. Weider, W. M. Kim, J. H. Richter, M. Long, G. Danabasoglu, D. Bailey, M. Holland, N. Lovenduski, W. G. Strand, and, T. King, 2022: The Seasonal-to-Multiyear Large Ensemble (SMYLE) Prediction System using the Community Earth System Model Version 2, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 15, 6451–6493, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-15-6451-2022>.
5. **Wu, X.**, Y. M. Okumura, P. N. DiNezio, S. G. Yeager, and C. Deser, 2022: The Equatorial Pacific Cold Tongue Bias in CESM1 and its Influence on ENSO Forecasts. *J. Climate*, 35, 3261–3277, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-21-0470.1>.
4. **Wu, X.**, Y. M. Okumura, C. Deser and P. N. DiNezio, 2021: Two-year Dynamical Predictions of ENSO Event Duration during 1954–2015. *J. Climate*. 34, 4069–4087, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-20-0619.1>.
3. **Wu, X.**, Y. M. Okumura, and P. N. DiNezio, 2021: Predictability of El Niño Duration Based on the Onset Timing. *J. Climate*. 34, 1351–1366, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-19-0963.1>.
2. **Wu, X.**, Y. M. Okumura, and P. N. DiNezio, 2019: What Controls the Duration of El Niño and La Niña Events? *J. Climate*, 32, 5941–5965, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-18-0681.1>.
1. Okumura, Y. M., T. Sun, and **X. Wu**, 2017: Asymmetric Modulation of El Niño and La Niña and the Linkage to Tropical Pacific Decadal Variability. *J. Climate*, 30, 4705–4733, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-16-0680.1>.

*Submitted or under review*

DiNezio, P. N., T. Shanahan, T. Sun, C. Sun, **X. Wu**, A. Lawman, D. Lea, and M. Kageyama, U. Merkel, M. Prange, B. Otto-Bliesner, and X. Zhang, 2023: The tropical response to ocean circulation collapse, *Nature, in revision*.

Lawman, A., C. Sun, **X. Wu**, et al. 2024: Tropical rainfall changes in response to a weaker AMOC: Mechanisms and an integrative model-data comparison for Heinrich Stadial 1, *under review*.

*In preparation*

**Wu, X.**, A. T. Wittenberg, F. Zeng, B. G. Reichl, and F. Lu, 2024: Understanding the equatorial Pacific cold tongue bias via hierarchical coupled modeling, *to be submitted to J. Adv. Model. Earth Syst.*

## **Presentations**

---

*Invited seminar:*

“Advancing Seasonal-to-Decadal Climate Prediction in the Tropical Pacific”, The Department of Sustainable Earth Systems Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas, 03/2024.

“Advancing Seasonal-to-Decadal Climate Prediction in the Tropical Pacific”, The Department of Ocean Science, The Hong Kong of Science and Technology, 03/2024.

“Tropical Pacific decadal predictability: the role of volcanic forcing and ocean initialization”, Department of Earth Science Seminar Programme, The University of Hong Kong, 01/2024.

“Seasonal-to-decadal predictions in the tropical Pacific”, School of Oceanography Seminar, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 01/2024.

“Tropical Pacific decadal predictability: the role of volcanic forcing and ocean initialization”, GFLD seminar series, virtual, 10/2022.

*Invited conference presentations:*

“Understanding and improving ENSO simulation via mean-state bias corrections”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, Washington DC, 12/2024 (Talk).

“Volcanic forcing degrades multiyear-to-decadal prediction skill in the tropical Pacific”, EPESC/DCPP workshop on integrated attribution and prediction, 03/2023 (Talk).

“Predicting the duration of La Niña events using the CESM multiyear forecast systems”, WCRP the second chapter of the Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change webinar series on ‘Triple La Niña’, virtual, 11/2022 (Talk).

“Duration of El Niño and La Niña Events: Dynamics and Multiyear Predictability”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, virtual, 12/2020 (Poster).

*Other conference presentations:*

“Pinpointing the sources of equatorial Pacific SST biases in a coupled GCM”, Ocean Sciences Meeting 2024, 02/2024 (Talk, presented by a co-author, Brandon Reichl).

“Understanding the equatorial Pacific cold tongue bias via hierarchical coupled modeling”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 12/2023 (Talk).

“Volcanic forcing degrades multiyear-to-decadal prediction skill in the tropical Pacific”, Decadal Climate Variability and Predictability Webinar Series, 05/2023 (Talk).

“Predictability of tropical Pacific decadal variability and associated oceanic mechanisms”, CESM Working Group Meeting 2023, Boulder, CO, 02/2023 (Talk).

“Volcanic forcing degrades multiyear-to-decadal prediction skill in the tropical Pacific”, American Meteorological Society 103rd Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 01/2023 (Talk).

“Duration of El Niño and La Niña events: dynamics and multiyear predictability”, ICTP ENSO Summer School, Trieste, Italy, 08/2022 (Talk).

“Two-year dynamical predictions of ENSO event duration during 1954-2015”, CLIVAR Societally-Relevant Multi-Year Climate Predictions Workshop, Boulder CO, 03/2022 (Talk).

“The effect of volcanic eruptions on multiyear-to-decadal predictions in the tropical Pacific”, CESM Working Group Meeting 2022, virtual, 02/2022 (Talk).

“High prediction skill of tropical Pacific decadal climate in a decadal prediction system without volcanic forcing”, Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022, virtual, 03/2022 (Talk).

“High prediction skill of tropical Pacific decadal climate in a decadal prediction system without volcanic forcing”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, virtual, 12/2021 (Talk).

“The Equatorial Pacific Cold Tongue Bias in CESM1 and its Influence on ENSO Forecasts”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, virtual, 12/2021 (Poster).

“The Equatorial Pacific Cold Tongue Bias in CESM1 and its Influence on ENSO Forecasts”, CESM Working Group Meeting 2021, virtual, 02/2021 (Talk).

“Duration of El Niño and La Niña Events during 1954-2015”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, virtual, 12/2020 (Talk).

“Two-year Predictions of ENSO event duration during 1954-2015”, CESM Workshop 2020, virtual, 06/2020 (Talk).

“Duration of El Niño and La Niña event: mechanisms and multiyear predictability”, Water, Climate, and Environmental Seminar Series, Austin, TX, 03/2020 (Talk).

“Two-year Predictions of ENSO event duration during 1954-2015”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 12/2019 (Poster).

“Predictability of El Niño duration based on the onset timing”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 12/2019 (Talk)

“Predictability of El Niño duration based on the onset timing”, UT Austin Institute for Geophysics Seminar Series, Austin, TX, 12/2019 (Talk).

“Predictability of El Niño duration in a coupled general circulation model”, American Meteorological Society 99th Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ. 01/2019 (Talk).

“What controls the duration of El Niño and La Niña events?”, American Meteorological Society 98th Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. 01/2018 (Talk).

“Impact of Interbasin Teleconnections on the Duration of El Niño and La Niña”, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 12/2016 (Poster)

## Service

---

Associate Editor for *Journal of Climate*, 07/2023–present

Reviewer for *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, *Advances in Climate Change Research*, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, *Climate Dynamics*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *International Journal of Climatology*, *Journal of Climate*, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, *One Earth*, *Nature*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Nature Communications*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Science Bulletin*, *Science Advances*

NCAR ASP committee member, 2020–2023: writing club, seminar series

NOAA GFDL Internal reviewer, 2023–2024

## Media

---

NCAR UCAR News, “[Predictive Power of Climate Models May Be Masked by Volcanoes](#)”, 04/12/2023

NOAA CPO News, “[Evaluating The Impact Of Volcanic Eruptions In Tropical Pacific Climate Models](#)”, 04/28/2023

US CLIVAR Research Highlights, “[Predicting the duration of El Niño and La Niña events with multiyear lead time](#)”, 04/23/2021

NOAA MAPP News, “[Scientists Explore Cutting-Edge Multi-Year ENSO Forecasts Using Climate Model](#)”, 02/28/2021

The Washington Post, Capital Weather Gang, “[Lingering La Niña may help forecasters spot costly weather patterns two years away](#)”, 12/10/2020

## Teaching and Mentoring

---

Graduate Teaching Assistant, *GEO 302 Earth, Wind, and Fire*, UT Austin Spring 2018  
 Conduct two 1.5-hour lab sessions weekly for ~40 students, including grading assignments, reviewing lectures, leading discussions, and advising hands-on tasks.

Samantha Donner (Rutgers University), CIMES Summer Research Internships, Princeton University Topic: [Understanding the Dynamics, Predictability, and Changes of Multiyear La Nina Events](#) Summer 2024

## Summer Schools

---

AOS Summer 2023 Workshop on paleo, present, and future: Leveraging the past to understand and predict our changing climate, Princeton, NJ, USA 08/2023

ICTP Summer School on Theory, Mechanisms and Hierarchical Modeling of Climate Dynamics: Tropical Oceans, ENSO and their teleconnections, Trieste, Italy 08/2022

Artificial Intelligence for Earth System Science Summer School, Boulder, CO, USA 06/2020

Advanced Climate Dynamics Courses (Dynamics of the Seasonal Cycle), Norway 09/2017

NCAR Community Earth System Model Tutorial, Boulder, CO, USA

08/2016

## **Outreach**

---

Event Supervisor, UT Austin Science Olympiad Tournaments (Meteorology) 2018–2019  
K-12 STEM Outreach, Ford Elementary, Georgetown, Texas 2019  
Co-organize outreach activities on the 2014 World Meteorological Day, inform the public on air pollution facts and actions to reduce air pollution, Nanjing, China 2014

## **Computer Skills and Numerical Modeling**

---

Programming Languages FORTRAN, NCAR Command Language, Python, Shell Script  
Numerical Modeling NCAR CESM, GFDL SPEAR  
System Windows, Mac OS, Unix/Linux

## **Professional Memberships**

---

American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union