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Current position(s)

Research Physical Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York
Adjunct Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades

Areas of specialization

drought, land surface-climate interactions, paleoclimate, plant phenology

Appointments held

2009-pres Research Physical Scientist (GS-14), NASA-GISS, New York
2009-pres Adjunct Research Scientist, LDEO, New York
2009 Scientific Programmer/Analyst, NASA-GISS/Sigma Space Partners
2007-2009 NOAA Global Change Postdoctoral Fellow, NASA-GISS/LDEO

Education

2007 PhD in Environmental Science, University of Virginia (Advisors: Howard Epstein, Paolo D'Odorico)
2004 MSc in Environmental Science, University of Virginia (Advisor: Michael E. Mann)
2001 BS in Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Awards, Fellowships, & Invited Lectures

2017 CIRES Distinguished Lecturer, University of Colorado, Boulder
2017 Stephen S Visher Lecturer, Indiana University
2015 Kavli Fellow, Sixth Indo-American Frontiers of Science Symposium, US National Academy of Sciences
2013 NASA Early Career Achievement Medal
2010 2009 Editors' Citation for Excellence in Refereeing, AGU
2007 NOAA Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship, NOAA
2007 Maury Environmental Sciences Prize, University of Virginia

Peer Reviewed Publications

[†]student or postdoc in our research group

- [88] Williams AP, **Cook BI**, Smerdon JE, Bishop DA, Seager R, Mankin JS, (*in review*) “The 2016 southeastern US drought: an extreme departure from centennial wetting and cooling”, *Journal of Geophysical Research, Atmospheres*
- [87] Hanley ME, **Cook BI**, Fenner M (*in review*) “Climate variation and reproductive frequency and acorn yield in English Oaks”, *Plant Biology*
- [86] **Cook BI**, Williams AP, Mankin JS, Seager R, Smerdon J, Singh D, (*in review*) “Revisiting the leading drivers of Pacific coastal drought variability in the Contiguous United States”, *Journal of Climate*
- [85] Smerdon JE, Luterbacher J, Phipps S, and the **Hydro2k Consortium** (*in review*) “Comparing proxy and model estimates of hydroclimate variability and change over the Common Era”, *Climate of the Past*
- [84] Ault TR, St. George S, Smerdon J, Coats S, Mankin J, Carrillo C, **Cook BI** (*in review*) “A robust null hypothesis for the potential causes of megadrought in western North America”, *Journal of Climate*
- [83] [†]Mankin JS, Smerdon JE, **Cook BI**, Williams AP, Seager R (Early Release) “The curious case of projected 21st-century drying but greening in the American West”, *Journal of Climate*
- [82] [†]Pascolini-Campbell MA, Seager R, Pinson A, **Cook BI** (2017) “Covariability of climate and streamflow in the Upper Rio Grande from interannual to interdecadal timescales”, *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*, Vol 13, pp 58–71, doi: doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2017.07.007
- [81] Bonfils C, Anderson G, Santer BD, Phillips TJ, Taylor K, Cuntz M, Zelinka M, Marvel K, **Cook BI**, Cvijanovic I, Durack P (2017) “Competing influences of anthropogenic warming, ENSO, and plant physiology on future terrestrial aridity”, *Journal of Climate*, Early Online Release, doi: doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-17-0005.1
- [80] [†]Baek SH, Smerdon JE, Coats S, Williams AP, **Cook BI**, Cook ER, Seager R (2017) “Precipitation, temperature, and teleconnection signals across the combined North American, Monsoon Asia, and Old World Drought Atlases”, *Journal of Climate*, Early Online Releases, doi: doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-16-0766.1
- [79] [†]Rao MP, **Cook BI**, Cook ER, D’Arrigo RD, Krusic P, Anchukaitis KJ, LeGrande A, Buckley BM, Davi NK, Leland C, Griffin KL (2017) “European and Mediterranean hydroclimate responses to tropical volcanic forcing over the past millennium”, *Geophysical Research Letters*, DOI:10.1002/2017GL073057
- [78] Marvel K, Biasutti M, Bonfils C, Taylor KE, Kushnir Y, **Cook BI** (2017) “Observed and Projected Changes to the Precipitation Annual Cycle”, *Journal of Climate*, DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-16-0572.1
- [77] Touchan R, Anchukaitis KJ, Meko D, Kerchouche D, Slimani S, Ilmen R, Hasnaoui F-H, Guibal F, Julio-Camarero J, Sanchez-Salguero R, Piermattei A, Sesbou AS, **Cook BI**, Sabir M, Touchane H (2017) “Climate controls on tree growth in the Western Mediterranean”, *The Holocene*, doi:10.1177/0959683617693901
- [76] Krakauer NY, Puma MJ, **Cook BI**, Gentine P, Nazarenko L (2016) “Ocean-atmosphere interactions modulate irrigation’s climate impacts”, *Earth System Dynamics*, vol 7, pp 863-876, doi:10.5194/esd-7-863-2016

- [75] **Cook BI**, Palmer JG, Cook ER, Turney CSM, Allen K, Fenwick P, O'Donnell A, Lough J, Grierson PF, Ho M, Baker PJ (2016) "The paleoclimate context and future trajectory of extreme summer hydroclimate events in eastern Australia", *Journal of Geophysical Research, Atmospheres*, DOI: 10.1002/2016JD024892
- [74] †Coats S, Smerdon JE, **Cook BI**, Seager R, Cook ER, Anchukaitis KJ (2016) "Internal ocean-atmosphere variability drives megadroughts in Western North America", *Geophysical Research Letters*, 43, no. 18, 9886-9894, doi:10.1002/2016GL070105
- [73] Ault TR, Mankin JS, **Cook BI**, Smerdon JE (2016) "Relative impacts of mitigation, temperature, and precipitation on 21st-Century megadrought risk in the American Southwest", *Science Advances*, DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1600873
- [72] Stahle DW, Cook ER, Burnett DJ, Villanueva J, Cerano J, Burns JN, Griffin RD, **Cook BI**, Acuna R, Torbenson MCA, Sjezner P (2016) "The Mexican Drought Atlas: Tree-Ring Reconstructions of the Soil Moisture Balance During the late Pre-Hispanic, Colonial, and Modern Eras", *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Vol 149, Pages 34–60, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2016.06.018
- [71] Griffiths ML, Kimbrough AK, Gagan MK, Drysdale RN, Cole JE, Johnson KR, Zhao J, **Cook BI**, Hellstrom JC, Wahyoe SH (2016) "Western Pacific hydroclimate linked to global climate variability over the past millennium", *Nature Communications*, doi:10.1038/ncomms11719
- [70] **Cook BI**, Wolkovich EM (2016) "Climate change decouples drought from early winegrape harvests in France", *Nature Climate Change*, doi:10.1038/nclimate2960
- [69] **Cook BI**, Anchukaitis KJ, Touchan R, Meko DM, Cook ER (2016) "Spatiotemporal drought variability in the Mediterranean over the last 900 years", *Journal of Geophysical Research, Atmospheres*, Vol 121, pages 2060–2074, DOI:10.1002/2015JD023929
- [68] **Cook BI**, Cook ER, Smerdon JE, Seager R, Williams AP, †Coats S, Stahle DW, Díaz JV (2016) "North American Megadroughts in the Common Era: Reconstructions and Simulations", *WIREs Climate Change*, doi:10.1002/wcc.394
- [67] Palmer JG, Cook ER, Turney CSM, Fenwick P, **Cook BI**, O'Donnell A, Lough J, Grierson P, Baker P (2015) "Drought variability in the eastern Australia and New Zealand summer drought atlas (ANZDA, CE 1500-2012) modulated by the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation", *Environmental Research Letters*, 10, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/12/124002>
- [66] Williams AP, Seager R, Abatzoglou JT, **Cook BI**, Smerdon JE, Cook ER (2015) "Contribution of anthropogenic warming to California drought during 2012–2014", *Geophysical Research Letters*, DOI: 10.1002/2015GL06492
- [65] †Coats S, Smerdon JE, Seager R, Griffin D, **Cook BI** (2015), "Winter-to-summer precipitation phasing in southwestern North America: A multicentury perspective from paleoclimatic model-data comparisons", *Journal of Geophysical Research, Atmospheres*, DOI: 10.1002/2015JD023085
- [64] †Pascolini-Campbell MA, Seager R, Gutzler DS, **Cook BI**, Griffin D (2015) "Causes of Interannual to Decadal Variability of Gila River Streamflow over the Past Century", *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*, 3, 494-508, doi:10.1016/j.ejrh.2015.02.013
- [63] Seager R, †Hooks A, Williams AP, **Cook BI**, Nakamura J, Henderson N (2015) "Climatology, variability and trends in United States vapor pressure deficit, an important fire-related meteorological quantity", *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, 54, 1121–1141, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JAMC-D-14-0321.1>

- [62] Williams AP, Schwartz RE, Iacobellis S, Seager R, **Cook BI**, Still CJ, Husak G, Michaelsen J (2015) “Urbanization causes increased cloud base height and decreased fog in coastal Southern California”, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42, 1527–1536, DOI: 10.1002/2015GL063266
- [61] Smerdon JE, **Cook BI**, Cook ER, Seager R (2015) “Bridging past and future climate across paleoclimatic reconstructions, observations, and models: A hydroclimate case study”, *Journal of Climate*, 28, 3212–3231, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00417.1>
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- [59] Puma MJ, Bose S, Chon S-Y, **Cook BI** (2015) “Assessing the evolving fragility of the global food system”, *Environmental Research Letters*, 10, 024007, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/10/2/024007
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- [57] †Coats S, Smerdon JE, **Cook BI**, Seager R (2015) “Are Simulated Megadroughts in the North American Southwest Forced?”, *Journal of Climate*, 28, 124–142, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00071.1>
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Other Publications

Cook BI (2016): “Global warming is pushing wine harvests earlier – but not necessarily for the better”, *The Conversation*

Marvel K, Schmidt GA, Tsigaridis K, **Cook BI** (2015) “Sensitivity to factors underlying the hiatus”, *US CLIVAR Variations*, 13, no. 3, 25-29

Seager R, **Cook BI** (2012), “Dust Bowl”, *Encyclopedia of Natural Hazards*

Puma MJ, **Cook BI** (2011), “Irrigation’s climate effects and the water sustainability link”, *International Water Power and Dam Construction Magazine*, pp. 38–40, March

Students, Postdocs, Interns

Andrew Bell (postdoc), Liora Hostyk (undergrad), Sloan Coats (graduate student-committee member), Madeleine Pascolini-Campbell

Funded Proposal & Grants

“Collaborative Research: Cool and Warm Season Reconstruction and Modeling over North America”, NSF Award AGS-1266014, Collaborator, \$219,650

“P2C2: Continental scale droughts in North America: Their frequency, character and causes over the past millennium and near term future”, NSF Paleo-Perspectives on Climate Change, Collaborator, \$776,807

“Parameter Sets and Propagation of Uncertainty in a Global Terrestrial Biosphere Model: Data Mining, Diversity, and Expected Variability”, NASA ROSES 2012, Modeling Analysis and Prediction, CO-I, \$630,600

“Collaborative Research: EaSM2: Linking near-term future changes in weather and hydroclimate in western North America to adaptation for ecosystem and water management” NSF Award, CO-I, \$2,106,026

“Forecasting phenology: Integrating ecology, climatology, and phylogeny to understand plant responses to climate change.” Working Group Proposal, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. **Cook BI** and Wolkovich E

“Paleoclimate Shocks: Environmental Variability, Human Vulnerability, and Societal Adaptation During the Last Millennium in the Greater Mekong Basin.” NSF Award GEO-0908971, CO-I, \$1,401,351

“North American Megadrought: Atmosphere-Ocean Forcing and Landscape Response from the Medieval Period to the Near-Term Greenhouse Future.” NSF Award ATM-0902716, CO-I, \$638,135

“NSF P2C2 Collaborative Research: Past and Future Drought Variability in the Mediterranean Basin”. NSF Award I103450, CO-I, \$70,388

Professional Activities

- Member of “Phenology Team” as part of the National Climate Assessment
- Member of the Plant Phenology Advising Working Group, National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
- Advisor to research interns and postdoctoral researchers as part of NSF Award GEO-0908971; also advised High School Students on independent study projects at LDEO
- Panel, proposal, and manuscript reviewer: NASA, NSF, Journal of Geophysical Research, Global Change Biology, Water Resources Research, Geophysical Research Letters, Climate Dynamics, and Nature Geoscience.
- Lead organizer for oral and poster session at AGU 2010, “A03: Understanding Drought Variability, Forcing, and Feedbacks”
- Lead organizer for oral and poster session at AGU 2011, “B43a: Beyond Earlier Spring: Diverse Phenological Responses to Climate Across Species and Ecosystems”

Classes Taught

The Earth’s Climate System: A quantitative introduction to the climate system, including an overview of the global energy balance, general circulation, and specialized topics intended for non-science majors. (*Sustainability Management Program, Columbia University*)

Selected Media Coverage

- Allison Aubrey *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio (March 23, 2016), [Study Finds Climate Change Could Be Leading To Better Wine](#)
- Lucy Westcott Newsweek (March 3, 2016), [MOST RECENT MIDDLE EAST DROUGHT WAS WORST IN 900 YEARS: NASA](#)
- Ishaan Tharoor *Washington Post* (March 4, 2016), [The Middle East just suffered its worst drought in 900 years](#)
- Don Melvin *CNN* (March 3, 2016), [Mideast's worst drought in 900 years may have contributed to Syrian war](#)
- Darryl Fears *Washington Post*, [A 'megadrought' will grip U.S. in the coming decades, NASA researchers say](#)
- Ben Brumfeld *CNN* (February 14, 2015), [Risk of American 'megadroughts' for decades, NASA warns](#)
- Brian Clark Howard *National Geographic* (February 12, 2015), [Worst Drought in 1,000 Years Predicted for American West](#)
- Hannah Hoag *Nature News & Views* (October 16, 2014), [US Dust Bowl unrivalled in past 1,000 years](#)
- Andrea Thompson, *Climate Central* (April 2, 2014), [Warming Temperatures Could Dry Out One Third of Planet](#)
- Jonathan Overpeck, *Nature News & Views* (November 20, 2013), [Climate science: The challenge of hot drought](#)
- ScienceDaily* (March 11, 2013), [Study Predicts Lag in Summer Rains Over Parts of US and Mexico](#)
- Nicholas Mott, *National Geographic, Daily News* (November 9, 2012), [Why the Maya Fell: Climate Change, Conflict—And a Trip to the Beach?](#)
- UC Santa Barbara, *Science Daily* (June 1, 2012), [Plants Previously Thought to Be 'Stable' Found to Be Responding to Climate Change](#)
- Kim McDonald, *Phys.Org* (May 22, 2012), [More plant species responding to global warming than previously thought](#)
- Elizabeth Pennisi, *ScienceNOW* (May 2, 2012), [Plant Experiments Underestimate Climate Change Effects](#)
- Leslie McCarthy and Patrick Lynch, *NASA* (May 2, 2012), [Decades of Data Show Spring Advancing Faster Than Experiments Suggest](#)
- Shazia Khan, *NYI* (March 20, 2012), [Experts Say Warm Winter Could Lead To A Hot, Buggy Spring](#)
- Holli Riebeek and Jess Allen, *NASA Image of the Day* (February 1, 2012), [Mayan Deforestation and Drought](#)
- Stephanie Pappas, *MSNBC* (December 5, 2011), [Real Mayan apocalypse may have been their own fault](#)
- Adam Voiland and Maria José-Viñas, *NASA* (December 1, 2011), [Ancient Dry Spells Offer Clues About the Future of Drought](#)
- Jai Ranganathan, *Pacific Standard* (December 17, 2010), [The Dust Bowl: Lessons from the Greatest U.S. Environmental Disaster](#)
- Justin Gillis, *New York Times* (September 9, 2010), [The Irrigation Juggernaut](#)
- Michael Reilly, *Discovery News* (March 23, 2009), [Dust Bowl Had Human Fingerprint](#)
- Anthony DePalma, *New York Times* (September 15, 2008), [Weather History Offers Insight Into Global Warming](#)
- Jeanna Bryner, *Live Science* (May 4, 2008), [Why the 1930s Dust Bowl Was So Bad](#)