

# Isabela Le Bras

Assistant Scientist  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
email: ilebras@whoi.edu  
phone: (508) 289-2819

## EDUCATION

---

- Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography** 2011–2017  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program*  
“Dynamics of North Atlantic Western Boundary Currents”  
Thesis advisor: John M. Toole
- B.A. in Physics, Minor in Mathematics** 2006–2010  
*University of California, Berkeley*  
Highest honors in physics and general scholarship

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

---

- Assistant Scientist** 2020–present  
*Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*  
tenure-track position
- Postdoctoral Scholar** 2017–2020  
*Scripps Institution of Oceanography*  
Postdoctoral advisor: Fiamma Straneo
- Postdoctoral Investigator** Jan-Aug 2017  
*Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*  
Postdoctoral advisor: John M. Toole
- Graduate Research Assistant** 2011–2017  
*Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*  
Graduate supervisor: John M. Toole

## PUBLICATIONS

---

15. F. Li, and coauthors (including **I. A. Le Bras**), “Observation-based estimates of heat and freshwater exchanges from the subtropical North Atlantic to the Arctic”, *Progress in Oceanography* doi:10.1016/J.POCEAN.2021.102640, (2021).
14. A. Pacini, R. S. Pickart, **I. A. Le Bras**, F. Straneo, and N. P. Holliday, “Cyclonic eddies in the West Greenland Boundary Current System”, *Journal of Physical Oceanography* doi:10.1175/JPO-D-20-0255.1, 2087–2102 (2021).
13. F. Li, and coauthors (including **I. A. Le Bras**), “Subpolar North Atlantic western boundary density anomalies and the Meridional Overturning Circulation”, *Nature Communications* doi:10.1038/s41467-021-23350-2, (2021).

12. **I. A. Le Bras**, F. Straneo, M. Muilwijk, L. H. Smedsrud, F. Li, M. S. Lozier, and N. P. Holliday, “How much Arctic fresh water participates in the subpolar overturning circulation?”, *Journal of Physical Oceanography* doi:10.1175/JPO-D-20-0240.1, 955–973 (2021).
11. A. Pacini, R. S. Pickart, F. Bahr, D. J. Torres, A. Ramsey, J. Holte, J. Karstensen, M. Oltmanns, F. Straneo, **I. A. Le Bras**, G. W. K. Moore, M. F. de Jong, “Mean Conditions and Seasonality of the West Greenland Boundary Current System near Cape Farewell”, *Journal of Physical Oceanography* doi:10.1175/JPO-D-20-0086.1, 2849–2871 (2020).
10. **I. A. Le Bras**, F. Straneo, J. Holte, M.F. de Jong, and N. P. Holliday , “Rapid export of waters formed by convection near the Irminger Sea’s western boundary”, *Geophysical Research Letters* doi.org/10.1029/2019GL085989, (2020).
9. **I. A. Le Bras**, M. Sonnewald, and J.M. Toole, “A barotropic vorticity budget for the subtropical North Atlantic based on observations”, *Journal of Physical Oceanography* doi:10.1175/JPO-D-19-0111.1, (2019).
8. E. Frajka-Williams,...**I. A. Le Bras**, ... and 35 others, “Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation: Observed transports and variability”, *Frontiers in Marine Science* **6**, (2019).
7. J. Hopkins, N. P. Holliday, D. Rayner, L. Houpert, **I. A. Le Bras**, F. Straneo, C. Wilson, and S. Bacon, “Transport variability of the Irminger Sea Deep Western Boundary Current from a mooring array”, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* **124**, (2019).
6. M. S. Lozier, F. Li, ... **I. A. Le Bras**, ... and 35 others, “A sea change in our view of overturning– first results from the Overturning in the Subpolar North Atlantic Program”, *Science* **363**, 516–521 (2019).
5. **I. A. Le Bras**, F. Straneo, J. Holte, and N. P. Holliday , “Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System from 2014 to 2016”, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* **123**, (2018).
4. **I. A. Le Bras**, S. Jayne, and J. M. Toole, “The interaction of recirculation gyres and a deep boundary current”, *Journal of Physical Oceanography* **48**, 573-590 (2018).
3. J. M. Toole, M. Andres, **I. A. Le Bras**, T. Joyce and M. McCartney, “Moored observations of the Deep Western Boundary Current in the NW Atlantic: 2004-2014”, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* **122**, 7488-7505 (2017).
2. **I. A. Le Bras**, I. Yashayaev, and J. M. Toole, “Tracking Labrador Sea Water property signals along the Deep Western Boundary Current”, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* **122**, 5348-5366 (2017).
1. **I. A. Le Bras** and T. Karin (co-first authors), A. Kehlberger, K. Singer, N. Daniilidis, and H. Haeffner, “Transport of charged particles by adjusting RF voltage amplitudes”, *Applied Physics B* **106**, 117-125 (2012).

## SEMINARS

---

Series of virtual seminars:

University of Rhode Island, physical oceanography seminar

NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, sea level rise seminar	
WHOI physical oceanography seminar	March 2021
“How much Arctic fresh water participates in the subpolar overturning circulation?”	
CLIVAR POS panel webinar	Oct 2020
“How much Arctic fresh water participates in the subpolar overturning circulation?”	
Caltech	January 2020
“Freshwater, Convection, and Overturning in the Irminger Sea”	
U Mass Dartmouth	Oct 2019
“The East Greenland Current System: Seasonality of Freshwater and Boundary Current - Convection Interactions”	
Applied Physics Laboratory - University of Washington seminar	June 2019
“Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System”	
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Mar 2019
“Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System”	
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CASPO Seminar	Jan 2019
“Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System”	
Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Ocean and Climate Physics Seminar	Nov 2018
“Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System”	
Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences	Oct 2018
“Seasonality of Freshwater in the East Greenland Current System”	
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CASPO Seminar	Oct 2017
“Advection and Stirring of the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
Bjerknes Center, GFI seminar, Bergen, Norway	May 2017
“Observing and modeling sitrring of the Deep Western Boundary Curent”	
Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences	Mar 2017
“Stirring in the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
Series of seminars in Germany	
1. GEOMAR, Kiel; 2. Marum, Universität Bremen; 3. Universität Hamburg	Jan 2016
“Observing and Modeling Stirring of the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
University of California, Los Angeles	Dec 2015
“Observing and Modeling Stirring of the Deep Western Boundary Current”	

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

	<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , M-L.Timmermans, A.Proshutinsky, R. Krishfield
ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting (Dec 2021)	
Arctic volume, mass, and freshwater budgets from 2004 to 2010 “	
” Arctic and Subarctic Ocean Fluxes (ASOF) (virtual oral presentation)	Oct 2021
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , M-L.Timmermans, A.Proshutinsky, R. Krishfield “Revisiting Arctic freshwater budgets from 2004 to 2010”	
European Geoscience Union (virtual Pico presentation)	April 2021
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, M. Muilwijk, L.H. Smedsrud, F.Li, M.S. Lozier and N. P. Holliday “How much Arctic fresh water participates in the subpolar overturning circulation?”	
Arctic and Subarctic Ocean Fluxes (ASOF) (virtual oral presentation)	Oct 2020
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, M. Muilwijk, L.H. Smedsrud, F.Li, M.S. Lozier and N. P. Holliday “How much Arctic fresh water participates in the subpolar overturning circulation?”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, San Diego, CA (oral presentation)	Feb 2020
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, J. Holte, M. F. de Jong and N. P. Holliday “Rapid export of waters formed by convection near the Irminger Sea’s western boundary”	
Ocean Obs’19, Honolulu, HI (poster presentation)	Sep 2019
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, J. Holte, M. F. de Jong and N. P. Holliday “Observing the link between convection and deep water export”	
EGU Meeting, Vienna, Austria (poster presentation)	Apr 2019
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, J. Holte, and N. P. Holliday “Convection and deep water export in the Irminger Sea”	
AGU Fall Meeting, Washington D.C. (poster presentation)	Dec 2018
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , N. Beaird, and F. Straneo “Freshwater budgets for the ocean east of Greenland”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR (oral presentation)	Feb 2018
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, J. Holte and N. P. Holliday “Seasonality of Freshwater in East Greenland Current System”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, Oregon	Feb 2018
“Observing and Modeling the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
Irminger Sea Workshop, Southampton, UK (oral presentation)	Nov 2017
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , F. Straneo, J. Holte and N. P. Holliday “Seasonality of Freshwater in East Greenland Current System”	
USAMOC meeting, Santa Fe, NM (oral presentation)	May 2017
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> , I. Yashayaev, and J.M. Toole	

“Labrador Sea Water property changes along the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
EGU meeting, Vienna, Austria (poster presentation)	Apr 2017
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> and J.M. Toole “A vorticity budget for the Gulf Stream”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA (poster presentation)	Feb 2016
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> and J.M. Toole “Line W Measurements of the Deep Western Boundary Current reflect changes in Labrador Sea Convection”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA (poster presentation)	Feb 2016
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> “Clubes de Ciencia: Intensive science workshops in Mexico provide a unique opportunity for teaching, scientific and cultural exchange”	
RAPID-USAMOC International Science Meeting, Bristol, UK (oral presentation)	Jul 2015
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> and J. M. Toole “A decade of Line W observations of the Deep Western Boundary Current”	
Graduate Climate Conference, Pack Forest, WA (poster presentation)	Oct 2014
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> and J. M. Toole “Deep western boundary current exchange with the interior”	
Ocean Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI (poster presentation)	Feb 2014
<b>I. A. Le Bras</b> and J. M. Toole “Testing classic theories of western boundary currents in the North Atlantic”	

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

---

**WHOI commitees:** PO website committee (2020-), CDEI subcommittee for faculty hiring (2020-), Ad hoc hiring committee (2021)

**Panel member:** CLIVAR POS panel

**Reviewer:** National Science Foundaiton; Nature; Journal of Physical Oceanography; Geophysical Research Letters; Science Advances; Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans; Journal of Climate; Nature Scientific Reports; Ocean Modelling; Ocean Science Discussions; Earth System Science Data Discussions (ESSDD)

**Session chair:** EGU meeting 2019, Ocean Circulation and Climate Open Session; Graduate Climate Conference 2013, Physical Oceanography session

**Steering committee member:** Mentoring Physical Oceanography Women to Increase Retention (2016-2020)

**Article for the general public:** “Detours on the oceanic highway” Oceanus Magazine

## OUTREACH

---

**2021:** Panelist for Boston College SACNAS chapter(Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) career path discussion

**2020:** Two presentations to summer undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds “Chimneys into the deep ocean: measuring the ocean circulation around Greenland”

**2018, 2020:** Organized LGBTQ+ event at Ocean Sciences Meeting

**2019:** Talked about science careers and did experiments with groups of underrepresented sixth

graders from San Diego on the Scripps Pier in collaboration with Birch Aquarium.

**2018:** Did experiments with students at Ocean Beach Elementary School for their "Science Night".

**2015-2016:** Served as a judge for Falmouth High School Science Fair.

**2014:** Submerge! New York City marine science festival. Manned booth of hands-on activities for WHOI. Estimated more than 4000 people in attendance.

## RESEARCH CRUISES

---

**Summer 2020:** Overturning in the Subpolar North Atlantic Program (OSNAP) cruise AR45.

Responsible party for cruise dissolved gas component and CTD watchstander.

Chief Scientist: Robert Pickart; Woods Hole, MA.

**Fall 2018:** Overturning in the Subpolar North Atlantic Program (OSNAP) cruise AR30-06.

Cape Farewell mooring specialist and responsible party for CTD  $\chi$ -pod measurements.

Chief Scientist: Robert Pickart; Reykjavik, Iceland.

**July 2017:** Sermilik fjord research expedition. CTD specialist.

Chief Scientist: Fiamma Straneo; Tassilaq, Greenland,

**May 2014:** Line W research cruise KN218. CTD watch leader.

Chief Scientist: John M. Toole; Woods Hole, MA.

**Aug 2012:** Line W research cruise KN208. CTD watch stander.

Chief Scientist: John M. Toole; Woods Hole, MA.

**May 2012:** WOCE/CLIVAR A22 hydrography cruise AT20-1A. CTD watch stander.

Chief Scientist: Ruth Curry; Woods Hole, MA - Bridgetown, Barbados.

## TEACHING

---

**October 2020:** Guest lecture on ocean convection in Boston College Oceanography class (virtual).

Professor Hilary Palevsky.

**April 2018:** Guest lecture on water mass analysis and the overturning circulation for ice-ocean interactions course, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CA. Professor Fiamma Straneo.

**September 2016:** Teaching assistant for introductory course on github and python through the Software Carpentry program, Woods Hole, MA.

**January 2016:** Designed and taught 3 lectures of an undergraduate short-course entitled "Anthropocene", Woods Hole, MA.

**January 2015:** Created curriculum and taught a week-long, all-day workshop on ocean physics to college and high school students using lab experiments and numerical simulations (in English and

Spanish) at UABC in Ensenada, Mexico through Clubes de Ciencia program.

**Spring 2014:** Took course through MIT's Teaching and Learning Laboratory on teaching methods culminating in MIT Teaching Certificate, Cambridge, MA.

**Fall 2013:** Teaching assistant for introduction to observational physical oceanography, MIT course 12.808 with Dr. Magdalena Andres and Dr. Jake Gebbie. MIT-WHOI Joint Program.

**Summer 2013 and 2015:** Short Course Instructor for graduate student math refresher. MIT-WHOI Joint Program.