

Sen Zhao

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Research Interests

Climate Dynamics and Predictability; Climate Modeling; Air-Sea Interactions; Wave Dynamics and Atmospheric Teleconnections; ENSO; Paleoclimate

Professional Appointment

Postdoctoral Fellow

Oct 2016 - Present

Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Advisor: Fei-Fei Jin
Working on dynamic diagnosis and modeling of ENSO variability and related topics

Education

Ph.D. Meteorology

Sep 2011 – Aug 2016

Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
Dissertation: “*Theory of Cross-Equatorial Propagation of Planetary Wave in Horizontally Non-Uniform Basic Flow and Its Applications in Atmospheric Teleconnections*”. Advisor: Jianping Li

B.S. Atmospheric Sciences

Sep 2007 – Aug 2011

College of Atmospheric Sciences, and School of Mathematics and Statistics, Lanzhou University
Thesis: “*Evaluation of WRF microphysics and cumulus schemes in simulating Hurricane Katrina*”

Publications

Totally 37 SCI articles (6 as first author) and 1 book chapter with air-sea interactions in **red**, Rossby wave and teleconnections in **blue** and Paleoclimate in **green**, respectively. Total [Google Scholar citations](#) are 772, [Publons SCI citations](#) are 590 as of July 3, 2021.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 37.** Zhao, S., F.-F. Jin, X. Long, and M. Cane (2021): [On the Breakdown of ENSO’s Relationship with Thermocline Depth in the Central-Equatorial Pacific](#). *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 48(9), e2020GL092335.
- 36.** Zhou, X., Q. Chen, Z. Wang, M. Xu, S. Zhao, Z. Cheng, and F. Feng (2020): [Longer duration of the weak stratospheric vortex during extreme El Niño events linked to spring Eurasian coldness](#). *J. Geophys. Res.: Atmos.*, 125(16), e2019JD032331.
- 35.** Liu, T., J. Li, Q. Wang, S. Zhao (2020): [Influence of the Autumn SST in the Southern Pacific Ocean on Winter Precipitation in the North American Monsoon Region](#). *Atmosphere*, 11(8), 844.
- 34.** Tseng, Y., R. Ding, S. Zhao, Y. Kuo, and Y. Liang (2020): [Could the North Pacific Oscillation Be Modified by the Initiation of East Asian Winter Monsoon?](#) *J. Climate*, 33, 2389–2406.
- 33.** Xue, A., F.-F. Jin, W. Zhang, J. Boucharel, S. Zhao, and X. Yuan (2020): [Delineating the Seasonally Modulated Nonlinear Feedback onto ENSO from Tropical Instability Waves](#). *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 47(7), e2019GL085863.
- 32.** Zhao, S., M. F. Stuecker, F.-F. Jin, J. Feng, H. Ren, W. Zhang, and J. Li (2020): [Improved Predictability of the Indian Ocean Dipole using a Stochastic-Dynamical Model compared to the North American Multi-model Ensemble Forecast](#). *Wea. Forecasting*, 35(2), 379–399.

31. Zhang Y., J. Li, **S. Zhao**, F. Zheng, J. Feng, Y. Li, Y. Xu (2020): [Indian Ocean tripole mode and its associated atmospheric and oceanic processes](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 55(5), 1367-1383.
30. Feng, J., J. Li, F.-F. Jin, Z. Liu, and **S. Zhao** (2019): [Effect of El Niño on the Response Ratio of Hadley Circulation to Different SST Meridional Structures](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 53, 3877–3891.
29. **Zhao, S.**, F.-F. Jin, and M. F. Stuecker (2019): [Improved Predictability of the Indian Ocean Dipole Using Seasonally Modulated ENSO Forcing Forecasts](#). *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 46(16), 9980–9990.
28. Wang, Q., J. Li, Y. Li, J. Xue, **S. Zhao**, Y. Xu, Y. Wang, Y. Zhang, D. Dong, and J. Zhang (2019): [Modulation of tropical cyclone tracks over the western North Pacific by intra-seasonal Indo-western Pacific convection oscillation during the boreal extended summer](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 52(1-2), 913–927.
27. **Zhao, S.**, J. Li, Y. Li, F.-F. Jin, and J. Zheng (2019): [Interhemispheric Influence of Indo-Pacific Convection Oscillation on Southern Hemisphere Rainfall through Southward Propagation of Rossby Waves](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 52(5), 3203–3221.
26. Shi, F., H. Goosse, F. Klein, **S. Zhao**, T. Liu, and Z. Guo (2019): [Monopole mode of precipitation in East Asia modulated by the South China Sea over the last four centuries](#). *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 46(24), 14713–14722.
25. Li, Y., J. Feng, J. Li, and **S. Zhao** (2018): [The Circle Diagram in the Group Velocity Domain for Rossby Wave under the Horizontally Non-Uniform Flow](#). *SOLA*, 14, 121–125.
24. Li, Y., J. Li, F. Kucharski, J. Feng, **S. Zhao**, and J. Zheng (2018): [Two Leading Modes of the Interannual Variability in South American Surface Air Temperature during Austral Winter](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 51(5-6), 2141–2156.
23. Liu, T., J. Li, Y. Li, **S. Zhao**, F. Zheng, J. Zheng, and Z. Yao (2018): [Influence of the May Southern Annular Mode on the South China Sea Summer Monsoon](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 51(11-12), 4095–4107.
22. Feng, J., J. Li, F.-F. Jin, **S. Zhao**, and J. Zhu (2018): [Relationship between the Hadley circulation and different tropical meridional SST structures during boreal summer](#). *J. Climate*, 31(16), 6575–6590.
21. Stuecker, M. F., C. M. Bitz, K. C. Armour, C. Proistosescu, S. M. Kang, S.-P. Xie, D. Kim, S. McGregor, W. Zhang, **S. Zhao**, W. Cai, Y. Dong, and F.-F. Jin (2018): [Polar Amplification Dominated by Local Forcing and Feedbacks](#). *Nature Climate Change*, 8(12), 1076–1081.
20. Xue, J., J. Li, C. Sun, **S. Zhao**, J. Mao, D. Dong, Y. Li, and J. Feng (2018): [Decadal-Scale Teleconnection between South Atlantic SST and Southeast Australia Surface Air Temperature in Austral Summer](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 50(7-8), 2687–2703.
19. Zhou, X., J. Li, F. Xie, R. Ding, Y. Li, **S. Zhao**, J. Zhang, and Y. Li (2018): [The Effects of the Indo-Pacific Warm Pool on the Stratosphere](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 51(11-12), 4043–4064.
18. Huyan, L., J. Li, **S. Zhao**, C. Sun, D. Dong, T. Liu, and Y. Zhao (2017): [The Impact of Layer Perturbation Potential Energy on the East Asian Summer Monsoon](#). *J. Climate*, 30(17), 7087–7103.
17. Tian, W., Y. Li, F. Xie, J. Zhang, M. P. Chipperfield, W. Feng, Y. Hu, **S. Zhao**, X. Zhou, Y. Yang, and X. Ma (2017): [The relationship between lower-stratospheric ozone at southern high latitudes and sea surface temperature in the East Asian marginal seas in austral spring](#). *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 17(11), 6705–6722.
16. Xie, F., J. Li, J. Zhang, W. Tian, Y. Hu, **S. Zhao**, C. Sun, R. Ding, J. Feng, and Y. Yang (2017): [Variations in North Pacific Sea Surface Temperature Caused by Arctic Stratospheric Ozone Anomalies](#). *Environ. Res. Lett.*, 12(11), 114023.
15. Shi, F., **S. Zhao**, Z. Guo, H. Goosse, and Q. Yin (2017): [Multi-proxy reconstructions of May–September precipitation field in China over the past 500 years](#). *Clim. Past*, 13(12), 1919–1938.
14. Stuecker, M. F., A. Timmermann, F.-F. Jin, Y. Chikamoto, W. Zhang, A. T. Wittenberg, E. Widiasih, and **S. Zhao** (2017): [Revisiting ENSO/Indian Ocean Dipole Phase Relationships](#). *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 44(5), 2481–2492. (**AGU Editor’s Highlight**)
13. Feng, J., J. Li, F.-F. Jin, **S. Zhao**, and F. Xie (2017): [The responses of the Hadley circulation to different meridional SST structures in the seasonal cycle](#). *J. Geophys. Res.: Atmos.*, 122(15), 7785–7799.

12. Qin, J., R. Ding, Z. Wu, J. Li, and **S. Zhao** (2017): [Relationships between the extratropical ENSO precursor and leading modes of atmospheric variability in the Southern Hemisphere](#). *Adv. Atmos. Sci.*, 34(3), 360–370.
11. Ding, R., J. Li, Y.-h. Tseng, K.-J. Ha, **S. Zhao**, and J.-Y. Lee (2016): [Interdecadal change in the lagged relationship between the Pacific–South American pattern and ENSO](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 47(9-10), 2867–2884.
10. Yang, F., N. Wang, F. Shi, F. C. Ljungqvist, **S. Zhao**, and T. Liu (2016): [The spatial distribution of precipitation over the West Qinling region, China, AD 1470–2000](#). *Palaeogeogr. Palaeoclimatol. Palaeoecol.*, 443, 278–285.
9. Zheng, F., J. Li, Y. Li, **S. Zhao**, and D. Deng (2016): [Influence of the Summer NAO on the Spring-NAO-Based Predictability of the East Asian Summer Monsoon](#). *J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol.*, 55(7), 1459–1476.
8. Zheng, J., Q. Wu, Y. Guo, and **S. Zhao** (2016): [The Impact of Summertime North Indian Ocean SST on Tropical Cyclone Genesis over the Western North Pacific](#). *SOLA*, 12, 242–246.
7. Kazmi, D. H., J. Li, C. Ruan, **S. Zhao**, and Y. Li (2016): [A Statistical Downscaling Model for Summer Rainfall over Pakistan](#). *Climate Dyn.*, 47(7–8), 2653–2666.
6. **Zhao, S.**, J. Li, and C. Sun (2016): [Decadal Variability in the Occurrence of Wintertime Haze in Central Eastern China Tied to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation](#). *Sci. Rep.*, 6, 27424. **(Top 100 read Scientific Reports articles in 2016)**
5. Shi, F., Q. Ge, B. Yang, J. Li, F. Yang, F. C. Ljungqvist, O. Solomina, T. Nakatsuka, N. Wang, **S. Zhao**, C. Xu, K. Fang, M. Sano, G. Chu, Z. Fan, N. P. Gaire, and M. U. Zafar (2015): [A Multi-Proxy Reconstruction of Spatial and Temporal Variations in Asian Summer Temperatures over the Last Millennium](#). *Climatic Change*, 131(4), 663–676.
4. Zhu, G., W. Lin, **S. Zhao**, and Y. Cao (2015): [Spatial and temporal variation characteristics of ocean waves in the South China Sea during the boreal winter](#). *Acta Oceanol. Sin.*, 34(1), 23–28.
3. Sun, C., J. Li, and **S. Zhao** (2015): [Remote Influence of Atlantic Multidecadal Variability on Siberian Warm Season Precipitation](#). *Sci. Rep.*, 5, 16853.
2. **Zhao, S.**, J. Li, and Y. Li (2015): [Dynamics of an Interhemispheric Teleconnection across the Critical Latitude through a Southerly Duct during Boreal Winter](#). *J. Climate*, 28(19), 7437–7456.
1. Li, Y., J. Li, F.-F. Jin, and **S. Zhao** (2015): [Interhemispheric Propagation of Stationary Rossby Waves in a Horizontally Nonuniform Background Flow](#). *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 72(8), 3233–3256.

Peer-reviewed book chapters

Jin F.-F., H.-C. Chen, **S. Zhao**, M. Hayashi, C. Karamperidou, M. F. Stuecker, R. Xie, and L. Geng (2020) [Simple ENSO Models](#). In: Santoso A, Cai W, McPhaden MJ (eds) *El Niño Southern Oscillation in a Changing Climate*, 119-151.

Papers submitted or in preparation

Zhao, S., F.-F. Jin, and M. F. Stuecker: Understanding Lead Times of Warm-Water-Volumes to ENSO Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, in review after a major revision.

Zhao, S., and F.-F. Jin: A Robust Assessment of the Bjerknes-Wyrki-Jin Indices for ENSO Linear Stability and Periodicity. Part I: Ensemble of Ocean Reanalyses. to be submitted.

Zhao, S., and F.-F. Jin: A Robust Assessment of the Bjerknes-Wyrki-Jin Indices for ENSO Linear Stability and Periodicity. Part II: CMIP5 and CMIP6 models. in preparation.

Zhao, S., J. Li, F.-F. Jin, M.F. Stuecker, J. Feng, and Y. Li: Rossby wave phase tracing theory on a horizontally non-uniform flow with application to understand the structure of the Pacific-Japan teleconnection. to be submitted

Presentations

Talks

- Improved Predictability of the Indian Ocean Dipole Using Seasonally Modulated ENSO Forcing, *AOGS 15th Annual Meeting*, Honolulu, USA, June 03–08, 2018
- Decadal Variability in the Occurrence of Wintertime Haze in Central Eastern China Tied to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, *AOGS 15th Annual Meeting*, Honolulu, USA, June 03–08, 2018

Posters

- A robust assessment of the Bjerknes-Wyrtki-Jin indices for ENSO growth rate and periodicity, AGU Fall Meeting 2019, San Francisco, USA, December 9–13, 2019
- Interhemispheric influence of the Indo-Pacific convection oscillation on Southern Hemisphere rainfall, AOGS 13th Annual Meeting, Beijing, China, July 31–August 5, 2016
- Interhemispheric influence of the Indo-Pacific convection oscillation on Southern Hemisphere rainfall, The 13th General Circulation Model Simulations of the East Asian Climate (EAC) workshop, Beijing, China, March 24–25, 2016
- The Hemispheric Propagation of Stationary waves in Atmosphere, EGU General Assembly 2013, Vienna, Austria, April 7–12, 2013
- The Hemispheric Propagation of Stationary waves in Atmosphere, ICDM Workshop 2012, Kunming, China, August 6–9, 2012

Teaching

- **Guest Lecturer**, “Applied Atmospheric Dynamics” (ATMO 402), Instructor: Fei-Fei Jin, UH Mānoa spring semester 2020
- **Co-Instructor**, “Dynamics of El Niño–Southern Oscillation Phenomenon” (ATMO 752), Instructor: Fei-Fei Jin, UH Mānoa spring semester 2019
- **Guest Lecturer**, “Applied Atmospheric Dynamics” (ATMO 402), Instructor: Fei-Fei Jin, UH Mānoa spring semester 2019

Professional Services and Experience

Journal reviewer

- Journal of Climate, Geophysical Research Letters, Climate Dynamics, Scientific Reports, Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmosphere, Atmosphere, Theoretical and Applied Climatology, Earth and Space Science

Scientific Societies

- American Geophysical Union (AGU), Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS), European Geosciences Union (EGU)

Contributed Projects

- **U.S. National Science Foundation**: “Further Studies of Dynamics for El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diversity and Complexity” (PI: Fei-Fei Jin), 2018–2021
- **U.S. Department of Energy**: “Understanding ENSO Diversity and Changes in Climate Models and Observations” (PI: Fei-Fei Jin), 2018–2021
- **National Science Foundation of China**: “Temporal and Spatial Characteristics of Interhemispheric Atmospheric Teleconnections in the Boreal Summer and Mechanism on the Theory of Cross-Equatorial Propagation of Planetary Wave” (PI: Yanjie Li), 2016–2019

- **National Science Foundation of China:** “New theory of the planetary wave propagation in divergent atmosphere and its characteristics over the Asian-Australian Monsoon region” (PI: Yanjie Li), 2013-2015
- **National Science Foundation of China:** “On the new theory of planetary wave on non-uniform basic flow and interactions between Asian and Australian monsoon systems” (PI: Jianping Li), 2011-2014

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

- **National Scholarship**, Ministry of Education of China, No. 50257, 2013
- **Outstanding Student Leader**, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2012, 2013, 2014
- **Outstanding Student**, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- **Outstanding Graduate**, Lanzhou University, 2011
- **Contemporary Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling Award**, National Second Prize and Special Prize of Gansu Province, CSIAM, 2009
- **First Class Scholarship of Lanzhou University**, 2009
- **China National Encouragement Scholarship**, 2008, 2010

Self-Development Toolkits and Models

- **A simple stochastic-dynamical IOD prediction system.** The system exhibits generally higher skill and longer lead times for predicting IOD events than current operational forecast systems
- **An intermediate tropical ocean model (iTOM).** This is a linear continuously stratified ocean model extended to all tropical oceans with a more realistic coastline and a space dependent background stratification, show improved performance than Zebiak-Cane type ocean model
- **Rossby wave ray and phase tracing,** A software package for investigating the Rossby wave propagation and its phase evolution in a horizontally non-uniform basic flow

Skills

- **Mathematical reasoning**
- **Modeling using General Circulation Models (NCAR CESM and GFDL models):**
 - CAM5 SST/SIC sensitivity experiments
 - POP2 momentum and buoyancy fluxes forced experiments
 - CESM Fully-coupled and slab-ocean experiments
 - GFDL CM2.1/CESM pacemaker experiments
 - CESM aqua-planet experiments
- **Modeling using Intermediate and Simple Models:**
 - Linear Baroclinic Models
 - Isca
 - Intermediate tropical ocean model
 - Zebiak-Cane ENSO Model
 - SPEEDY
 - Gill-Matsuno Model
 - Shallow Water Model for Global Ocean
 - Barotropic Model
 - Recharge Oscillator Model
- **Coding:** Python, Fortran, Matlab, CDO, NCO, NCL, Ferret, Gnuplot, R, Linux Shells, LATEX, C++
- **Languages:** English and Mandarin Chinese

Last updated: July 3, 2021