

# Xiaohan (Sally) Li

CIMES Postdoc Research Associate  
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), NOAA/  
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Program, Princeton University  
Email: [xiaohanl@princeton.edu](mailto:xiaohanl@princeton.edu) | [Personal Webpage](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [ResearchGate](#)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- Aerosol microphysics, interfacial physics and chemistry, aerosol-cloud interaction, and climate modeling

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering** 2018 — 2023

Princeton University, USA

Thesis: *Water, Salt, Organics, and Minerals: Improved Understanding of Aerosol Microphysics From a Nanoscale Basis*

Advisor: [Ian C. Bourg](#)

**B.S. in Energy and Resources Engineering** 2014 — 2018

**B.S. in Economics** (minor) 2015 — 2018

Peking University, China

Research Advisor: [Dongxiao Zhang](#)

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

**NOAA GFDL/Princeton University** 2023 — Present

CIMES Postdoc Research Associate

Host: [Paul Ginoux](#)

**Texas A&M University** 2023

Visiting Scholar in Atmospheric Sciences Department

Host: [Yue Zhang](#)

## AWARDS

---

**C. Ellen Gonter Environmental Chemistry Award** ..... 2023

*Highest award given to students by the Division of Environmental Chemistry of the American Chemical Society for the highest quality research papers.*

**Walbridge Fund Graduate Award for Environmental Research** ..... 2021

*Awarded to Princeton Ph.D. candidates pursuing innovative research on climate science, energy solutions, environmental policy or other environmental topic.*

**Merit Student, Peking University** ..... 2014 — 2018

*Honor awarded annually to outstanding students for exceptional academic achievements at Peking University (with Xiaohan being elected a total of 4 times).*

**National Encouragement Scholarship, Ministry of Education, China** ..... 2014 — 2018

*An annual award recognizing students for exceptional academic achievements and noteworthy contributions in extracurricular activities (with Xiaohan being elected a total of 4 times).*

**Cyrus Tang Scholarship** ..... 2014 — 2018

*Scholarship awarded to exceptional students dedicated to leadership, community service, and fostering global understanding and cooperation (with Xiaohan being awarded a total of 4 times).*

**Meritorious Winner, International Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM), COMAP** ..... 2016

*Awarded to the top 8% of teams worldwide for solving a real-world mathematical application problem.*

**2nd Prize in National College Students Physics Competition, China** ..... 2015

*Awarded for nationwide excellence in physics.*

## PUBLICATIONS

---

1. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Hygroscopic growth of adsorbed water films on smectite clay particles. *Environmental Science & Technology*, **58**, 2, 1109–1118 (2024).
2. **Li, X.** Water, salt, organics, and minerals: improved understanding of aerosol microphysics from a nanoscale basis. *Princeton University* (2023).

3. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Phase State, surface tension, water activity, and accommodation coefficient of water–organic clusters near the critical size for atmospheric new particle formation. *Environmental Science & Technology*, **57**, 13092-13103 (2023).
4. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Microphysics of liquid water in sub-10 nm ultrafine aerosol particles. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, **23**, 2525-2556 (2023).
5. Wu Y., Li P., Yan B., **Li, X.**, Huang Y., Yuan J., Feng X., Dai C. A Salt-Induced Tackifying Polymer for Enhancing Oil Recovery in High-Salt Reservoirs: Synthesis, Evaluation, and Mechanism. *Green Energy & Environment*, **in press** (2023).
6. Zhou S., Zhang D., Wang H., **Li, X.** A modified BET equation to investigate supercritical methane adsorption mechanisms in shale. *Marine and Petroleum Geology*, **105**, 284-292 (2019).

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

---

### Teaching Assistant

Princeton University

CEE207 (Fall 2020)

— I hosted three precepts per week, developed weekly quizzes, held office hours, and graded homework.

### Undergraduate Research Advising

Princeton University

— I identified research topics, developed research questions, designed experiments, and supervised the following students:

- Yuno Iwasaki, Department of Physics, Class of 2023  
Topics: *Characterizing the microphysics of atmospheric organic aerosols using molecular dynamics simulations*
- George Dickinson, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Class 2023  
Topics: *Molecular dynamics simulations of black carbon-water interactions in the atmosphere*
- Benjamin Henry, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Class 2022  
Topics: *Molecular dynamics simulations of curvature impact on black carbon wettability*

## SERVICE AND OUTREACH

---

### DEI Activities

- **Member** of DEI committee of Atmospheric and Oceanic Program, Princeton University 2024-Present
- **Organizer** of Spring Into Science event, Science Outreach Program, Princeton University Apr 2024

### Professional Service

- **Journal Reviewer** for *JACS*, *ACS Omega* 2023-Present
- **Organizer** of Environmental Certificate Colloquium, High Meadow Environmental Institute 2021-2022
- **Co-Chair** of Session at AGU Fall Meeting 2021  
Session A35N: *Molecular-Scale Characterization of Atmospheric Aerosol Using Simulations and Experiments*
- **Organizer** of EEWR Brown Bag Seminar, Princeton University 2020-2021

## PRESENTATIONS

---

1. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics simulations of adsorbed water films on smectite clay particles. ACS Fall Meeting, Denver, August, 2024 (**Oral, Invited**).
2. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Hygroscopic growth of adsorbed water films on smectite clay particles. ACS Spring Meeting, New Orleans, March, 2024 (**Oral**).
3. **Li, X.** Water, salt, and organics in nano-aerosol particles: improved understanding of aerosol microphysics from molecular basis. University of Washington in St. Louis, Missouri, April 2023 (**Oral**).
4. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. How does water contribute to new particle formation? ACS Spring Meeting, Indianapolis, March 2023 (**Oral**).
5. **Li, X.** Aerosol microphysics from molecular understanding to improved representation in climate models. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, NOAA, Princeton, February 2023 (**Oral**).
6. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics simulations of the microphysics of liquid water in nano-aerosol droplets. AAAR 40th Annual Conference, Raleigh, October 2022 (**Oral**).
7. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics simulations of the effect of surface charge density and oxidation degree on the colloidal stability of graphene oxide. Goldschmidt, Honolulu, July 2022 (**Poster**).
8. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics simulations of water, salt, and organics in nano-aerosol particles. ACS Spring Meeting, San Diego, March 2022 (**Oral**).
9. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics simulations of liquid water microphysics in nano-aerosol droplets. AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, December 2021 (**Poster**).
10. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Molecular dynamics (MD) simulation of the microphysics of liquid water in aerosol particles. SMatCH Seminar, Princeton University, November 2021 (**Oral**).
11. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. Phase-mixing states in secondary organic aerosol: key to water cloud condensation and optical insights. EEWR Brown Bag Seminar, Princeton University, December 2019 (**Oral**).
12. **Li, X.**, Bourg I.C. How secondary organic aerosol affects precipitation and radiative forcing. AGU Fall Meeting, San

Francisco, December 2019 (**Poster**).

## SKILLS

---

### Computational Skills

- Climate modeling
- MD simulations and DFT: LAMMPS, Gromacs, Quantum Espresso
- Computational fluid dynamics: OpenFOAM
- Machine learning and finite element analysis programming: Python, Matlab, C++/C

### Experimental Skills

- Pore structure characterization of minerals: mercury intrusion porosimeters, advanced micropore size and chemisorption analyzer
- High pressure gas and sub-critical fluid sorption measurement: rubotherm gravimetric adsorption instruments

## REFERENCES

---

### Ian C. Bourg

*Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University*

E-mail: [bourg@princeton.edu](mailto:bourg@princeton.edu)

### Paul Ginoux

*Senior Physical Scientist, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, NOAA*

E-mail: [Paul.Ginoux@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.Ginoux@noaa.gov)

### Fabien Paulot

*Physical Scientist, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, NOAA*

E-mail: [fabien.paulot@noaa.gov](mailto:fabien.paulot@noaa.gov)

### Yue Zhang

*Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University*

E-mail: [yuezhang@tamu.edu](mailto:yuezhang@tamu.edu)

### Dongxiao Zhang

*Chair Professor, Executive Vice President and Provost, Eastern Institute for Advanced Study, China*

E-mail: [dzhang@eias.ac.cn](mailto:dzhang@eias.ac.cn)