

# David C. Lafferty

✉ [dcl257@cornell.edu](mailto:dcl257@cornell.edu)    [david0811.github.io](https://github.com/david0811)    [david0811](https://orcid.org/david0811)

📍 321 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY, USA

## EDUCATION

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- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** *Jan 2019 – May 2024*  
Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg** *Sep 2016 – Oct 2018*  
M.Sc. in Physics
- University of Glasgow** *Sep 2012 – May 2016*  
B.Sc. in Theoretical Physics

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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- Cornell University** *Sep 2024 – Present*  
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Biological & Environmental Engineering
- Advisor: Vivek Srikrishnan
  - Research topics: uncertainty in coupled human-environment systems, multi-sector dynamics
- Amazon** *May 2024 – July 2024*  
Research Scientist, World Wide Sustainability
- Advisor: Maggie Zarekarizi
  - Research topics: climate risk
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** *Jan 2019 – May 2024*  
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Climate, Meteorology, & Atmospheric Sciences
- Advisor: Ryan Sriver
  - Research topics: uncertainty in coupled human-environment systems, multi-sector dynamics
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** *May – Aug 2022*  
Graduate Summer Student Intern, Climate Sciences
- Advisor: Hsi-Yen Ma
  - Research topic: atmospheric feature tracking for precipitation extremes
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg** *Nov 2017 – Oct 2018*  
Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for Theoretical Physics
- Advisor: Alexander Rothkopf
  - Research topic: heavy-ion collision phenomenology

## PUBLICATIONS

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6. (*in prep.*) **Lafferty, D.C.**, Grogan, D.S., Zuidema, S., Haqiqi, I., Alipour, A., Sriver, R.L., Keller, K., Combined climate, hydrologic, and crop response uncertainties exacerbate local risks to US agriculture. *Earth's Future* (2024)
5. Wu, WY., Ma, HS., **Lafferty, D.C.**, Feng, Z., Ullrich, P., Tang, Q., Golaz, JC., Galea, D., Lee, HH., Assessment of Storm-Associated Precipitation and its Extremes using Observations and Climate Model Short-Range Hindcasts. *JGR Atmospheres* 129, e2023JD039697 (2024) [[10.1029/2023JD039697](https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JD039697)]
4. **Lafferty, D.C.** & Sriver, R.L., Downscaling and bias-correction contribute considerable uncertainty to local climate projections in CMIP6. *npj Clim. Atmos. Sci.* 6, 158 (2023). [[10.1038/s41612-023-00486-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-023-00486-0)]
3. Srikrishnan, V., **Lafferty, D.C.**, Wong, T.E., Lamontagne, J.R., Quinn, J.D., Sharma, S., Nusrat, J.M., Herman, J.D., Sriver, R.L., Morris, J.F., Lee, B.S., Uncertainty analysis in multi-sector systems: Considerations for risk analysis, projection, and planning for complex systems. *Earth's Future* 10, e2021EF002644 (2022). [[10.1029/2021EF002644](https://doi.org/10.1029/2021EF002644)]
2. **Lafferty, D.C.**, Sriver, R.L., Haqiqi, I., Hertel, T.W., Keller, K., Nicholas, R.E., Statistically bias-corrected and downscaled climate models underestimate the adverse effects of extreme heat on U.S. maize yields. *Commun Earth Environ* 2, 196 (2021). [[10.1038/s43247-021-00266-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00266-9)]
1. **Lafferty, D.** & Rothkopf, A., Improved Gauss law model and in-medium heavy quarkonium at finite density and velocity, *Phys. Rev. D* 101, 056010 (2020). [[10.1103/PhysRevD.101.056010](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.101.056010)]

## PRESENTATIONS

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\* denotes oral presentation; † denotes poster presentation

10. \*Downscaling and bias-correction contribute considerable uncertainty to local climate projections in CMIP6, *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. (2023) [[Slides](#)]
9. †Pre-calibrating a simple soil moisture model to facilitate uncertainty analysis, *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. (2023) [[Poster](#)]
8. †Do downscaling and bias-correction alter the uncertainty decomposition of climate projections? *AGU Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. (2023) [[Poster](#)]
7. †Diagnosing the importance of climate uncertainty for sectoral analyses, *MultiSector Dynamics Workshop*, Davis, CA. (2023) [[Poster](#)]
6. (*invited*) \*The challenges of generating and using local-scale climate information, *Biological & Environmental Engineering Department Seminar*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. (2023) [[Slides](#)]
5. (*invited*) \*Uncertainty in Natural Systems Components of MultiSector Dynamics Systems, *Workshop on Uncertainty Characterization & Quantification in MultiSector Dynamics Research*, Snowmass, CO. (2023)
4. †Downscaling and bias-correction contribute considerable uncertainty to local climate projections in CMIP6, *Interdisciplinary Workshop on Weather and Climate Extremes*, Clemson, SC. (2023) [[Poster](#)]
3. \*Uncertainty in the Representation of Climate Extremes Across Downscaled and Bias-Corrected CMIP Model Ensembles, *AGU Fall Meeting*, Chicago, IL. (2022) [[Slides](#)]

2. \*Characterizing uncertainties in the crop switching decision problem for U.S. agriculture, *AGU Fall Meeting*, Virtual. (2021) [Recording]
1. †Statistically bias-corrected and downscaled climate models underestimate the adverse effects of extreme heat on U.S. maize yields, *AGU Fall Meeting*, Virtual. (2021) [Poster]

## SERVICE

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- **Board Member** of the MultiSector Dynamics Working Group on Uncertainty Quantification and Scenario Development, 2021-2023
- **Mentor** to first year graduate students in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois, 2020-2023
- **Secretary** of the [Department of Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Student Organization](#), 2021-2022
- **Co-Chair** of the [Midwest Student Conference on Atmospheric Research](#), University of Illinois, 2020

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **ATMS 421: Earth System Modeling**

*Fall 2019*

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Graded monthly homework exercises for 29 students, held weekly office hours, assisted students during twice-weekly computer lab sessions

### **ATMS 201: General Physical Meteorology**

*Fall 2019*

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Graded weekly homework exercises for 23 students and held weekly office hours

### **ATMS 120: Severe and Hazardous Weather**

*Summer 2019*

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Graded weekly homework exercises for 121 students

## AWARDS & HONORS

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- Ogura Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper Award *2024*
- AGU Outstanding Student Presentation Award *2023*
- Best Graduate Student Poster, Midwest Student Conference on Atmospheric Research *2021*
- University of Illinois Liberal Arts & Sciences COVID-19 Impact Award *2020*
- (*team*) Award for Advancing Reproducible Geospatial Research *2019*  
UCGIS-CyberGIS Center at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- DAAD Study Scholarship for Graduates of All Disciplines *2016 – 2018*

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### **Programming Languages**

Python, R, Mathematica, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Bash  
English (native), German (limited working proficiency)