

## Daniel L. Swain

*Assistant Researcher, Institute of the Environment & Sustainability*  
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

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*California Climate Fellow*  
The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA

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## Research interests

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Dynamics & impacts of regional climate change, hydrological extremes, extreme event detection/attribution, tropical/Arctic teleconnections, natural hazard risk, science-policy interface, science writing & communication

## Education

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- Ph.D., Earth System Science, Stanford University** 2016  
Dissertation: "Character and causes of changing North Pacific climate extremes"  
Advisor: Dr. Noah Diffenbaugh
- B.S., Atmospheric Science, University of California, Davis (Highest Honors)** 2011

## Peer-reviewed publications

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- Touma, D., A. M. Michalak, **D.L. Swain**, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, "Spatial characteristics of extreme precipitation over the United States," *Journal of Climate*, 31, doi: 10.1175/JCLI-D-18-0019.1, 2018 2018
- Swain, D.L.**, B. Langenbrunner, J.D. Neelin, and A. Hall, "Increasing precipitation volatility in twenty-first-century California," *Nature Climate Change*, 8, 427-433, doi:10.1038/s41558-018-0140-y., 2018. 2018
- Swain, D.L.**, D. Singh, D.E. Horton, J.S. Mankin, T. Ballard, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, "Remote linkages to anomalous winter atmospheric ridging over the northeastern Pacific," *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 122, doi: 10.1002/2017JD026575, 2017. 2017
- Diffenbaugh, N.S., Singh, D., Mankin, J.S., Charland, A., Horton, D.E., Haugen, M., **Swain, D.L.**, Rajaratnam, B., Touma, D., "Quantifying the influence of global warming on unprecedented extreme climate events," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114, 4881-4886, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1618082114, 2017. 2017
- Singh, D., **D. L. Swain**, J.S. Mankin, D.E. Horton, L.N. Thomas, B. Rajaratnam, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, Recent amplification of the North American winter temperature dipole, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 121, doi: 10.1002/2016JD025116, 2016. 2016
- Swain, D. L.**, Horton, D.E., Singh, D., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, Trends in atmospheric patterns conducive to seasonal precipitation and temperature extremes in California, *Science Advances*, 2, doi: 10.1126/sciadv.1501344, 2016. 2016
- Swain, D.L.**, Lebassi-Habtezion, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, Evaluation of non-hydrostatic 2015

simulations of Northeast Pacific atmospheric rivers and comparison to in-situ observations, *Monthly Weather Review*, 143, 3556-3569, doi: 10.1175/MWR-D-15-0079.1, 2015.

Horton, D.E., N.C. Johnson, D. Singh, **D.L. Swain**, B. Rajaratnam and N.S. Diffenbaugh, 2015  
Contribution of changes in atmospheric circulation patterns to extreme temperature trends, *Nature*, 522, 465–469, doi: 10.1038/nature14550, 2015.

Diffenbaugh, N.S., **D.L. Swain** and D. Touma, Anthropogenic warming has increased drought risk in California, 112, 3931-3936, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1422385112, 2015.

**Swain, D.L.**, M. Tsiang, M. Haugen, D. Singh, A. Charland, B. Rajaratnam and N.S. Diffenbaugh, 2014  
The extraordinary California drought of 2013-2014: character, context, and the role of climate change [in "Explaining Extremes of 2013 from a Climate Perspective"], *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 95 (9), S3–S7, 2014.

### Peer-reviewed publications submitted/in preparation

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Thackeray, C.W., A.M. DeAngelis, A. Hall, **D.L. Swain**, and X. Qu, “On the Connection Between Global Hydrologic Sensitivity and Regional Wet Extremes” (*in review, Geophysical Research Letters*) 2018

Huang, X., **Swain, D.L.**, Walton, D.B., Berg, N., and A. Hall, “Importance of spatial resolution in simulating extreme precipitation during atmospheric rivers” (*in review, Geophysical Research Letters*) 2018

Gonzales, K.R., **Swain, D.L.**, Barnes, E.A., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Observed Trends in West Coast Atmospheric River Temperatures” (*in prep*) 2018

Goldenson, N. et al. “Are model projections of changes to precipitation extremes credible?” (*in prep*) 2018

### Published reports and journal perspectives/commentaries

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Mount, J. et al., Managing Drought in a Changing Climate: Four Essential Reforms, *Public Policy Institute of California*, 2018.

**Swain, D.L.**, A tale of two California droughts: Lessons amidst record warmth and dryness in a region of complex physical and human geography, *Geophysical Review Letters*, doi:10.1002/2015GL066628, 2015.

### Selected honors and awards

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Finalist, AAAS Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science 2018

NatureNet Postdoctoral Fellowship, Nature Conservancy/University of California 2016-2018

ARCS Fellowship, Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation 2015-2016

Switzer Environmental Fellowship, Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation 2015-2016

Graduate Student Award for Scholarly & Research Achievement, Stanford University 2015

“Ten under 30: Young leaders changing the American West,” *High Country News* 2015

Fellow, Rising Environmental Leaders Program, Stanford Woods Inst. for the Environment 2013

Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University	2013
College Medal, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Univ. of California, Davis	2011
Departmental Citation, Atmospheric Science, University of California, Davis	2011
Winner, Prized Writing Competition, Scientific & Technical Writing, Univ. of California, Davis	2010, 2008
Guillermo Salazar Rodriguez Undergraduate Scholarship, American Meteorological Society	2010
Regents Scholarship, University of California, Davis	2009-2011
American Meteorological Society Undergraduate Scholar	2007-2009
Henry A. Jastro Recruitment Scholarship, University of California, Davis	2007-2009
NASA Ames/AIAA Galileo Memorial Scholarship	2007

## **Professional experience**

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### ***Scientific Research Appointments***

**Assistant Researcher/Lead Scientist for Science Communication** 2018-Present  
**Inst. of Environment & Sustainability, University of California, Los Angeles**  
 Lead research on dynamics & impacts of regional climate change and serve as primary media point of contact on weather/climate-related topics.

**California Climate Fellow** 2018-Present  
**The Nature Conservancy**  
 Lead interdisciplinary research aimed at understanding of dynamics of future climate changes (including extreme events) and implications for human infrastructure and ecosystems; evaluate risk-reduction interventions & co-benefits to society & natural systems.

**Capacity Center for Weather & Climate Extremes Research Fellow** 2018-Present  
**National Center for Atmospheric Research**  
 Lead research into atmospheric/Earth system dynamics of hydrologic cycle extremes.

**Postdoctoral Fellow** 2016-2018  
**Inst. of Environment & Sustainability, University of California, Los Angeles**  
 Investigate the character and causes of changes in hydrological cycle extremes in California.

**Research Assistant**  
**Climate and Earth System Dynamics Group, Stanford University** 2011-2016  
 Develop and conduct scientific investigations of climate variability and change in the North Pacific/western North America region, with a focus on extreme meteorological events and persistent circulation patterns.

**Intern** 2010  
**NASA/National Center for Suborbital Research, University of California, Irvine**  
 Obtain “ground truth” measurements for comparison to NASA overflights with hyperspectral imager as part of agricultural evapotranspiration study.

### ***Science Communication***

**Author & Founder, Weather West Blog ([www.weatherwest.com](http://www.weatherwest.com))** 2006-Present  
 Write regular articles focusing on a wide range of California/western North America weather and climate topics; answer questions from public, decision-makers, and scientists regarding meteorology/climatology/general science/science policy. Strong emphasis on making

scientific and technical topics accessible to a broad audience (readership of >10 million to date). Extensive social media outreach (via Twitter as @Weather\_West).

### **Atmospheric and Climate Science Media Liaison**

2013-present

Frequent, sustained engagement with local, national, and international news media on weather & climate-related issues. Over 400 interviews with a wide range of outlets, including:

Newspaper: New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee & local outlets

Long-form/magazine: Time, The Economist, The Atlantic, Wired, Scientific American, Popular Science, National Geographic, Outside Magazine, Sunset Magazine, Bay Nature Magazine

Radio: NPR (and numerous local affiliates), BBC World Service  
ABC & CBS national radio (and local affiliates), various local and university stations

Television: CNN, ABC, NBC, PBS (NOVA), Democracy Now, Al Jazeera, Global National Canada, HBO, German and Danish public television

Web outlets: Vox, Slate Magazine, Vice Magazine, BuzzFeed, Mashable, The Verge

Climate/weather-focused: Climate Central, Climate Nexus, InsideClimate News, Generation Anthropocene podcast, The Weather Channel, Wunderground, The Weather Network

### **Science Writing**

Occasional contributor of invited popular science/current event-related perspective pieces in print and online media.

2010-present

**Swain, D.L.**, Kolden, C., and J. Abatzoglou, “The era of megafires: the crisis facing California and what will happen next,” article in *The Guardian*, 08 August 2018

**Swain, D.L.** and V. Carranza, “The science behind ‘An Inconvenient Sequel,’” article for UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability blog, 08 August 2017.

**Swain, D.L.**, *Outside Magazine* contributor, various articles

**Swain, D.L.**, *KQED Public Media* contributor, various articles

Diffenbaugh, N.S. and **D.L. Swain**, “Climate Change and the California Drought,” article for Brookings Institution *PlanetPolicy* blog, 06 October 2014.

**Swain, D.L.**, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Viewpoints: Climate change is increasing the chances of drought,” *Sacramento Bee* Op-Ed, 30 September 2014.

**Swain, D.L.**, 2010, “Of Ice and Men: How changes in Arctic sea ice affect our climate, our weather, and our ways of life,” *Prized Writing 2009-2010*, P. Demory, Ed., Univ. of California, Davis, 210-217.

### **Teaching**

**Teaching Assistant, Department of Earth System Science, Stanford University**

2013

Course: “Atmosphere, Ocean & Climate Dynamics: The Atmospheric Circulation.” Give guest lectures, develop and implement practical laboratory sessions, hold office hours, and evaluate student performance.

**Invited Guest Lecturer***University of California, Los Angeles*

Courses: Climate Law and Policy; The Blue Planet: Introduction to Oceanography

2016-2017

*Stanford University*

Courses: Atmosphere, Ocean &amp; Climate Dynamics 1 &amp; 2; Stanford Pre-Collegiate Institutes

2013-2016

**Public and community outreach**

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Climate Feedback expert reviewer, assessing national/international media coverage on climate change and extreme weather as member of accredited fact-checking organization Sep. 2016-present

Invited Keynote Speaker, "Drought, flood, and wildfire amidst increasing climate whiplash: the challenging road ahead for water management in the West," Water Education Foundation Water Summit, Sacramento, CA Sep. 2018

Invited Interactive Speaker, "Climate Change Cliff Notes," A Climate Series for the Ages, hosted by UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability & Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA Oct. 2017

Invited Speaker, "Change in a land of extremes: what we know (and don't know) about California's climate future," Krotone Institute/Ojai Valley Conservancy, Ojai, California May 2017

Featured Speaker, Stanford Connects 2016: "The Rise of the Ridiculously Resilient Ridge and the Future of California Drought," Stanford University, Stanford, CA May 2016

Project Mentor, Stanford University course: "International Climate Negotiations (COP 21)" Dec. 2015

Invited Speaker, "Flood in a time of drought? Effects of a powerful El Niño in the midst of California's record dry spell," Association of Bay Area Governments, Oakland, CA Sep. 2015

Invited Speaker, "Climate Change in a Land of Extremes: Drought and Flood in California's Past, Present, and Future," U.S. National Park Service Parsons Memorial Lodge Lecture Series, Yosemite National Park, CA Aug. 2015

Invited Speaker and Panelist, "California Drought Panel," Water in the West/Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, Stanford, CA Mar. 2015

Invited Panelist, "Earth Matters/A Matter of Degrees," Stanford Continuing Studies Program, Stanford University, Stanford, CA Feb. 2015

Invited Science Speaker, "Stanford to the Sea" Science Hike, "The Ridiculously Resilient Ridge in Context: Climate Variability of California's Past, Present, and Future," Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University, Stanford, CA May 2014

Invited Speaker and Panelist, "Current Drought: Causes, how bad is it, and will we see more?" University of California Drought Summit, California State Capitol, Sacramento, CA Apr. 2014

Invited Speaker and Panelist, "The California Drought: Causes, Context, and Response," Bill Lane Center for the American West/Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, Stanford, CA Feb. 2014

Founder and leader, Aggie Forecasting Team at University of California, Davis	2008-2011
Co-leader, Atmospheric Profiling & Stratospheric Photography Project, Univ. of Calif., Davis	2009-2011

### Invited scientific presentations

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“Thinking about climate risk in an era of extremes: California’s increasingly wide swings between drought and flood,” <i>Department of Geography Seminar</i> , University of California, Berkeley ( <i>invited lecturer</i> )	Oct. 2018
“Atmospheric rivers as a scientific (and conversational) bridge between weather and climate,” <i>International Atmospheric Rivers Conference</i> , Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA ( <i>invited speaker</i> )	Jun. 2018
“California’s increasingly extreme climate future,” Rusch Honors Colloquium, Viterbi School of Engineering, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA ( <i>invited lecturer</i> )	Nov. 2017
“Causes and impacts of climate change—a California perspective,” Climate and Law Policy Seminar, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA ( <i>invited lecturer</i> )	Sep. 2017
“Teleconnections and regional impacts under anthropogenic forcing” & “Global warming influence on extreme events,” <i>US Climate Variability and Predictability Program (CLIVAR) Summit</i> , Baltimore, MD ( <i>invited speaker and panelist</i> )	Aug. 2017
“Trends in persistent seasonal-scale atmospheric circulation patterns responsible for precipitation and temperatures extremes in California,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , San Francisco, CA ( <i>invited speaker</i> )	Dec. 2015
“Drought causes,” <i>American Geophysical Union Chapman Conf. on California Drought: Causes, Impacts, &amp; Policy</i> , Univ. of California, Irvine ( <i>invited panelist</i> )	Apr. 2015
“The extraordinary 2012-2015 drought in California and its context in a warming world,” <i>Water Scarcity in the West: Past, Present, Future Conference</i> , Univ. of California, Davis ( <i>invited speaker and panelist</i> )	Apr. 2015
“Persistent atmospheric patterns and the ongoing California drought: the role of the Ridiculously Resilient Ridge,” <i>NASA Earth Science Seminar</i> , NASA Ames, Mountain View, CA ( <i>invited speaker</i> )	Mar. 2015
“The extraordinary California drought of 2012-2015: Historical context and the role of climate change,” <i>Pacific Climate Workshop 2015</i> , Pacific Grove, CA ( <i>invited speaker</i> )	Mar. 2015
“The extraordinary California drought of 2012-2015: Historical context and the role of climate change,” <i>Atmosphere and Energy Departmental Seminar</i> , Stanford University, Stanford, CA ( <i>invited speaker</i> )	Mar. 2015

### Other awards and recognitions

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“Must Follow” Social Media Meteorologist/Climatologist, Forbes Magazine	2016
Best Talk Award, Environmental Science, SES Research Review, Stanford University	2016
Oakland Museum of California “Agent of Change”	2015

“Research as Art” competition winner, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University	2015, 2012
ThinkSwiss Award, Swiss National Science Foundation, “NCCR Climate Summer School,” Grindelwald, Switzerland	2013
Invitee, NCAR Undergraduate Leadership Workshop, Boulder, CO	2010
UC Davis Integrated Studies Honors Program International Education Award	2008
UC Davis International Relations Study Abroad Award	2008
Edward Kraft Prize, University of California, Davis	2008

## Other scientific presentations

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### ***Oral Presentations***

“Increasing climate whiplash in 21st century California,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , New Orleans, LA	Dec. 2017
“California precipitation extremes in a warming world,” <i>Sustainable LA Water Research Grand Challenge Research Symposium</i> , Los Angeles, CA	Nov. 2017

### ***Poster Presentations***

“Connections between the tropical Pacific Ocean, Arctic sea ice, and anomalous northeastern Pacific ridging,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , San Francisco, CA	Dec. 2016
“Character and causes of changing Pacific climate extremes: Special focus on the extraordinary 2012-2015 California drought,” <i>Young Environmental Scholars Conference</i> , Stanford, CA	Dec. 2015
“The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , San Francisco, CA	Dec. 2014
“The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” <i>Graduate Climate Conference</i> , Eatonville, WA	Nov. 2014
“The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” <i>Fourth Workshop on understanding Climate Change from Data</i> , National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO	Jun. 2014
“Evaluation of high-resolution simulations of Northeast Pacific atmospheric rivers,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , San Francisco, CA	Dec. 2013
“Mid-Latitude Precipitation Extremes: Latitudinal Linkages and Climate Change,” <i>Swiss National Center for Competence in Research (NCCR Climate)</i> , Grindelwald, Switzerland	Sep. 2013
“High-resolution seasonal simulations of Northeast Pacific atmospheric rivers and comparison to in-situ observations,” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i> , San Francisco, CA	Dec. 2012

## Professional affiliations and activities

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Expert Reviewer, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment	2018
Journal Manuscript Referee ( <i>Nature</i> , <i>Nature Climate Change</i> , <i>Climatic Change</i> , <i>Geophysical Research Letters</i> , <i>Journal of Climate</i> , <i>Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society</i> ,	2013-present

*Nature Scientific Reports, Advances in Water Resources, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, Climatic Change)*

Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 2017-present

Member, American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2010-present

Member, American Meteorological Society (AMS) 2007-present

President, American Meteorological Society Student Chapter, UC Davis 2009-2011