

# DR. ZACHARY S. KAUFMAN

(650) 759-2861 ◊ zackkauf@stanford.edu ◊ <https://profiles.stanford.edu/zack-kaufman?tab=bio>

## CURRENT POSITION

---

### Stanford University

2023 - Present

Postdoctoral Scholar. Earth System Science

Project: *Quantifying the Impact of Antarctic Meltwater on Southern Ocean Climate Change Projections*

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Earle Wilson

## EDUCATION

---

### University of California, Santa Cruz

2017 - 2022

PhD, Earth and Planetary Sciences

Dissertation: *The Role of Sea Ice in Polar Climate Change:*

*Investigating Distinct Cause-Effect Relationships in Each Hemisphere*

Advisor: Professor Nicole Feldl

### Wesleyan University

2012-2016

B.A. Earth and Environmental Sciences, *Departmental Honors*

### University of Copenhagen (DIS)

Fall 2014

Environmental Science of the Arctic Program

## PUBLICATIONS

---

1. **Z.S. Kaufman**, N. Feldl, and C. Bealieu, 2023: “Warm Arctic-Cold Eurasia Pattern Driven by Atmospheric Blocking in Models and Observations”. **Submitted**
2. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl, 2022: “Causes of the Arctic’s Lower-Tropospheric Warming Structure”. **Journal of Climate**, 35.6, 1983-2022. <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-21-0298.1>
3. **Z.S. Kaufman**, N. Feldl, W. Weijer and M. Veneziani, 2020: Causal Interactions Between Southern Ocean Polynyas and High-Latitude Atmosphere-Ocean Variability. **Journal of Climate**, 33, 4891-4905. <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-19-0525.1>.

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

2019 - 2022

Funding Award: \$102,000.

Project: *The Use of Causal Discovery Techniques for Quantifying High-Latitude Climate Feedbacks*

### Best Postdoc Oral Presentation (2nd place)

April 2023

Stanford Data Science for Sustainability Conference, Stanford, CA

### Best Student Oral Presentation

August 2022

17th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, Madison, WI

### Mary and John Sease Prize for

Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Science

Wesleyan University, 2016

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

---

### **Instructor of Record**

#### **Stanford Continuing Studies Program**

#### **The Science of Global Climate Change**

*Spring 2024*

Open enrollment for general public (~40 students). 6-8 week introductory course in climate science.

### **Undergraduate Mentor**

#### **Sustainability and Earth Summer Undergraduate Research (SESUR)**

#### **Stanford University**

*Summer 2023 - Present*

Conceptualized and developed ongoing research collaboration with Stanford undergraduate, investigating Southern Ocean temperature response to idealized wind forcing.

### **Undergraduate Mentor**

#### **Geosciences Education and Mentorship Support (GEMS)**

*Summer 2021 - Fall 2022*

Advised graduate school and fellowship application process in the Earth Sciences through virtual mentoring.

### **Teaching Assistant**

#### **UC Santa Cruz**

#### **EART-124, Modeling Earth's Climate**

*Spring 2021*

Upper-division undergraduate (~30 students). A hands-on investigation of the climate system using numerical and mathematical models.

#### **EART-121, The Atmosphere**

*Fall 2018*

Upper-division undergraduate (~30 students). Advance understanding of basic atmospheric weather and climate phenomena starting from the fundamentals of physics and chemistry.

#### **EART-12, Intro to Weather and Climate**

*Winter 2018*

Lower-division undergraduate (~100 students). Advance a conceptual understanding of how and why the present-day atmosphere behaves as it does and how this may change in the future.

### **Undergraduate Mentor**

#### **UC Santa Cruz**

*Spring 2019*

Conducted weekly meetings, teaching skills in scientific computing and data analysis of climate models.

## INVITED TALKS

---

1. "Recent Southern Cooling and its Coupling with Tropical Climate Variability"  
*Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Seminar Series, Georgia Tech.*  
October 27th, 2023.
2. "Surface Forcing Roles in Recent Southern Ocean Climate Trends"  
*HiLAT Phase III Workshop, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.*  
September 18th, 2023.
3. "Historical Drivers of the Warm-Arctic Cold Eurasia Pattern:  
A Model-Observation Comparison"  
*RGMA High Latitude Processes and Feedbacks webinars.*  
June 15th, 2023.

4. “Disentangling the Causes and Consequences of Arctic Amplification: The Relative Roles of Sea Ice Loss and Atmospheric Circulation Changes”  
*Seminar in Atmospheric and Climate Dynamics, University of Washington.*  
May 04th, 2022.
5. “Causes and Implications of the Arctic’s Vertical Warming Structure”  
*High-Latitude Application and Testing of Earth System Models (HiLAT) Webinar.*  
January 19th, 2021.

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

---

**Hi-LAT Project, Department of Energy  
Los Alamos National Laboratory**

*Summer 2018*

PI: Dr. Wilbert Weijer

Studied ocean-atmosphere heat exchange over Weddell Sea Polynyas.

**O’Connell Lab, Marine Sedimentology  
Wesleyan University**

*2015-2016*

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Studied Pliocene paleoclimate in the Weddell Sea through the analysis of ice-rafted debris provenance.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

---

**Graduate Student Representative**

**UC Santa Cruz**

*Fall 2021 - Summer 2022*

Attending faculty meetings to provide graduate student input

**Seminar Host and Organizer**

**UC Santa Cruz**

*Spring 2021*

Selected, invited, and hosted weekly research presentations for Earth and Planetary Science Department’s *Whole Earth Seminar*

**Journal Reviewer**

Journal of Climate, EGU Ocean Science, Earth’s Future

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

---

**Geoscientists Encouraging Openness and Diversity in Earth Sciences (GEODES)**

**UC Santa Cruz**

*Fall 2017 - Winter 2020*

Group Leader; Organized Event-Based Programming Events for the Campus STEM Community

**Museum Guide**

**Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles**

*2017*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

---

1. Y. Li, **Z.S. Kaufman** and E. Wilson “What Drives Intermodel Spread in the Southern Ocean’s Response to Standardized Wind Forcing?” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2023. (Poster).
2. **Z.S. Kaufman**, Y. Li, and E. Wilson “Constraining the Southern Ocean SST Response to Freshwater Buoyancy Forcing” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2023. (Oral).
3. **Z.S. Kaufman** “A Data Driven Approach to Climate Change Attribution” *Stanford Data Science for Sustainability Conference, Stanford, CA*. 2023. (Oral).
4. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl “Reconciling Linkages Between the Time History of Arctic Sea Ice and Midlatitude Winter Climate” *17th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, Madison, WI*. 2022. (Oral).
5. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl “Advancing Arctic Climate Predictability with Causal Inference Methods” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2021. (Oral).
6. N. Feldl, **Z.S. Kaufman**, S. Po-Chedley, H.A. Singh, S. Hay and P.J. Kushner “Arctic Feedbacks: The Interconnected Roles of Sea Ice, Atmospheric Energy Transport, and Lapse Rate Changes” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2021. (Oral).
7. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl “Causes of the Arctic’s Lower-Tropospheric Warming Structure” *Graduate Climate Conference (GCC, virtual)* 2021. (Poster).
8. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl “Diagnosing Drivers of the Arctic’s Weakening Temperature Inversion” *Cloud Feedback Model Intercomparison Project (CFMIP) Virtual Conference* 2021. (Poster).
9. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl “What Causes the Arctic’s Bottom-Heavy Warming Structure? Diagnosing the Relative Influence of Sea-Ice Loss and Atmospheric Heat Transport” *American Geophysical Union Virtual Fall Meeting*. 2020. (Poster).
10. W. Weijer, P. Kurtakoti, **Z.S. Kaufman**, M. Veneziani, A. Stössel, N. Feldl and M.E. Maltrud “Drivers and Impacts of Southern Ocean Polynyas in High-Resolution Earth System Models” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2020. (Oral).
11. **Z.S. Kaufman**, N. Feldl, W. Weijer and M. Veneziani “Episodic Deep Convection in the Weddell Sea and its Relationship With the High-Latitude Energy Budget”, *CalGFD Virtual Meeting, Lightning Talk*. 2020. (Oral).
12. **Z.S. Kaufman**, W. Weijer, N. Feldl and M. Veneziani “Causal Interactions Between Southern Ocean Polynyas and High-Latitude Atmosphere-Ocean Variability” *Ocean Sciences Meeting*. 2020. (Poster presented by co-author).
13. **Z.S. Kaufman** and N. Feldl. “Linking the Vertical Structure of Arctic Warming to Local and Remote Processes: A Causal Network Approach.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2019. (Poster).
14. J. L. Pensky, G. H. Edwards, R. E. Maxwell, E. Schnorr, **Z.S. Kaufman**, A. M. Donaldson. “Event-Based Programming Tools to Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within Earth and Planetary Science Departments.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. 2019. (Poster).
15. **Z.S. Kaufman**, N. Feldl, W. Weijer and M. Veneziani “Ocean-Atmosphere Heat Exchange Over Weddell Sea Polynyas Influences High-Latitude Climate Variability.” *15th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography*. 2019 (Oral).