

# Maya V. Chung

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[Professional Website](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[Github](#)

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EDUCATION	<b>Ph.D. in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences</b> , Princeton University	2020–2026
	Doctoral advisor: Gabriel Vecchi	
	Dissertation title: Perspectives on Ocean–Climate Interactions: Feedbacks, Variability, and Impacts on Infectious Disease	
	Graduate Certificate: Science, Technology and Environmental Policy	
	<b>B.A. in Earth and Planetary Sciences</b> , Harvard University	2015–2019
	<i>magna cum laude with highest honors</i>	
	Thesis advisor: Peter Huybers	
	Thesis title: Quantifying Isopycnal Heave Using Dynamic Depth Warping	
	Secondary Field: Mathematical Sciences	
	Language Citation: Mandarin Chinese	
RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS	<b>Postdoctoral Research Scientist (incoming)</b>	starting September 2026
	<i>Columbia Climate School, Columbia University</i>	
	Advisors: Jeffrey Shaman (Climate School, Mailman School) and Sen Pei (Mailman School)	
	<b>Postdoctoral Research Associate</b>	2026–Present
	<i>High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University</i>	
	Advisors: Gabriel Vecchi (Geosciences), Lydia Lynch (Molecular Biology)	
	Researching how extreme and moderate warm and cold temperatures impact physiology in mice and implications for climate change.	
	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b>	2020–2026
	<i>Princeton University Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences</i>	
	Advisor: Gabriel Vecchi	
	Committee Members: Laure Resplandy, Andrew Wittenberg, Rong Zhang, Sonya Legg	
	Investigated the ocean’s role in global climate, including how ocean circulation modulates climate feedbacks and stability under different solar forcing ( <a href="#">paper</a> ) and how ocean salinity impacts the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) using coupled general circulation models (GCMs).	
	<b>HMEI-STEP Fellow</b>	2022–2024
	<i>High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs</i>	
	Advisors: Jessica Metcalf and Bryan Grenfell	
	Fellowship for graduate students to take public policy courses and conduct a policy-relevant research project. Integrated climate and infectious disease modeling to study how ENSO impacts year-to-year variations in disease spread and population immunity ( <a href="#">paper</a> ), and implications for public health policy.	
	<b>Undergraduate Research Assistant</b>	2017–2019
	<i>Harvard Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences</i>	
	Advisor: Peter Huybers	
	Developed a novel warping technique to identify ocean profiles influenced by water mass intrusions and improve estimates of global ocean heat content. Projected variability onto seasonal modes and the El Niño–Southern Oscillation to discern heating trends and interannual changes in ocean heat content.	
	<b>Summer Student Fellow</b>	Summer 2018
	<i>Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution</i>	
	Advisors: Geoffrey Gebbie and Peter Huybers	

Created a novel method to measure ocean heat uptake by adapting an algorithm commonly used for speech recognition (dynamic time warping).

**Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow**

Summer 2017

*Scripps Institution of Oceanography*

Advisors: Ivana Cerovecki, Matthew Mazloff, Sarah Gille, Lynne Talley

Characterized relationships between sea ice production and winds in West Antarctica and their connection to cooling and freshening events in the southeast Pacific. Compared model output to satellite and in-situ observations.

PEER-REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS

4. (accepted) Baker, R. E., Stamper, A. R., Burrows, H., Spacey, O. G., **Chung, M. V.**, Rice, B. L., Yang, W., Wagner, C. E., Metcalf, C. J. E. The future of infectious diseases in a changing climate. *Nature Medicine*.
3. **Chung, M. V.**, Yang, W., Vecchi, G. A. (2025). Runaway Cooling from Large Solar Reductions Modulated by Ocean Overturning Circulation and Heat Uptake. *Geophysical Research Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GL117821>
2. **Chung, M. V.**, Vecchi, G. A., Yang, W., Grenfell, B., and Metcalf, C. J. (2025). Intersecting memories of immunity and climate: Potential multiyear impacts of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation on infectious disease spread. *GeoHealth*, 9, e2024GH001193. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GH001193>
1. Knutson, T. R., **Chung, M. V.**, Vecchi, G., Sun, J., Hsieh, T-L. and Smith, A. J. P. (2021). ScienceBrief Review: Climate change is probably increasing the intensity of tropical cyclones. *Critical Issues in Climate Change Science*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4570334>

OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS

2. (*Book Chapter*) Yang, W., Levin, E., Menemenlis, S., Scapin, N., Igbino, M., **Chung, M.**, Rios, G., Hsieh, T.-L., Deike, L., Mitevski, I., & Vecchi, G. A. (2025). Chapter 1—Overview of tropical cyclones and historical perspective. In G. Villarini, G. A. Vecchi, & E. Scoccimarro (Eds.), *Tropical Cyclones and Associated Impacts* (pp. 1–25). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95390-0.00001-7>
1. (*Senior thesis, award*) **Chung, M. V.**, Gebbie, G., and Huybers, P. J. (2019). Quantifying Isopycnal Heave Using Dynamic Depth Warping (Senior thesis, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA).

MANUSCRIPTS IN  
PREPARATION

- Chung, M. V.**, Liu, M., Soden, B. J., Vecchi, G. A. Sea surface salinity variability impacts the equatorial Pacific mean state.
- Chung, M. V.**, Liu, M., Soden, B. J., Vecchi, G. A. The influence of salinity variability and stratification on extreme El Niño events.
- Burrows, H., **Chung, M. V.**, Howerton, E., Kraemer, M., Grenfell, B.T., Metcalf, C.J.E. Expect the unexpected: infectious disease in an era of global change.
- Howerton, E. and **Chung, M. V.** Why infectious disease forecasting is not like weather prediction, but can learn from it.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS	<b>High Meadows Environmental Institute Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy Graduate Fellowship (HMEI-STEP)</b>	2022–2024
	<b>National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP)</b>	2021–2024
	<b>American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowship</b>	2020–2021
	<b>Student Travel Grant</b> , American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting	2018
	<b>Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Summer Student Fellowship</b>	2018
	<b>Student Travel Grant</b> , Ocean Sciences Meeting	2018
	<b>Scripps Institution of Oceanography SURF REU</b>	2017
AWARDS & HONORS	<b>GradFUTURES Clio Hall Award</b> , Princeton University In recognition of significant contributions to the professional development of Princeton graduate students.	2026
	<b>First Place, Health in Climate Hackathon</b> , Climate Week NYC, Cornell Tech Created an interactive AI agent that sends actionable weather and health alerts via text message before, during, and after extreme weather events.	2025
	<b>Outstanding Student Presentation Award</b> , American Geophysical Union	2025
	<b>Service and Outreach Award</b> , Princeton Geosciences Department	2022
	<b>magna cum laude with highest honors</b> Highest honors for research within the field of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard College.	2019
	<b>Thomas T. Hoopes Prize</b> Awarded to Harvard seniors nominated by faculty for conducting outstanding senior thesis research.	2019
UNIVERSITY TEACHING & LEADERSHIP	<i>ENV 480/GEO 480/CEE 480: Tropical Cyclones and Associated Impacts</i>	Spring 2026
	<b>Guest Lecturer</b> , Princeton University Professors: Gabriel Vecchi, Gabriele Villarini Guest lecture on climate, weather and infectious disease for undergraduates and graduate students.	
	<i>ENV 354/GEO 368: Climate and Weather: Order in the Chaos</i>	Fall 2025
	<b>Guest Lecturer</b> , Princeton University Professor: Gabriel Vecchi Guest lecture on the El Niño–Southern Oscillation for undergraduates.	
	<i>SPI 586D: Global Environmental Governance</i>	Spring 2024, 2025
	<b>Guest Lecturer</b> , Princeton University and NYU School of Law Professors: Michael Oppenheimer, Bryce Rudyk Guest lecture on solar radiation management, climate modeling, and international governance strategies for geoen지니어ing.	
	<b>Professional Development Associate</b> , GradFUTURES, Princeton University Supported science policy career pathways and professional development opportunities for Princeton graduate students. Co-organized the inaugural science policy learning cohort, science communication workshop, and evaluated AAAS CASE workshop applications.	2024-25
	<b>Advisor</b> , High Meadows Environmental Institute Summer Internship, Princeton University Advised undergraduate researcher Emma Dornseif during the summer and senior thesis project on extreme temperature and mortality, joint with the Department of Anthropology.	2024-25
	<i>GEO 425 / MAE 425: Introduction to Ocean Physics for Climate</i>	Fall 2022
<b>Assistant in Instruction &amp; Guest Lecturer</b> , Princeton University Professor: Gabriel Vecchi Guest lectures (5): Surface heat fluxes / ocean heat budget, mixed layer dynamics, deep ocean circulation and global overturning climate impacts, ENSO observations, ENSO theory.		

	<p><i>USW 35: Dilemmas of Equity and Excellence in American K-12 Education</i> Fall 2018  <b>Course Assistant</b>, Harvard College Program in General Education  Professor: Katherine (Kay) Merseth  Topics: US public education history, current issues, and reform.</p> <p><i>APMTH 120: Applied Linear Algebra and Big Data</i> Spring 2018  <b>Teaching Fellow</b>, Harvard School of Engineering &amp; Applied Sciences  Professor: Eli Tziperman  Topics: singular value decomposition, spectral clustering, neural networks, applications to economics &amp; science.</p>
OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p><b>AmeriCorps Member</b> 2019–2020  <i>City Year Boston, Henry Grew Elementary School</i>  Provided holistic support and tracked student data in a 5th grade classroom, including individual and small-group tutoring in math and English language arts, social-emotional coaching, after-school enrichment, and school-wide programming.</p> <p><b>Freelance Tutor</b> 2019–2020  Tutored high school students, undergraduates, and adult learners.  Subjects: Earth Science, Chinese, MATLAB, college essay writing, SAT prep.</p> <p><b>Science Teacher</b> Summer 2019  <i>Children’s School of Science, Woods Hole, MA</i>  Designed curricula and taught hands-on, field-based summer courses for students ages 8-12.  Courses: Marine Biology, Invertebrate Zoology.</p> <p><b>Peer Tutor</b> 2016–2019  <i>Harvard College Bureau of Study Counsel</i>  Tutored 11 undergraduates in linear algebra, multivariable calculus, statistics, probability, Chinese, and American Sign Language.</p>
CONFERENCE TALKS	<p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, B. Grenfell, and C. J. Metcalf, 2025: “Intersecting Memories of Immunity and Climate: Potential Multiyear and Nonlinear Impacts of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation on Infectious Disease Spread.” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i>, New Orleans, LA.</p> <p>(invited) <b>M. V. Chung</b>, 2024: “Infectious Disease Dynamics in a Changing Climate.” <i>Detection and Attribution Science Workshop</i>, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.</p> <p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, W. Yang, and G. A. Vecchi, 2023: “Abrupt Solar Changes Yield Asymmetric Responses in Deep Water Density and Meridional Overturning Circulation.” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i>, San Francisco, CA.</p> <p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, B. Grenfell, and C. J. Metcalf, 2023: “Multiyear Impacts of ENSO on Infectious Disease Spread in Weather-Disease Models.” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i>, San Francisco, CA.</p> <p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, M. Liu, B. Soden, and G. A. Vecchi, 2023: “The influence of sea surface salinity variability on the equatorial Pacific mean state and extreme ENSO events.” <i>Northeast Tropical Workshop</i>, University at Albany, Albany, NY.</p> <p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, M. Liu, B. Soden, and G. A. Vecchi, 2022: “The Role of Sea Surface Salinity in Extreme El Niño events.” <i>Ocean Salinity Conference</i>, Columbia University, New York, NY.</p> <p><b>M. V. Chung</b>, M. Liu, B. Soden, and G. A. Vecchi, 2021: “The Role of Sea Surface Salinity in Extreme El Niño events.” <i>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting</i>, New Orleans, LA.</p>
OTHER FORMAL TALKS	<p>(invited) <b>M. V. Chung</b>, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, 2025: “Runaway Cooling from Large Solar Reductions Modulated by Ocean Overturning Circulation and Heat Uptake.” <i>45th ECS &amp; Cloud Feedback Virtual</i></p>

Symposium. [https://youtu.be/YJK-MvE-Pys?si=\\_X09i8-RqB4484r9&t=550](https://youtu.be/YJK-MvE-Pys?si=_X09i8-RqB4484r9&t=550)

(invited) **M. V. Chung**, 2024: “ENSO forecasting and implications for infectious disease prediction.” *On the accuracy (and niceness) of prediction: From epidemics to climate and weather*, High Meadows Environmental Institute and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton, NJ.

**M. V. Chung**, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, B. Grenfell, and C. J. Metcalf, 2023: “Multiyear Impacts of ENSO on Infectious Disease Spread in Weather-Disease Models.” *STEP Seminar*, School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton, NJ.

**M. V. Chung**, 2023: “Climate Science at the IPCC: How Research Informs Policy.” *John Locke Institute Public Policy Symposium*, Princeton, NJ.

**M. V. Chung**, 2019: “Down with Density: A New Way to Quantify Ocean Warming due to Climate Change.” *Harvard College 3-Minute Thesis Finalist Presentations*, Harvard College Writing Center, Cambridge, MA.

**M. V. Chung**, G. Gebbie, and P. Huybers, 2019: “Quantifying Isopycnal Heave Using Dynamic Depth Warping.” *2019 Senior Thesis Presentations*, Harvard University Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Cambridge, MA.

**M. V. Chung**, G. Gebbie, and P. Huybers, 2018: “Quantifying Layer Thickness Changes Using Dynamic Depth Warping.” *Summer Student Fellow Presentations*, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Physical Oceanography Department, Woods Hole, MA.

POSTER  
PRESENTATIONS

**M. V. Chung**, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, 2025: "Runaway cooling from large solar reductions modulated by ocean overturning circulation and heat uptake." *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, New Orleans, LA.

(Award) **M. V. Chung**, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, B. Grenfell, and C. J. Metcalf, 2024: “Intersecting memories of immunity and climate: Potential multiyear impacts of the El Niño—Southern Oscillation on infectious disease spread.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, Washington, D.C.

**M. V. Chung**, W. Yang, G. A. Vecchi, B. Grenfell, and C. J. Metcalf, 2024: “Intersecting memories of immunity and climate: Potential multiyear impacts of the El Niño—Southern Oscillation on infectious disease spread.” *HMEI Discovery Day*, Princeton, NJ.

(invited) **M. V. Chung**, M. Liu, B. Soden, and G. A. Vecchi, 2023: “The Influence of Sea Surface Salinity on the Equatorial Pacific Mean State and Extreme ENSO Events.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

**M. V. Chung**, M. Liu, B. Soden, and G. A. Vecchi, 2022: “The Influence of Sea Surface Salinity on the Equatorial Pacific Mean State and Extreme ENSO Events.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, Chicago, IL.

**M. V. Chung**, G. Gebbie, and P. Huybers, 2020: “Quantifying Ocean Heat Content Changes Related to ENSO, Seasonal Variability, and Trends in Isopycnal Heave.” *Ocean Sciences Meeting*, San Diego, CA.

**M. V. Chung**, G. Gebbie, and P. Huybers, 2018: “Quantifying Isopycnal Heave Using Dynamic Depth Warping.” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, Washington, D. C.

**M. V. Chung**, I. Cerovecki, F. A. Haumann, M. Mazloff, S. Gille, and L. Talley, 2018: “Variability of Sea Ice Production in the Ross Sea from 2006-2010 and its Relationship to the Amundsen Sea Low.” *Ocean Sciences Meeting*, Portland, OR.

**M. V. Chung**, I. Cerovecki, M. Mazloff, S. Gille, and L. Talley, 2018: “Variability of Ice Production in the Ross Sea in 2006-2010 and its Relationship to the Amundsen Sea Low.” *SURF Research Symposium*, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA.

MEDIA

["Training the Next Generation of Scientists to Connect with Policymakers"](#) (article by Maya Chung) – Princeton GradFUTURES, August 2025

"The Interplay of ENSO and Immunity in Infectious Disease Outbreaks" (research highlight) – *Eos*, March 2025

"Why Hurricanes And Typhoons Will Become More Dangerous" (quoted) – *Forbes*, March 2021

"Intensity of Tropical Cyclones is Probably Increasing Due to Climate Change" (quoted) – University of East Anglia, March 2021

OTHER	Science Policy Learning Cohort, Princeton GradFUTURES	Spring 2025
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS	"Geoengineering in Crisis: The Princeton Workshop on Geoengineering Ethics and Governance" 2024, Princeton, NJ	
	"Dynamics of the Global Water Cycle," 2022 Advanced Climate Dynamics Course (ACDC), Rondvassbu, Norway	
	2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference ( <b>COP26</b> )	Glasgow, Scotland
	Inclusive Leadership Learning Cohort, Princeton GradFUTURES	Fall 2020
COMPETENCIES	<b>Languages</b> English (native), American Sign Language (advanced), Chinese (intermediate)	
	<b>Computer</b> Python, Matlab, R, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Microsoft Office	
SELECTED SERVICE	<b>American Geophysical Union GeoHealth Early Career Committee</b>	2025–Present
	Committee Member	
	<b>Princeton AOS Outreach</b>	2022–Present
	Head Organizer, Volunteer	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronx Community College STEM Day (2025)</li><li>• Spring into Science at Princeton University (2025)</li><li>• Bronx Community College / City University of New York research scholars career presentation on climate &amp; health (2024)</li><li>• NJ Ocean Fun Days (2024)</li><li>• Mercer County Boys &amp; Girls Club Women and Girls Conference career panelist (2023), mentor (2024)</li><li>• Mercer County Boys &amp; Girls Club Annual STEM Conference (2022, 2023)</li><li>• Bronx Community College climate science &amp; policy career presentation (2022)</li></ul>	
	<b>Princeton Women in Geosciences (PWIGS)</b>	2022–2025
	Mentor	
	Mentored Princeton University graduate students in Geosciences.	
	<b>AOS Applicant Mentorship Program (AMP)</b>	2022–2024
	Organizer / Mentor	
	Helped prospective PhD students navigate the application process.	
	<b>Association to Benefit Children – Study Buddies Connect</b>	June 2021–Dec 2024
	Volunteer Tutor / Mentor	
	Provided virtual and in-person one-on-one tutoring for a student for 2 hours/week in math, literacy, and science.	
	<b>Princeton AOS Summer Workshop</b>	2021, 2023
	Organizer	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023: Paleo, present, and future: Leveraging the past to understand and predict our changing climate</li><li>• 2021: Climate Tipping Points</li></ul>	
	<b>Princeton Undergraduates in Geosciences Mentorship Program</b>	2020–2022
	Graduate Mentor	
	Mentored Princeton University undergraduates in Geosciences and related fields.	

**Science Olympiad (Virginia, Massachusetts)**

2017–2019

Event Supervisor, Test Writer

Ran Earth Science events for middle and high school students at regional and state competitions.

OTHER EXTRA-  
CURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES

**Princeton Energy and Climate Scholars**

2023–2025

High Meadows Environmental Institute

- Helped run a three-part film screening and discussion series on the impacts of lithium mining on indigenous communities.
- Created educational plaques and helped establish a community microforest, along with mentoring volunteer students from Princeton Middle School.

**Environmental Policy Associates Program**

2023–2025

Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE)