

Daniel Chavas

“Dan”



Graduate Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Location: Cambridge, MA

Graduate Discipline: Atmospheric Dynamics

Hometown: Madison, WI

Research Interests:

I am interested in the dynamics and evolution of tropical cyclones, in particular what modulates their horizontal length scale during the lifetime of a single storm and across storms. More broadly, my interests include climate science, climate policy, and the communication of complex scientific issues to the public.

About me:

I am currently finishing up my 2nd year in a PhD program in atmospheric science at MIT. I have a long-held fascination with the weather ever since a tree fell on my house during a storm when I was four years old, which has translated well to my current research on tropical cyclones. Beyond my basic science, I am also tentatively a masters student in the MIT Technology and Policy Program and am a member of the Science Policy Initiative on campus. I have a keen interest in the interaction between science and society, particularly in the context of climate change.

My career goals are currently up in the air, but I hope to work at the interface of science and society in order to help bridge the gap between scientists and the public, including both policymakers and the media. Over the past few years I've had the opportunity to closely observe how scientists, journalists, and laypeople from a diversity of backgrounds understand and interpret climate science and policy information. In 2006, I created a global warming science student organization at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 2007, I worked as an intern in the World Climate Programme at the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Clearly, climate change presents one of the most complex issues—scientifically, economically, socially, ethically—faced by modern society, and its long-term and uncertain nature necessitates that scientist and society operate hand-in-hand under the public microscope well into the future. As a climate scientist with a firm understanding of the social and political facets of the science our community produces, I intend to help ensure this interaction will be more fruitful for all parties moving forwards.

In addition to academic work, I am an avid tennis player and fan and enjoy traveling, hiking, and eating.



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