

## Daniel L. Swain

NatureNet Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles  
 Center for Climate Science, Institute of the Environment & Sustainability  
 LaKretz Hall, Suite 300, 619 Charles E Young Drive South  
 Los Angeles, CA 90024

Phone: (415) 686-1349  
 Email: dlswain@ucla.edu  
 ORCID: 0000-0003-4276-3092  
 Updated: March 21, 2018

### Research interests

---

Dynamics & impacts of regional climate change, hydrological extremes, extreme event detection/attribution, ocean/sea ice-atmosphere teleconnections, natural hazard risk, science writing & communication

### Education

---

- Ph.D., Earth System Science, Stanford University** 2016  
 Dissertation Title: “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

---

- Swain, D.L.**, B. Langenbrunner, J.D. Neelin, and A. Hall, “Increasing precipitation volatility in 21<sup>st</sup> century California” (*in press, Nature Climate Change*) 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Swain, D.L.**, Lebassi-Habtezion, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, Evaluation of non-hydrostatic 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, 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.

### **Publications submitted/in preparation**

---

Touma, D., Michalak, A. M., **Swain, D.L.**, and N. Diffenbaugh, “Spatial characteristics of extreme precipitation over the United States” (*in review, Journal of Climate*) 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

### **Published perspectives and commentaries**

---

**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**

---

NatureNet Postdoctoral Fellowship, Nature Conservancy/University of California 2016-2018  
Finalist, AAAS Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science 2017  
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

### **Invited scientific presentations**

---

**Swain, D.L.**, “Teleconnections and regional impacts under anthropogenic Aug. 2017

forcing” & “Global warming influence on extreme events,” *US Climate Variability and Predictability Program (CLIVAR) Summit*, Baltimore, MD (*invited speaker and panelist*)

**Swain, D.L.**, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Trends in persistent seasonal-scale atmospheric circulation patterns responsible for precipitation and temperatures extremes in California,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA (*invited speaker*) Dec. 2015

**Swain, D.L.**, “Drought causes,” *American Geophysical Union Chapman Conf. on California Drought: Causes, Impacts, & Policy*, Univ. of California, Irvine (*invited panelist*) Apr. 2015

**Swain, D.L.**, “The extraordinary 2012-2015 drought in California and its context in a warming world,” *Water Scarcity in the West: Past, Present, Future Conference*, Univ. of California, Davis (*invited speaker and panelist*) Apr. 2015

**Swain, D.L.**, “Persistent atmospheric patterns and the ongoing California drought: the role of the Ridiculously Resilient Ridge,” *NASA Earth Science Seminar*, NASA Ames, Mountain View, CA (*invited speaker*) Mar. 2015

**Swain, D.L.**, Touma, D., Singh, D., Tsiang, M., Haugen, M., Charland, A., Rajaratnam, B., and N. S. Diffenbaugh, “The extraordinary California drought of 2012-2015: Historical context and the role of climate change,” *Pacific Climate Workshop 2015*, Pacific Grove, CA (*invited speaker*) Mar. 2015

**Swain, D.L.**, Touma, D., Singh, D., Tsiang, M., Haugen, M., Charland, A., Rajaratnam, B., and N. S. Diffenbaugh, “The extraordinary California drought of 2012-2015: Historical context and the role of climate change,” *Atmosphere and Energy Departmental Seminar*, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (*invited speaker*) Mar. 2015

## Professional experience

---

### Scientific Research

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Climate Science; Inst. of Environment & Sustainability** 2016-Present  
**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, NASA/National Center for Suborbital Research** 2010  
**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/California Weather 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 250 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: The Economist, The Atlantic, Scientific American, Popular Science, National Geographic, Outside Magazine, Sunset Magazine, Bay Nature Magazine

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

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

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

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

***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*

2016-2017

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

*Stanford University*

2013-2016

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

**Public and community outreach**

---

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 Lecturer, “California’s increasingly extreme climate future,” Rusch Honors Colloquium, Viterbi School of Engineering, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA Nov. 2017

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 Lecturer, “Causes and impacts of climate change—a California perspective,” Climate and Law Policy Seminar, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA Sep. 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 May 2016

and the Future of California Drought,” Stanford University, Stanford, CA

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

Active engagement with various science communication and education programs, including the Woods Institute for the Environment, the Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford Science Podcast, KSZU Campus Radio, and Stanford Daily Q&A sessions 2013-2016

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

## Other awards and recognitions

---

“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 publications and science writing

---

- Swain, D.L.** and V. Carranza, “The science behind ‘An Inconvenient Sequel,’” article for UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability blog, 08 August 2017. Available online at: <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/article/science-behind-inconvenient-sequel> 2017
- Swain, D.L.**, *Outside Magazine* contributor, various articles 2015-2016
- Swain, D.L.**, *KQED Public Media* contributor, various articles 2015-2016
- Diffenbaugh, N.S. and **D.L. Swain**, “Climate Change and the California Drought,” article for Brookings Institution *PlanetPolicy* blog, 06 October 2014. Available online at: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/planetpolicy/posts/2014/10/06-climate-change-california-drought-diffenbaugh-swain> 2014
- Swain, D.L.**, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Viewpoints: Climate change is increasing the chances of drought,” *Sacramento Bee* Op-Ed, 30 September 2014. Available online at: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article2615493.html> 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. 2010

## Other scientific presentations

---

### Oral Presentations

- Swain, D.L.**, B. Langenbrunner, J.D. Neelin, A. Hall, “Increasing climate whiplash in 21st century California,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, New Orleans, LA Dec. 2017
- Swain, D.L.**, A. Hall, D. Neelin, “California precipitation extremes in a warming world,” *Sustainable LA Water Research Grand Challenge Research Symposium*, Los Angeles, CA Nov. 2017

### Poster Presentations

- Swain, D.L.**, D. Singh, D.E. Horton, J.S. Mankin, T. Ballard, and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Connections between the tropical Pacific Ocean, Arctic sea ice, and anomalous northeastern Pacific ridging,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA Dec. 2016
- Swain, D.L.**, Horton, D.E., Singh, D., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Character and causes of changing Pacific climate extremes: Special focus on the extraordinary 2012-2015 California drought,” *Young Environmental Scholars Conference*, Stanford, CA Dec. 2015
- Swain, D.L.**, Tsiang, M. Haugen, M., Singh, D., Charland, A., Rajaratnam, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA Dec. 2014
- Swain, D.L.**, Tsiang, M. Haugen, M., Singh, D., Charland, A., Rajaratnam, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” *Graduate Climate Conference*, University of Washington (Pack Forest), Nov. 2014

Eatonville, WA

**Swain, D.L.**, Tsiang, M. Haugen, M., Singh, D., Charland, A., Rajaratnam, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “The Extraordinary California Drought of 2013-2014: Character, Context, and the Role of Climate Change,” *Fourth Workshop on understanding Climate Change from Data*, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO Jun. 2014

**Swain, D.L.**, Lebassi-Habtezion, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Evaluation of high-resolution simulations of Northeast Pacific atmospheric rivers,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA Dec. 2013

**Swain, D.L.**, Lebassi-Habtezion, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “Mid-Latitude Precipitation Extremes: Latitudinal Linkages and Climate Change,” *Swiss National Center for Competence in Research (NCCR Climate)*, Grindelwald, Switzerland Sep. 2013

**Swain, D.L.**, Lebassi-Habtezion, B., and N.S. Diffenbaugh, “High-resolution seasonal simulations of Northeast Pacific atmospheric rivers and comparison to in-situ observations,” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA Dec. 2012

### **Professional affiliations and activities**

---

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