SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Oklahoma Water Resources Center &
Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR
are hosting the following presentation:

Global climate models and downscaling: What (the heck) are they and why should I care?

Seminar Details:

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 12, 2016
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Oklahoma State University
Ag Hall, Room #101
Stillwater, OK

Questions: emma.kuster@okstate.edu

Open to the public

Presenter:

Dr. Renee McPherson
University of Oklahoma
SC Climate Science Center

ABSTRACT

Climate change research has permeated many fields of study, from the arts and humanities to social sciences to natural sciences. The impacts of climate change are seen worldwide, but our understanding of those impacts - and what humans can do about them - remains limited. To better understand climate change impacts, many researchers and practitioners use the results from global climate models or from downscaled datasets. Unfortunately, many researchers treat these datasets as “black boxes” and apply the data incorrectly, looking for the “best” projection of the future to plug into a given crop model, hydrologic model, or other application. If that’s you, you aren’t alone! There are hundreds of publications in the literature that use and abuse these datasets.

Do not be afraid! With a little extra knowledge, you can apply results from global climate models or downscaling with confidence. At the very least, you will know what limitations to include in your manuscript, making reviewers happy (and joining the club of the cool kids who know how to apply the data well).

This talk will review:
- what global climate models and downscaling methods are,
- what some of the common mistakes smart people make when they use them (yes, even the speakers at one time!), and
- how you can be wiser when you apply climate projections to your project.

We can’t promise that you’ll leave thinking you know all of the solutions, but we think you’ll understand important nuances that could affect the interpretation of your results.

This material is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. OIA-1301789. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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