

2025-2026 Werner A. Baum Lecture

Adam Sobel, professor of applied physics and applied mathematics and of earth and environmental sciences, to discuss the relationship between tropical cyclone risk and tropical Pacific climate



Adam Sobel, Ph.D.

The Florida State University Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science and the College of Arts and Sciences are pleased to announce Adam Sobel, Ph.D., as the 2025-2026 Werner A. Baum lecturer.

Friday, Nov. 14, 3 p.m.
EOAS Building | Room 1050

Sobel will present **"Tropical cyclone risk and the state of the tropical Pacific,"** exploring how tropical cyclone risk is strongly modulated by the state of the tropical Pacific climate. Although Earth system models have simulated long-term trends in sea surface temperature under greenhouse gas warming similar to El Niño, over the past few decades, observations have shown trends more similar to La Niña, approximately opposite to what the models predicted.

Sobel will present results from ongoing projects that seek to understand why the models might be wrong and generate "storylines" of near-term climate change, TC activity, and TC hazard and risk more consistent with recent history.

This event is free and open to the FSU community, and registration is not required. Questions? Email Allison Wing, Werner A. and Shirley B. Baum Professor, at awing@fsu.edu.

About the lecturer

Adam Sobel, Ph.D. is a professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Engineering School. He studies weather and climate with a focus on extreme weather events and a particular interest in the tropics. Sobel's research spans basic and applied prediction and risk assessment, and uses observations, theory, and numerical simulations with models spanning a hierarchy in complexity.

Sobel earned a B.A. in physics and music from Wesleyan University in 1989 and a Ph.D. in meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1998. He received the 2026 Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology Award, the 2014 Louis J. Battan Author's Award, and the Clarence Leroy Meisinger Award all from the American Meteorological Society, of which he became a Fellow in 2020; the 2022 Jule Gregory Charney Lectureship and 2014 Ascent Award from the Atmospheric Sciences

Section of the American Geophysical Union, of which he became a Union Fellow in 2023; and the 2010 Lamont-Doherty Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

About the Werner A. Baum Lectureship

Renowned meteorologist Werner A. Baum is among the FSU faculty members known as the '49ers, who were hired in 1949 and would go on to shape the university's trajectory for decades to come. Baum served on the FSU faculty for 14 years, including as chair of the Department of Meteorology, dean of the Graduate School, dean of faculty, and vice president for academic affairs before departing in 1963 to become president of the University of Rhode Island and later chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Baum returned to FSU in 1979 to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a position he held until his retirement from academia in 1990. This endowed lectureship recognizes Baum's lifetime of contributions to the field and to FSU.