Interview with early career scientist

Emily Slinskey

What is your biggest source of inspiration in pursuing your career in climate science? Or, what do you see as the biggest challenge of current/future climate science you wish to address?

Detrimental societal and environmental impacts related to climate change have been assessed and documented across many scales, from global to local, and signal a call to act. As climate scientists we are given the task of making sense of the many facets of this complex system of which there is still quite a bit of uncertainty surrounding. I am most intrigued by the prospect of quantifying and communicating this uncertainty. As we become more confident in the bigger picture surrounding global climate change, the radically different realization of regional change is less clear. With climate change mitigation policies and adaption initiatives greatly influenced by societal vulnerabilities to climate impacts, it is imperative that we provide information at scales fine enough to capture regional variability and impacts.

How would you see yourself contributing to climate science in the next 10 years?

There is a growing need to understand how extreme weather phenomena will change under future climate. My research interests lay in exploring how such phenomena will emerge within the climate system. I hope that I can work toward bridging the gap between extreme weather and climate, with an emphasis on deepening our understanding of underlying physical mechanisms driving these events and how they vary across climate states. Most of all I hope my work is useful and meaningful, not only to the scientific community but to society.