Benjamin Santer

Research

Ben Santer is an atmospheric scientist. He recently retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is now a Visiting Researcher at UCLA's Joint Institute for Regional Earth System Science & Engineering. He studies natural and human "fingerprints" in observed climate records. His early research contributed to the historic 1995 conclusion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate". He served as lead author of a key chapter of that report. Since 1995, Ben has identified human fingerprints in atmospheric temperature and water vapor, ocean heat content, sea surface temperature in hurricane formation regions, and many other climate variables.

Education

Ben holds a doctorate in Climatology from the University of East Anglia, England. After completing his Ph.D. with Prof. Tom Wigley in 1987, he spent five years at the Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology in Germany. While at the Max-Planck Institute, he worked with Prof. Klaus Hasselmann on developing and applying climate fingerprint methods. Ben was at Lawrence Livermore's Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison from 1992 until October 2021.

Other information

Ben has received a number of awards for his research. These include a MacArthur Fellowship (1998), membership in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2011), and the Procter Prize (2019). The most significant awards are the friendships he has made during his career. In addition to his research, he cares deeply about the communication of climate science to a wide range of audiences. He writes for the Scientific American blog and has appeared on "Late Night with Seth Meyers". Together with Chip Duncan and Dr. Hernando Garzon, Ben is a member of "The Three Tenors of Climate Change". The Tenors are devoted to the task of improving public understanding of the science and impacts of human-caused climate change. In his spare time, Ben is an avid rock-climber and mountaineer.



Email: bensanter1289@gmail.com Phone: (925) 321-3482