



The Changing Face of El Niño

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Over the past 30 years, a new type of El Niño has emerged with its largest warming concentrated in the central Pacific. These "central Pacific" (CP) El Niños, also referred to as "dateline", "modoki", or "warm pool" El Niños, can have different climatic impacts than more traditional El Niños, which have their largest warming in the eastern Pacific. Understanding the differences in evolution, dynamics, and predictability for these two types of El Niño is not only a challenging scientific problem but also important for practical applications. This presentation will make use of detailed observations over the past 30 years to examine the distinguishing features of CP El Niños vs eastern Pacific (EP) El Niños. It will also address the question of whether the trend towards more frequent occurrence of CP El Niños can be attributed global warming.