

# Yanxu Chen

Department of Physical Oceanography, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Office 350A, Clark Lab, 360 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543

Research webpage: [yanxu-chen.github.io](https://yanxu-chen.github.io)

Email: [yanxu.chen@whoi.edu](mailto:yanxu.chen@whoi.edu)

Cell phone: 508-524-3347

## EDUCATION

**École Normale Supérieure (ENS), Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)** **Paris, France**

- Ph.D., Department of Geosciences (Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique) **Dec 2018-Sep 2022**
- Thesis title: Ocean ventilation at the mesoscale.
- Advisor: Sabrina Speich

**McGill University** **Montreal, Canada**

- M.Sc., Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences **Sep 2016-Dec 2018**
- Thesis title: Flow-dependent Ekman theory.
- Advisors: David Straub and Louis-Philippe Nadeau

**Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)** **Guangzhou, China**

- B.Sc., School of Marine Sciences **Sep 2012-Jun 2016**
- Thesis title: Combined effects of river discharge and tidal range on estuary water levels.
- Thesis advisors: Qingshu Yang and Huayang Cai

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** **Hong Kong**

- Summer Exchange **Jun-Aug 2014**

## WORK EXPERIENCES

**Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution** **Woods Hole, US**

- Postdoc Investigator, Department of Physical Oceanography **Sep 2022-Current**
- Advisors: Viviane Menezes and Lisan Yu
- Research Project 1: The global imprint of ocean mesoscale dynamics on air-sea heat fluxes. (PI: Lisan Yu)
- Research Project 2: NASA's SASSIE campaign: Arctic air-sea heat budget and boundary layer stability in the Beaufort-Chukchi Seas. (WHOI PIs: Viviane Menezes and Seth Zippel)
- Research Project 3: Air-sea interactions in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. (WHOI PI: Viviane Menezes)

**University of Alberta** **Edmonton, Canada**

- Undergrad Research Intern, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences **May-Sep 2015**
- Advisor: Paul Myers
- Research project: Assessment of freshwater budget through major straits around the Greenland (by comparing numerical runs to investigate the stratification and freshwater transport).

## FIELDWORK

### Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP-3)

Woods Hole, US

#### Scientific Member

Sep 2024 until now

Activities: Launches of atmospheric soundings and comparisons with numerical simulations, to investigate the near-surface marine boundary layer stability.

### EUREC4A Campaign R/V L'Atalante

south of Barbados

#### Scientific Crew Member

Jan-Feb 2020

Activities: Deployments of several instruments, mainly CTD casts, uCTDs, XBTs and Argo floats; Water mass (mode water) detection with the proceeding shipborne data.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2024** Chen, Y., and Yu, L. "Mesoscale meridional heat transport inferred from sea surface observations." *Geophysical Research Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023GL106376>
- Chen, Y., and Yu, L. "Signature of mesoscale eddies on air-sea heat fluxes in the North Indian Ocean." *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JC019878>
- Carrigg, J., Yu, L., Menezes, V., and Chen, Y. "Autumnal equinox shift in Arctic surface energy budget: Beaufort-Chukchi Seas case study." *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JC020788>
- 2023** Yu, L., Chen, Y., Gonzalez, A., Zhang, C., and Foltz, G. "Dry air outbreak and significant surface turbulent heat loss during hurricane Ian: satellite and saildrone observations." *Geophysical Research Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023GL105583>
- 2022** Chen, Y., Speich, S., and Laxenaire, R. "Formation and transport of the South Atlantic subtropical mode water in eddy-permitting observations." *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021JC017767>
- 2021** Chen, Y., Straub, D., and Nadeau, L-P. "Interaction of nonlinear Ekman pumping, near-inertial oscillations, and geostrophic turbulence in an idealized coupled model." *Journal of Physical Oceanography*. <https://doi.org/10.1175/JPO-D-20-0268.1>
- Stevens, B., ... Chen, Y., ... et al. "EUREC4A." *Earth System Science Data*. <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-13-4067-2021>
- Under review** Chen, Y., Yu, L., and Zhang, C. "Impacts of atmospheric near-surface stability on the Arctic summer air-sea heat budget assessed with uncrewed surface vehicles." accepted in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*.
- Chen, Y., Menezes, V., and Yu, L. "Physical phenology of air-sea heat budget for the Beaufort Sea autumn freeze-up." under review in the *Journal of Climate*.
- Chen, Y., and Speich, S. "Role of mesoscale eddies in global mode water distribution and ventilation." in revision for the *Geophysical Research Letters*.
- Chen, Y., Barnier, S., and Yu, L. "Mixed-layer heat loss in cold wakes of rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones." in preparation.
- Chen, Y., Speich, S., and Straub, D. "Water mass subduction in an isopycnic coordinate." in preparation.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- **Mentor for the Summer Student Fellow (WHOI)** **Summer 2024**  
SSF student: Sean Barnier from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Study on ocean's responses to tropical cyclones.
- **Mentor for the Summer Student Fellow (WHOI)** **Summer 2023**

SSF student: Joe Carrigg from Oregon State University

Study on air-sea heat budget in the Arctic Ocean.

- **One lecture in the course: Submesoscale Ocean Processes (WHOI)** Fall 2022  
Course instructor: Amala Mahadevan
- **TA in the course: Introduction to Oceanic Sciences (McGill)** Winter 2018  
Course instructor: Carolina Dufour
- **TA in the course: Natural Disasters (McGill)** Fall 2017  
Course instructors: John Gyakum and Souad Guernina
- **TA in the course: Pearl River Delta Field Trip (SYSU)** Fall 2015  
Field trip instructor: Yaping Lei

## PRESENTATIONS

- **University of Rhode Island PO Seminar 2025** Narragansett, US  
Talk: Eddy-induced air-sea coupling in momentum and heat budgets
- **WHOI Postdoc Symposium 2025** Woods Hole, US  
Talk: Mixed-layer heat loss in cold wakes of rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones
- **WHOI Physical Oceanography Seminar 2024** Woods Hole, US  
Talk: Eddy-induced air-sea coupling in momentum and heat budgets
- **Ocean Sciences Meeting 2024** New Orleans, US  
Poster: Physical phenology of air-sea heat budget in the Beaufort Sea autumn freeze-up
- **CAMAS Workshop 2024** Santa Fe, US  
Talk: Physical phenology of air-sea heat budget in the Beaufort Sea autumn freeze-up
- **Eddy Energy Annual Meeting 2023** Woods Hole, US  
Talk: Signature of mesoscale eddies on air-sea heat fluxes: strong compensation between SSH-SST coherent and incoherent eddies
- **Mesoscale and Frontal-Scale Air-Sea Interactions Workshop 2023** Boulder, US  
Talk: Signature of mesoscale eddies on air-sea heat fluxes: strong compensation between SSH-SST coherent and incoherent eddies
- **Imaginary Futures Workshop (Arts and Sciences) 2022** Paris, France  
Creation: Sound waves in water
- **Laws of Nature Conference (Philosophy) 2022** Munich, Germany  
Short talk: The role of ocean in the warming climate
- **FDSE Summer School 2022** Paris, France  
Poster: Water mass subduction in the isopycnic coordinate
- **EUREC4A-OA Workshop 2022** Paris, France  
Talk: Water mass subduction in the isopycnic coordinate
- **BGC-Argo Science Webinar (SOCCOM) 2022** virtually  
Talk: Global mode water detection and its representation in heat transport
- **Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022** virtually  
Talk: Global mode water detection and its representation in heat transport
- **TRIATLAS General Assembly 2021** virtually  
Poster: Formation and transport of the South Atlantic subtropical mode water in eddy-permitting observations

- **LMD Webinar 2021: Mesoscale dynamics and air-sea interactions** virtually  
Talk: The South Atlantic subtropical mode water in eddy-permitting observations
- **AGU Fall Meeting 2020** virtually  
Talk: Effect of mesoscale eddies on mode water formation, transport and heat uptake in the world ocean
- **EGU General Assembly 2020** virtually  
Talk: Effect of mesoscale eddies on subtropical mode water formation and ocean heat storage
- **EUREC4A Planning Workshop 2019** Paris, France  
Talk: The effect of mesoscale eddies on air-sea interactions
- **EGU General Assembly 2019** Vienna, Austria  
Talk: Flow-dependent Ekman theory and its application to shallow water models
- **McGill AOS Student Seminar 2018** Montreal, Canada  
Talk: Flow-dependent Ekman theory
- **Ocean Mixing Gordon Research Conference 2018** Andover, US  
Poster: Flow-dependent Ekman theory
- **Seminar at Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, École Normale Supérieure 2018** Paris, France  
Talk: Flow-dependent Ekman theory
- **Ocean Sciences Meeting 2018** Portland, US  
Poster: A shallow water model forced by flow-dependent Ekman pumping
- **Ocean Mesoscale Eddy Interaction with the Atmosphere Workshop 2018** Portland, US  
Poster: The application of flow-dependent Ekman transport to a two-layer shallow water model
- **McGill AOS Student Seminar 2017** Montreal, Canada  
Talk: Wind-driven Ekman transport of curvilinear flows
- **51st CMOS Congress 2017** Toronto, Canada  
Poster: Frequency analysis of wind forcing over ocean gyres
- **University of Alberta Summer Poster Symposium 2015** Edmonton, Canada  
Poster: Comparison of different ANHA simulations and analysis of time series for straits near Greenland

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

<b>2025</b>	Travel Grant from the Polar Early Career World Summit	PECWS
<b>2024</b>	Travel Grant for early career scientists from the CAMAS Workshop	CAMAS
<b>2023</b>	Travel Grant from the Mesoscale and Frontal-Scale Air-Sea Interactions Workshop	CLIVAR
<b>2019</b>	Chaire Chanel Research Grant for the PhD study	ENS
<b>2018</b>	Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award	McGill
<b>2017</b>	Stephen and Anastasia Mysak Graduate Fellowship	McGill
	Graduate Excellence Fellowship	McGill
	Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award	McGill
	Travel Grant from the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)	WCRP
<b>2016</b>	Stephen and Anastasia Mysak Graduate Fellowship	McGill
	Graduate Excellence Fellowship	McGill
	Mitacs Globalink Graduate Fellowship	Mitacs
	Outstanding Graduate of Sun Yat-sen University (Rank #1 in GPA)	SYSU

<b>2015</b>	Sun Yat-sen University Scholarship for Outstanding Students	SYSU
	Research Scholarship from China Scholarship Council	China Scholarship Council
	Second Prize of the National Ocean Knowledge Competition	State Oceanic Administration
<b>2014</b>	Sun Yat-sen University Scholarship for Outstanding Students	SYSU
	Baogang Scholarship for Excellent Students (only three students in the university)	SYSU
	Award from Province-based Research Training Program	Education Bureau of China
	Award from National Entrepreneurship Training Program	Education Bureau of China
<b>2013</b>	Sun Yat-sen University Scholarship for Outstanding Students	SYSU
	National Scholarship (Rank #1 in GPA)	Education Bureau of China

## SERVICES AND OUTREACH

<b>Peer reviews</b>	Geophysical Research Letters (American Geophysical Union) Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans (American Geophysical Union) Journal of Physical Oceanography (American Meteorological Society) Journal of Climate (American Meteorological Society) Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology (American Meteorological Society) Frontiers in Marine Science (Frontiers Media) Journal of Operational Oceanography (Taylor & Francis Group)
<b>Conference conveners</b>	Arctic-Antarctic Connections: Physics, Conservation, and Society (Polar Early Career World Summit 2025) Upcoming Session: Mesoscale Air-Sea Interaction (AGU 2025)
<b>Outreach</b>	Exhibitor for Falmouth Public Schools preK-12 STEAM Fair 2025 (Education Program) Representative at WHOI-MBL-NOAA Girls Empowerment and Leadership (GELI) Summit 2025 (Education Program) Exhibitor for Falmouth Annual Multicultural Fair 2025 (Cultural Program) Musician for WHOI Tunes at Noon 2024 (Musical Program)
<b>Management</b>	Organizer for postdoc lunch with WHOI PO scientists and staff 2025 Coordinator for WHOI PO seminars 2025

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Versed in skills for numerical modeling, statistical analysis and visualizations (e.g., familiar with the Linux System, Fortran, Matlab, Python, Latex Editing etc).
- Other languages: mother tongue in Chinese Mandarin and B2 level of French.