

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND BIostatISTICS
HILL CENTER #501, BUSCH CAMPUS, PISCATAWAY

www.stat.rutgers.edu

Seminar

Speaker: Dave Robinson, Rutgers University, Department of Geography

Title: Making Sense of Climate Data Records

Date: Wednesday February 25, 2009

Time: 3:20 PM

Place: 552 Hill Center

Abstract

A vexing issue for those studying the extremely noisy climate system is to identify significant patterns in a data record, be they spatial or temporal. First, you must be quite certain that errors or inconsistencies in the data are identified so that conclusions drawn have everything to do with the climate system and nothing to do with poor data. Next, results are sought using the “clean” data, and confidence limits are established to what may be found. With findings in hand, you then commonly evaluate results with respect to other components of the climate system. You also would like to attribute your results to a particular cause or forcing, and potentially establish probabilities with respect to future occurrences or recurrences of a particular situation.

This presentation will explore the general issues discussed above by introducing station (point) data records of New Jersey temperature, precipitation and snow and satellite records of snow extent across Northern Hemisphere lands. The intention is to pique the interest of the audience to conjure up means of evaluating these records using statistically meaningful approaches as we attempt to assess patterns, identify change and establish attribution.