


# ASHER SIEBERT, PhD

## SENIOR SCIENTIST ON LOSS AND DAMAGE CLIMATE ANALYTICS

### CONTACT

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 [asclimateservices.org](#)

### SKILLS

- **Quantitative/geographic data analysis:** MATLAB, R, Python, Ingrid (language of the IRI Data Library), CPT (Climate Predictability Tool), PyCPT (Python-CPT), CDT (Climate Data Tools), GIS
- **Other/General:** Microsoft Office, training, teaching, leadership, teamwork, interdisciplinary thinker, writing/presentation on technical subjects to diverse audiences
- **Language:** English - native, French - intermediate/advanced proficiency

### EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. Geography; Rutgers University (2009-2015)**  
Dissertation: Assessing the Viability of Index Insurance as an Adaptation Tool in a Changing Climate Context: Case Study in the West African Sahel
- **M.A. Climate and Society; Columbia University (2005-2006)**
- Graduate study, **Physical Oceanography; MIT-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) (2002-2004)**
- **B.A. Geosciences; Princeton University (1998-2002)**  
Cum Laude, Sigma Xi, Edward Sampson 1914 Prize in Environmental Geosciences Research

### PURPOSE

**To contribute to societal climate resilience**

***Adaption and solution oriented applied Climate Scientist with over 15 years of experience working on:***

- Climate data analysis; regression, correlation, downscaling and index analysis with global climate model, remote sensing, observational, agricultural and socioeconomic data
- Applications in agriculture/food security, health, energy, insurance and humanitarian disaster response
- Interdisciplinary, international team projects with complex, rapidly evolving objectives
- Projects spanning countries in Africa, the Caribbean, South Pacific and the US

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### CLIMATE ANALYTICS

**Senior Scientist on Loss and Damage**

**Nov 2024-present  
New York, NY**

- Lead and advise interdisciplinary research and stakeholder-engaged projects to quantify, address and adapt to climate-risk related loss and damage - projects in Saint Kitts and Nevis and South Pacific
- contributing author to knowledge products on greening the financial sector and blue carbon resources

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CLIMATE SCHOOL

**Teaching Assistant** - Climate Dynamics (graduate)

**Sep 2024-Dec 2024  
New York, NY**

#### CLIMATEBASE

**Fellow** - part of selective professional fellowship on climate

**Sep 2023-Dec 2023**

#### IVY BOUND

**Tutor** - SAT, GRE and academic STEM subjects

**Sep 2023-Dec 2024**

#### INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIETY (IRI)

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

**Palisades, NY**

**Senior Staff Associate**

**Jul 2019 - Dec 2022**

**Postdoctoral Research Scientist**

**Jun 2016 - Jun 2019**

- Work on WFP sponsored [Niger Forecast-based Financing project](#) triggered a 9.5 million USD [payout](#) through UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in response to a severe drought, 2022
- Lead author paper in [International Journal of Climatology](#) was the first study of Rwanda's climatology using high resolution satellite-station data including the post genocide period
- Forecast seasonal climate variability using statistical methods (canonical correlation analysis (CCA), principal component and extended logistic regression (PCR, ELR), skill assessment)
- Led or co-led 20 trainings (in-person and remote) on forecasting and analysis using IRI tools (with national and regional meteorological and climate services partners in Africa and Asia)
- Developed climate science and statistics curricula in climate risk management for agricultural extension in Ethiopia
- Coauthored papers in *Malaria Journal*, *Climate Dynamics*, *Atmospheric and Climate Sciences*, *Atmospheric Research*

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### CLIMATE ANALYTICS

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#### PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE (PEI), PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, NJ

##### **Postdoctoral Research Associate**

**Feb 2015 - May 2016**

- Interdisciplinary research with economists, engineers and public health experts on the interplay between climate mitigation, economic impact, population and public health using integrated assessment models (IAMs)
- Coauthored papers in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Climatic Change* and *World Bank Economic Review*

#### RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

New Brunswick, NJ

##### **Teaching Assistant / Graduate Student**

**Sep 2009 - Jan 2015**

- John Mather Paper of the Year Award for paper in [Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology](#), (Climate Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers (AAG))
- Lead author papers in *Climatic Change*, *Weather, Climate and Society*, *GeoCompass*, and *African Geographical Review*
- Developed statistical climate scenario analysis methods focusing on extreme seasons (Monte Carlo methods, extreme tail estimation methods, auto-regressive processes)
- Dissertation Teaching Award, (Rutgers University Graduate School) - developed and taught upper-level undergraduate course on climate and society
- 4+ years of undergraduate and graduate teaching and TA experience

#### INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIETY (IRI) COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

##### **Staff Associate**

**Sep 2006 - Dec 2008**

- Developed drought index insurance contracts for a dozen locations across Africa (Millennium Villages Project) in project supported by Swiss ReInsurance

## PUBLICATIONS

- Lead author or coauthor/contributing author of 15 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals, 15 reports/training curricula, two books, and over 50 conference proceedings (publications available through links)
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/asher-siebert-7016065/>
  - [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Asher\\_Siebert2](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Asher_Siebert2)
  - <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7111-8722>

## PERSONAL

Husband and father, musician: trumpet, piano, composition; klezmer, classical, jazz