

Andrew Challinor

I moved from a physics degree to a Ph.D. in forested boundary layers because I wanted to use my skill for a practical purpose. It was a case award with the Forestry Commission, who wanted to know how to forecast wind damage to trees. I had already been introduced to atmospheric physics whilst on an Erasmus year in Spain, and I knew I liked modelling after having modelled galactic hydrogen lines in my final year physics project (we had to model them, as the radio telescope was kaput - even when pointed at the sun we got no signal).



From my Ph.D. I moved to Reading University to look at linking weather and climate forecasts with models of crop productivity. My models allowed me to explore the effects of climate variability and long term change on crop growth and development. I was a sort of bridge between agriculture and meteorology, with the ultimate goal of contributing to food security, particularly for people in Tropical areas.

I am a Lecturer in climate change modelling at Leeds University. I'm now going to be expanding my work even more broadly, and working with folk in the Sustainability Research Institute, so that as well as the biology and physics, we also consider the socio-economics of climate change in our models.

Qualifications

Ph.D. in Meteorology and Forest micro-climate from the School of the Environment, the University of Leeds

B.Sc. in Physics (European), The University of Leeds

A levels in Physics, Maths, Economics and Spanish