

Tree Story: The history of our world written in the rings of trees (and clams)

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Dendrochronology – from the Greek words dendron (tree) and chronos (time) - allows us to study climate over the past ca. 2,000 years and to put current anthropogenic climate change in a long-term context. We can use tree rings to study past mean climate, but also climate extremes - such as drought, hurricanes, and wildfires - and climate dynamical patterns, such as the jet stream. In addition to this, dendrochronology sits at the nexus of climatology, ecology, and archeology and helps us to link climate history to forest history and human history.

In my talk, I will present world-wide examples of how our century-long records from trees – and clams! - have improved our understanding of the interactions between the climate system, human systems, and ecosystems.