

# **Christopher R. Williams, PhD**

Research Professor

Ann and H.J. Smead Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences  
University of Colorado Boulder

[Christopher.Williams@colorado.edu](mailto:Christopher.Williams@colorado.edu)

## **Research Interest**

My research vision is to advance our understanding of precipitation microphysical processes and cloud dynamics with the ultimate aim of improving parameterizations in numerical models. I pursue this vision by analyzing ground-, air-, and space-based radar observations to retrieve raindrop number and size estimates that lead to improved global rainfall estimates and improved understanding of precipitation processes and dynamics.

## **Education**

- Ph.D. 1994 University of Colorado Boulder, CO (Electrical Engineering)  
Thesis: Deep convective clouds and their association with nonmigrating atmospheric diurnal tides in the tropical troposphere (Prof. Susan Avery)
- M.S. 1986 Purdue University, West Layette, IN (Electrical Engineering)
- B.S. 1985 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA  
(Electronic Engineering)

## **Professional Experience**

- 2018-Present **Research Professor**, Ann and H.J. Smead Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2015-2017 **Senior Scientist**, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) / University of Colorado Boulder (CU), in partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) / Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)
- 2005-2015 **Research Scientist III**, CIRES / CU & NOAA ESRL
- 2001-2005 **Research Scientist III**, CIRES / CU & NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory
- 1997-2001 **Research Scientist II**, CIRES / CU & NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory
- 1994-1997 **Research Associate**, CIRES / CU & NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory
- 1991-1994 **Graduate Research Assistant**, CIRES / CU & NOAA Aeronomy Lab
- 1988-1991 **Development Engineer**, Next Generation Perfusion Team, COBE Laboratories, Arvada, Colorado
- 1987-1988 **Design Engineer**, CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Tube Development Group, HGM Medical Laser Systems, Salt Lake City, Utah

## Academic Appointments

2017-Present	Affiliate Member, Earth Science and Observation Center (ESOC), CIRES, University of Colorado Boulder (non-paid)
2007-2008	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder (co-taught ASEN 5245: Radar and Remote Sensing)
2005-2007	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University, Fort Collins (non-paid)
2004-2007	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Atmospheric Science, University of Alabama at Huntsville (non-paid)

## Patents

7,920,959	5 April 2011: Method and apparatus for estimating the velocity vector of multiple vehicles on non-level and curved roads using a single camera. Inventor: Christopher R. Williams
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## Peer-Reviewed Publications

All Peer-Reviewed Publications are listed on [www.ResearcherID.com](http://www.ResearcherID.com) with ID#: A-2723-2015  
ORCID Number: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9394-8850>

- *89 published peer-reviewed publications*
- *Collaborated with over 125 different co-authors*
- *Publications cited over 4500 times in other peer-reviewed articles*
- *Publications cited over 225 times in 2023*
- *h-index = 40 (40 papers have at least 40 citations), as of January 2024*

### Publication number. (Citation count) Publication detail

89. (0) **Williams, C.R.**, J. Barrio, J.E. Johnston, P. Myradyan, and S.E. Giangrande, 2023: Calibrating radar wind profiler reflectivity factor using surface disdrometer observations. *J. Atmos. Meas. Techn.*, <https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-1405>.
88. (0) May, P.T., B. Dolan, M. Katsumata, P.A. Kucera, V. Louf, A. Protat, and **C.R. Williams**, 2023: Ocean-going weather and profiling radar for clouds and precipitation. Book Chapter for The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Press “Advances in Weather Radar”, Eds. V.N. Bringi, K.V. Mishra, and M. Thurai, ISBN-13: 978-1-83953-624-3.
87. (0) Chen, H., C. W. Fairall, C. R. Williams, and E. J. Thompson, 2023: Vertical air motion retrievals from airborne W-band cloud radar. *IEEE J. Selected Topics in Applied Earth Obs. and Remote Sensing*, 9350-9357, 16, 10.1109/JSTARS.2023.3322346.
86. (0) Johnston, P. E., **C. R. Williams**, A. B. White, 2022: Rain Drop Size Distributions Estimated from NOAA Snow-Level Radar Data. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, <https://doi:10.1175/JTECH-D-21-0049.1>.
85. (39) Kramer, A. K. Harlow, C. Heckman, and **C.R. Williams**, 2022: ColoRadar: The direct 3D millimeter wave radar dataset. *Intern. J. Robotics Research*, vol. 41(4), 351-360, doi:10.1177/ 02783649211068535.
84. (4) **Williams, C.R.**, 2022: How much attenuation extinguishes mm-wave vertically pointing

- radar return signals? *Remote Sensing*, **14**, 1305, doi:10.3390/rs14061305.
83. (2) Yeung, NKH, S.C. Sherwood, A. Protat, T.P. Lane, and **C.R. Williams**, 2021: A Doppler radar study of convective draft lengths over Darwin, Australia. *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, **149**, 2965-2974, <https://doi.org/10.1175/MWR-D-20-0390.1>.
82. (0) Gatlin, P., M. Thurai, **C.R. Williams**, and E. Adirosi, 2021: Measurement and modeling of the precipitation particle size distribution. *Atmosphere*, doi: 10.3390/atmos12070819.
81. (4) **Williams, C.R.**, K.L. Johnson, S. E. Giangrande, J. C. Hardin, R. Oktem, and D. M. Romps, 2021: Identifying insects, clouds, and precipitation using vertically pointing polarimetric radar Doppler velocity spectra. *J. Atmos. Meas. Techn.*, doi: 10.5194/amt-14-4425-2021.
80. (24) Narsey, S., C. Jakob, M.S. Singh, M. Bergemann, V. Louf, A. Protat, and C.R. Williams, 2019: Convective precipitation efficiency observed in the Tropics. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **270** Nov-2019, doi: 10.1029/2019GL085031.
79. (11) Wohltmann, Ingo, R. Lehmann, G.A. Gottwald, K. Peters, A. Protat, V. Louf, C.R. Williams, W. Fen, and M. Rex, 2019: A Lagrangian convective transport scheme including a simulation of the time air parcels spend in updrafts. *Geoscientific Model Development*, doi: 10.5194/gmd-2019-5.
78. (6) Tian, J., X. Dong, B. Xi, **C.R. Williams**, and P. Wu, 2019: Estimation of liquid water path in stratiform precipitation systems using radar measurements. *J. Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, **12**, 3759-3759, doi: 10.5194/amt-12-3743-2019.
77. (48) Han, B., J. Fan, A. Varble, H. Morrison, **C.R. Williams**, B. Chen, X. Dong, S.E. Giangrande, A. Khain, E. Mansell, J.A. Milbrandt, J. Shpund, and Gregory Thompson, 2019: Cloud-resolving model intercomparison of an MC3E squall line case: Part II – Stratiform precipitation properties. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, doi: 10.1029/2018JD029596.
76. (8) Ovchinnikov, M., S. Giangrande, V.E. Larson, A. Protat, and **C.R. Williams**, 2019: Dependence of vertical alignment of cloud and precipitation properties on their effective fall speeds. *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, **124**, doi: 10.1029/2018JD029346.
75. (1) Ghate, V., P. Kollias, S. Crewell, A. Fridlind, T. Heus, U. Löhnert, M. Maahn, G. McFarquhar, D. Moisseev, M. Oue, M. Wendisch, and **C. Williams**, 2019: The second ARM training and science application Event: Training the next generation of atmospheric scientists. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-18-0242.1.
74. (23) **Williams, C.R.**, M. Maahn, J.C. Hardin, and G. de Boer, 2018: Clutter mitigation, multiple peaks, and high-order spectral moments in 35-GHz vertically pointing radar velocity spectra. *J. Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, **11**, 4963-4980, doi: 10.5194/amt-11-4963-2018.
73. (50) de Boer, G., and 24 co-authors, 2018: A bird's eye view: Development of an operational ARM Unmanned aerial capability for atmospheric research in Arctic Alaska. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-17-0156.1.
72. (10) Fairall, C.W., S.Y. Matrosov, **C.R. Williams**, and E.J. Walsh, 2018: Estimation of rain rate from airborne Doppler W-band radar in CalWater-2. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, **35**, 593-608, doi: 10.1175/JTECH-D-17-0025.1.
71. (70) Giangrande, S.E., T. Toto, M. P. Jensen, M.J. Bartholomew, Z. Feng, A. Protat, **C.R. Williams**, C. Schumacher, and L. Machado, 2016: Convective cloud vertical velocity and mass-flux characteristics from radar wind profiler observations during GoAmazon2014 /15. *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, **121**, 12 891-12 913, doi: 10.1002/2016JD025303.
70. (21) **Williams, C.R.**, R.M. Beauchamp, and V. Chandrasekar, 2016: Vertical air motions and raindrop size distributions estimated using mean Doppler velocity different from 3- and 35-GHz vertically pointing radars. *IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sens.*, **54**, 6048-6060,

doi: 10.1109/TGRS.2016.2580526.

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68. (10) Kumar, V.V., A. Protat, C. Jakob, **C.R. Williams**, S. Rauniar, G.L. Stephens and P.T. May, 2016: The estimation of convective mass flux from radar reflectivities. *J. App. Meteorol. and Climatol.*, **55**, 1239-1257, doi: 10.1175/JAMC-D-15-0193.1.
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66. (1) **Williams, C.R.**, V.N. Bringi, L. Carey, V. Chandrasekar, P. Gatlin, Z.S. Haddad, R. Meneghini, S.J. Munchak, S.W. Nesbitt, W.A. Petersen, S. Tanelli, A. Tokay, A. Wilson and D. Wolff, 2015: Reply to “Comments on ‘Describing the shape of raindrop size distributions using uncorrelated raindrop mass spectrum parameters’”. *J. Appl. Meteorol. and Climatol.*, **54**, 1977-1982, doi: 10.1175/JAMC-D-15-0058.1.
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64. (5) Lebo, Z.J., **C.R. Williams**, G. Feingold, and V.E. Larson, 2015: Parameterization of the spatial variability of rain for large-scale models and remote sensing. *J. Appl. Meteorol. and Climatol.*, **54**, 2027-2046.
63. (70) Kumar, V.V., C. Jakob, A. Protat, **C.R. Williams**, and P.T. May, 2015: Mass-flux characteristics of tropical cumulus clouds from wind profiler observations at Darwin, Australia. *J. Atmos. Sci.*, **72**, 1837-1855, doi: 10.1175/JAS-D-14-0259.1.
62. (0) **Williams, C.R.**, V.N. Bringi, L. Carey, V. Chandrasekar, P. Gatlin, Z.S. Haddad, R. Meneghini, S.J. Munchak, S.W. Nesbitt, W.A. Petersen, S. Tanelli, A. Tokay, A. Wilson and D. Wolff, 2015: Corrigendum ‘Describing the shape of raindrop size distributions using uncorrelated raindrop mass spectrum parameters’. *J. Appl. Meteorol. and Climatol.*, **54**, 932, doi: 10.1175/JAMC-D-15-0055.1.
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59. (40) Thurai, M., **C.R. Williams**, and V.N. Bringi, 2014: Examining the correlations between drop size distribution parameters using data from two side-by-side 2D-video disdrometers. *Atmospheric Res.*, dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2014.01.002.
58. (100) **Williams, C.R.**, V.N. Bringi, L. Carey, V. Chandrasekar, P. Gatlin, Z.S. Haddad, R. Meneghini, S.J. Munchak, S.W. Nesbitt, W.A. Petersen, S. Tanelli, A. Tokay, A. Wilson and D. Wolff, 2014: Describing the shape of raindrop size distributions using uncorrelated raindrop mass spectrum parameters. *J. Appl. Meteorol. and Climatol.*, **53**,

- 1282-1296, doi: 10.1175/JAMC-D-13-076.1.
57. (94) Giangrande, S. E., S. Collis, J. Straka, A. Protat, **C.R. Williams**, and S. Krueger, 2013: A summary of convective core vertical velocity properties using ARM UHF wind profilers in Oklahoma. *J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol.*, **52**, 2278-2295, doi: 10.1175/JAMC-D-12-0185.1.
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55. (32) Tridon, F., A. Battaglia, P. Kollas, E. Luke, and **C.R. Williams**, 2013: Signal Post-processing and Reflectivity Calibration of the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program 915 MHz Wind Profilers. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, **30**, 1038-1054, doi: 10.1175/JTECH-D-12-00146.1.
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53. (62) **Williams, C.R.**, 2012: Vertical air motion retrieved from dual-frequency profiler observations. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, **29**, 1471-1480, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JTECH-D-11-00176.1>.
52. (28) Riddle, A.C., L.M. Hartten, D.A. Carter, P.E. Johnston, **C.R. Williams**, 2012: A minimum threshold for wind profiler signal-to-noise ratios, *J. Atmos. and Oceanic Technol.*, **29**, 889-895, 10.1175/JTECH-D-11-00173.1.
51. (26) Moran, K.P., S. Pezoa, C.W. Fairall, **C. R. Williams**, T.E. Ayers, A. Brewer, S.P. de Szoek, V. Ghate, 2012: A motion-stabilized W-band radar for shipboard observations of marine boundary-layer clouds. *Bound.-Layer Meteor.*, **143**, 3-24, doi:10.1007/s10546-011-9674-5.
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3. (125) **Williams, C.R.**, and S.K. Avery, 1992: Analysis of long-period waves using the mesosphere- stratosphere-troposphere radar at Poker flat, Alaska. *J. Geophys. Res.*, **97**, 20855-20861.
2. (23) **Williams, C.R.**, S.K. Avery, J.R. McAfee, and K.S. Gage, 1992: Comparison of observed diurnal and semidiurnal tropospheric winds at Christmas Island with tidal theory. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **19**, 1471-1474.
1. (2) **Williams, C.R.**, L.A. Geddes, J.D. Bourland, and E.S. Furgason, 1987: Analysis of the current-density distribution from a tapered, gelled-pad external cardiac pacing electrode. *Medical Instrumentation*, **21**, 329-334.

## Honors and Awards

- 2015 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Robert H. Goddard Award (Ground Validation Team) for the category of *Exceptional Achievement in Science in 2014*.
- 2015 - NASA Group Achievement Award, Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Post-Launch Team, “For exceeding all expectations for GPM operations, data processing, algorithm performance, science impact, and education and public outreach within one year after launch”.
- 2014 American Meteorological Society Editor’s Award from *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*
- 2006 CIRES/University of Colorado Outstanding Scientist of the Year  
Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society)  
Eta Kappa Nu (National Electrical Engineering Honor Society)  
American Geophysical Union, Outstanding Student Presentation, Dec. 1990

## Professional Service and Contribution

### *NASA Precipitation Measurement Mission (PMM)*

- Coordinated and hosted the *NASA Cal/Val and Algorithm Symposium*, March 2020  
NASA PMM Science Team, Member, 2000 – Present  
NASA PMM Raindrop Size Distribution Working Group, Chair, 2007 – 2023

### *Department of Energy (DOE), Atmospheric Science Research (ASR) Program*

DOE ASR Science Team, Member, 2011 – Present

*Department of Energy (DOE), Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program*  
DOE ARM Cloud and Precipitation Measurement and Science Group (CPMSG)  
Member, 2021 – Present

*American Meteorological Society (AMS) – Leadership Positions*  
36<sup>th</sup> AMS Conference on Radar Meteorology, Conference co-chair, 14-20 September  
2013, Breckenridge, CO, (over 400 abstracts and over 400 attendees)  
AMS Radar Committee, Member, 2013 - 2019.  
Session Organizer, 102<sup>nd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting: “Ground-based Radar Studies to  
Advance Satellite Precipitation Retrieval Algorithms”, January 2022.

*Scientific and Professional Memberships*

Project Management International (PMI, certified Project Manager Professional, PMP)  
American Geophysical Union (AGU)  
American Meteorological Society (AMS)  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE, Senior Member)

*Editorships*

Associate Editor, *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and  
Remote Sensing* (JSTAR), 2021 – Present.

## **Professional Presentations / Non-Reviewed Publications**

*Over 280 professional presentations or non-reviewed publications*