



RSES Seminar

Thursday, October 13th 2011, 4 pm

Speaker:

Michael Roderick
RSES, RSB, ANU

Title:

What do climate models tell us about changes in water availability over land?

Abstract:

What do climate models tell us about changes in water availability over land? Much of the scientific and community debate about future changes in water availability is dominated by the idea that “the wet get wetter and the dry get drier”. For Australians at least, the prospect of a drier future is a daunting one given that we live on the driest permanently inhabited continent. Is this really what climate models project? We began a project two years ago to examine in detail the projections of water availability made by climate models. The starting point was a simple but comprehensive summary of changes in the water cycle for all IPCC AR4 climate models (epress.anu.edu.au/global_water_cycle_citation.html). From that starting point, we have now conducted a detailed examination of the coupled water and energy balances at global, regional and local scales. In this talk we describe the key results of that research. Is it true that climate models projections show that the “wet get wetter and the dry get drier”? Come along and find out for yourself.

RSES SEMINARS ARE HELD ON THURSDAYS IN THE JAEGER SEMINAR ROOM, 1ST FLOOR JAEGER BUILDING, RSES, ANU. FOLLOWING THE SEMINAR, DRINKS AND NIBBLES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE RSES FOYER.

RSES Seminar Series 2011