

Global Temperature Variability: Drivers, Impacts, and Extremes

Dr. Min-Jae Park*

Department of Climate Physics, Seoul Earth University, South Korea

*Corresponding Author: Dr. Min-Jae Park, Department of Climate Physics, Seoul Earth University, South Korea, E-mail: mj.park@thermal.kr

Received: 01-May-2025, Manuscript No. jescc-25; **Editor assigned:** 05-May-2025, PreQC No. jescc-25(PQ); **Reviewed:** 19-May-2025, QC No. jescc-25; **Revised:** 22-May-2025, Manuscript No. jescc-25(R); **Published:** 29-May-2025, **DOI:** 10.4172/2157-7617.1000920

Citation: Park DM (2025) Global Temperature Variability: Drivers, Impacts, and Extremes. J Earth Sci Clim Change 16: 920.

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Abstract

This research synthesizes studies on global temperature variability, exploring its drivers and impacts across different scales. Key findings include amplified Arctic warming due to ice and snow loss, land surface influences on diurnal temperature ranges, and intensified urban heatwaves. The effects of potential geoengineering, ocean-atmosphere interactions like ENSO, and atmospheric circulation patterns on regional temperatures are investigated. Decadal global temperature trends, land-use change impacts, and regional extreme events are also examined, alongside the role of atmospheric rivers in mid-latitude temperature variability.

Keywords

Temperature Variability; Arctic Warming; Urban Heat Island; Geo-engineering; ENSO; Atmospheric Circulation; Land Use Change; Extreme Temperature Events; Climate Change; Polar Regions

Introduction

Global temperature variability is a critical area of climate science, with profound implications for ecosystems and human societies. Recent research has delved into the complex drivers and patterns of these fluctuations, revealing a multifaceted picture of our changing climate. One significant area of focus is the amplified seasonal and interannual temperature variability observed in high-latitude regions. This phenomenon is largely attributed to changes in sea ice extent and snow cover, which create a feedback loop leading to increased absorption of solar radiation and further warming, thereby altering regional climate patterns [1].

In parallel, the role of land surface characteristics in modulating temperature has been extensively studied. Vegetation and soil moisture, for instance, are identified as key factors influencing the

diurnal temperature range (DTR) and its variability. Changes in cloud cover and atmospheric humidity are also identified as primary drivers, impacting terrestrial ecosystems and agricultural productivity [2].

Urban environments present another distinct challenge, with the urban heat island effect significantly exacerbating the frequency and intensity of heatwaves. Anthropogenic heat emissions and altered surface properties contribute to this effect, underscoring the need for adaptive urban planning strategies to mitigate these thermal extremes [3].

Beyond terrestrial and urban impacts, potential interventions in the climate system are also under scrutiny. Stratospheric aerosol geoengineering, for example, has been simulated to reduce mean warming but may also lead to significant alterations in the amplitude and frequency of temperature extremes, potentially impacting climate predictability [4].

The intricate relationship between oceans and land surface temperatures is also a crucial element. Ocean-atmosphere interactions, particularly El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events, significantly influence regional temperature patterns. Warmer conditions

during El Niño phases, for instance, are linked to increased drought and heat stress on land [5].

Atmospheric circulation patterns play a fundamental role in shaping regional temperature variability. Shifts in jet stream behavior and the occurrence of extreme weather events are directly linked to changes in the frequency and intensity of temperature anomalies, directly affecting the accuracy of weather forecasting [6].

On a broader scale, the decadal variability of global mean temperature is characterized by an interplay between internal climate variability and external forcing factors. Analyses reveal distinct periods of both accelerated and decelerated warming, offering crucial insights into long-term climate trends [7].

Land-use change is another significant factor influencing local and regional temperature variability. Processes such as deforestation and agricultural expansion alter surface albedo and evapotranspiration, leading to increased diurnal temperature fluctuations and modified precipitation patterns [8].

Regional extremes in temperature are also a cause for concern. In the Indian subcontinent, for example, an increasing trend in the frequency and intensity of heatwaves and cold spells has been observed, posing significant implications for human health and agricultural sectors [9].

Finally, atmospheric rivers have emerged as important phenomena influencing regional temperature variability, especially in mid-latitude regions. These atmospheric features are found to impact the occurrence of extreme temperature events and precipitation patterns, highlighting their role in shaping local and regional climates [10].

Description

The study of temperature variability across various scales is paramount for understanding Earth's climate system and its responses to ongoing changes. In high-latitude regions, research highlights an amplification of seasonal and interannual temperature variability. This amplification is directly linked to reductions in sea ice extent and snow cover. These changes create a powerful feedback mechanism where less ice and snow lead to greater absorption of solar radiation, thereby intensifying warming and modifying regional climate dynamics [1].

The influence of land surface characteristics on temperature fluctuations is also a significant area of investigation. Specifically, the modulation of diurnal temperature range (DTR) and its

variability is influenced by factors such as vegetation cover and soil moisture content. Furthermore, variations in cloud cover and atmospheric humidity play a pivotal role in these land-surface-driven temperature changes, with direct consequences for terrestrial ecosystems and agricultural yields [2].

Urban areas exhibit unique thermal behaviors due to the urban heat island (UHI) effect. This effect, amplified by human-generated heat and altered surface properties, contributes to an increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves. Consequently, the implementation of adaptive urban planning strategies is crucial for mitigating the impacts of these extreme thermal events [3].

Beyond natural climate processes, deliberate interventions in the climate system are being explored, such as stratospheric aerosol geoengineering. While simulations suggest this approach could reduce overall warming, it also carries the potential to significantly alter the amplitude and frequency of temperature extremes, thereby affecting the predictability of future climate [4].

Oceanic influences on terrestrial temperatures are substantial, with ocean-atmosphere interactions playing a key role in modulating land surface temperature variability. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a prominent example, where its different phases, particularly El Niño, can lead to warmer conditions and increased drought and heat stress in affected land regions [5].

Atmospheric circulation patterns are fundamental drivers of regional temperature variability. Alterations in the behavior of the jet stream and the frequency of extreme weather events are closely tied to shifts in temperature anomalies. Understanding these linkages is vital for improving weather forecasting capabilities [6].

Examining the decadal variability of global mean temperature reveals a complex interplay between internal climate oscillations and external forcing influences. Analysis of temperature records indicates distinct epochs of both rapid and slowed warming, providing crucial context for interpreting long-term climate trends [7].

Land-use change represents a significant anthropogenic impact on temperature variability at local and regional scales. Practices such as deforestation and agricultural expansion modify surface albedo and evapotranspiration rates, leading to enhanced diurnal temperature variations and alterations in precipitation regimes [8].

Regional variations in extreme temperature events are a growing concern. In the Indian subcontinent, research indicates an upward trend in the frequency and intensity of both heatwaves and cold spells. These changes have significant implications for public health and the agricultural sector, necessitating targeted adaptation

measures [9].

Atmospheric rivers, powerful corridors of water vapor transport in the atmosphere, are increasingly recognized for their influence on regional temperature variability, particularly in mid-latitude areas. Their passage is associated with shifts in extreme temperature events and precipitation patterns, underscoring their role in modulating regional climates [10].

Conclusion

This collection of research examines diverse aspects of temperature variability across the globe. High-latitude regions experience amplified warming due to sea ice and snow cover changes. Land surface characteristics like vegetation and soil moisture influence diurnal temperature ranges, while urban areas face intensified heatwaves from the urban heat island effect. Geoengineering proposals also carry risks of altering extreme temperatures. Ocean-atmosphere interactions, especially ENSO, significantly impact land temperatures. Atmospheric circulation patterns, including jet stream shifts, drive regional temperature anomalies. Decadal global temperature trends are shaped by internal variability and external forcings. Land-use changes alter local temperatures and precipitation. Extreme temperature events are increasing in regions like the Indian subcontinent, and atmospheric rivers influence mid-latitude temperature variability. These findings collectively underscore the complex and interconnected nature of global temperature fluctuations and their far-reaching consequences.

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