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UC SANTA BARBARA

Department of Earth Science

Earth Science Colloquium

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Weather radars: A closer look at rainfall

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Looking out for rainfall is an activity that probably dates back long before our ancestors even understood how it happens. Folk sayings like “Red skies at night, sailor’s delight. Red skies in the morning, sailor’s warning” was once a popular method for predicting weather. Since then, watching rain has become less of a guesswork because of advances in technology. Nowadays, we have weather predictions for days ahead, and rainfall alerts throughout the day. One of the biggest players in that game is the weather radar. Weather radars are like large flashlights that you use to look ahead, to see what could be coming your way. In this talk, I will tell you about weather radars, how they came to be, the science behind them, and how I use them to look at and understand rainfall.