
AIAA Long Island Section
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

# AIAA
# Section Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2015

## Prof. Adam Sobel

### Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Columbia University

## "Hurricane Sandy and Climate Change: Predictions and Responses"

**Location:** **Bethpage Public Library**
**47 Powell Avenue**
**Bethpage, NY 11714**

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED**
**RSVP BY Sept. 23, 2015**
**to: Greg Homatas at**
**greghomatas@msn.com**
**or (718) 812-2727**

**Time:** **6:00 PM Social Time**
**6:30 PM Pizza**
**7:00 PM Presentation**

**Cost for Pizza: $5, Members and Guests**
**Free, for Students**

Hurricane Sandy's landfall on the northeastern US coast was forecast remarkably well in the days leading up to it. That forecast enabled many life-saving preparations. Another kind of forecast, equally accurate in its own way, had been available much longer - and yet was not nearly as effective. The risks to New York City's built environment of a Sandy-like event had been known for decades. But little was done to make that built environment more resilient, and it suffered great damage as a result. This conforms to a historical pattern in which science-based warnings of the risk of a future disaster are not taken seriously until the disaster has happened at least once. This reactive pattern will not serve us well in dealing with human-induced climate change.

Dr. Adam Sobel is an atmospheric scientist who specializes in the dynamics of climate and weather, particularly in the tropics, on time scales of days to decades. A major focus of his current research is extreme events - such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts, and the risks these pose to human society in the present and future climate. He is leading a new Columbia University Initiative on Extreme Weather and Climate.

Prof. Sobel's Ph.D. in Meteorology is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the last few years, he has received the Meisinger Award from the American Meteorological Society, the Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, an AXA Award in Extreme Weather and Climate from the AXA Research Fund, and an Ascent Award from the Atmospheric Sciences Section of the American Geophysical Union. Sobel is author or co-author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles, and his book about Hurricane Sandy, *Storm Surge*, received the 2014 Atmospheric Science Librarians International Choice Award in the popular category. As both scientist and activist, Prof. Sobel helps people understand Sandy as both a specific phenomenon and within the global picture. To understand the atmospheric forces at play requires a considerable dip into physics, meteorology and climatology.

**Directions:** The library is west of Route 135 in Bethpage. Take Route 135 to Exit 8, then West on Powell Ave. for about 0.25 miles. The library is on the south side of the street. Park across Powell Ave., opposite the library.