

# A scientist just like me



**Professor Paola A. Arias**

**Climate scientist**

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**Hi there! I am Professor Paola A. Arias – A climate scientist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. I work with undergraduate and graduate students mainly from Environmental Engineering.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I really liked maths, physics, chemistry and biology... but also geography, history, philosophy. I was not very good at sports or arts 😞 but I guess I always had the scientist vibes.

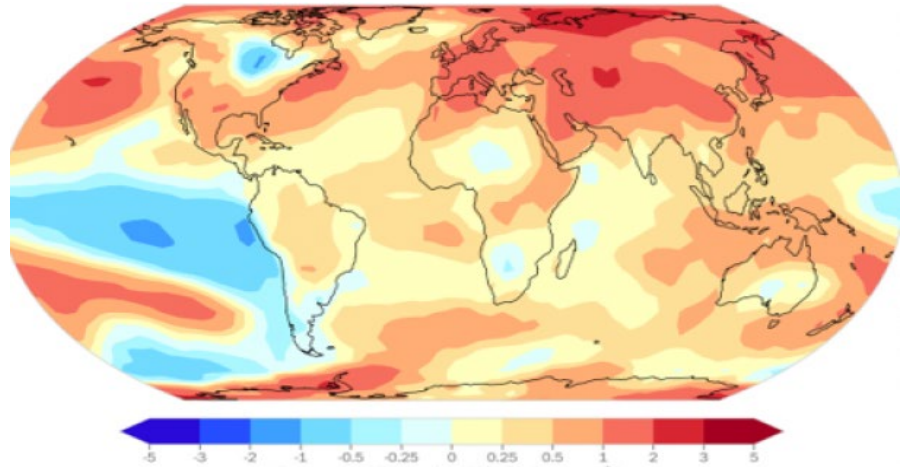
## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I like to listen music (rock, blues, salsa). I have taken classes of flamenco dancing. I really like to spend time with my friends.

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## What do I do as a climate scientist?

I study how the air moves in the atmosphere and how the clouds move and produce rain. I use computer models to do this. I also study how climate change affects my region.



## How does what I do make the world a better place?

As a climate scientist and university professor, working with young students, I feel that education is one of the pillars that could help us to make this world a better place. I try to encourage my students to think about a better world and help them to build it.

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## What I like about my job

I like to interact with students, learning new things and that is something that being a professor and a scientist allows me to do. You are always learning and sharing with people.



## Challenges I have faced

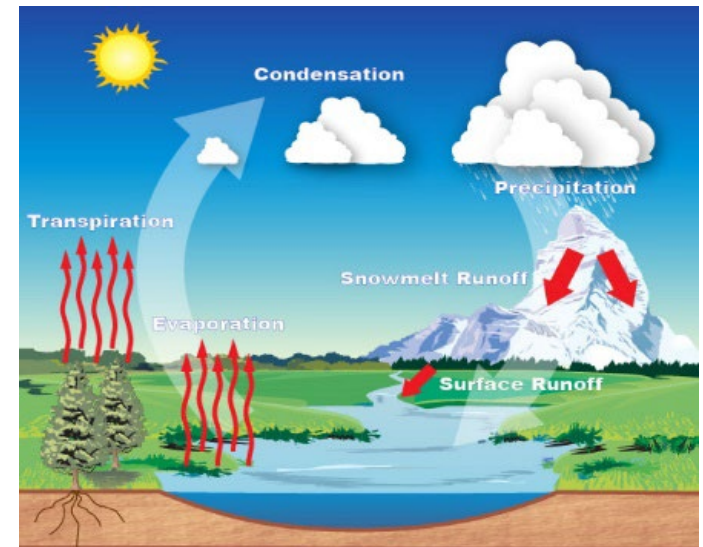
Being from Colombia, a country in the Global South, funding for my work can be very scarce. There is also a lot of pressure for women. So, to pursue a scientific career can be challenging!



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If you want to be a climate scientist, you need:

- ✱ **curiosity** to learn new things, to read, to explore physics
- ✱ **patience** to understand that results and research do not always come out the way you expect
- ✱ **to be interested in how our climate works:** the atmosphere, the oceans, the glaciers, the vegetation
- ✱ **perseverance** to ask many questions.



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## Discussion time

- ✱ Would you like to be a climate scientist like Professor Paola A. Arias?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✱ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a climate scientist?
- ✱ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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## Free supporting resources for climate science

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- It's raining all over the world - Extreme weather events
- Termites can help rainforests survive drought

[Why & How magazine](#) – See 'Climate Science' articles in previous issues (Autumn 2019 – Summer 2022)

[Air pollution Research](#) - resources designed to allow primary children (ages 9-11) to investigate atmospheric pollution using Defra's Data Archive

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