

Interactive comment on “Hydroclimatic Variability and Predictability: A Survey of Recent Research” by Randal D. Koster et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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A recent symposium honoring Eric Wood and featuring many luminaries provides a moment to pause and consider the state of research on hydroclimatic variability and predictability. This paper exploits that opportunity reasonably well, though not as fully as it might. With a little extra work on the example figures—as explained below—this could be a great introduction/guidance to newer researchers in the field.

The overall structure of this survey seems carefully thought out and is well executed. The writing in the main text is unusually fluid and accessible, and the disparate blurbs from the various authors are woven in (at least) as well as could be expected. I would suggest another iteration on the figures, with the captions being more like complete and self-contained abstracts that happen to be accompanied by graphics. Each caption could start with an introductory sentence or two motivating the work, then describe the work, more than superficially. Next, report a main finding, with reference to the figure.

(All the symbols, axes, units in each figure, of course, should be defined/explained.) Finally, one might hope that each of the contributing authors would close his/her abstract with a sentence or two of wider perspective of the "challenges and directions" sort that this example helps to motivate. Ideally, the paper's overall summary would somehow distill these perspectives into some general conclusions.

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