

Ellen Mosley-Thompson

Brief Biography

Distinguished University Professor, Department of Geography
Senior Research Scientist, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

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[Updated: December 31, 2022](#)

[Full CV](#)

Ellen Mosley-Thompson is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geography (Atmospheric Science Program) and a Senior Research Scientist at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University. She uses the chemical and physical properties preserved in cores collected from both polar ice sheets and high mountain glaciers to reconstruct Earth's complex climate history. These records indicate that Earth's climate has moved outside the range of natural variability experienced over at least the last 2000 years. She has led nine expeditions to Antarctica and six to Greenland to retrieve ice cores. In 2010 she led the field team for the ice core drilling project on Bruce Plateau (Antarctic Peninsula), a U.S. contribution to the International Polar Year, where the team collected a 448-meter core to bedrock. She has published 146 peer-reviewed papers, and is the recipient of 58 research grants as either PI or Co-PI. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. She is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served on the NRC-NAS Committee that produced the 2014 report "The Arctic in the Anthropocene: Emerging Research Questions."

Education

Ph.D., Geography (Climatology, Atmospheric Science), *The Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio, 1979*

M.A., Geography (Climatology, Atmospheric Science), *The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1975*

B.S., Physics, *Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1970*

Professional Appointments

- 2010-21 Distinguished University Professor, The Ohio State University (OSU)
2009-18 Director, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
1995-21 Professor, Department of Geography (Atmospheric Science, Climatology), OSU
1996-21 Senior Research Scientist, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
1990-94 Associate Professor, Department of Geography (Atmospheric Science, Climatology), OSU
1988-96 Research Scientist, Byrd Polar Research Center, OSU
1984-87 Senior Research Associate, Institute of Polar Studies, OSU
1979-83 Research Associate, Institute of Polar Studies, OSU
1973-79 Graduate Research Associate, Institute of Polar Studies, OSU

Key Indications of Scholarly Excellence

- Elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences, April 27, 2009
Elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, April 2011
Elected Member of the American Philosophical Society, April 2009
BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Climate Change, June 16, 2022
Gregor Mendel Medal, Villanova University, October 2021
Benjamin Franklin Medal, The Franklin Institute, April 2012
Dan David Prize, University of Tel Aviv, Israel, May 19, 2008
The Common Wealth Award for Science and Invention, April 20, 2002
Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
Elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, May 26, 2009

Additional Indicators of Scholarly Excellence

- Margaret Douglas Medal, Garden Club of America, May 22, 2016
Joseph Sullivant Medal, The Ohio State University, December 15, 2013
Honorary Doctor of Science, University of Pennsylvania, May 13, 2013
Distinguished University Professor, The Ohio State University, 2010
Honorary Doctor of Science, Colgate University, May 17, 2009

American Alpine Club, David R. Brower Award for Outstanding Service in Mountain Conservation, February 21, 2009

Alumni Medalist Award, The Ohio State University, November 9, 2007

Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service, The Ohio State University, December 17, 2005

Distinguished University Lecturer, The Ohio State University, August 24, 2004

Distinguished University Scholar Award, The Ohio State University, April 21, 2003

Marshall University, Distinguished Alumna for Community Achievement, April 26, 2003

Inducted into Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, October 7, 2003, by Governor Taft

John C. Marshall Award, the highest award given by Marshall University (for distinguished scholarship), March 7, 2002

Recognitions

The Mosley-Thompson Cirques (Antarctica) located at 78°01'S; 161°28'E were named after Ellen Stone Mosley-Thompson, glaciologist and climatologist at The Ohio State University. Since 1974, Dr. Mosley-Thompson has analyzed ice samples from Antarctica and she has conducted field research at South Pole Station, Siple Station, the Plateau Remote Camp, and the Bruce Plateau.

Current and Recent National Service Activities

2020-22 American Philosophical Society, Climate Science Exhibition Advisory Board

2018-21 AGU, Global Environmental Change Section, Fellows Committee

2012-20 National Academy of Sciences, U.S. National Committee for Quaternary Research, Member

2016-18 AGU, Global Environmental Change Section, President

2015-16 AGU, Global Environmental Change Section, Fellows Committee, Chair

2010-15 National Academy of Sciences, Polar Research Board, Member

2013-14 National Academy of Sciences, Study Group on Emerging Research Questions in the Arctic (Member)

Research Publications and Activities

Refereed Publications: 146 total

Funded Research Programs: 58 total

Research Expeditions: 16 total

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