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Dr. Tillinger received her PhD in ocean and climate physics from Columbia/Lamont in 2010, after receiving her bachelor's degree from Columbia/Barnard in 2004. At Lamont, she worked under the guidance of Arnold Gordon and spent more than 200 days at sea. She is currently working as a physics professor at Marymount Manhattan College and climate educator at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Tillinger also teaches climate science in less traditional venues such as festivals and galleries in character as Dr. Mermaid. In her spare time, Dr. Tillinger is also doing research at Columbia/GISS on arctic sea ice and climate.