

## **Land surface feedbacks on rainfall in semi-arid Africa**

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Land surface properties such as soil moisture and vegetation biomass can exert a strong influence on deep convection. The African Sahel provides favourable conditions for such land-atmosphere interactions. Surface fluxes of heat and moisture are very sensitive to antecedent rainfall, whilst storms exhibit a high degree of spatial and temporal variability. As a consequence, the planetary boundary layer retains a "memory" of recent rain events. Observational and modelling evidence is presented to illustrate how this memory influences subsequent convection.

**Wednesday II** (Keynote talk)