

Born in Brooklyn, Walter Robinson received his B.S. and M.S. in physics from the University of Pennsylvania. Following a year at McMurdo Station in Antarctica, measuring cosmic radiation, he resumed his studies, and was awarded a Ph.D. in geological sciences from Columbia University in 1985. He then spent three years as a postdoc in atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington - Seattle, after which he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he remained until 2006, serving as assistant, associate, and full professor of atmospheric sciences. Following three years as a program director at the National Science Foundation, in the Climate and Large-scale Dynamics Program, he came to North Carolina State University in 2009, as a professor in the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

Robinson's research uses theory, computational models, and data analyses to understand the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere as it relates to climate variability and climate change. He is best known for work on the interactions between atmospheric eddies (high- and low-pressure systems) and the global scale circulation of the atmosphere. His current projects include studies of the North Atlantic storm track and its responses to climate change, analyses of observed and modeled surface temperatures over the United States, and investigations into the processes that cause the atmospheric circulation over the Arctic to change abruptly in springtime.

Robinson served for seven years as an editor of the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, and he is currently a member of the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences. In August 2011 he will become head of the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at NC State.