



## **Sensitivity of European glaciers to precipitation and temperature – two case studies**

D. Steiner (1,2), A. Pauling (3), **S. U. Nussbaumer** (1,2), A. Nesje (4), J. Luterbacher (1,2,5), H. Wanner (1,2,5), H. J. Zumbühl (1)

(1) Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland, (2) NCCR Climate, University of Bern, Switzerland, (3) Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology, MeteoSwiss, Zürich, Switzerland, (4) Department of Earth Science, University of Bergen, and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Bergen, Norway, (5) Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, University of Bern, Switzerland (steiner@giub.unibe.ch / Fax: +41 31 631 85 11)

A non-linear Backpropagation Network (BPN) was trained with high-resolution multi-proxy reconstructions of temperature and precipitation (input data) and glacier length variations of the Lower Grindelwald Glacier, Switzerland (output data). The model was then forced with two regional climate scenarios of temperature and precipitation: The first scenario assumes no changes in temperature and precipitation for the 2000-2050 period compared to the 1970-2000 mean. In the second scenario linear warming rates of 0.036-0.054 °C per year and changing precipitation rates are used. In the first case the Lower Grindelwald Glacier shows a continuous retreat until the 2020s when it reaches an equilibrium followed by a minor advance. For the second scenario a strong and continuous retreat of approximately -30 m per year since the 1990s has been modelled.

By processing the climate parameters used with a sensitivity analysis based on neural networks we investigate the relative importance of different climate configurations for the Lower Grindelwald Glacier during four well-documented historical advance (1590-1610, 1690-1720, 1760-1780, 1810-1820) and retreat periods (1640-1665, 1780-1810, 1860-1880, 1945-1970). It is shown that different combinations of seasonal temperature and precipitation have led to glacier variations. In a similar manner, we establish the significance of precipitation and temperature for the well-known

early 18<sup>th</sup> century advance and the 20<sup>th</sup> century retreat of Nigardsbreen (western Norway). We show that the maritime Nigardsbreen is more influenced by winter and/or spring precipitation than the Lower Grindelwald Glacier.

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