

Dr. Shane Ross and the Ross Dynamics Lab - Brief description and bio

The Ross Dynamics Lab at Virginia Tech specializes in applications of nonlinear dynamics, performing data-driven modeling, simulation, visualization, and experiments with applications in several different fields, including: patterns of dispersal in oceanic and atmospheric flows, passive and active aerodynamic gliding, multi-body orbital mechanics, dynamic buckling of flexible structures, transport across the air-water interface, and causality analysis in complex natural and artificial systems.

Dr. Ross is a professor of dynamical systems and fluid dynamics at Virginia Tech in the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

Dr. Ross has advanced the state-of-the-art in the analysis and visualization of environmental transport. He initiated the use of atmospheric transport barriers in understanding the biological invasion of microorganisms, particularly plant diseases of agricultural crops. He has done field work and Lagrangian transport computations analyzing the dispersal of hazardous material in aquatic environments, including lakes and oceans, with side applications to spread of debris and persons in search-and-rescue scenarios.

Dr. Ross' work on orbital dynamics initiated the use of dynamical systems methods for mission design among the international astrodynamics community, particularly invariant manifold theory, and has received several awards from NASA. He authored a notable open-access book, *Dynamical Systems, the Three-Body Problem, and Space Mission Design*.

Dr. Ross founded an interdisciplinary graduate education program on biological transport (called Biotrans) that began in 2010 and has now cross-trained over 25 PhD students at the engineering-biology interface. He helped shepherd the program's transition to sustained internal funding, contributing to an infrastructure of interdisciplinary discovery at the intersection of engineering and biology which will have impacts for years to come.

He has authored over 160 works, including 100 journal papers with 7,000 citations and an h-index of 40. He's lectured at numerous universities and forums globally including MIT, Caltech, Stanford, Princeton, Cornell, UCLA, UCSB, Duke, Michigan, Maryland, Texas A&M, UNC Chapel Hill, TU Munich, Toronto, Warwick, ETH Zurich, Leiden, Madrid, and Barcelona, and at several prestigious international forums, including the British Science Festival and the Zurich Physics Colloquium.

.His work has been highlighted by prominent publications and media including *Nature*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *Science News*, *American Scientist*, *Astronomy*, the *Times of London*, the BBC, and several other international news outlets including those in India, Russia, Finland, Poland, Turkey, Brazil, and China.

He has secured \$15 million in research funding from NSF, NASA, USDA, US Space Force, among others, and earned an NSF CAREER award. He has mentored 15 PhDs and 3 postdocs, with one-third becoming professors and others excelling in various sectors. Currently, he oversees a team of 10 graduate students and 1 postdoc.

He has a bachelor's degree in physics and a PhD in control and dynamical systems, both from Caltech (California Institute of Technology). He's worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and Boeing, and done consulting work.