

Interactive comment on “Changes in the strength and width of the Hadley circulation since 1871” by J. Liu et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This is now a well-written paper. It contains some challenging views on the nature of the Hadley Circulation and its variations over time – or at least over the period for which reliable data are available. The findings are interesting and innovative. I do however have a number of concerns, those need not hinder publication: 1. the writing style, grammar etc. could do with some ‘fine tuning’ 2. the findings are, as noted above, interesting but no attempt is made to interpret or explain these in any penetrating fashion. This need not of course matter but provided only that the authors are explicit in respect of acknowledging that the science is not yet at a stage where sound judgements on this matter can be offered. 3. the question of the natural cycle, invoked as a partial explanation of the above remains unconvincing in terms of real evidence and seems more in the way of speculation. Such speculation is fine but needs to be acknowledged as such.

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Were the authors prepared to consider these points I see no reason why publication should not proceed.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 8, 695, 2012.