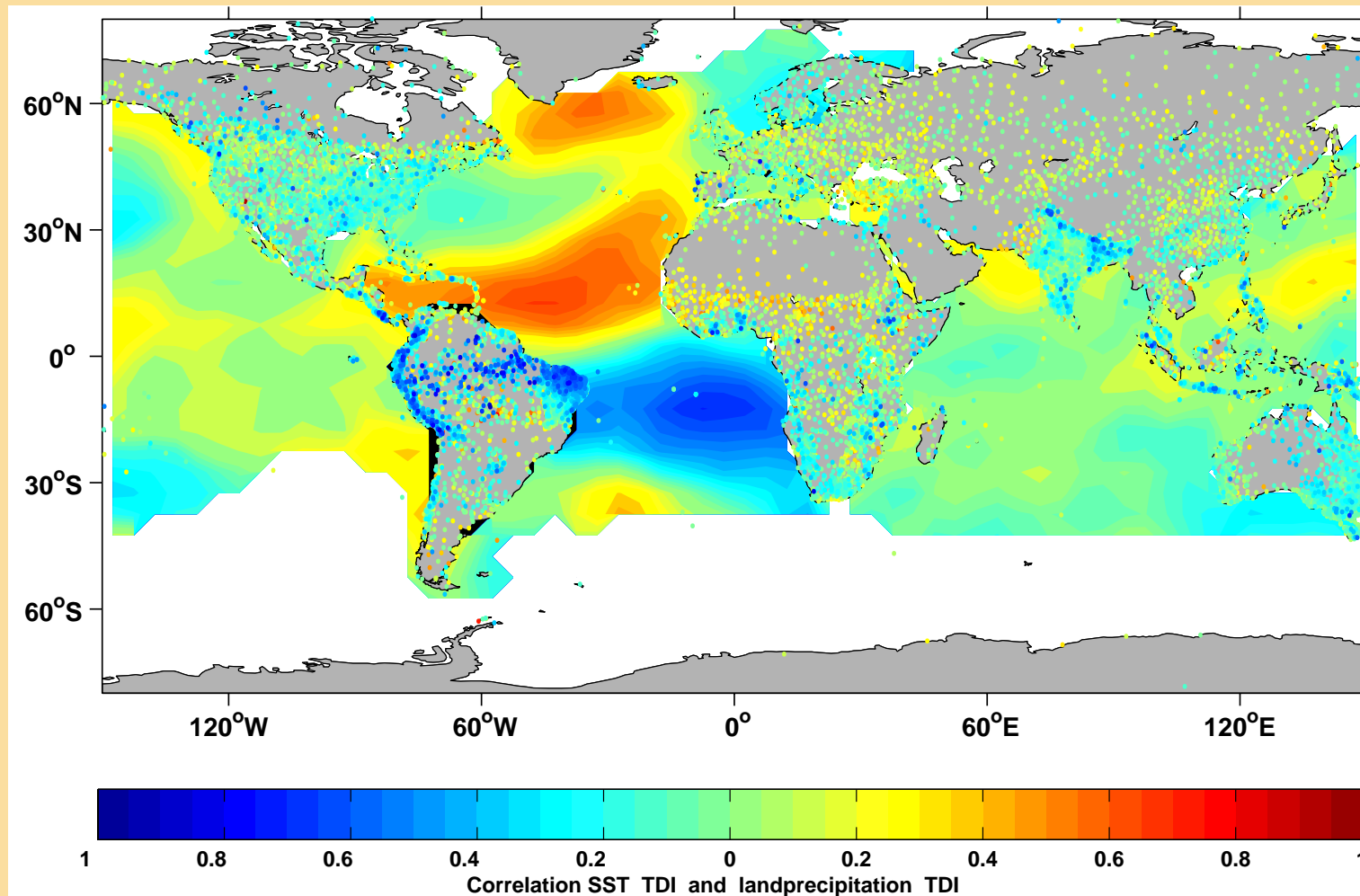


Atlantic SST and Rainfall



Correlation between the Atlantic cross ITCZ SST difference as defined by Servain (1991, J. Geophys. Res., 15137-15146), and station rainfall. This figure is done for annual averages of both the index and the rainfall data from 47 years. The pattern of the Atlantic SST is very similar to the NAO pattern: i.e. during strong phases of the NAO, there are strong westerlies and north-easterlies, colder SST, and thus the ITCZ is further south. When ITCZ is further south, the correlation with Tropical Dipole Index (TDI) is negative, less precipitation over the Sahel region and more precipitation along the coastline in the Gulf of Guinea, more precipitation in the Nordeste Brazil as well (Y. Kushnir and G. Krahnmann, 1998, personal communication)