How have societies coped with historical droughts, and what lessons can they offer for securing water in the face of climate extremes today?

This symposium explores past and future droughts, the cascading risks of drought-to-flood events, and the social, political, and technological responses shaping (water) security.

Join us for a half day of interdisciplinary discussions bridging history, science, and policy to better understand water (in)security across time.

30sep25

Water Pasts & Futures
(in)securing water in times of drought

More info -
www.perfect-storm.org &
https://copingwithdrought.com/

Perfect STORM

Flyer design by Danai Kontou

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Introductions

Anne van Loon & Petra van Dam

Environmental Justice, inequalities in water access

Milja van Tielhof   The effects of water crises on middle and low income groups in 18th century Amsterdam

Heidi Mendoza   Injustice flows: A gaze at living with droughts (and floods) in the Peruvian Amazon

Drought Coping Measures, from the individual to the community and to the government

Dániel Moerman   Experiencing drought in Dutch cities before 1900

Ruben Weesie   Exploring past and future stories of unstable waters by Kenyan agro-pastoralists

Different Waters for Different Purposes

Bob Pierik   Blue Diversity: Multiple waters with multiple uses in early modern Amsterdam

Alessia Matanó   The unforeseen consequences of drought-flood events: from the Horn of Africa to the Amazon basin

Johanna Koehler   Risk-pooling and institutional innovation for sustainable water service transitions

Call for Lightning Round Presentations

We invite researchers and practitioners to present a **3-minute** snapshot of a key issue related to water security in times of drought.

Each speaker will present a single visual --- a poster, infographic, image, or any impactful visual — to kick-start discussions around historical and contemporary challenges to (drinking) water security.

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