

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/>



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

13.00 - 13.15	Registration
13.15 - 13.30	Introduction
13.30 - 14.15 First Panel	Environmental Justice, inequalities in water access Chair: Anne van Loon Heidi Mendoza - Injustice flows: A gaze at living with droughts (and floods) in the Peruvian Amazon Milja van Tielhof - The effects of water crises on middle and low income groups in 18th century Amsterdam
14.15 - 14:45	Break + Coffee & Tea
14.45 - 15:30 Second Panel	Different Waters for Different Purposes Poster Pitches - various speakers
15.30- 16:00	Break
16:00- 16.45 Third Panel	Drought Coping Measures, from the individual to the community and to the government Chair: Petra van Dam Ruben Weesie - Exploring past and future stories of unstable waters by Kenyan agro-pastoralists Dániel Moeman - Experiencing drought in Dutch cities before 1900
16.45- 17:00	Final Reflections
17:00 - 18.00	Exhibition + Drinks + Poster Q&A

POSTER PITCHES

Different Waters for Different Purposes

**Wouarda
Abdelmoumen**

Rain prayers signal climate and conflict shocks in the Maghreb

Elsaidy Abedulla

Groundwater Drought Patterns in Italy's Bruna River Basin

**Jonathan Ahadi
Mahamba**

Drought-flood coexistence : household risk perception and adaptation patterns in Southwest Madagascar

Laura Danckaert

Water & Land: Intangible Heritage and Sustainable Development

Evelien de Hoop

Water & soy stories

Moniek Driesse

As We Float: Reimagining Water Through Time and Space

K. Mehmet Kentel

Wet and Wasted: Istanbul's Unequal Water Pasts

Johanna Koehler

Risk-pooling and institutional innovation for sustainable water service transitions

Bob Pierik

Blue Diversity: multiple waters with multiple uses in early modern Amsterdam

POSTER PITCHES

Different Waters for Different Purposes

Alessia Matanó

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

Ilyas Masih

Geospatial view of mega droughts

Flora Roberts

Sharing the Syr Darya: tensions over water scarcity in the Ferghana Valley

**Linggar Rama
Dian Putra**

Hydrosocial Dynamics in Surabaya, Indonesia

Joep Schenk

Water security and empire building: the case of the Saharan Sea 1871-1885

**Luca
Smorenburg**

Dutch peatlands: change, power, life

Emiel Spanjer

The Dutch Delta Programme and Drought: Toward New Water Management Practices

**Seb Verlinden,
Pieter-Jan
Reynaert, Maika
Dekeyzer**

From Wetland to Woodland: Reclaiming the Campine (Belgium) via AI-Enhanced Historical Mapping

How to reach?

📍 Location: De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam | Main building (Hoofdgebouw) | Aurora Hall

🚆 By Train:

- The nearest station is Amsterdam Zuid (10-minute walk to the campus).
- From there, you can also take a bus and stop De Boelelaan/VU at if you prefer.

🚗 By Car:

You can park at VU Parking (paid). Parking information can be found

➡ Directions: From the main entrance of the Main Building, turn right past the coffee corner into the restaurant. Then take an immediate left — the entrance to the Aurora Hall will be there. A campus map is included as an attachment to help you find your way.

