



The Arctic Institute of North America Presents the 2014-2015

Arctic Speaker Series

A Dutch Whale of a Tale in 1710: East Greenland's Oldest Weather & Sea Ice Records in a Chronicle of Arctic Survival



Who: Hester Jiskoot
Associate Professor of Physical Geography
Department of Geography
University of Lethbridge

Date: Wed., November 19, 2014

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.

Place: University of Calgary,
Science B 142

In 1710, the Dutch whaling ship 'Den Dam', embarked on an adventurous whaling expedition to the Greenland Sea where it became beset in sea ice for several months, slowly drifting southwards. When a companion whaler became shipwrecked Den Dam took on its crew. Eventually reaching open sea, and after repairs in Iceland, Den Dam was able to return to Holland. In 1711, the ship's helmsman published their ordeal. HJ transcribed and translated this book, extracting daily weather, sea ice, nautical, and geographical data. These data were calibrated and compared to paleoclimatic data, historical maps and manuscripts. HJ will present highlights of this whaling expedition, its geographical and historical context, its lessons in survivorship, and the oldest long-term record of weather and sea ice along the coast of East Greenland.

Bio: Dr. Hester Jiskoot is Associate Professor of Physical Geography, Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge. She received her BSc and MSc in Physical Geography (Univ. of Amsterdam, 1994) and her PhD in Glaciology (Univ. of Leeds, 2000). Her main research interests are in Glaciology and Arctic & Alpine Processes, and she is a leading expert on glacier surging. Recently, she has focused on glacier edge effects such as fragmentation, rockslides, and Arctic coastal fog. Her current research also includes the reconstruction of weather and sea ice from historical documents. At the UofL, she teaches undergraduate and graduate students in physical geography, glaciology, geology, field techniques, and environmental science of cold regions.

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