

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, July 10th, 4:15 p.m.

**DIVERGENT LEVELS OF RESILIENCE.
THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY ON VULNERABILITY
TOWARDS SAND DRIFTS IN THE PRE-MODERN COVERSAND BELT.
Maïka De Keyzer (Utrecht University)**

Societies in past and present are regularly confronted with major hazards, which sometimes have disastrous effects. Some societies are successful in preventing these effects and buffering threats, or they recover quickly, while others prove highly vulnerable. Why is this? Increasingly it is clear that disasters are not merely natural events, and also that wealth and technology alone are not adequate to prevent them. Rather, hazards and disasters are social occurrences as well, and they form a tough test for the organizational capacities of a society, both in mitigation and recovery. This presentation targets a main element of this capacity, namely: the way societies have organized the exchange, allocation and use of resources. It aims to explain why some societies do well in preventing or remedying disasters through these institutional arrangements and others not.