

2015 SNAME Arctic Section Luncheon Series

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
at the Westin Hotel, Calgary

Dutch Whale of a Tale: Arctic navigation, weather & sea ice in 1710

Dr Hester Jiskoot

Associate Professor of Physical Geography and Glaciology
Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge

ABSTRACT

In 1710, a Dutch whaling ship became beset in sea ice off northeast Greenland, slowly drifting southwards and eventually reaching open sea. After ship repairs in Iceland, storms and other perils, the whalers returned safely to Holland. Dr Jiskoot transcribed and translated the ship's journal and logbook, extracting daily weather, sea ice, and nautical data. She will present highlights of this perilous whaling expedition from an Arctic nautical perspective, place it in its geographic-historical context, and explain the scientific value of the oldest weather and sea ice records off the coast of East Greenland.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Hester Jiskoot is Associate Professor of Physical Geography in the Department of Geography. She received her BSc and MSc in Physical Geography (University of Amsterdam) and her PhD in Glaciology (University of Leeds). Her main research interests are in Glaciology and Arctic & Alpine Processes. In her *Glaciology & Geoscience Lab*, Hester and her students use fieldwork, remote sensing, data analysis, and modelling. Since 1991, Hester has been a member and leader of expeditions to Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland, the Canadian Rockies, Alaska, and the Himalayas. She is scientific editor of *Arctic Antarctic & Alpine Research* and the *Journal of Geophysical Research-Earth Surface*, and President of the *Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers*. Her awards include an *NSERC University Faculty Award* and *Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society*, and she is funded through NSERC, CFI and the University of Lethbridge. Hester comes from a nautical family and grew up sailing the Dutch lakes and the North and Baltic seas.