A history of disasters? Natural catastrophes and early modern societies.

Disasters offer unique insights into past societies. The rupture they cause can suddenly reveal hidden societal conflicts and arrangements. This seminar will study cases such as the Great Fire of London or the Lisbon Earthquake to discover the links between history and disaster. It will introduce students to handling historical source material and highlight major shifts in the early modern era. Through a variety of readings, discussions and presentations the seminar will explore how catastrophes can become catalysts of change.