

# Geoseminar

Sept 25 3-4 pm 610 Dow

All are welcome!

## **Managing Underground Development from Afar: Anaconda's Walker Mine in California, 1915-1941**



Dr Fredric L Quivik  
Social Sciences

This presentation explores the professionalization of geologists in the US mining industry, looking in particular at tools geologists developed that allowed top corporate managers to guide underground developments from afar. Historically, miners were guided by their eyes, as they followed veins in underground workings. Around the turn of the twentieth century, professional geologists developed theoretical methods for understanding the formation of ore bodies, allowing the geologists to predict where in the Earth they would find extensions of the ore bodies, and thereby to engineer effective and efficient underground workings in advance physically reaching the ore. Drawing on recent scholarship of historian Eric Nystrom on the representations of underground mine workings in the form of geological drawings, Quivik shows how the Anaconda Copper Mining Company (ACM) was able to manage the development of the Walker mine in the 1920s and 1930s from the offices of Anaconda's Geological Department in Butte, Montana. The presentation grows out of Prof. Quivik's recent work as a testifying expert for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in California, which sought to issue a Cleanup and Abatement Order to ARCO, the oil company, for acid mine drainage emanating from the Walker mine, a copper mine in Plumas County. ARCO is the legal successor to the ACM, of which the Walker Mining Company was a subsidiary.