



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Ottawa's Samuel Munoz and Konrad Gajewski Look at the Connections Between Prehistoric Climate and Culture: The archaeological record often reflects cultural transitions that might have been caused by climate changes. To see just how tight the connections between prehistoric climate and culture might be, a team at the University of Ottawa in Canada, led by geographer Samuel Munoz, analyzed the best available data from the northeastern United States. The team found that nearly all of the transitions between one cultural period and the next occurred at times of ecological and environmental changes. The authors don't claim that climate change directly drove cultural change, but they do argue that prehistoric humans periodically "adjusted their tool kits" in response to climate changes. [ScienceNow](#) | [Physorg.com](#)

UWO Geography Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Professor Emeritus Allen K. Philbrick: The Department of Geography at The University of Western Ontario is pleased to announce the establishment of a scholarship in memory of Professor Emeritus [Allen K. Philbrick](#), who was instrumental in establishing the Department's PhD program. This \$1,000 annual scholarship was established by his family and friends is awarded to a full-time PhD student studying cultural geography; registered in years two through four and undertaking research on some cultural process or cultural phenomenon's spatial impact on the human environment. More details on Western Geography's Graduate Program can be found at: <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/grad/>

Dalhousie U's Jennifer Grek Martin Introduces New Cartography Class: Greenland hasn't grown. It's just that there are myriad "correct" ways to represent geographical data on a map, and devotees choose one. "While something may be scientific, it may not be (objective)," explains Professor Jennifer Grek Martin, who is teaching this fall semester's new class [GEOG 2000: Cartography](#). Prof. Grek Martin is well suited to her subject. She works in the Killam's Map Collections room and admires the way cartography combines science, art, and text. "I've always been really fascinated by both artistic pursuits and scientific pursuits... trying to blend those two things is sometimes pretty tricky." She fully intends to blend them, which will make GEOG 2000 unique among other cartography courses [Dal News](#)

Mount Allison U's Brad Walters Warns Storm Surges Leave Coastal N.B. Vulnerable: Brad Walters, a geography and environmental studies professor at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., said the northern and eastern coasts of New Brunswick are particularly vulnerable to storm surges. "You've got a combination there of a lot of developments in low-lying areas, particularly where they've in-filled salt marshes and so on," Walter said. Walters said storms like Monday's make discussions at climate change conferences more relevant to New Brunswick than ever. [CBCNews](#)

Trent U's Steven Franklin Visits U Calgary to Provide Perspective on Leadership: Dr. Steven Franklin, former Head, Department of Geography, University of Calgary) was installed in June 2009 as Trent University's 10th President. He recently presented a special lecture at the U of C lecture entitled "A Perspective on Leadership. Linking University Teaching, Research and Administration. [UC News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Damian Collins. 2010. [Homelessness in Canada and New Zealand: A Comparative Perspective on Numbers and Policy Responses](#). *Urban Geography* 31(7):932-952.

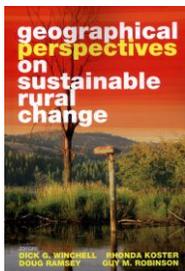
Richard Shearmur. 2010. [Editorial—A World Without Data? The Unintended Consequences of Fashion in Geography](#). *Urban Geography* 31(8):1009-1017.

Allison Williams, Peter Kitchen, Lily DeMiglio, John Eyles, Bruce Newbold, and David Streiner. 2010. [Sense of Place in Hamilton, Ontario: Empirical Results of a Neighborhood-Based Survey](#). *Urban Geography* 31(7):905-931.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

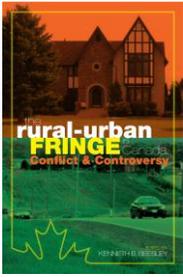
Samuel Albers. 2010. "[The Salmon Disturbance Regime: Effects on Biofilm, Sediment and Water](#)". Unpublished MSc. University of Northern British Columbia. Prince George, B.C. Supervisor: Ellen Petticrew.

[Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Change](#), editors Dick G. Winchell, Doug Ramsey, Rhonda Koster and Guy M. Robinson.



This book focuses on three multi-faceted aspects of rural sustainability: farms and farming, the remaking of rural communities and rural spaces, and policy and action in rural development. The research is focused on three global regions: North America, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and Australia. Part I emphasize the complexity and dynamics of rural social systems in transition, and divergent perspectives of farmers and farming, food production and change. Part II explores structures and models that help frame and understand the dynamics of rural communities, with applications to specific places and contexts. Part III emphasize rural action and explore the significance of national policies and local actions to identify and address rural resources and change. [Brandon University News](#)

The Rural-Urban Fringe in Canada: Conflict & Controversy, edited by Kenneth Beesley



With a focus on Canada, *The Rural-Urban Fringe in Canada: Conflict & Controversy* brings together the findings and ideas of established and young scholars from across the country. There are contributions from various disciplines — sociology, geography, planning, recreation, tourism and rural development — each offering a different perspective on the rural-urban fringe zones in Canada. “I am thrilled to see this collection of research papers in print. This volume draws on the work of scholars from across Canada and through these diverse contributions the chapters collectively address rural-urban fringe zones in Canada as areas of conflict and controversy. [Brandon University News](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Saint Mary's University

Dr. [Danika van Proosdij](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University. She received her BSc and PhD degrees from the University of Guelph. Danika is a coastal geomorphologist whose current research focuses on the [ecomorphodynamics](#) of macrotidal ecosystems at a range of spatial and temporal scales. A hands-on field researcher, Danika is examining how human activities and climate change influence these processes. Danika was recognized for her achievements in 2009 when she received a [Visionary Award](#) from the Gulf of Maine Council.

Danika directs the [Intertidal Coastal Sediment Transport](#) (In_CoaST) Research Unit and coordinates the [Maritime Provinces Spatial Analysis Research Center](#) (MP_SpARC). Danika and her students are attempting to merge fine-scale spatial and temporal biophysical measurements with geomatics technologies to understand landscape-scale processes that lead to the rapid establishment of salt marshes in environments where disturbances occur at very high frequencies.

MacDonald, G.; Noel, P; van Proosdij, D. and G. Chmura. 2009. [The Legacy of Agricultural reclamation on surface hydrology of salt marshes of the Bay of Fundy](#). *Estuaries and Coasts* 33(1):151-160.

Bowron, T.; Neatt, N.; van Proosdij, D.; Lundholm, J. and J. Grahams. 2009. [Macro-tidal Salt Marsh Ecosystem Response to Culvert Expansion](#). *Restoration Ecology*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1526-100X.2009.00602.x

van Proosdij, D.; Milligan, T.; Budgen, G. and C. Butler. 2009. [A Tale of Two Macro Tidal Estuaries: Differential Morphodynamic Response of the Intertidal Zone to Causeway Construction](#). *Journal of Coastal Research* SI 56: 772-776.

Other “Geographical” News

Lancaster Sound to be Arctic Park: Ottawa has begun the formal process of designating Lancaster Sound as a national marine conservation area. Designating Lancaster Sound as a national marine conservation area means resource exploration or extraction will not be allowed in the area. The announcement comes after the federal and Nunavut governments, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association agreed to start a feasibility study on creating a national marine conservation area. [CBCNews](#)

Navigating the Ethics of Human Research: The Presidents of the Canada's three federal research agencies, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC, announced release of the 2nd edition of the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS 2\)](#). TCPS 2 continues to be founded on respect for human dignity. It contains both updated and new material, including a consolidated set of core principles, clearer definitions, simplified articles, and new chapters on qualitative research, multi-jurisdictional research, and research involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. [Panel on Research Ethics](#)

Professors May Need More Funding After Census Changes: Less reliable data resulting from the Conservatives' census changes will force university researchers to rely more on grants funded by the federal government, professors say. Researchers say they will no longer be able to reliably use data from the long-form census once it becomes voluntary in 2011. As a result, they will need more money from the federal government to buy substitute data from private organizations. That will almost certainly mean that some research will never get funded and won't be able to proceed. [CTV News](#)

Redrawing the Map of Great Britain Based on Human Interaction: A group of researchers have used one of the world's largest databases of telecommunications records to redraw the map of Great Britain. The research is based on the analysis of 12 billion anonymized records representing more than 95% of Great Britain's residential and business landlines. Given a geographical area and some measure of the strength of links between its inhabitants, the paper describes mathematically how to partition the area into smaller, non-overlapping regions while minimizing the disruption to each person's links. For the most part, the results of the partitioning correspond remarkably well with existing administrative regions, but they still unveil some unexpected spatial structures. [Science Daily](#)

NOAA Rescues Civil War-Era Coastal Charts, Now Available Online: A collection of nearly 400 Civil War era charts once again is available to the public, now in an [online searchable database](#) hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, providing a historical record of U.S. terrain, ports and coasts as they were from 1861 to 1865. It includes 394 maps and nautical charts, as well as documents including Notes on the Coast of the United States, secret records covering the coast from the Delaware Bay to the Mississippi Sound on the Gulf Coast.

Is Santa Claus Toxic Because of Toxic Food Up by the North Pole?



The exact location of Santa's Workshop has long been kept secret, but one thing every child knows is that he lives somewhere up by the North Pole. It's a place that has seen great changes in recent years with melting sea ice and warmer summer temperatures attributed to global warming. But climate change isn't the only bad news facing Santa: research shows that if he's eating anything that lives in the Arctic, chances are that he himself is loaded with toxic chemicals. [ScienceDaily](#)

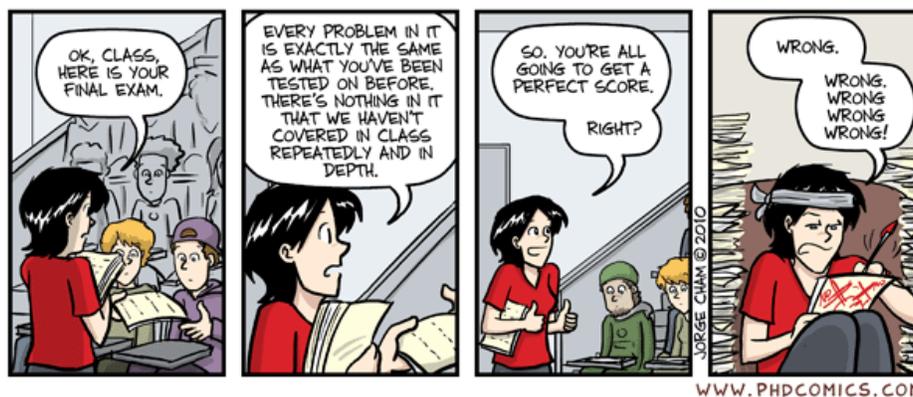
CAG11

CAG Annual Conference - University of Calgary, May 31 - June 4, 2011

Canadian Association of Geographers
Association Canadienne des Géographes



Some not so “Geographical” News



GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>