

GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 110, December 31, 2010
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U Regina’s Dave Sauchyn on “The New Normal” in Prairie Climates: “When you look just at the shift in temperature . . . it looks favourable for Canada,” says David Sauchyn, co-editor and author of [The New Normal: The Canadian Prairies in a Changing Climate](#), released earlier this year. “But that’s not the problem. The problem is not the shift in the average, it’s the shift in the extremes. And that’s going to be the most challenging consequence of global warming in our region.” Sauchyn said the new normal means we need to change policy and planning decisions. “We in Canada, and I guess especially Western Canada, have been fairly sloppy in our use of water. [Montreal Gazette](#) | [Edmonton Journal](#) |

Vancouver Island U’s Don Alexander Focuses on Echo Heights Forest Debate: The Echo Heights Forest in Chemainus received Canada-wide exposure recently. According to a press release from the Chemainus Residents Association, the story of the forest and the campaign to save it was the focus of a paper presented at a national conference Sustainable Rural Communities. Vancouver Island University geography professor Don Alexander and CRA vice-chair Bernie Jones wrote the paper — Rural Sustainability: The Lenses of Place — for the school’s Sustainability Awareness Week. The paper looked at the contrast between the way some Chemainus residents, First Nations and others see land such as Echo Heights and the way the land is viewed by the municipality. [Cowichan News Leader](#)

U Ottawa’s Barry Wellar Advocates Municipal Sidewalk Snow-Clearing in Waterloo Region: Barry Wellar, a retired geography professor from the University of Ottawa, has studied pedestrian-related issues for decades. Getting and keeping sidewalks clear of snow to the cement is required by the municipal bylaws in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge. Cities that promote pedestrianism on one hand and do not plow sidewalks run the risk of looking “hypocritical or not very bright,” Wellar said. Putting the onus on property owners to clear city sidewalks “is a recipe for trouble.” [The Record](#)

UBC Geography December 2010 Newsletter: The latest edition of the UBC Geography Department Newsletter offers congratulations to Sarah Panofsky and Amy Nicoll, this year’s recipients of the Geography Teaching Assistant Award; invites readers to enjoy pictures from the 2010 Trim the Tree Party; reviews books from three faculty members (Jim Glassman, Karen Bakker, and Jamie Peck); sums up the different fundraising events hosted by the department; and, recognizes Stellar Staff member Katie Kinsley. [UBC Newsletter 6\(4\)](#)

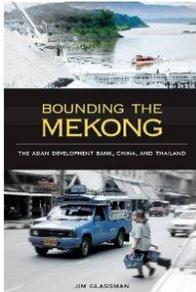
Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Zhenhao Bao, Richard Kelly, and Renguang Wu. 2010. [Variability of regional snow cover in spring over western Canada and its relationship to temperature and circulation anomalies](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI: 10.1002/joc.2155

New Book

[Bounding the Mekong: The Asian Development Bank, China, and Thailand](#)

Jim Glassman, University of Hawaii Press



Transnational economic integration has been described by globalization boosters as a rising tide that will lift all boats, an opportunity for all participants to achieve greater prosperity through a combination of political cooperation and capitalist economic competition. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has championed such rhetoric in promoting the integration of China, Southeast Asia's formerly socialist states, and Thailand into a regional project called the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). But while the GMS project is in fact hastening regional economic integration, Jim Glassman shows that the approach belies the ADB's idealized description of "win-win" outcomes. The process of "actually existing globalization" in the GMS does provide varied opportunities for different actors, but it is less a rising tide that lifts all boats than an uneven flood of transnational capitalist development whose outcomes are determined by intense class struggles, market competition, and regulatory battles.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Diana Mok, University of Western Ontario

Dr. [Diana Mok](#) holds a joint appointment in the Department of Geography and Management & Organizational Studies at the University of Western Ontario. Diana was awarded B.E.S. and B.Math degrees by the University of Waterloo, an M.P.I. degree by Queen's University; and, her Ph.D. by the University of Toronto. Diana's research interests include real estate price and liquidity risks, cities' growth prospect, and globalization. She argues that large cities are attractive to property investors because their sheer size provides investors with thick markets that can obviate investors' need to hedge the liquidity risk of their investments. Her current project examines the questions of how and to what extent globalization might have diminished this insurance role of cities, and how investors react to and cope with the increasing level of risk in property investments. She argues that answering these questions can help us better understand why some cities continue to grow and why others fail to attract investors (in terms of real estate price and liquidity risks).

Mok, Diana and Li, Lin-hin. 2010. [The spatial impact of language policy on the marginal bid for education in Hong Kong](#). Growth and Change 41(4): 556-587.

Mok, Diana. 2010. [The spatiality and cost of language identity](#). International Regional Science Review 33(3):264-301.

Mok, Diana, Wellman, Barry, and Carrasco, Juan Antonio. 2010. [Does Distance Still Matter in Connected Lives? A Pre- and Post-Internet Comparison](#). Urban Studies 47(3):2747-2784.

Other “Geographical” News

'Sri Lanka' to Replace All References to Colonial 'Ceylon': All remaining references to the British colonial name of Ceylon will soon be replaced by the Sanskrit-origin Sri Lanka, the government announced. The Sri Lankan cabinet took the decision during a meeting to rename all public institutions beginning with Ceylon with Sri Lanka. Currently there are several public enterprises with the name of Ceylon, such as Bank of Ceylon, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Electricity Board, Ceylon Tourist Board etc. The country has been known by various names through history. Ancient Greek geographers called it Taprobane and Arabs referred to it as Serendib (the origin of the word 'serendipity'). Ceilão was the name given to Sri Lanka by the Portuguese when they arrived in 1505, which was transliterated into English as Ceylon. As a British crown colony, the island was known as Ceylon, and achieved independence under the name Dominion of Ceylon in 1948. The island became independent from Britain in 1948 and reverted to its traditional Sinhalese name of Sri Lanka in 1972 when it became a republic. [hindustantimes](http://www.hindustantimes.com)

Jacques Bertin's *Semiology of Graphics* Republished: A foundational work in information design and visualization, *Semiology of Graphics* by Jacques Bertin is the most recent title from the Esri Press Classic Series. Originally published in French in 1967, the book is based on Bertin's practical experience as a cartographer and provides the first cohesive, analytic theory of graphic representation. It is an essential reference for cartographers, graphic designers, illustrators, and geographers. This new English edition includes an epilogue written by the author shortly before his death. It details the historic development of the book and speculates on the impact of modern technology, such as geographic information systems (GIS), on information design. [GeoCommunity.com](http://www.GeoCommunity.com)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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