



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC's Derek Gregory appointed Peter Wall Distinguished Professor: Derek Gregory of the Department of Geography at UBC, as a Peter Wall Distinguished Professor. He is considered among his peers as one of only a small group of human geographers in the English-speaking world who have managed to combine major research breakthroughs over a sustained period of several decades with the ability to reach out to influence a myriad of disciplines and public discussions in an important way. Professor Gregory's appointment is for a five year term, effective 1 July 2011, and renewable once. The Peter Wall Institute was established in 1991 to promote and support excellence in research characterized by being fundamental, interdisciplinary, innovative, and unique. [UBC Media](#)

Hope Springs Eternal for Tanayiku Ecology Park: Canadian geographer William Hipwell has cited Tanayiku as an example of community-based ecotourism, pointing out that the Saviki initiative has helped preserve Tanayiku's natural treasure and facilitate the unity of the Tsou youth. "The Tsou were compelled both to relearn some of the ecological knowledge that they had lost and to re-embrace the traditional nature ethic that had sustained them for millennia," he wrote in a research paper dedicated to Tanayiku. Saviki villagers including Yasiyungu and Noacachiana are well aware of their treasures, to which they have dedicated their lives. Now that the village has been restored, performances and guided tours are being offered every day. Local cuisine and handmade bamboo crafts are among some of the new items introduced to tourists. [Taiwan Today](#)

Carleton Launches New Interactive Sea Ice Atlas: Carleton's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre has announced it has officially launched its interactive online Inuit siku (sea ice) Atlas. The educational resource shares knowledge, stories, maps, language and lessons to enable northern students, and the general public, to explore and learn about various sea ice topics from Inuit perspectives. One of its aims is to help bridge a growing gap between Inuit youth and Elders. It is an example of how research results can be applied in a practical context, with a focus on education, to address community concerns. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

York U's on Philip Kelly on Immigrant Caregivers: In recent years, the education level of caregivers accepted as immigrants has skyrocketed. Philip Kelly, a York University geographer, said the proportion of caregivers with a university degree has risen to 63 per cent in 2009 from 5 per cent in 1993, making it an even better educated group than the skilled-worker class. But as the human capital of newcomers has jumped, concerns have intensified about the fate of the children of previous waves. Prof. Kelly said research shows their outcomes are not what one would expect. "In terms of statistical evidence, it looks like the story is not a happy one. Outcomes for Filipino youth are often quite poor, high levels of high-school dropouts and low levels of university graduation," Prof. Kelly said. [The Globe and Mail](#)

UBC's David Edgington on Japan Response to Earthquake: Japan has been widely praised for its thorough disaster preparedness and advanced earthquake prediction technology. "It took four days for any Self-Defense Forces to come into [Kobe]. This time, instantaneous information has allowed emergency rescue squads to be there in a few hours. It's a textbook case of emergency preparedness," says David Edgington, a geographer and earthquake expert at the University of British Columbia.

[Yahoo News](#)

SFU's Eugene McCann on Chinatown Height Public Hearing: Opponents of a proposal to allow towers up to 15 storeys in Vancouver's Chinatown held a rally on the steps, just as a public hearing into the plan got underway. People attending the rally included Eugene McCann, an associate professor of geography at Simon Fraser University, and one of 30 academics who signed a letter to city council this week asking them to reject the Historic Area Height Review. McCann said he and his academic peers who signed the letter are concerned that high-end condo towers in the neighbourhood could displace the area's low-income residents. "It's very likely that these new condo towers that would be allowed in the neighbourhood would be high end, which means that they would push up the land values in the whole neighbourhood, that then of course pushes up taxes, which in turn pushes up rents," said McCann. [Georgia Straight](#)

Marie Sanderson (1921-2010): Marie Sanderson, pioneer geographer, climatologist, and Arctic enthusiast, passed away on July 12, 2010 at the age of 88. Marie's academic education and career spanned 60 years during a time when many changes occurred. She was a female in a male-dominated profession, but this did not hold her back, probably because of the enthusiasm with which she lived all aspects of her life. She achieved several "firsts," among them the first climate experiment in Arctic Canada, the first female geography professor in Canada, and the first female president of the Canadian Association of Geographers. She received a Ryerson Fellowship and honorary degrees from the universities of Waterloo, Windsor, and Lethbridge, and in 2010, from her alma mater, the University of Toronto. [Arctic](#)

Canadian and a Geographer....Steven Quiring at Texas A&M: Steven Quiring has been named a recipient of the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation. The highly competitive award is bestowed on those scientists deemed most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Quiring, who earned his doctorate in climatology from the University of Delaware in 2005, is an assistant professor in Texas A&M University's Geography Department. Quiring's NSF project focuses on creating a unified database of existing soil moisture observations made across the U.S. Great Plains. The project is expected to help further refine seasonal climate forecasts for the United States as well as similar mid-latitude regions around the world. [UDaily](#) | [Texas A&M](#)

McGill U's Gail Chmura Reports Everglades 'Tree Islands' Grew from Ancient Trash Dumps: A McGill University-led study of the islands reached an unexpected conclusion: these life-sustaining sources of nutrients for one of America's iconic ecosystems originated thousands of years ago as the trash heaps of prehistoric people who lived around present-day Miami. "This goes to show that human disturbance in the environment doesn't always have a negative consequence," McGill paleo-ecologist Gail Chmura said in a summary of the study, detailed Tuesday at a conference in New Mexico. Chmura, a McGill geography professor and director of Quebec's six-university Global Environmental and Climate Change Centre, said that the islands appear to have begun as aboriginal middens — dumping grounds for bones, shells, charcoal, food waste and other discarded material that gradually built up over generations into permanent mounds of earth. [The Gazette](#) | [Calgary Herald](#) | [The Vancouver Sun](#)

U Toronto at Mississauga's Barbara Murck Profiled by ECO Canada: At UTM Barbara Murck serves as the Director of Environment Programs, and a Senior Lecturer. Barbara was recently awarded the prestigious President's Teaching Award by the University of Toronto, an award that comes with an appointment to the President's Teaching Academy. She has combined her interests in geology and international development with research on soil management and alternative energy sources. [ECO Canada](#)

UBC's Daniel Hiebert Talks About Metropolis 2011: Only 400 people attended the first national Metropolis conference 15 years ago. This time, however, more than 1,000 people are expected to take part in the scores of presentations and workshops planned for Metropolis 2011. The Vancouver conference on immigration sponsored by Metropolis B.C., one of five Canadian think-tanks financed by governments to research and create dialogue on multicultural issues. The government of Canada started to raise immigration numbers in the late 1980s and, by the early 1990s, there were many questions raised about the outcome of the new policy," says University of B.C. geographer Daniel Hiebert, who is a co-director of Metropolis B.C."The five regional Metropolis centres were created to answer some of those difficult questions. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

U Ottawa's Robert McLeman Inaction on Climate Change Could Lead to Large Scale Population Displacement and Political Instability: A report authored by University of Ottawa geography professor Robert McLeman warns that inaction on climate change raises the risk of large population displacement and migration with the potential to create political instability and conflict in vulnerable regions of the world. The report explains that climate events and extremes, like hurricanes, droughts and floods, can trigger large scale movements of distress migration and undermine the stability of fragile states. While long-distance international migration movements sometimes occur, most climate-related migration takes place within countries or regions. This places increased stress on governments and institutions, especially in developing regions, and can raise the risk of potential conflict. [uOttawa Media Room](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Leslie Kern, Mount Allison University

Dr. [Leslie Kern](#) is a member of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Mount Allison University. Leslie received an Honours BSc in Human Biology and Women's Studies at the University of Toronto, her MA Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, and her PhD in Women's Studies at York University. Her research interests include gender and cities; gentrification and urban revitalization; urban neoliberalism; urban citizenship; discourse analysis in geography; qualitative research methods; emotional and embodied geographies; urban political economy; critical social theory; and feminist theory.

Leslie Kern. 2010. [Sex and the Revitalized City: Gender, Condominium Development, and Urban Citizenship](#). Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

Leslie Kern. 2010. [Gendering reurbanisation: Women and new-build gentrification in Toronto](#). 16(5):363-379.

Leslie Kern. 2010. [Selling the 'scary city': Gendering freedom, fear and condominium development in the neoliberal city](#). Social and Cultural Geography 11(3):209-230.

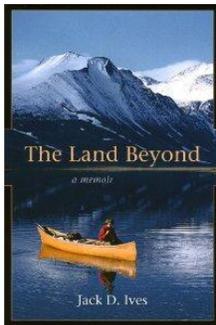
Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Chris R. Burn and Y. Zhang. [Sensitivity of active-layer development to winter conditions north of treeline, Mackenzie delta area, western Arctic coast](#). Geo2010, Calgary, Alberta

Zhijie Zhang, Dongmei Chen, Wenbao Liu, Jeffrey S. Racine, SengHuat Ong, Yue Chen, Genming Zhao, Qingwu Jiang. 2011. [Nonparametric evaluation of dynamic disease risk: a spatio-temporal kernel approach](#). PLoS ONE 6(3): e17381. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0017381

New Book

Jack D. Ives. 2010. [The Land Beyond: A Memoir](#). Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Press



The first 10 years of operation of the McGill Sub-Arctic Research Laboratory (“the Lab”), located at Schefferville, Quebec, in the centre of the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula, are the focus of this book. The Lab was a year-round residential, teaching, and research outpost of McGill University from 1954 to 1971. Today it is the McGill Sub-Arctic Research Station. This book, with its index, glossary, endnotes, and “Research results 1954–64” and “Wider impacts” sections,” will be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in polar science. For those with memories of the times and places described, even second- or third-hand memories, this memoir is a gem. [Peter Adams in Arctic](#)

Other “Geographical” News

The BCG World Atlas: A World First in the Fight Against Tuberculosis: A team of researchers from McGill University and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI MUHC) is officially launching the BCG World Atlas: a first-of-its-kind, easy-to-use, searchable website that provides free detailed information on current and past TB vaccination policies and practices for more than 180 countries. “The Atlas is designed to be a useful resource for clinicians, policymakers and researchers alike,” said co-author Dr. Madhukar Pai. [McGill Newsroom](#)

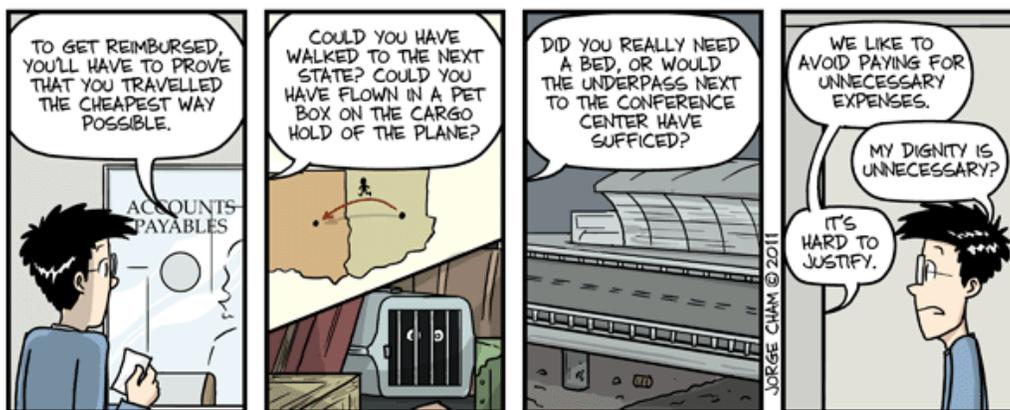
Voyages of the Zen Brothers to the Far North: A curious book was published in Venice in 1558. In it, Nicolò Zen made the extraordinary claim that his great-great-great grandfather Antonio and his great-great-great granduncle Nicolò had travelled around the north Atlantic as far as the coast of modern Newfoundland in the late 14th century – a whole century before Christopher Columbus’s American landfall. The book included a map depicting the places allegedly visited by the brothers. Though clearly inaccurate, this navigation chart, if genuine, is significant for offering the earliest known cartographical representations of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the eastern coast of Canada. [FT.com](#)

Musée McCord Museum: The Musée McCord Museum is located in Montreal, right across from McGill University. If you can't visit the museum the next time you visit Valerie at the CAG Headquarters in the McGill Geography Department, there are five online exhibits worth looking at: "Where to Draw the Line? Editorial Cartoons in Quebec 1950-2000", "The Photographic Studio of William Notman", "Urban Life Through Two Lenses", "The Victoria Bridge", and "The Magic Lantern". Don't miss "The Urban Life Through Two Lenses" exhibit, as it contains 19th century photos of Montreal taken by William Notman, matched with photos "reshot" from the same perspective and same location. The photos are shown side-by-side in the exhibit, so visitors can see vividly the changes and similarities. [Musée McCord Museum](#)

Global Institute for Water Security Launched at the U of S: A new Global Institute for Water Security was officially launched at the University of Saskatchewan today, with a vision to be a driving force for research into global issues that have local implications. These include drought and flooding on the Prairies and nutrient loading from urban and agricultural runoff in Lake Diefenbaker. Five U of S Canada Research Chairs and one NSERC Industrial Research Chair engage in various aspects of water research, as do more than 70 other faculty. U of S graduates from these programs are highly sought after by employers in industry, government and regulatory agencies. By 2017, the institute will bring to campus another 85 researchers—six new faculty, 20 post-doctoral fellows, and 48 graduate students. The world-class research and training institute is co-located with Environment Canada's National Hydrology Research Centre at Innovation Place. [U of S News Releases](#)

Bennelong's Grave Found Under a Front Yard in Sydney's Suburbs: The grave of Bennelong - one of the most prominent figures in Australian history - has been found beneath the garden of a suburban family home in Sydney. For almost two centuries, mystery has surrounded the final resting place of Woollarawarre Bennelong, one of the first Aborigines to live among white settlers. Before urban sprawl consumed the area, it was part of the estate of James Squire, Australia's first brewer, who befriended Bennelong in the years before his death in 1813. Dr Mitchell, honorary associate professor of physical geography at Macquarie University, led a covert investigation with Ryde Council to find the site. [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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