



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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SFU's Geoff Mann Awarded 2011 *Progress in Human Geography* Essay Prize: [Geoff Mann](#), Associate Professor of Geography at Simon Fraser University, has been awarded the 2011 Progress in Human Geography Essay Prize for his paper "[Hobbes' redoubt: toward a geography of monetary policy](#)" (*Progress in Human Geography* 34(5):601-25). The prize is intended to encourage and highlight high-quality published work in human geography from early career scholars. It is awarded to an essay that makes an outstanding contribution to the advancement of research and scholarship in human geography through the quality of its writing, promotion of human geography's connections with cognate fields, and/or innovative exploration of the range and nature of human geography and its sub-fields. Geoff is Director of the [Centre for Global Political Economy](#) (CGPE) at Simon Fraser University.

Brock U's Alun Hughes Lectures on William Hamilton Merritt and Pell's Canal: Hosted by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, Brock University geography professor Alun Hughes recently lectured on William Hamilton Merritt and Pell's Canal. By 1818 Merritt was all gung-ho about building the Welland Canal, and with some friends carried out a survey over part of the route. But then nothing happened for over four years, not until Feb. 22 1823 when Merritt was suddenly jolted into action by "thinking of Pell's Canal" as he rode by Dufferin Islands on the Niagara River. After that, he did not stop until the canal was finished. [Niagarathisweek.com](#)

SFU Graduate Aurian Haller New Collection, *Song of the Taxidermist*: Taxidermy as home decor is plainly passe, but it's having a noticeable resurgence in the modern art world. Aurian Haller's new collection, *Song of the Taxidermist*, begins by describing, in verse, several taxidermy animals, including a famous French giraffe. Originally from Salmon Arm, B.C., Haller has made Quebec his home base in recent years. He's a graduate of the MFA program at UBC and has won a National Magazine Award and the Malahat Review Long Poem Prize. "After creative writing, I ended up doing a PhD in cultural geography at Simon Fraser University." The field, he says, is similar to social anthropology. Cultural geographers study "how people use the arts to further their political goals." [The Chronicle Herald.ca](#)

Queen's Leela Viswanathan Recognized for Advancing Needs of People with Disabilities on Campus: Leela Viswanathan, an assistant professor of urban/regional planning and geography, was honoured by the university for advancing the needs of people with disabilities on campus. Phoebe Chan nominated Viswanathan, her professor. "I nominated her because she's amazing and she made a huge difference for the lives of students with disabilities and I really recognize her for that," said Chan. "It's really touching, I actually tried to nominate her last year as well." Viswanathan, who teaches urban planning, said her students have been a factor in her considering accessibility. "They taught me a lot about building a more accessible environment" said Viswanathan. [The Kingston Whig Standard](#)

U of T's Forestry School Faces The Axe; May Join Geography?: After 104 years of seeing the forest for the trees, dwindling enrolment has left the future of the faculty of forestry at the University of Toronto in doubt. Administrators are expected to force the pioneering program to join a larger faculty. The faculty is now considering creating a new environmental unit with the department of geography and the Centre for the Environment. [The Globe and Mail](#)

Royal Military College of Canada's Lubomyr Luciuk on Canadian Museum of Human Rights: It's Canada's first national museum outside the National Capital Region. It's called the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Alas, it's not actually that. Instead it's shaping up as a museum focused on the extermination of Jews in the Second World War. [The Mark](#)

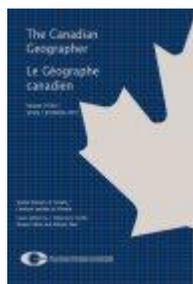
UVic's Reuben Rose-Redwood on the 200th Birthday Map that made New York: Two hundred years ago New York's street commissioners certified a no-frills street matrix that heralded transformation into the City of Angles — the rigid 90-degree grid that spurred unprecedented development, gave birth to vehicular gridlock and defiant jaywalking, and spawned a new breed of entrepreneurs who would exponentially raise the value of Manhattan's real estate. The street commissioners adopted what Reuben Skye Rose-Redwood, an assistant professor of geography at the University of Victoria, described as "a physical representation of the Cartesian coordinate system." Dr. Rose-Redwood calculated that in 1811, of the 1,865 buildings north of Houston Street, 721 stood on newly mapped streets and had to be either razed or moved. [The New York Times](#)

SFU PhD Candidate Liliana Perez Member of Coquitlam's Advisory Committee for the Environment: Coquitlam's new advisory committee for the environment includes Pat Hibbitts, SFU's vice-president of finance and administration, and Liliana Perez, doctoral candidate in SFU Geography. Said Mayor Richard Stewart: "I'm so impressed with the calibre of this committee and their willingness to volunteer to work with us on these issues. It's inspiring and really heartening." [Tri-CityNews.com](#)

UVic's Aleck Ostry Partners with Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance to Respond to Food Security: A new research project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and led by the University of Victoria with the four partner institutions of the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance is responding to threats to our food security and is mapping a food production plan for the Island. Canada Research Chair Dr. Aleck Ostry from the Department of Geography at UVic is one the principal investigators working with a steering committee made up of academic, community and government representatives. [UVic Media Release](#)

UNBC students, Professor Catherine Nolin at Leading Edge of Human Rights Lawsuit: A landmark lawsuit launched by 11 Guatemalan women against Canadian mining company HudBay Minerals and its subsidiaries alleging rape, beatings and forced evictions has a UNBC connection. "On Jan. 17, 2007, at the request of Canadian mining company HMI Nickel Inc., hundreds of mine security personnel, police and military forcibly expelled members of the remote indigenous Mayan community of Lote Ocho from land that community members consider to be their ancestral home in eastern Guatemala". "During these armed evictions, 11 Mayan Q'eqchi' women were gang-raped by police, military and mine security personnel. The mine security personnel who committed the rapes were deployed at HMI Nickel's Fenix mining project, and were under the control and direction of HMI Nickel." Geography professor Catherine Nolin and eight students from Prince George traveled to Guatemala in May, 2010 for a geography field study. On May 19, 2010 Nolin and her students met with women in Lote Ocho and conducted a series of interviews in which the women told them about the alleged rapes. [The Prince George Citizen](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien](#)



Bernard Héту, Kati Brown, et Daniel Germain. 2011. [Les victimes d'avalanche au Québec entre 1825 et 2009](#). Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00338.x

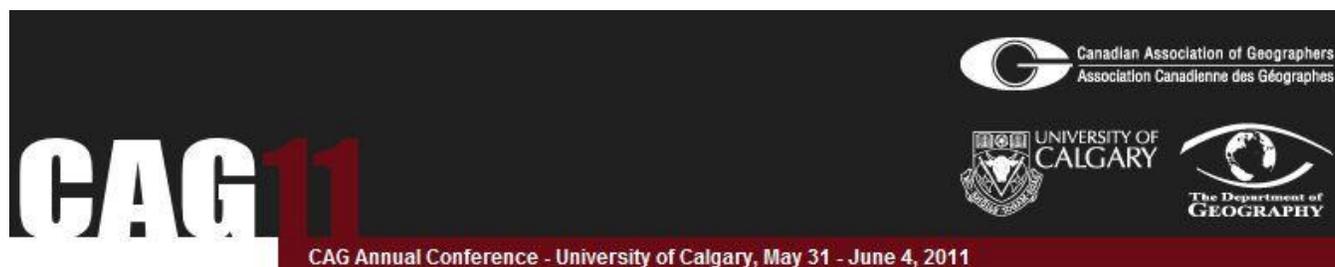
Christopher J. Lemieux, Thomas J. Beechey, Daniel J. Scott, and Paul A. Gray. 2011. [The state of climate change adaptation in Canada's protected areas sector](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00336.x

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Christopher Storie, University of Winnipeg

Dr. [Christopher Storie](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg. Christopher completed his B.A. Hons at Laurentian University, his M.A. at Wilfred Laurier University and a PhD at Wilfred Laurier University. His areas of research interest include: GIS based mapping of urban commercial structures in Canada; poverty mapping and urban structure in Argentina; and, urban-agricultural fringe dynamics in Argentina and Canada.

Storie, C.; and Bugden-Storie, J. 2010. [Remote sensing research in undergraduate education: an international fieldwork perspective](#). Proceedings of the International Geosciences and Remote Sensing Symposium. 1114

[CAG 2011 Calgary: Our Legacy, Our Future](#): The University of Calgary Geography Department is hosting the CAG's 2011 annual conference and meeting, May 31 - June 4, 2011. UofC Geography is also celebrating 50 years of research, teaching and service, and the Department of Earth Sciences - Geography Program at Mount Royal University is celebrating 100 years of the school's existence as well as its new University status. It's a great time to look at what Geographers have accomplished, look at the big and small changes, and celebrate the New Geographies emerging today.



Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Trevor Bell and M.A.P. Renouf. 2011. [By land and sea: Landscape and marine environmental perspectives on Port au Choix archaeology](#). Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology 2011, 21-41.

Emily Eaton. 2011. [On the farm and in the field: the production of nature meets the agrarian question](#). New Political Economy 16(2):247-251.

Peter A. Johnson and Renee E. Sieber. 2011. Johnson, P. A., & Sieber, R. E. (2011). [Negotiating constraints to the adoption of agent-based modeling in tourism planning](#). Environment and Planning B - Planning and Design 38(2):307-321.

Peter Luciani and Dongmei Chen. 2011. [The impact of image and class structure upon sub-pixel mapping accuracy using the pixel-swapping algorithm](#). Annals of GIS 17(1):31-42.

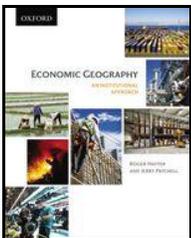
Nancy Lee Peluso and Peter Vandergeest. 2011. [Political ecologies of war and forests: Counterinsurgencies and the making of national natures](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI: 10.1080/00045608.2011.560064

Scott Prudham and Nik Heynen. 2011. [Introduction: Uneven Development 25 Years On: Space, Nature and the Geographies of Capitalism](#). New Political Economy 16(2):223-232.

Renee E. Sieber, Christopher C. Wellen and Yuan Jin. 2011. [Spatial cyberinfrastructures, ontologies, and the humanities](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 108(14):5504-5509.

New Books

Roger Hayter and J. Patchell. 2011. [Economic Geography: An Institutional Approach](#). Toronto: Oxford.



The market is the central institution of the global economy, driving the development that has so dramatically improved living standards for many of the world's people over the past two centuries. But the market has also helped to keep many other people in poverty, and it has played a major role in the ongoing degradation of the environment. Roger Hayter and Jerry Patchell offer a comprehensive introduction to the study of economic activity in place and across space, centred on the interplay of the economic, social, and political institutions that do so much to determine the quality of life in a particular place: from its economic efficiency to the degree of social equity it enjoys and its position in what is now a global economic system.

Eugene McCann and Kevin Ward (Eds.) 2011. [Mobile Urbanism: Cities & Policymaking in the Global Age](#). University of Minnesota Press



Mobile Urbanism provides a unique set of perspectives on the current global-urban condition. Drawing on cutting-edge theoretical work, leading geographers reveal that cities are not isolated objects of study; rather, they are dynamic, global–local assemblages of policies, practices, and ideas. The essays in this volume argue for a theorizing of both urban policymaking and place-making that understands them as groups of territorial and relational geographies. It broadens our comprehension of agents of transference, reconceiving how policies are made mobile, and acknowledging the importance of interlocal policy mobility. Through the richness of its empirical examples from Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia, contributors bring to light the significant methodological challenges that researchers face in the study of an urban–global, territorial–relational conceptualization of cities and suggest productive new approaches to understanding urbanism in a networked world.

Other “Geographical” News

Where will the debris from Japan's tsunami drift in the ocean? The huge tsunami triggered by the 9.0 Tohoku Earthquake destroyed coastal towns near Sendai in Japan, washing such things as houses and cars into the ocean. Projections of where this debris might head have been made. In three years, the plume will reach the US West Coast, dumping debris on Californian beaches and the beaches of British Columbia, Alaska, and Baja California. [EurekaAlert!](#)

Personal 'Geo Data' as Sensitive as Private Genetic Information: Precise geographical data that pinpoints your whereabouts at any given time should be legally defined as sensitive data on a par with one's genetic information. General geographic data need not be considered but precise, real-time location data are of concern and the issue of ownership and access to such data must be addressed. Jessen points out that "the intrusion and loss of integrity related to the processing of geographic location data are apparent when customers are subject to constant monitoring or when geographic location data are combined with other sensitive or demographic data". [Science Daily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Baby Boa Constrictor Found in Wall at Weyburn Mall: A baby boa constrictor has been found safe and sound after two months on the lam at a mall in Weyburn, Sask. The snake had been hiding inside the wall of the Weyburn City Centre Mall, after getting loose a day after being seized as part of an "unlawful wildlife" investigation. Merchants at the mall had said business was affected after word got out that the snake was loose. [CBC News](#)

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