



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Four Feminist Geographers from Carleton University Examine Impact of Spaces and Places on People's Lives: Neighbourhoods matter. That's what four feminist Carleton researchers found. They discovered that where and how you live has a strong impact on how included or excluded you feel in your community. All four have been supervised by Fran Klodawsky from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. "By taking a feminist approach to their research, these young geographers have analyzed how inequalities are perpetuated in particular places and spaces and then looked for interventions that could lead to solutions to these real-world problems," says Klodawsky. "We're hoping that this will spark a strong debate at Women's Worlds." [EXCHANGE](#)

SFU's Jeremy Vendetti Calls for Monitoring of Fraser River: More Fraser River monitoring needs to be done to prevent other infrastructure from collapsing on its banks in the future. Jeremy Vendetti is a Geography professor at the university who says it's absolutely possible that a BC Hydro Tower collapsed because of extreme soil erosion. "The flow starts rising at about mid-May and then peaks towards the end of June and then starts falling off." But that didn't happen this year. "It went up to a pretty high level, higher than the average peak flow on May 15th and it has stayed there, it looks like about six weeks now." And that can undercut the pilings the towers near the banks are built on. He says a better job of monitoring and mapping erosion patterns needs to be done to prevent something like this from happening again. [News1130](#)

Carleton U's Iain Wallace Retires with CAG Honours: Iain Wallace retired last month after 41 years of teaching geography at Carleton University. But first, the Canadian Association of Geographers gave him an award for decades of putting humanity into all those maps. We shape the world's spaces just as they shape us, he teaches. Or in his university's words, "During the 1990s, he helped to shape the highly innovative doctoral program that promotes the spanning of 'human geography' and 'physical geography.'" [Ottawa Citizen](#)

York U's Philip Kelly Reports on Immigrants Hit by Recent Recession: Immigrants, particularly recent newcomers, have borne the brunt of unemployment as a result of the recent recession. The unemployment gap between immigrant and Canadian-born workers has grown since the global economic meltdown set off in late 2008 and newcomers in Greater Toronto were most affected. It is part of a project by the Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative, made up of researchers from York University, University of Toronto and Ryerson University who study immigrant integration in the labour force based on government data. "Recent newcomers already experience significant marginalization in the labour market. What is surprising is they are more badly affected than the other groups and the gap has kept widening," said York University geography professor Philip Kelly, the report's lead investigator. [Toronto Star](#)

U Ottawa's Robert McLeman Studies the Effects that Environmental Changes Have on People:

Whether it's working from home, planting more trees to shade your house or even taking a midday siesta, heat waves such as the one gripping Central Canada and much of the United States may soon require us to adapt certain behaviours. "Just as people in the Arctic are learning to adapt to a world without permafrost and ice year-round ... we're going to have to adapt to the reality that hot, dry summers are probably going to be more frequent than they have been in the past," Robert McLeman, an environmental geographer at the University of Ottawa said. He studies the effects that environmental changes such as global warming and droughts have on humans. [Vancouver Sun](#)

Memorial U's Rodolphe Devillers Receives NSERC Support to Designing Methods for Evaluation and Communicating the Quality of Volunteered Geographic Information:

Dr. Rodolphe Devillers of the geography department has been awarded two major grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The field of research in this case is mapping. Not your traditional map developed by trained professionals working for government and industry, but a new kind of collaborative map more akin to the open source world of Wikipedia. Open Street Map, an example of such a system, bills itself as a free editable map of the whole world which allows any Internet user to view, edit and use geographical data in a collaborative way. [MUN Today](#)

Carleton U's May Chazan on Canadian Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign:

May Chazan believes grandmothers can change the World. Chazan, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, is currently documenting the links between South African-based community support groups and an international network that includes Canadian grandmothers. She believes that the Canadian Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has benefited numerous families across southern Africa as well as challenged stereotypes about older women around the world. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

U Winnipeg's Danny Blair Receives New Appointment:

Danny Blair, a University of Winnipeg was recently appointed acting associate dean of science and principal of the Richardson College for the Environment. Containing more than 30 research and teaching labs (including a bat vivarium and a rooftop greenhouse) Richardson College is a new \$66.5 million facility will house the U of W's Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies, and will see approximately 2,000 students pass through its doors daily. It will also be home to the U of W's Institute of Urban Studies, the Indigenous Studies program and a Digital Learning Lab open to both university and high-school students. [Uptown](#)

Controversy Didn't Stop U Regina's Emily Eaton from Presenting Lecture:

Emily Eaton, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Regina recently presented a public lecture titled, Solidarity with Palestine: The Case for Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Against Israel, which kicked off the Profs in the City lecture series. The lecture garnered significant controversy after Eaton was told by the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District to either change her lecture topic or it would be cancelled. [Regina Leader-Post](#)

Memorial University Student Robert Way Receives Prestigious Award for Northern Research:

Robert Way is one of seven master's students from across Canada to be awarded a prestigious Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research. A native of Labrador and a student of geography, Robert Way's research is centred around determining the Little Ice Age glacial extents in the Torngat Mountains and involves a combination of lichenometry (using lichen growth to determine the age of exposed rock), remote sensing and on the ground field measurements. Ultimately, Mr. Way hopes his research will help in piecing together a glacial history for the climatically sensitive region. Supervised by Dr. Trevor Bell, Mr. Way has already developed a name for himself. [MUN Today](#)

Featured Canadian Geographers:

Professor [Linda Peake \(York University\)](#) has been conducting research in Guyana since the mid 1980s and has worked for over two decades with Red Thread, a women's organization based in the capital, Georgetown. Together they have developed a research team within Red thread and have been engaged in many research projects investigating, for example, the impact of structural adjustment programmes, the PRSPs and MDGs on women's employment and family survival, women's reproductive health, violence against women, the state of sex work and most recently research on young adults and sexualities. Many graduate students from Development Studies and Women's Studies, but primarily Geography, have accompanied her over the years where they have conducted their own research but have also been engaged in the work of Red Thread. This summer Linda is in Guyana writing up the latest SSHRC funded research on sexualities and is accompanied by three of her graduate students:

Michelle Bobala will be entering her first year in the MA in Development Studies at York University this September. Since March 2008, she has been traveling, working and volunteering in both Asia and South America and is currently in Georgetown, Guyana. Michelle has been volunteering with the Red Thread Women's Development Programme teaching literacy classes and facilitating youth empowerment seminars focusing on gender and stereotypes. She has also been participating in the Red Thread Living Income Campaign, which is the focus of her pre-research for her MA Thesis. Michelle will be returning to Guyana next summer to study the lived experiences of poor women as they negotiate their livelihoods in the era of the Millennium Development Goals.

Leeann Townsend is a PhD candidate in Women's Studies at York University. This is her fourth trip during her PhD research to Guyana, where she has now lived for over a year. She continues to volunteer at Red Thread, where she helps out in their literacy program. She teaches a daily class of primary school students and she also tutors and assists high school students with their homework. She has also been a part of Red Thread's research team, joint managing the research project on gender and sexuality. Her own dissertation research focuses on the influence of music, laws and religion on sexuality in Guyana.

[Katherine MacDonald](#) is a second year PhD student studying Geography at York University. This is her second visit to Guyana and to Red Thread, and she intends to spend this fieldwork year in the country researching her dissertation topic which looks at increasing Brazilian migration, primarily of small scale gold miners, into the southern savannah region and the future social and environmental impacts upon the Indigenous peoples who live there. Her work with Red Thread has primarily consisted of helping with both the Gender and Sexuality and the Access and Abilities Projects. However, to begin this year, she will be working with Dr. Christopher Carrico of the University of Guyana alongside Red Thread volunteers on a joint research proposal reviewing the intersections between Indigenous modes of production and the mining sector within the remote interior region of the Upper Mazaruni.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Alison Aspinall, Judie Cukier and Brent Doberstein. 2011. [Quality of life assessments and social sustainability: ski tourism development in Invermere, British Columbia](#). Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management 13(2):179-201

- Guoshu Bina and Paul Parker. 2011. [Measuring buildings for sustainability: Comparing the initial and retrofit ecological footprint of a century home – The REEP House](#). Applied Energy. DOI: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2011.05.055
- L. C. Brown and C. R. Duguay. 2011. [The fate of lake ice in the North American Arctic](#). The Cryosphere Discussion 5:1775-1834.
- J. Graham Cogley. 2011. [Present and future states of Himalaya and Karakoram glaciers](#). Annals of Glaciology 52(59):69-73.
- Kathryn Furlong and Karen Bakker. 2011. [Governance and sustainability at a municipal scale: the challenge of water conservation](#). Canadian Public Policy 37(2):219-237.
- Nilima Gandhi, Satyendra P. Bhavsar and Miriam L. Diamond. 2011. [Critical load analysis in hazard assessment of metals using a Unit World Model](#). Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. DOI: 10.1002/etc.606
- W.E. Mabee, P.N. McFarlane and J.N. Saddler. 2011. [Biomass availability for lignocellulosic ethanol production](#). Biomass and Bioenergy. DOI: 10.1016/j.biombioe.2011.06.026
- Robert A. McLeman, Michael Brklacich, Maureen Woodrow, Kelly Vodden, Patricia Gallagher and Renate Sander-Regier. 2011. [Opportunities and barriers for adaptation and local adaptation planning in canadian rural and resource-based communities](#). Advances in Global Change Research 42(6):449-459.
- Joyce Lundberg and Donald A. McFarlane. 2011. [Post-speleogenetic biogenic modification of Gomantong Caves, Sabah, Borneo](#). Geomorphology. Doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.04.043
- Maria Salonen, Tuuli Toivonen, Jean-Michel Cohalan and Oliver T. Coomes. 2012. [Critical distances: Comparing measures of spatial accessibility in the riverine landscapes of Peruvian Amazonia](#). Applied Geography 32(2):501-513.
- Emma J. Stewart, Jackie Dawson and Dianne Draper. 2011. [Cruise tourism and residents in arctic canada: development of a resident attitude typology](#). Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management DOI: 10.1375/jhtm.18.1.95
- Liu Sun, Scott W. Mitchell and Andrew Davidson. 2011. [Multiple drought indices for agricultural drought risk assessment on the Canadian prairies](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI: 10.1002/joc.2385
- Tana Stratton, David T. Price and Konrad Gajewski. 2011. [Impacts of daily weather variability on simulations of the Canadian boreal forest](#). Ecological Modelling. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2011.06.009
- Mary Thornbush and Joseph Desloges. 2011. [Palaeoenvironmental reconstruction at an oxbow lake situated at the lower Nottawasaga River, southern Ontario, Canada](#). Environmental Archaeology 16(1):1-15.
- Chaowei Yang, Doug Nebert and D.R. Fraser Taylor. 2011. [Establishing a sustainable and cross-boundary geospatial cyberinfrastructure to enable polar research](#). Computers & Geosciences. DOI: 10.1016/j.cageo.2011.06.009
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Other “Geographical” News

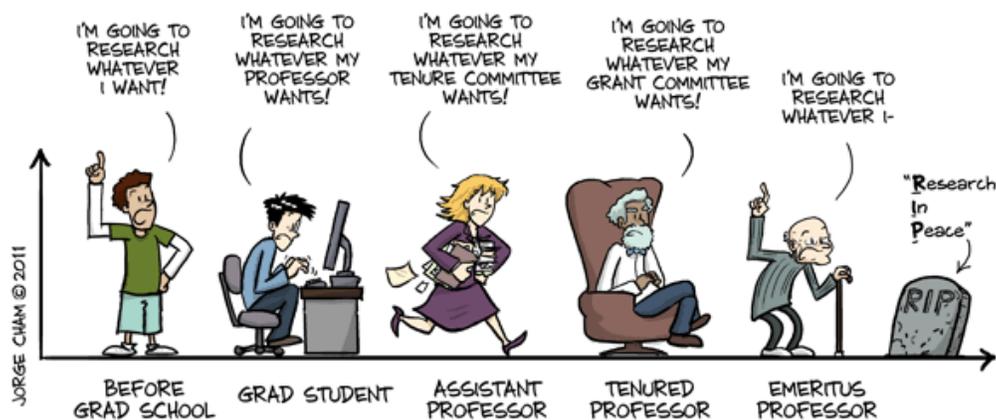
Canoeists Pay Tribute to Legendary Canadian Surveyor David Thompson: Two centuries ago, a Canadian surveyor named David Thompson put his expertise to good use by mapping and surveying the upper Columbia River. Though Lewis and Clark already had traveled through the area in 1802, that expedition only mapped out the lower Columbia River route. Thompson went farther, opening new land trade routes to the Pacific Ocean. With the 200th anniversary of Thompson’s adventure approaching, a modern-day group of more than 100 canoeists called the 2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade is making the same journey down the Columbia River from Invermere, British Columbia, to Astoria, Ore. The boats are all replicas of the ones used by Thompson’s party. [The Spokesman Review](#)

Land Use Change Influences Continental Water Cycle: Forests, and tropical forests in particular, play an important role in the global water cycle. Researchers have recently shown that evaporation from the Amazon forest is more than 50% responsible for the rainfall in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and southern Brazil, where it feeds crops and rivers. Similarly in Africa, the Congo forest exports tons of water through the atmosphere to the West-African countries. [ScienceDaily](#)

Chinese Coal Blamed for Global Warming er... Cooling: The refusal of the global temperatures to rise as predicted has caused much angst among academics. "The fact is that we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment and it is a travesty that we can't," wrote one in 2009. Either the instruments were wrong, or the heat energy had gone missing somewhere. Now a team of academics, after tweaking a statistical model to include sulphur emissions, suggest that coal power stations may be to blame for a lack of global warming since 1998. The IPCC's 2007 assessment acknowledged the negative radiative forcing of both natural aerosols from volcanoes and manmade aerosols, but admitted the level of scientific understanding was low. [The Register](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



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