



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 142. September 20, 2011**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**U Ottawa's Barry Wellar Inducted into GIS Hall of Fame:** The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) established the GIS Hall of Fame in 2005 to recognize and honor the most esteemed leaders of the geospatial community. To be considered for the GIS Hall of Fame, an individual's or an organization's record of contribution to the advancement of the industry demonstrates creative thinking and actions, vision and innovation, inspiring leadership, perseverance, and community mindedness. Few individuals are more deserving of this honour than Dr. Barry Wellar. His nearly 50 years of active and sustained work in the geographic information system (GIS) and related fields are filled with accomplishments and contributions to the industry and the community of GIS technology users. His roles as a researcher, teacher, GIS practitioner and manager, and consultant have focused on practical applications of GIS and other information technologies to problems and challenges faced by public agencies and private sector companies. [URISA](#) | [LJWorld.com](#) | [Call Center Outsourcing](#)

**Carleton U's Simon Dalby Edits Volume on Effects of Sept 11, 2001 Attacks:** A specially commissioned set of essays, published in the September 2011 issue of the [Geographical Journal](#), argues that in the years following the 9/11 terrorist attacks the world did change, but not always in ways anticipated by policy-makers and pundits. Edited by Simon Dalby of Carleton University the commentaries and essays, written by distinguished geographers and social scientists including Derek Gregory and Neil Smith, puncture the more hyperbolic claims regarding the longer-term significance of the attacks. Fundamentally, the essays argue, phrases such as 9/11 served to establish a novelty and a privileging of time rather than space. However, the real significance of this tragedy, involving the deaths of nearly 3000 people in three different places, lies in the connections between people and places, past and present. [Newsroom America](#) | [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy Discusses IP3 Outcomes:** Scientists gathered in Saskatoon to present their findings on shrinking snow packs, thawing permafrost, and melting glaciers and how they will affect our future water supply. "Our agriculture industry and our cities on the Canadian Prairies are extremely dependent on the Saskatchewan River system for irrigation and crucial municipal water supplies," says John Pomeroy, Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change. "Likewise, the interplay between climate change and water in our northern regions affects everything from transportation and industry to traditional livelihoods." Pomeroy leads the Improved Processes and Parameterization for Prediction in Cold Regions (IP3) research network based at the University of Saskatchewan and funded through the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences., IP3 researchers from across the country gathed data to model the timing and volume of spring runoff and summer stream flows from Canada's mountains and cold regions. [U of S News Release](#)

---

**U Ottawa's Barry Wellar on Ottawa's Future:** Barry Wellar expects that 60 years from now, Ottawa will look and feel much as it looks and feels today. He bases his forecast on what he says is a lack of vision that is keeping us from innovating. The University of Ottawa professor emeritus of geography and environmental studies now consults on transportation and land-use planning. He says the last project that changed the way the city works was the Queensway, which was begun in the late 1950s and allowed the city to sprawl. He says the Transitway did not change the city fundamentally, and he expects the light rail transit project just getting under way will not be a game-changer either. [The Ottawa Citizen](#)

**McGill U's Geography PhD Candidate Philip Osano on Impact of Climate Change on Maasai:** From 2008 to 2009, a devastating drought hit areas inhabited by Kenya's Maasai pastoralist community, destroying three-quarters of their cattle and two-thirds of their small stock. The drought was the worst the Maasai had experienced in decades, despite the fact that it followed in the wake of recurrent droughts brought about by climate change. Climate change has been particularly devastating to the Maasai because of the negative effects manifested in recurrent drought, leading to increased food insecurity, starvation and poverty. This paper examines how climate change contributes to poverty among the Maasai and outlines government and non-governmental policies designed to help pastoral communities cope with the effects of climate change in Kenya. [Africa Portal](#)

**U Waterloo's Dan Scott and Team Awarded \$2.5 M for Partnership Program:** Dan Scott, Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo, and his team of researchers are one of five teams receiving \$2.5 million over 5 years for their project Partnership for Canada-Caribbean Community Climate Change Adaptation. The announcement, made by IDRC, NSERC and SSHRC, awards a total of \$12.5 million for the International Research Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change. [IDRC Media Release](#)

---

## New Book

Hansgeorg Schlichtmann. 2011. [Cartosemiotics: a short dictionary](#). International Cartographic Association. 126 pp. ISBN: 978-1-907075-04-9. [Available from the author (e-mail: [schlichh@uregina.ca](mailto:schlichh@uregina.ca))]

---

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Booth, A; and Halseth, G.. 2011. [Why the public thinks natural resources public participation processes fail: A case study of British Columbia communities](#). Land Use Policy 28(4):898-906.

Hewitta, N.; Klenk, N.; Smith, A.L.; Bazely, D.R.; Yan, N.; Wood, S.; MacLellan, J.I.; Lipsig-Mumme, C.; and Henriques, I. 2011. [Taking stock of the assisted migration debate](#). Biological Conservation 144(11):2560-2572.

Martin, Y.E.; Johnson, E.A.; Gallaway, J.M.; and Chaikina, O. 2011. [Negligible soil erosion in a burned mountain watershed, Canadian Rockies: Field and modelling investigations considering the role of duff](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.2236

Morrison, K.T.; Nelson, T.A.; and Ostry, A.S. 2011. [Mapping spatial variation in food consumption](#). Applied Geography 31:1262-1267.

---

Mount, P. 2011. [Growing local food: scale and local food systems governance](#). Agriculture and Human Values. DOI: 10.1007/s10460-011-9331-0

Ryser, L.; and Halseth, G. 2011. [Informal support networks of low-income senior women living alone: Evidence from Fort St. John, BC](#). Journal of Women & Aging 23(3):185-202.

Park, S.; and Tuller S.E. 2011. [Human body area factors for radiation exchange analysis: standing and walking postures](#). International Journal of Biometeorology 55(5):695-709.

Vijayakumar, N.; El-Geneidy, A.M.; and Patterson, Z. 2011. [Driving to suburban rail stations understanding variables that affect driving distance and station demand](#). Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board. 2219/2011:97-103.

---

### Recent Theses and Dissertations

James Pepper. 2011. Perspectives for First Nations' strategies towards local marine management in the Broughton Archipelago, British Columbia. Unpublished Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) thesis, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Gail Fondahl.

Cristian Silva. 2011. Exhuming Guatemala's gender-based violence: justice, truth-telling, and rebuilding in a post-conflict society. Unpublished MA Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Catherine Nolin.

---

### Other "Geographical" News

**Names, Not Social Networks, Bind Us to Global Cultural and Ethnic Communities:** Links between hundreds of millions of names belonging to people all around the world have been analysed by geographers from UCL and the University of Auckland. The results reveal how our forenames and surnames are connected in distinct global networks of cultural, ethnic and linguistic communities. After studying the names of 118 million individuals, from 17 different countries, the team can reveal for the first time the existence of global 'naming networks' of linked forenames and surnames, providing a valuable representation of cultural, ethnic and linguistic population structure around the world. Previously, in order to try to classify and map populations using people's names you first needed to compile a comprehensive 'name dictionary' identifying the cultural ethnic and linguistic origins of each name," says author Dr. Pablo Mateos of UCL's Department of Geography. [Physorg.com](#)

**MIT's Free Urban Planning Software Will Help Build Cities of the Future:** If we are to improve the quality of life in our cities--27 of which are expected to have more than 10 million people by 2020--we will have to find a better way to build them. That future just became a bit easier with the launch of the Urban Network Analysis, an open-source software released by MIT. Taking a cue from social networks and mathematical network analysis methods, the City Form Research Group's program calculates how a cities' spatial layout affects the way people will live in it. It measures traits such as "reach, gravity, betweenness, closeness, and straightness," which, in laymen terms, express features such as the number of services, buildings, and resources within a certain walking distance, or the volume of traffic along sidewalks and streets. Designers can also assign characteristics to individual buildings, as well as track urban growth and change with analytic support for policy makers. [Fastcompany.com](#)

**Canadian Scientist Caught Padding Resumé, Grant Applications with Non-Existing Research:** In an unusually creative case of academic misconduct, a Canadian scientist has been caught padding his resume and federal grant applications with studies that do not exist. The scientist has been stripped of his federal science grant for the repeated use of the “falsified publications” and banned from applying for more money for five years. The Natural Science and Engineering Research Council claims in the documents that cutting off the scientist’s grant will send a “strong message” that such misconduct is not tolerated. But the council refuses to identify the professor or the university where he teaches. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

---

**Some not so “Geographical” News**



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