



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 143. September 25, 2011
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

UQAM's Sylvain Lefebvre on Montreal's Fallen Cathedral: Sylvain Lefebvre is a Université du Québec à Montréal geography professor who has studied the Olympic stadium extensively. In a paper last year, he and co-author Romain Roult referred to it as a "fallen cathedral." Their article described the stadium and its environs as "cold and disconnected from the existing urban framework.... [It] is not considered as a place where it's nice to hang out." For Mr. Lefebvre, simply replacing the roof on the stadium so it can operate year-round will not salvage the site. "We need to re-establish a sentiment of pride toward that building and what is around it," he said. "One of my theories is that what is most damaging to the stadium at the moment is that the surrounding area is not interesting. You don't want to be there. It's concrete, it's hot and there are no services." He has worked with Montreal design firm IPSO to create sketches offering a glimpse of a re-imagined Olympic Park. There are restaurants with sidewalk patios, a hotel and green space and fountains where now there is just a concrete expanse. "It's not too complicated, but there has to be political will and some investment," he said. [National Post](#)

Trent U's Graham Cogley Says Mappers Misrepresented Greenland Ice Melt: Glaciologists are broadly and loudly panning the latest version of The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World, released last week, which shows Greenland having lost 15% of its ice cover in the past 12 years due to warming. The trouble, researchers say, is that although Greenland's ice sheet is retreating, the melt is nothing like the scale shown in the atlas and they are mystified at where the error arose. A possibility is that from the air, ice sheets appear dark and are difficult to distinguish from the ground, whereas snow gives off a glare, says geographer Graham Cogley at the Trent University in Canada. The extent of the error, he says, "sticks out like a sore thumb." The global average of glacier melt is about 0.2% per year, and that includes very small glaciers, which melt more quickly than the massive Greenland ice sheet. A 1.5% per year decrease in ice cover, he says, is "so implausible" that any glaciologist would spot it. Cogley compares this mistake to a case where scientists were reported as predicting in 1999 that the Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035, rather than 2350. [ScienceInsider](#)

McGill U's Nigel Roulet Leads Research Focused on Understanding Metabolism of Arctic Landscape: Scientists don't always like to admit to ignorance. But according to McGill geography professor Nigel Roulet, at the moment there are some basic gaps in their knowledge of Northern ecosystems. "We are being asked questions about what we think will happen to Arctic ecosystems over the next 50 to 100 years. And we just don't have the answers." Thanks to a 4 year - \$4 million grant from NSERC scientists from ten Canadian universities will now be able to collaborate with one another and with organizations from around the world to create a reference for the arctic land system. The Canada-wide research project is entitled Arctic Development and Adaptation to Permafrost (ADAPT). They will spend the next four years studying how the changing permafrost and snow conditions affect the landscape, water, and wildlife of the tundra. They will also look at the impact of these changes on northern communities. [McGill Newsroom](#)

U Toronto's Alana Boland and Students Talk About Chengdu Field Trip: A group of geography and Asia-Pacific studies students recently visited Chengdu to observe the program's impact, examining issues around sustainable development in the city and its outlying areas and exploring the role of different social actors in the transformation process. The visit also provided an opportunity for students to see how reconstruction efforts following the massive Sichuan earthquake in 2008 address the needs of residents, and the ways these efforts also fit with the larger development strategy for the region. The trip, part of the Faculty of Arts & Science Internationalized Course Modules program, was led by geography professor Alana Boland with the assistance of Jessica Wilczak, a geography PhD student doing fieldwork in the region. "By visiting Chengdu and re-engaging the themes explored in their classes, students had a chance to witness the complex set of relationships shaping urban futures in this incredibly dynamic region of China - and the world," said Boland. [UT Faculty of Arts News](#)

WLU Doctoral Researcher Recognized for Wetlands Study: A doctoral student's efforts to examine the mysteries of a northern wetland were recently recognized at the opening of a new research centre in Churchill, Manitoba. Kevin Turner, a PhD student in the geography and environmental studies department at Wilfrid Laurier University, was among the guests at the opening of the new home of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. Recipients of W. Garfield Weston Awards for Northern Research were invited to the celebration. Turner, 34, received one of the awards last fall for his work exploring the past and present hydrology of lakes in the Old Crow Flats in the northern Yukon Territory. "It's regarded as a wetland of international importance," said Turner, a Kitchener resident. The 5,600-square kilometre area encompasses about 2,700 shallow lakes and provides natural resources for the people of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. [The Record.com](#)

Vancouver Island University's New Geography Department Chair Alan Gilchrist: Dr. Alan Gilchrist (PhD University of Liverpool) is the new Chair of Geography (2011-2013). He has completed work on the Vancouver Island Water Resources Vulnerability Mapping Project and is in the process of disseminating the results. The project's aim was to produce maps of the intrinsic vulnerability of groundwater on Vancouver Island to contamination by chemical hazards, and to help Regional District planners take groundwater vulnerability into account when planning land use and development. This project has provided employment for several graduates of the Geography and Advanced Diploma in GIS programs at VIU, who provided technical expertise to complete the GIS mapping part of the project. [VIU Geography](#)

U Toronto's Miriam Diamond Participates in Southern Ontario Water Consortium: University of Toronto researchers will benefit from a \$19.58 million investment in water technologies announced part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Southern Ontario Water Consortium is an alliance of universities, companies, municipalities and non-profit organizations working together to develop, test and pilot water technologies. Miriam Diamond of geography and chemical engineering and applied chemistry is participating in the consortium intended to build an integrated system for the development, testing and demonstration of new market-driven water technologies and services, primarily along the Grand River and adjacent watersheds. [U of T News](#)

Brock U's Marilyne Jollineau Employs Remote Sensing to Improve Vineyard Management: Dr. Marilyne Jollineau recently received OCE funding for her research project on the integration of remotely sensed data into a precision agriculture system for improved vineyard management in the Niagara Region. This project involves the development of image-derived information products using high-resolution airborne and spaceborne remote-sensing data, correlated with ground-based data, to assess vine condition. The development of such products is ideally suited for integration within a precision agriculture system (PAS); such a system is currently being developed by Niagara College. [Jollineau Homepage](#)

UNBC Honours “Alumni of the Year” Geographer Sarah de Leeuw: Sarah de Leeuw is a human geographer and creative writer who grew up on Haida Gwaii and graduated from high school in Terrace. She is an assistant professor in the Northern Medical Program and a two-time recipient of a CBC Literary Award in Creative Non-Fiction. She is the author of two books of essays, *Unmarked: Landscapes Along Highway 16* and *Front Lines: Portraits of Care Givers in Northern British Columbia*, as well as a forthcoming collection of poetry. Dr. de Leeuw is the current president of the Two Rivers Gallery Board of Trustees and a director with the Prince George Elizabeth Fry Society Board of Directors. [UNBC Media Release](#)

U Toronto’s Matti Siemiatycki Speaks with CBC on Proposed TTC Cuts: Matt Galloway of CBC Metro Morning spoke with Matti Siemiatycki about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Transit Commission. Matti an assistant professor at the University of Toronto, and specializes in transportation policy and planning. [Listen CBC](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Campbell, Lisa M. and Zoë A. Meletis. 2011. [Agreement on water and a watered-down agreement: The political ecology of contested coastal development in Down East, North Carolina](#). *Journal of Rural Studies* 27(3):308-321

Clarke, Kaila-Lea and Berry, Peter. 2011. [From theory to practice: a Canadian case study of the utility of climate change adaptation frameworks to address health impacts](#). *International Journal of Public Health*. DOI: 10.1007/s00038-011-0292-2

Parkes, M.W., de Leeuw, S., and Greenwood, M. 2011. [Warming up to the embodied context of First Nations child health: A critical intervention into and analysis of health and climate change research](#). *International Public Health Journal* 2010, 2(4):477-485.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Hyae-Rim Roncin. 2011. The meaning of reconciliation and development in post-genocide Rwanda. Unpublished MA International Studies (International Development stream) thesis, University of Northern British Columbia. Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin.

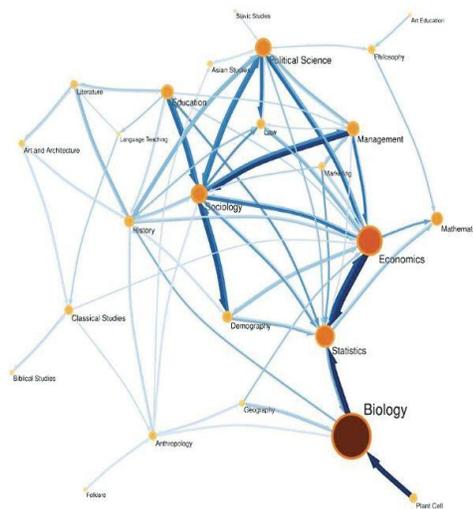
Other “Geographical” News

Limits for Mountain Trail Use Identified: A new study on human impact to wildlife in some of Canada’s most popular national parks has identified limits at which trails can be used before ecological disturbance takes place. The research found that wolves and elk were disturbed away from high quality habitat in Banff, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks in areas where human traffic on trails was monitored. In particular, the study found that wolves and elk avoided areas within 50 metres of trail routes travelled by one person per hour or greater; and up to 400 metres from trails with human activity above two persons per hour. Such avoidance behaviours are consistent with previous scientific research; however, the identification of threshold levels at which this occurs is new. [EurekaAlert!](#)

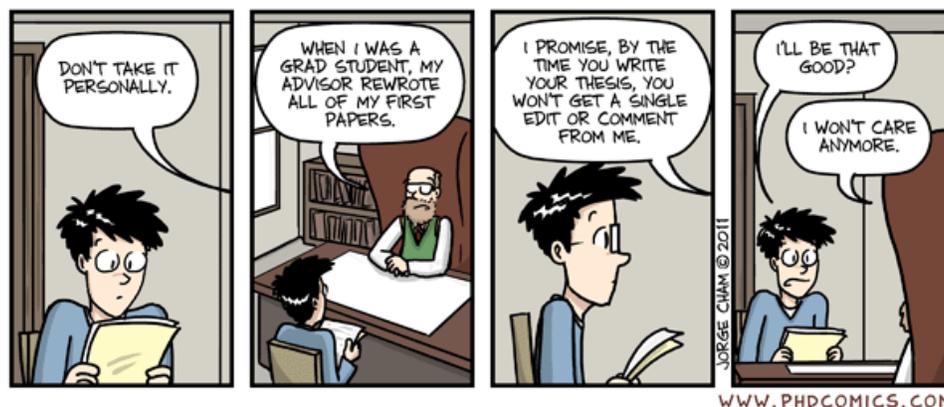
Aquarius Yields NASA’s First Global Map of Ocean Salinity: NASA’s new Aquarius instrument has produced its first global map of the salinity of the ocean surface. The map shows several well-known

ocean salinity features such as higher salinity in the subtropics; higher average salinity in the Atlantic Ocean compared to the Pacific and Indian oceans; and lower salinity in rainy belts near the equator, in the northernmost Pacific Ocean and elsewhere. These features are related to large-scale patterns of rainfall and evaporation over the ocean, river outflow and ocean circulation. [ScienceDaily](#)

Citation by Citation, New Maps Chart Hot Research and Scholarship's Hidden Terrain: Imagine a Google Maps of scholarship, a set of tools sophisticated enough to help researchers locate hot research, spot hidden connections to other fields, and even identify new disciplines as they emerge in the sprawling terrain of scholarly communication. Trapped in disciplinary valleys, surrounded by dense forests of information, researchers have a hard time seeing a lot of scholarship that might be relevant to their work, especially if it's not published in the places they already know to look. As an example the following shows how strongly different areas in the large JSTOR collection of scholarly journals are connected. Thicker lines represent more back-and-forth journal citations; thinner lines indicate less communication. [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)



Some not so “Geographical” News



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