



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U Toronto Post-Doc and Carleton U Graduate May Chazan Receives Alice Wilson Award:** May Chazan, an incoming post-doc at the University of Toronto has just received the Royal Society of Canada's [Alice Wilson award](#) for 2011 for her PhD thesis on how older women are mobilizing and forming transnational connections in their struggles for social change. The award is given to a woman of outstanding academic qualifications who is entering a career in scholarship or research at the postdoctoral level. May will be working with Mark Hunter. She completed her PhD at Carleton University in September 2011. Her doctoral research examined the ways in which older women were mobilizing around HIV/AIDS within four communities in South Africa between 2006 and 2010, as well as their connections into a transnational movement aimed at building solidarity among grandmothers affected by AIDS. At the intersection of feminist theory, critical development studies, and geographies of care and affect, she will be building on this work over the next two years, investigating other instances of older women's mobilizations and transnational connections.

**U Ottawa's Luke Copland and Carleton U's Derek Mueller on Disappearing Ice Shelves in Canadian Arctic:** Canada's experts on the country's Arctic ice shelves say the region's latest summer meltdown has led to the virtual disappearance of one of these "unique and massive geographical features" and the continued disintegration of several others, adding up to a 50 per cent loss of the ancient structures over the past six years. Researchers from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University stress the significance of these transformations. "This is our coastline changing," says Derek Mueller, a researcher in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University. "These unique and massive geographical features that we consider to be a part of the map of Canada are disappearing, and they won't come back." "Since the end of July, pieces equalling 1 1/2 times the size of Manhattan Island have broken off," said Luke Copland, a geographer at the University of Ottawa. He warns that oil companies need to sit up and take notice as more icebergs will be floating down from the North and may threaten rigs in locations such as the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.  
[Calgary Herald](#) | [Carleton Newsroom](#) | [UOttawa Media Room](#) | [CTV News](#)

**UWO's Gordon McBean to Head World Body:** A University of Western Ontario geography professor widely recognized for his expertise in climate change will be the next president of the International Council for Science. Gordon McBean -- who shared the 2007 Nobel Peace prize as part of the United Nations Panel on Climate Change -- will begin his term as president-elect in 2013 and take over in 2014. McBean is chairperson of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences and an authority on climate change and the practice of disaster risk reduction. He also serves as director of Western's Policy Studies Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. [Western News](#) | [London Free Press](#)

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**UBC Geographer Newsletter:** The most recent newsletter published by the Department of Geography at UBC (Vol 7(1)) is now available. Features include welcomes and a farewell to department members, a description of the research undertaken by Greg Henry's Tundra Ecology Lab; pictures the recent welcome reception; a report by Jamie Peck on time spent in Singapore and Jakarta; and, a description of recent Co-op placement for undergraduate student Aaron Cheng. Details at [Geographer Newsletter](#)

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New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



David Doloreux, Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay, Juan-Luis Klein, Steve Dionne, and Tarek Ben Hassen. 2011. [Intervention publique sur le développement de grappes industrielles au Québec](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00386.x

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Keith Barney. 2011. Grounding global forest economies: Resource governance and commodity power in rural Laos. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, York University. Dissertation Supervisor: Philip F. Kelly.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

G. Allard, M. Roy, B. Ghaleb, P.J.H. Richard, A.C. Larouche, J.J. Veillette, and M. Parent. 2011. [Constraining the age of the last interglacial–glacial transition in the Hudson Bay lowlands \(Canada\) using U-Th dating of buried wood](#). Quaternary Geochronology. doi:10.1016/j.quageo.2011.09.004

Thomas E. Barchyn and Chris H. Hugenholtz. 2011. [A new tool for modeling dune field evolution based on an accessible, GUI version of the Werner dune model](#). Geomorphology. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.09.021

C.J. Donnermeyer and T.D. Drezner. 2011. [Cohort establishment on slopes: Growth rates, demographic patterns, and the relationship to volcanic eruptions](#). Journal of Arid Environments. doi:10.1016/j.jaridenv.2011.08.017

T.S. Gala, D.A. Aldred, S. Carlyle and I.F. Creed. 2011. [Topographically based spatially averaging of SAR data improves performance of soil moisture models](#). Remote Sensing of Environment. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.013

L.E. Jackson Jr., F.E. Nelson, C.A. Huscroft, M. Villeneuve, R.W. Barendregt, J.E. Storer and B.C. Ward. 2011. [Pliocene and Pleistocene volcanic interaction with Cordilleran ice sheets, damming of the Yukon River and vertebrate Palaeontology, Fort Selkirk Volcanic Group, west-central Yukon, Canada](#). Quaternary International. doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2011.08.033

Michelle Love, Robert Wilton, and Geoffrey DeVerteuil. 2011. [You have to make a new way of life': women's drug treatment programmes as therapeutic landscapes in Canada](#). Gender, Place & Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2011.609985

D.J. Quincey, M. Braun, N.F. Glasser, M.P. Bishop, K. Hewitt and A. Luckman. 2011. [Karakoram glacier surge dynamics](#). Geophysical Research Letters 38(L18504). doi:10.1029/2011GL049004

Naomi Short, Brian Brisco, Nicole Couture, Wayne Pollard, Kevin Murnaghan and Paul Budkewitsch. 2011. [A comparison of TerraSAR-X, RADARSAT-2 and ALOS-PALSAR interferometry for monitoring permafrost environments, case study from Herschel Island, Canada](#). Remote Sensing of Environment. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.012

Chaoyang Wu, Jing M. Chen and Ni Huang. 2011. [Predicting gross primary production from the enhanced vegetation index and photosynthetically active radiation: Evaluation and calibration](#). Remote Sensing of Environment. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.006

Zhijie Zhang, Dongmei Chen, Yue Chen, Tilman M. Davies, Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt and Wenbao Liu. 2011. [Risk signals of an influenza pandemic caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1: Spatio-temporal perspectives](#). The Veterinary Journal. doi:10.1016/j.tvjl.2011.08.012

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Dutch May Build Artificial Mountain:** "What started as a joke a month ago has become a serious plan as Thijs Zonneveld gains support from Dutch skiers and climbers for the construction of an artificial mountain in the Netherlands. Though he concedes the project will take many years and many euros, Zonneveld has met with engineering and architecture firms to frame the possibilities for recreation, housing and tourism. When the project is complete, a mountain approximately one kilometer high and five kilometers wide will cover the otherwise flat province of Flevoland, in the center of the country." [Alpinist](#)

**Major River Basins Have Enough Water to Sustainably Double Food Production in the Coming Decades:** While water-related conflicts and shortages abound throughout the rapidly changing societies of Africa, Asia and Latin America, there is clearly sufficient water to sustain food, energy, industrial and environmental needs during the 21st century. The report from the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) of the CGIAR finds that the "sleeping giant" of water challenges is not scarcity, but the inefficient use and inequitable distribution of the massive amounts of water that flow through the breadbaskets of key river basins such as the Nile, Ganges, Andes, Yellow, Niger and Volta. [ScienceDaily](#)

**'Maphead': Ken Jennings on the Weird World of Geography Wonks:** From neuroscience to pop culture to gender identity to religion, Jennings' geographic narrative entitled *Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks* interlaces nontrivial trivia with personal anecdotes and a genuine love of maps as a visual sensemaking mechanism for the world. Jennings looked far and wide to unravel the mystery of what makes maps sing to us: "There must be something innate about maps, about this one specific way of picturing our world and our relation to it, that charms us, calls to us, won't let us look anywhere else in the room if there's a map on the wall. I want to get to the bottom of what that is. I see it as a chance to explore one of the last remaining 'blank spaces' available to us amateur geographers and cartographers: the mystery of what makes our consuming map obsession tick. I will go there." [The Atlantic](#)

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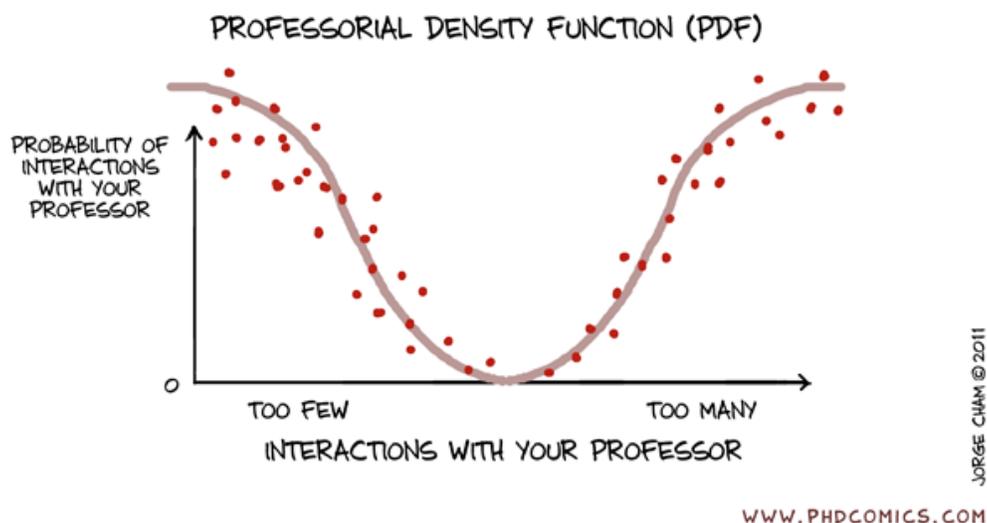
**Women in Science? Universities Don't Make the Grade:** Despite years of trying to improve the number of women undergraduates in science and engineering, a new study shows most universities are failing. Not only are women lagging behind their male classmates, efforts to close the gap too often focus on students instead of faculty and institutional structures. Researchers found ongoing issues with the atmosphere towards women in the classroom, the structure of academic programs, and poor faculty attitudes. The teaching environment, they found, "often portrays science and engineering as highly competitive, masculine domains." While many universities are committed to increasing the number of women pursuing these "elite fields," their programs too often focus on things such as peer mentoring—instead of creating real structural change. [EurekAlert!](#)

**New Atlas Shows Effect of Global Warming:** Researched by a team of 30 cartographers and four years in the making, the latest edition of [The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World](#) records a number of environmental changes, including the breaking up of the Antarctic Wilkins ice shelf and the "ice bridge" that linked it to Charcot Island. The new atlas reveals areas most at risk to rising sea levels, including Pacific islands and archipelagos, Indian Ocean islands and the coasts of Africa, India, South East Asia, and the Gulf of Mexico. [Sky News HD](#)

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### **Some not so "Geographical" News**

**Private Facebook Group Allows Professors to Vent About Entitled Students:** "That's 'Professor' Uptight to You, Johnny" is a members-only Facebook group that allows university professors to vent in the form of steaming e-mails they wish they could write in response to students' rude demands or complaints. Finding it to be "great group therapy," one member says during his university days, in return for completing the coursework, he was given the grade he had earned; these days, if he hands out a C-minus "it's almost like a complete shock to them." [Macleans on campus](#)



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