



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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AAG Honours U Toronto's Larry Bourne: The Association of American Geographers will honor Professor Larry Bourne at the 2012 Annual Meeting in New York City. A special Awards Luncheon will recognize Larry's 50 years of membership with the AAG, and his many contributions to Geography. Larry is Professor Emeritus of Geography and Planning and past Director of both the Graduate Program in Planning and the Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto. He received a B.A. in Geography from the University of Western Ontario, an M.A. from Alberta, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. After accepting a position at the University of Toronto in 1966, he has since held visiting professor positions in Los Angeles, Melbourne, London, OECD (Paris), Warsaw, Texas and Tokyo. He has received honorary doctorates from two Canadian universities, and in 2004 he was awarded the Massey Medal in geography, awarded by the Governor General. His current research interests include major issues of planning and urban growth in both Canadian cities, often set in a global context. [Larry Bourne Homepage](#)

UNBC's Brian Menounos on Time-Lapse Photography of B.C. Coastal Glacier: "The coast range of British Columbia is one of the fastest-changing areas in the whole world of glaciers. It's really, really incredible how much the ice is melting down and flowing out and how much the ice is just peeling back from from the surfaces of those mountains," explains James Balog. Dr. Brian Menounos shares Balog's surprise. He teaches geography at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George. The glaciers of B.C. are a big part of his research. He is startled by his findings. "In some cases we're finding trees that were overrun sometime in the geologic past.... These trees were killed by a glacier advancing into a valley some five or six sometimes even 7,000 years ago," says Menounos. The amount of water a retreat of that magnitude represents is overwhelming. Menounos uses satellites to calculate how much water B.C.'s ice sheets are losing every year. "We could take the city of Ottawa and essentially flood it with about 7 m of water each year," reveals Menounos. [CBC News](#)

UTSC's Susannah Bunce on the Behind Good Waterfront Development: The question of how to develop Toronto's waterfront has dogged city politicians for decades. U of T Magazine asked Susannah Bunce, a UTSC geography professor, about the principles behind good waterfront development. *What have been Toronto's biggest mistakes with respect to its waterfront?* "The actors involved in Toronto's waterfront development have placed a lot of emphasis on attracting and securing private sector investment. Waterfront Toronto's comprehensive redevelopment plan relies on augmenting existing municipal, provincial and federal funding by selling public land to the private sector. However, I don't think there is anything wrong with slow and well-planned publicly funded development, even if it's a small area of the waterfront. In my opinion, maintaining publicly owned waterfront land is key to fostering sustainable and inclusive planning and development." [U of T Magazine](#)

McGill U's Navin Ramankutty on Repatterning the World: Ecology strives for objectivity by reducing the complexity of the systems they study. One way to do this has traditionally been to isolate human influence from observations, by studying areas presumed to be wild. "We know instinctively that this is not what the world looks like any more," says Navin Ramankutty, Department of Geography at McGill University. Working with Erle Willis, Navin melded global data sets on population, land use, and land cover. Their research revealed a new biome system, with human-dominated ecosystems that they called anthropogenic biomes, or anthromes for short. The analysis produced two major insights. Ramankutty said, "First, an astonishing amount of the world's landscape, up to 77%, is an anthrome." People have taken over most places on Earth that can support human life. "We think of our influence as being small. That's not the way the world works anymore. We currently have human systems within which natural systems are embedded." [NASA Earthdata](#)

Former UVic Graduate Student Co-ordinates Garibaldi GLORIA Program in British Columbia: According to a study published in [Nature Climate Change](#), alpine plant communities may be changing more quickly than expected as a result of warming temperatures. Many of the areas included in the study are comparable with alpine ecosystems in North America. Kristina Swerhun is the volunteer coordinator of two sites: one close to Whistler and one on Vancouver Island. She [helped establish both sites](#), the first in Canada, as a graduate student at the University of Victoria. She is using the same method for data collection as the European researchers to ensure the data is comparable. "This is a pretty unique project," said Swerhun. "Usually when people do studies it's over five or ten years and there's always an endpoint. For this it is really good that there is no endpoint, that we can collect data for a long time. It's one of the reasons that drew me to the project... the data after 50 years or 100 years will be so much more valuable." [CG Compass Blog](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser Warns the Future of Canadian Agriculture Unsettled: Canada should develop a national approach to emerging food challenges, a Guelph audience heard at a standing-room-only public discussion on food safety and security. Panelist Evan Fraser, a University of Guelph geography professor, warned the future of Canadian agriculture is "unsettled." He called for a multi-pronged approach to food safety issues that is innovative, adapts well to changing conditions, boasts a strong regulatory environment and maintains a local food system to guard against "the vagaries of the international market." [GuelphMercury.com](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Cameron Owens. 2011. [Contesting sustainability in the Valley of the Grizzly Spirit: Models of justice in environmental conflict and assessment](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. Supervisor: Meg Holden.

Laura C. Senese. 2011. [eExploring gendered relationships between aboriginal urbanization, aboriginal rights and health](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography and Planning. University of Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Kathi Wilson.

Shalini Srivastava-Modi. 2011. [Evaluating the ability of eQUEST software to simulate low-energy buildings in a cold climatic region](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Planning. University of Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: L.D. Danny Harvey.

Lijuan Zang. 2011. [Understanding the geography of Industry Canada's community access program in Toronto](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography and Planning. University of Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Ron Buliung.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Dean Bavington, Memorial University

The Department of Geography at Memorial University is welcoming their newest faculty member, [Dr. Dean Bavington](#). Dean received his B.Sc.(H) in Biology from Acadia University and completed a Masters in Environmental Studies at York University. His Ph.D. in Geography and Environmental Studies was completed at Wilfrid Laurier University. He subsequently spent three years as a Michigan Society of Fellows post-doc and assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. From 2008-2011, Dean was a Canada Research Chair in Environmental History at Nipissing University. Dean's academic experiences and research activities are oriented toward gaining a critical geographical understanding of managerial approaches toward nature and possible alternatives with a focus on Newfoundland and Labrador cod fisheries.

Bavington, D. 2011. [Environmental history during the Anthropocene: Critical reflections on the pursuit of policy-oriented history in the man-age](#). Commissioned by the Network in Canadian History and the Environment (NiCHE) for EH+ Writing the Next Chapter in Canadian Environmental History. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont. 25pp

Bavington, D. 2010. [Managed annihilation: an unnatural history of the Newfoundland cod collapse](#). Nature, History, Society Series. Ed. Graeme Wynn. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, BC.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

René W. Barendregt, Randolph J. Enkin and Dez L. Tessler. 2012. [Magnetostratigraphy of late neogene glacial, interglacial, and preglacial sediments in the Saskatoon and Regina areas, Saskatchewan, Canada](#). Studia Geophysica et Geodaetica. DOI: 10.1007/s11200-011-9019-3

Remy Bargout. 2011. [The Maoist movement and peasant struggle: Political ecology approach](#). Studies by Undergraduate Researchers at Guelph 5(1).

Benjamin Forest and Patrick Forest. 2012. [Engineering the North American waterscape: The high modernist mapping of continental water transfer projects](#). Political Geography.

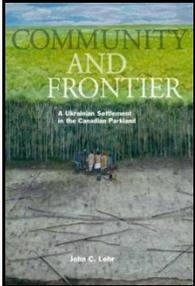
Roger Hayter and Trevor J. Barnes. 2012. [Neoliberalization and its geographic limits: Comparative reflections from forest peripheries in the Global North](#). Economic Geography. DOI: 10.1111/j.1944-8287.2011.01143.x

Ada Ignaciuk, Martin Rice, Janos Bogardi, Josep G. Canadell, Shobhakar Dhakal, John Ingram, Rik Leemans and Mark Rosenberg. 2012. [Responding to complex societal challenges: A decade of Earth System Science Partnership \(ESSP\) interdisciplinary research](#). Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability.

Marc Macias-Fauria, Aslak Grinsted, Samuli Helama and Jari Holopainen. 2012. [Persistence matters: Estimation of the statistical significance of paleoclimatic reconstruction statistics from autocorrelated time series](#). Dendrochronologia.

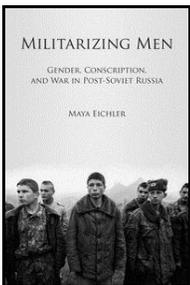
New Books

John C. Lehr. 2011. [Community and Frontier. A Ukrainian Settlement in the Canadian Parkland.](#) University of Manitoba Press, 216 pages.



The province's first Ukrainian pioneers in Manitoba, who settled in the southeast, got just about the poorest land imaginable -- swamp, peat, poplar forest and stony fields that were often beyond being cultivated. John Lehr, a University of Winnipeg geography professor, has written an excellent "historical geography" of how that Ukrainian settlement endured. Lehr writes that the Ukrainians took advantage of what the land had to offer. They dug up Seneca root and sold it to the New York market. There were plenty of frogs in that swamp land so they harvested them in the 1920s. The frogs were shipped live to Minneapolis, processed, and the canned frog legs sold to France. The first Ukrainians in Western Canada arrived in Alberta in 1891. The U.S. closed its frontier to new pioneers in 1893, so more started to look to Canada. The Ukrainian migration to Manitoba lasted from 1896 to 1914, the start of the First World War. Ukrainians filled 1,500 homesteads in the Stuartburn area. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Maya Eichler. 2012. [Militarizing Men: Gender, Conscription, and War in Post-Soviet Russia.](#) Stanford University Press.



A state's ability to maintain mandatory conscription and wage war rests on the idea that a "real man" is one who has served in the military. Yet masculinity has no inherent ties to militarism. The link between men and the military, argues Maya Eichler, must be produced and reproduced in order to fill the ranks, engage in combat, and mobilize the population behind war. In the context of Russia's post-communist transition and the Chechen wars, men's militarization has been challenged and reinforced. Eichler uncovers the challenges by exploring widespread draft evasion and desertion, anti-draft and anti-war activism led by soldiers' mothers, and the general lack of popular support for the Chechen wars. However, the book also identifies channels through which militarized gender identities have been reproduced. Eichler's empirical and theoretical study of masculinities in international relations applies for the first time the concept of "militarized masculinity" to the case of Russia.

2012 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) and University of Waterloo (UW) are jointly hosting the Canadian Association of Geographers' (CAG) 2012 annual conference and meeting, May 28-June 2, 2012. This event is part of the largest academic gathering in Canada—the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences—and also welcomes two partner organizations, the Canadian Cartographic Association and the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs.

[Call for Abstracts and Special Sessions:](#)

The conference begins with an icebreaker event on Monday evening; has oral presentations, posters and special events from Tuesday to Friday; and field trips throughout the conference as well as on Saturday. **Deadline for submission: Feb. 10th, 2012**

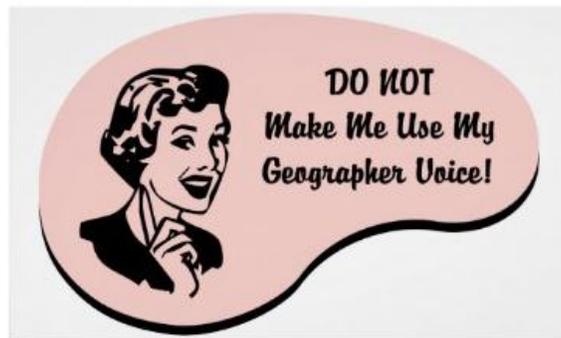
Other “Geographical” News

National Geographic: Maps. Many people have fond memories of the special maps created as inserts placed in the National Geographic magazine from time to time. This rather special section of the National Geographic's website provides interested parties with a dazzling array of thematic maps that document the European exploration of North America, ecological zones, and the world of the poet Basho. Visitors might do well to start by looking over the "Editors' Picks" area. Here they will find atlas jigsaw puzzles to play online and "EarthPulse: A Visual Guide to Trends". The "EarthPulse" area includes vital statistics about global population trends, economic opportunity, and more. [National Geographic Maps](#)

Undergraduate Research Ethics: How do you help undergraduate students learn about research ethics? Well you might try the three case studies developed by the University of Delaware's designed to help students learn about this important subject. On this site, visitors will find the following studies: "Tripped Up", "Helping Hand", and "Organic Reactions". Each study describes a potentially tricky or nuanced ethical conundrum that an undergraduate student might encounter. For example, "Tripped Up" involves a student whose scientific results are "too hot for public consumption" and is told by his supervisor that he cannot present the findings at a national meeting. Each case study is complemented by a set of discussion questions and additional resources. [Undergraduate Research Ethics](#)

Does the La Niña weather pattern lead to flu pandemics? Worldwide pandemics of influenza caused widespread death and illness in 1918, 1957, 1968 and 2009. A new study examining weather patterns around the time of these pandemics finds that each of them was preceded by La Niña conditions in the equatorial Pacific. The study's authors note that the La Niña pattern is known to alter the migratory patterns of birds, which are thought to be a primary reservoir of human influenza. The scientists theorize that altered migration patterns promote the development of dangerous new strains of influenza. The authors cite research showing that the La Niña pattern alters the migration, stopover time, fitness and interspecies mixing of migratory birds. These conditions could favor the kind of gene swapping—or genetic reassortment—that creates novel and therefore potentially more variations of the influenza virus. Changes in migration not only alter the pattern of contact among bird species, they could also change the ways that birds come into contact with domestic animals like pigs. [EuerkAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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