



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McMaster U's Sue Vajoczki Awarded a 2012 3M National Teaching Fellow: Dr. [Susan Vajoczki](#) Associate Professor, School of Geography & Earth Sciences and Director, Centre for Leadership in Learning at McMaster University has been awarded a 2012 3M National Teaching Fellow. Whether it is teaching or educational leadership, Sue Vajoczki's influence transforms students, teachers, and others involved in student learning. Willing to take risks, Sue's commitment to student-centered teaching is evident in her creation of unique experiences for students through research grants, internships, and exchange opportunities in Canada and abroad. Sue includes experiential learning regardless of class size and students enthusiastically speak of its transformational effects: "Having a hands-on-approach required us to truly understand the material instead of just memorizing the answers. Instead of surface (and transient) knowledge, this approach gave me a cognitive (and lasting) understanding of the material." Intrigued by an insatiable desire to understand how students learn and what helps to augment their learning, Sue musters a variety of teaching methods, evaluates, reflects, and reacts accordingly. This evidence-informed approach has also resulted in Sue's becoming a prolific presenter and author on the subject of her teaching methods. Her scholarship of teaching and learning and her pedagogical influences range farther and deeper. One international colleague characterizes Sue as "a rising star in higher education research and development nationally and internationally."

In 1986, the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada joined to reward exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities. The community of 3M National Teaching Fellows embodies the highest ideals of teaching excellence and scholarship with a commitment to enhance the educational experience of every learner. [2012 3M National Teaching Fellows](#)

Mount Allison U's Michael Fox Calls for Focus on Canadian Studies in the Classroom: Michael Fox, a professor and head of the department of geography and environment at Mount Allison University, says there's a lack of Canadian Studies education in the classroom that is both disappointing and baffling. And he is issuing a challenge to our elected leaders, school administrators and even parents across the country to put Canada back on the map, so to speak, and make it a mandatory course in the school curriculum - to ensure youth gain a better understanding of their country and their place in it. He says he'd like to see more value placed on the idea of providing our youth with a greater understanding of citizenship and sustainable living. "The key to education is becoming a good citizen," says Fox. "And students need to learn and appreciate this." [The Sackville Tribune](#)

McMaster U's Monir Moniruzzaman Wins AAG Transportation Specialty Group Competition: Monir Moniruzzaman who won the award for the best Masters thesis in the Transportation Specialty Group Competition of the Association of American Geographers.

UVic's Larry McCann on Booming West Shore Population in Greater Victoria: Booming populations in the West Shore account for 75 per cent of growth in Greater Victoria, according to the latest census from Statistics Canada. Langford is the fastest growing census area in the province with a population jump of 30.1 per cent since the 2006 census. Metropolitan Victoria remained Canada's 15th largest city with a 4.4 per cent increase, nudging the population to 344,615. These numbers put an emphasis on what people have been saying already: The western communities are where growth has been occurring the most," said Larry McCann, geography professor at the University of Victoria, whose research focuses on urban planning. "What we're seeing emerge in (Greater) Victoria are the new growth points, like Langford and Colwood or Saanich's new (Uptown) Centre, and these areas are going to compete with existing (urban) nodes." [The Vancouver Sun](#)

Ryerson U Graduate Bruce McCuaig Recalls How Love of Geography Led to Urban and Regional Planning: Bruce McCuaig, urban and regional planning '84 at Ryerson University, can trace his love of geography back to his Grade 13 class with Mrs. Wilton. "It got me interested in cities, the physical world and how we can shape that. It seemed natural to me to go into something like urban and regional planning," says McCuaig, president and CEO of Metrolinx, the regional transportation authority for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. [Ryerson News & Events](#)

U Toronto's Raktim Mitra Awarded AAG Dissertation Prize: Dr. Raktim Mitra (Ph.D. Planning, University of Toronto, 2011) has won the Ph.D. dissertation prize awarded by the Transport Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers for his dissertation, "[School Transportation Mode Choice in Toronto, Canada](#)". He was co-supervised by Drs. Ron Buliung (Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga) and Paul Hess (Planning, University of Toronto).

UVic Geography Graduate Rick Kubian Reflects on Decades-Long Career: Growing up in the Columbia Valley, resident Rick Kubian didn't initially envision a career with Parks Canada. But on January 4th, Rick was promoted to the role of Resource Conservation Manager for Lake Louise, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. "I was kind of wandering through university and it was third year where it all came together. I started taking more relevant courses geared towards conservation. I was studying geography at the University of Victoria and started seeing the link between what I was learning and the realization that it was what I wanted to do for my career," he said. His full-time career with parks began in 1986. [The Columbia Pioneer](#)

York U's Alex Lovell Comments on Growth of Ethnic Enclaves as Immigration Booms: More than 600 newcomers per day have arrived in Canada since 2006, and many of them have settled in neighbourhoods like Richmond, B.C. The once-quiet farming community on the south end of Vancouver is now home to North America's second-largest Asian community — and Canada's densest proportion of foreign-born residents. Although many immigrant neighbourhoods are prosperous, newcomers arriving in Canada between 2000-2004 on average earned only 61 cents for every dollar earned by Canadian-born workers. This, coupled with spiralling urban land prices, means that the newcomer of 2012 does not have nearly the economic freedom as the newcomer of 1992. "Although the term 'ghettoes' is rarely used in Canada, the concentration of immigrants into ethnic enclaves is similarly often caused by economic factors," wrote Alex Lovell, a professor of geography at York University, in an email to the Post. The result, critics fear, is that poorer, far-flung, constantly replenished enclaves have become more susceptible to isolation. [National Post](#)

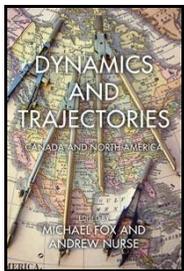
UVic's Jutta Gutberlet Reports on Participatory Research with "Catadores" in São Paulo, Brazil: In August, Dr Jutta Gutberlet, associate professor in geography at the University of Victoria, was in São Paulo, Brazil, continuing her participatory research with informal recyclers or "catadores" in that region. Jutta expanded her efforts this year by examining occupational health issues in the recycling co-operatives. She discovered serious occupational risks related to chemical hazards, e.g. from handling cement bags and containers with toxic products; biological hazards, e.g. from packaging contaminated by bacteria or fungus. The detailed key findings and solutions were first distributed during the International Seminar on Inclusive Waste Management, in Santo André between December 14 and 15, 2011, organized by Dr. Gutberlet and her colleagues in Brazil. p.4, [UVic Internal Research Newsletter](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Alison Mountz Interviewed for Centre for International Governance

Innovation: As states seek to better protect their mainland territory from the threat of illegal migration, outlying islands are increasingly being used to create buffer zones against would-be human traffickers and refugees. Alison Mountz, Canada Research Chair in Global Migration Studies and Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, explains this phenomena in detail, and suggests that detention centres such as those on Guantanamo Bay and Christmas Island are a populist overreaction to the territorial threat posed by maritime incursions. She goes on to say that the governance of such centres is dubious, given their offshore status and efforts to dissociate them from national jurisdictions. [Watch YouTube Interview](#)

New Book

Michael Fox and Andrew Nurse (Editors). 2012. [Dynamics and Trajectories. Canada and North America](#). Fernwood Publishing. Paperback ISBN: 9781552664681



Canada, the United States and Mexico are involved in a complex relationship governed by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but given the diversity between and within these societies, it is difficult to determine which interactions are beneficial to entire countries. Through a multidisciplinary perspective, *Dynamics and Trajectories* provides case studies into the diverse factors that affect political, economic, cultural and foreign policy decisions as well as the social and human dynamics of population movements after NAFTA.

Collectively, the essays in this collection suggest that Canada's evolving relationship with its North American partners cannot be interpreted through the lens of a single overarching dynamic, but rather as a range of factors that will likely affect different sections of the population in different ways. *Dynamics and Trajectories* also illuminates the ways in which inequalities in power in all three countries affect the process of international interchange and how this can condition a wider engagement with globalization.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Rosemary-Claire Collard. 2012. [Cougar – human entanglements and the biopolitical un/making of safe space](#). Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 30(1):23-24.

Monica Iorio and Geoffrey Wall. 2012. [Behind the masks: Tourism and community in Sardinia](#). Tourism Management. doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2012.01.011

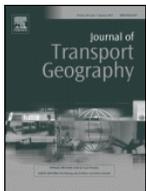
Joyce Lundberg and Donald A. McFarlane. 2012. [A significant middle Pleistocene tephra deposit preserved in the caves of Mulu, Borneo](#). Quaternary Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.yqres.2012.01.007

Alexandra Rouillard, Neal Michelutti, Peter Rosén, Marianne S.V. Douglas and John P. Smol. 2012. [Using paleolimnology to track Holocene climate fluctuations and aquatic ontogeny in poorly buffered High Arctic lakes](#). Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology. doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2012.01.011

Jennifer J. Silvera, Zoë A. Meletis and Priya Vadic. 2012. [Aboriginal participation in hosting the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games](#). Leisure Studies. DOI:10.1080/02614367.2011.645248

Ihor Stebelsky. 2011. [Putting Ukraine on the map: the contribution of Stepan Rudnyts'kyi to Ukrainian nation-building](#). Nationalities Papers 39(4):587-613.

Special Section in Journal of Transport Geography



U Toronto at Mississauga's Ron Buliung and colleagues publish a special section of the [Journal of Transport Geography](#) on child and youth mobility:

Buliung, R., Sultana, S. and Faulkner, G.F. 2012. [Special section on child and youth mobility: current research and nascent themes](#). Journal of Transport Geography 20(1):31-33.

Mitra, R., and Buliung, R. 2012. [Built environment correlates of active school transportation: Neighborhood and the modifiable areal unit problem](#). Journal of Transport Geography 20(1):51-61.

Fusco, C., Moola, F., Faulkner, G., Buliung, R. and Richichi, V. 2012. [Toward an understanding of children's perceptions of their transport geographies: \(Non\)Active School travel and visual representations of the built environment](#). Journal of Transport Geography 20(1):62-70.

Colette C.A. Starheim, Dan J. Smith and Terry D. Prowse. 2012. [Dendrohydroclimate reconstructions of July-August runoff for two nival-regime rivers in west central British Columbia](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9257

Other “Geographical” News

Global Glaciers, Ice Caps, Shedding Billions of Tons of Mass Annually: Earth's glaciers and ice caps outside of the regions of Greenland and Antarctica are shedding roughly 150 billion tons of ice annually. The research shows that the world's melting glaciers and ice caps are adding roughly 0.4 millimeters annually to the global sea level rise. The researchers used satellite measurements taken with the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, or GRACE, to calculate that the world's glaciers and ice caps had lost about 148 billion tons, or about 39 cubic miles of ice annually from 2003 to 2010. The total does not count the mass from individual glacier and ice caps on the fringes of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets -- roughly an additional 80 billion tons. [ScienceDaily](#)

National Science Foundation - Predicting Seasonal Weather: Is it possible to predict large-scale seasonal weather patterns? This report looks into how atmospheric oscillations from the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the tropics to the Arctic Oscillation (AO) play a "significant part in controlling the weather on a seasonal time scale." This report contains four sections, along with an area with classroom resources. The sections cover new real-time weather forecasts ("A New and Better Way"), the creation of a more effective prediction model ("New Seasonal Forecast Model"), and a demonstration of the new model ("Model Accuracy Demonstrated"). The site is rounded out by the classroom resources which are designed to be used with the charts, maps, and interactive animations featured in the rest of the site. [Weather Prediction](#)

Researchers Without Borders: The Researchers Without Borders organization provides "a home for open research in education." The hope is that their work will create a collaborative learning environment for individuals across different academic institutions, disciplines and sectors "to solve shared problems, do collaborative research and development, and build productive working relationships and collaborations." First-time visitors can click on the Resources area to read documents about best practices, curriculum development, and other topics submitted by vetted members of the community. The Community area is a great place to learn about emerging issues, and read about upcoming events and seminars. [Researchers Without Borders](#)

E-Cars May be More Harmful Than Gasoline Cars: Electric cars have been heralded as environmentally friendly, but researchers have shown that electric cars in China have an overall impact on pollution that could be more harmful to health than gasoline vehicles. "An implicit assumption has been that air quality and health impacts are lower for electric vehicles than for conventional vehicles," "Our findings challenge that by comparing what is emitted by vehicle use to what people are actually exposed to. For electric vehicles, combustion emissions occur where electricity is generated rather than where the vehicle is used. In China, 85 percent of electricity production is from fossil fuels, about 90 percent of that is from coal. The authors discovered that the power generated in China to operate electric vehicles emit fine particles at a much higher rate than gasoline vehicles. E-cars' impact was lower than diesel cars but equal to diesel buses. E-bikes yielded the lowest environmental health impacts per passenger per kilometer. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

A Letter from the Frustrated Author of a Journal Paper: Ever been frustrated by the journal review process? Check out this recently published letter to the Editor of the Elsevier *Journal of Systems and Software*. It may be just the letter you always wanted to write, but never dared too. [Glass2000](#)

UBC Student Union Plans to Open Brewery: The University of British Columbia's Alma Mater Society plans to open a brewery on campus in August 2014. The student-owned brewery will supply UBC's 2 bars with its own homebrew and will also tap into the campus' various keggers. The AMS still plans to offer the standard brands, but will sell its own craft beer slightly cheaper, somewhere around \$2.50 for a sleeve of beer, which is 14 ounces. The operation will be run by a professional brewmaster. The planned brewery is believed to be the only student-owned brewery in Canada. Niagara College opened a teaching brewery in April 2011. [Toronto Star](#)

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