



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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CAG and the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences: The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is the largest multidisciplinary academic gathering in Canada. From May 26 to June 2, Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo are co-hosting approximately 7,000 scholars, graduate students, policy-makers and other thinkers. Congress is composed of a fascinating range of associations, many of which engage membership from multiple disciplines. An example is the Canadian Association of Geographers, which includes scholars who deal with topics ranging from ocean governance to health geography. Collectively, the delegates at Congress respond to, analyze, and anticipate the economic, technological and cultural complexities of the 21st century. As scholars, they study the languages and cultures that form and bind communities, the economic systems that provide resources to their members, the social and psychological dynamics of the groups that comprise them, and the politics that move them in one direction or another. [Record.com](#)

WLU's Geographers Richard Petrone and Brent Wolfe Recipients of NSERC Awards: The results from the 2012 Discovery Grant and 2012 Research Tools and Instruments Grant were announced by the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology, and Suzanne Fortier, president of NSERC. Fifteen Wilfrid Laurier University science researchers have received a total of \$1.2 million in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Among the recipients were: Richard Petrone, associate professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, who will examine how hydrological and ecological processes interact with a range of ice conditions in northern wetlands; and, Brent Wolfe, associate professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, who will identify hydrological processes that control contemporary lake water balances in Wapusk National Park in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. [Morning Post Exchange](#)

U Toronto's Meric Gertler Receives Honorary Degree from Lund University: Meric Gertler, FRSC, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies and a Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, will receive an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Lund University, Sweden on May 25. He is being honoured for his contributions to our understanding of innovation, creativity and culture as drivers of the economic dynamism of city-regions. His publications related to these topics include six books and more than 80 journal articles and book chapters. He has also been a frequent advisor to government agencies at all levels, both in Canada and abroad, as well as to multilateral organizations such as the European Union and the OECD. He was the founding co-director of the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems (PROGRIS) at the Munk School of Global Affairs and has also served as director of the Department of Geography's Program in Planning. [Professor Meric Gertler, FRSC](#)

Simon Fraser U's Jonathan Cinnamon and Nadine Schuurman on Pedestrian Injury and Human Behaviour: While death and injury due to road-traffic collisions have been declining in recent years, they remain a burden everywhere. In Metro Vancouver, between 30 and 40 pedestrians die each year as a result of being hit by a moving vehicle of some sort. Apparently, human behaviour is an understudied factor in pedestrian injury. At least, according to a [study published](#) by Jonathan Cinnamon, Nadine Schuurman and S. Morad Hameed designed to examine the potential link between violations made by pedestrians and motorists at intersections and collisions between the two groups. The authors' hypothesis was that the origins of accidents at high-incident intersections vary greatly and so require different remedies in response. The authors found that more than 2,000 (21 per cent) pedestrians committed some type of violation, while about 1,000 drivers (5.9 per cent) were responsible for some type of contravention of road rules. Indeed, the study found that incidents involving pedestrians and cars were the result of a multitude of factors and so there was not a one-size-fits-all solution in preventing them in future. There seems to be conflicting evidence regarding the distribution of fault in incidents involving automobiles and pedestrians. [Globe and Mail](#)

WLU's Alison Blay-Palmer Receives SSHRC Funding to Investigate Community Food Organizations: Blay-Palmer, associate professor in the department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Laurier, will receive funding to investigate the creation and reinforcement of regional food networks. She will be developing partnerships with a network of university researchers in Ontario and community food organizations, including First Nations communities in northern Ontario and several local food organizations in southern Ontario. They will explore the importance of the local food movement for regional community wellbeing and economic and ecological viability. The SSHRC Partnership Development Grant program is designed to provide support to partnerships to develop research and related activities in the social sciences and humanities, including knowledge mobilization and the meaningful involvement of students and new scholars. [WLU Headlines](#)

U Manitoba's Jeffrey Masuda to Human Rights Issues in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside: Jeffrey Masuda (environment and geography) and co-investigator Sonia Bookman (sociology) were awarded a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to explore long-standing human rights issues facing people who live in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. They will partner with community-based arts and cultural organizations to highlight these struggles and triumphs. The neighbourhood has been the setting for human rights violations against a succession of its communities: the Coastal Salish First Nations, Japanese Canadians, the African-Canadian settlement known as Hogan's Alley, and most recently low-income residents who are trying to exercise their right to stay despite ongoing gentrification. The researchers will use stories of resilience, race, marginalization and displacement as a strategy to disrupt the current development-driven branding of this neighbourhood as "JapanTown." [UM Newsroom](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

David Beauchesne. 2012. [Influence of disturbances on the movements of female woodland caribou \(*Rangifer tarandus caribou*\) across multiple spatiotemporal scales](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisors: Jochen A.G. Jaeger and Martin-Hugues St-Laurent.

Rita Da-Oni-Ma Yembilah. 2012. Contextualising conflict, mediating livelihoods: a place-based approach to herder-local conflicts in northeastern Ghana. PhD dissertation. University of Calgary. Supervisor: Miriam Grant (now at UBC Okanagan)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Mandy Chong, Elyn Humphreys and Tim R. Moore. 2012. [Microclimatic response to increasing shrub cover and its effect on sphagnum CO2 exchange in a bog](#). *Ecoscience* 19(1):89-97.

Felix Creutzig, Christoph von Stechow, David Klein, Carol Hunsberger, Nico Bauer, Alexander Popp and Ottmar Edenhofer. 2012. [Can bioenergy assessments deliver?](#) *Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy* 1(2):65-82.

Graham Cogley. 2012. [No ice lost in the Karakoram](#). *Nature Geoscience* 5,305–306.

Jamie Doucette. 2012. [The Korean Thermidor: on political space and conservative reactions](#). *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1475-5661.2012.00528.x

James D. Ford. 2012. [Indigenous health and climate change](#). *American Journal of Public Health*. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2012.300752

Nathaniel M. Lewis. 2012. [Remapping disclosure: Gay men's segmented journeys of moving out and coming out](#). *Social & Cultural Geography* 13(3):211–231.

Other “Geographical” News

Calgary Firm Wins Esri Canada Award of Excellence for Advancing Geodesign: Geodesign is both the art and science of incorporating geography into design. O2 Planning + Design Inc. provides specialized expertise in this area and uses geographic information system (GIS) technology to combine ecology, culture and economics to create award-winning, sustainable urban designs. O2 is also sharing its expertise to help enhance Esri solutions for geodesign, which improve urban planning, modelling and design workflows. Esri Canada today presented O2 with an Award of Excellence in GIS for its outstanding work in advancing geodesign. “Sustainable land-use plans reflect wise land stewardship,” says Alex Miller, president, Esri Canada. “O2 is exceptional at combining creativity, environmental knowledge and spatial analysis to bring out and enhance the natural environment and provide a sustainable framework for development. Their intelligent, science-based designs are shaping better cities and urban landscapes for the future.” [GeoCommunity](#)

Parks Canada and Lakehead University Collaborate: Parks Canada and Lakehead University signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will guide the two organizations in collaborating on research efforts aimed at better understanding the dynamics of Lake Superior's coastal environment and its watershed. This strategic approach will increase our knowledge of the social and ecological systems that support the vulnerable ecosystems of Lake Superior. [LU Office of Communications](#)

Climb Every Mountain - Visualising the World's 50 Highest Peaks: Data scientist Robert Mundigi has created a multi-faceted visualisation of the world's 50 highest peaks. The interactive graphic, made using Tableau Public, features a clickable map of the summits, satellite images of each peak and figures for each mountain's prominence and overall elevation. The different visualisation panels are interlinked, such that selecting a mountain on either the map or bar chart will result in its satellite image being displayed via the Google Maps panel. The image you see upon first loading the page is of Mauna Kea, a volcanic mountain on the island of Hawaii. [Tableau Public Gallery](#)

Writing Guidelines for Students: Students often need to communicate a broad set of often highly technical materials to lay audiences. This process can be challenging, and this nice set of materials will be a boon to students in these fields. The site has five main sections: Introduction, Presentations, Correspondence, Formal Reports, and Other Documents. The Introduction area contains three helpful documents that provide insights on crafting the style of any given document and assessing the audience. Moving along, the Formal Reports area gives helpful suggestions on composing laboratory reports, theses, and dissertations. The site is rounded out by a glossary of writing and composition terms and additional references and resources. [Writing Guidelines](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

[3,000 raccoons, 1,300 cats and more are casualties of Toronto city streets annually.](#)



Total, 2011, city wide: 7,589

- 1. Raccoons: 3,258**
- 2. Squirrels: 1,533**
- 3. Cats: 1,336**
- 4. Birds: 354**
- 5. Dogs: 229**
- 6. Skunks: 191**
- 7. Opossums: 155**
- 8. Rabbits: 142**
- 9. Rodents: 86**
- 10. Groundhogs: 69**

[Toronto Star](#)

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