



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 201, November 7, 2012
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Carleton U DGES doctoral candidate Chris Huggins presents at Global Land Grabbing Conference: Chris Huggins, a 4th year PhD candidate in DGES, was awarded a small grant by the Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) to prepare and present a conference paper, "*Consolidating land, consolidating control: What future for smallholder farming in Rwanda's 'Green Revolution'?*" at the second international academic workshop on '[Global Land Grabbing](#)'. The paper is available on the conference website at [Global Land Grabbing II](#)

Memorial Geography well represented at Atlantic CAG Conference: The 24th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers was held at St. Mary's University in Halifax. With nine participants making the trip, students were represented from all levels of the department, ranging from the undergraduate level up through to doctoral studies. For first time participant and undergraduate student Kyle White, this was an intimidating prospect. "The days leading up to the conference were filled with excitement, but also nervous sensations. However, everyone on the research team, the other MUN participants, and fellow speakers assured me everything would be successful," said White. After the event, I knew I could not wait until I could experience that atmosphere again!" While the presentations focused on students, faculty member Karyn Butler was in the spotlight for the Annual General Meeting, where she was presented with the Stuart Semple Award. [MUN Geography News](#)

Concordia U's Damon Matthews warns Hurricane Sandy raises questions about what might lie ahead: Hurricane Sandy was clearly an unusual storm, says Damon Matthews of Concordia University's Department of Geography Planning and Environment. But was it really a Frankenstorm? This label implies a freaky set of unpredictable coincidences, something that is unlikely to happen again. Global warming is an inextricable part of the fabric of world we are now living in. And so, global warming was absolutely part of the Frankensteinian mixture that spawned this particular storm. As we pick ourselves up in the wake of this storm here in Canada, we must also take this storm as a warning: unchecked global warming will lead to more severe and dangerous weather events. As global temperatures rise, we have to rise to the challenges posed by climate change. That's where the tide must turn. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Carleton U DGES Doctoral student Erica Oberndorfer shares stories of her fieldwork in Labrador: This past summer, Erica Oberndorfer, a 2nd year doctoral student working with supervisor Dr. Gita Ljubicic, started preliminary field work in Labrador. Her focus is "The shared stories of people and plants: cultural and ecological relationships between people and plants in Labrador." She is interested in the role plants play in culture – and equally interested in how the human use of plants

affects plant communities, and affects the distribution and abundance of culturally-important species. [gLoeb Express](#)

Memorial U's Dean Bavington fishes for biomass: Dean Bavington's latest publication is a co-authored book chapter entitled "Fishing for Biomass" with long-time collaborator Sajay Samuel of Penn State University. This paper is Chapter 8 of [Gorgeous Beasts: Animal Bodies in Historical Perspective](#), the latest book in the Animalibus: Of Animals and Cultures series from Penn State University Press, edited by Joan B. Landes, Paula Young Lee, and Paul Youngquist. In their chapter, Dean and Sajay explore how cod and cod fishermen have been fundamentally changed through scientific management and alternative ways fish and fishermen can be understood outside the managerial frame. [MUN Geography News](#)

Carleton U's Patricia Ballamingie to serve as academic co-lead of the Community Environmental Sustainability Hub: The Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement project will examine how to optimize community benefits in community service learning, community-based research, and other forms of community-university engagement. Patricia Ballamingie will act as Principal Investigator for her hub along with Community Co-Lead, Todd Barr, from the Trent Centre for Community-Based Education. For recent coverage of the project, see: [An Action Project That Matters, in Research Works](#)

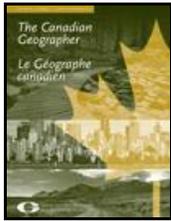
Concordia U's Craig Townsend weighs in on impact of tax hikes on off-island exodus in Montreal: Property taxes are a factor weighed by potential homebuyers, but how big a role they play in the exodus of Montrealers to off-island communities is not immediately clear. It makes sense — intuitively, anyway — that higher Montreal taxes probably contribute to an exodus off-island, Concordia University professor Craig Townsend said. But a definitive statement would have to be based on solid research, which is not immediately at hand, said Townsend, from the university's department of geography, planning and the environment. There are many factors at play in the residential housing equation, he added. Offsetting higher housing costs and taxes in central Montreal is the desire by people to be close to the services and amenities, Townsend said. The cost of commuting, in both time and money, is also a major factor. "There is a lot of residential development underway in Montreal and if (aversion to high taxes) was really that bad, that would not be happening," Townsend said. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Okanagan College's Arthur Green to serve on Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program: Arthur Green, chair of the [Department of Geography & Earth and Environmental Science](#) at Okanagan College, will serve as the college representative. The Okanagan Conservation Planning serve as a hub for land, water, wildlife and climate data in the Okanagan region and is intended to encourage the sharing and distribution of local-level ecosystem data and information that will support sustainable decision-making in the Okanagan and build long-term capacity to manage this information. This initiative is administered by the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program the two conservation programs for the Okanagan basin. [Okanagan Conservation Planning](#)

U Guelph's Roberta Hawkins says cause-related commercial marketing is impacting international development: Many corporations are partnering with aid organizations to brand or sell consumer products, but University of Guelph geography Prof. Roberta Hawkins says consumer products bolstered by marketing links to good causes may be obscuring deeper issues related to those matters and the complex relationships between consumers, corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and aid beneficiaries. "There is a real push to simplify development issues and usually no additional information is provided," explains Hawkins. "The advertisement just has to catch the consumer's eye and convey to them that the campaign is good, but the details are lost and that can be very dangerous." She points to some popular examples. One is the shoe company TOMS, which

promotes “one for one,” meaning that for every pair of shoes bought, another pair is given to a child in a developing country. If you buy a bottle of Ethos’ “water for the world,” they donate five cents to water and sanitation programs in water-stressed countries. [Guelph Mercury](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Lachlan B. Barber. 2012. [Making meaning of heritage landscapes: The politics of redevelopment in Halifax, Nova Scotia](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00452.x

Jason Hackworth and Erin Gullikson. 2012. [Giving new meaning to religious conversion: Churches, redevelopment, and secularization in Toronto](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00451.x

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Peter E. Ashmore and Colin D. Rennie. 2012. [Gravel-bed rivers: from particles to patterns](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3361

Alexandre Lamarre, Michelle Garneau and Hans Asnong. 2012. [Holocene paleohydrological reconstruction and carbon accumulation of a permafrost peatland using testate amoeba and macrofossil analyses, Kuujuarapik, subarctic Québec, Canada](#). Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 186:131–141.

Chaoyang Wu, Jing M. Chen, Ankur R. Desai, Peter M. Lafleur and Shashi B. Verma. 2012. [Positive impacts of precipitation intensity on monthly CO₂ fluxes in North America](#). Global and Planetary Change. doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2012.10.019

Rob Watson, Heather Castleden, Tui'kn Partnership, Jeffrey Masuda, Malcolm King and Miriam Stewart. 2012. [Identifying gaps in asthma education, health promotion, and social support for Mi'kmaq families in Unama'ki \(Cape Breton\), Nova Scotia, Canada](#). Preventing Chronic Disease 9, 12_0039.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Abra Adamo. 2012. Intensifying inequality in the 'sustainable city': A political ecology of 'smart growth' in an era of neoliberal urban governance in the City of Ottawa, Canada. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Co-supervisors Fran Klodawsky and Fiona Mackenzie,

Sarah Banks. 2012. Assessing Radarsat-2 Polarimetric SAR for mapping Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) classes in the Canadian Arctic. Unpublished Masters thesis. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Doug King.

Geri Blinick. 2012. Manomin (Wild Rice) in the Kiji Sibi (Ottawa River) Valley: An exploration of traditional food, development and decolonization. Unpublished Masters thesis. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Patricia Ballamingie.

Asli Duru. 2012. Istanbul's weekly public markets: narratives of access, provisioning, and governance. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Fran Klodawsky.

Tracey Lauriault. 2012. Data, infrastructures and geographic imaginations. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Fraser Taylor.

Trevor Porter. 2012. White spruce tree-rings from Arctic treeline in Old Crow Flats and the Mackenzie Delta, Northwestern Canada: Indicators of past climatic change. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Michael Pisaric.

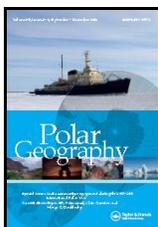
Nathalie Paquette. 2012. [Climatic change causes abrupt shifts in forests, inferred from a high-resolution lacustrine record, Southwestern Quebec, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Konrad Gajewski.

Ruxandra Popovici. 2012. The elephant in the field: Exposing the obstacles to project 'success' in a western-led agroforestry initiative in the Peruvian Amazon. Unpublished Masters thesis. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Derek Smith.

Jessica van den Berg. 2012. Fuzzy classification for eastern Ontario land cover mapping. Unpublished Masters thesis. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Scott Mitchell.

Special Issue of [Polar Geography](#)

This special issue highlights papers on community engagement during IPY, all of which are currently available online as iFirst articles. The complete online and printed issue will be available in the next couple of weeks.



Special Issue: Arctic community engagement during the 2007–2008 International Polar Year
Guest Editors: Bryan S.R. Grimwood, Alain Cuerrier and Nancy C. Doubleday

Bryan S.R. Grimwood; Alain Cuerrier; Nancy C. Doubleday. Introduction: Arctic community engagement during the 2007–2008 International. (189-199)

Alain Cuerrier; Ashleigh Downing; Jill Johnstone; Luise Hermanutz; Laura Siegwart Collier; Elders and Youth participants of Nain and Old Crow. Our plants, our land: bridging aboriginal generations through cross-cultural plant workshops (295–210)

Anne M. Jensen. Culture and change: learning from the past through Community Archaeology on the North Slope (211–227)

Andrew J. Trant; John D. Jacobs; Trudy Sable. Teaching and learning about climate change with Innu Environmental Guardians (229–244)

Thora Martina Herrmann; Marie-Jeanne S. Royer; Rick Cuciurean. Understanding subarctic wildlife in Eastern James Bay under changing climatic and socio-environmental conditions: bringing together Cree hunters' ecological knowledge and scientific observations (245–270)

Peter Pulsifer; Shari Gearheard; Henry P. Huntington; Mark A. Parsons; Christopher McNeave; Heidi S. McCann. The role of data management in engaging communities in Arctic research: overview of the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) (271–290)

Gabrielle Barnett. Moving North: engaging community with place through dance (291–307)

Frances K. Ross; Karen A. Harper; Tarah Wright; Heather Castleden. Multiple perspectives on polar science educational outreach partnerships in the north Yukon, Canada (309–329)

Other “Geographical” News

The needlessly inscrutable geography of scientific funding: We know that cities produce an inordinate amount of scientific output. The science journal *Nature* even devoted a special issue to the importance of cities and their relationship to science. We know many of the outputs of science at the city level (such as papers and citations), and even some of the inputs (such as the number of students and researchers), but there is one area where data are lacking: the amount of science-related funding that a given city pulls in. Scientific funding (in the form of grant money) is both a measure of input as well as a measure of research success: successful research begets more funding. But the data are both rare and incomplete. [Atlantic Cities](#)

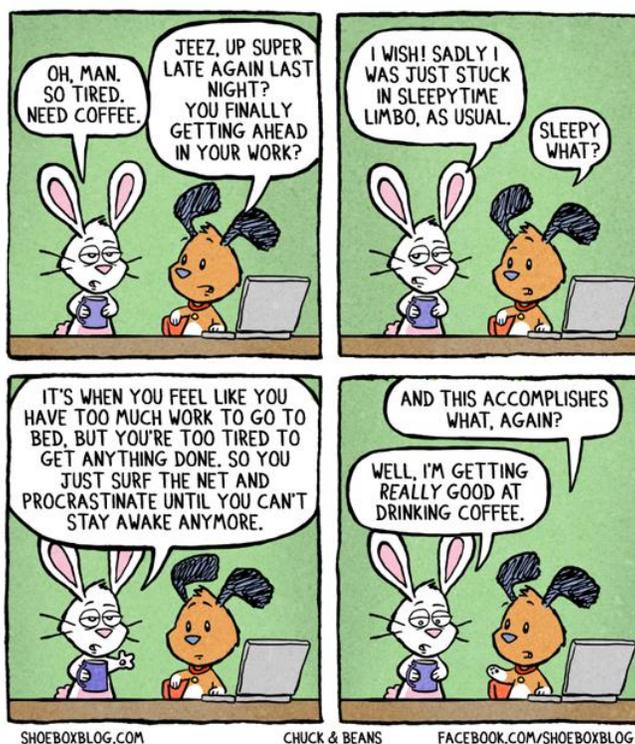
Climate modeller identifies trigger for Earth's last big freeze: For more than 30 years, climate scientists have debated whether flood waters from melting of the enormous Laurentide Ice Sheet, which ushered in the last major cold episode on Earth about 12,900 years ago, flowed northwest into the Arctic first, or east via the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to weaken ocean thermohaline circulation and have a frigid effect on global climate. Using new, high-resolution global ocean circulation models, climate modellers report the first conclusive evidence that this flood must have flowed north into the Arctic first down the Mackenzie River valley. They also show that if it had flowed east into the St. Lawrence River valley, Earth's climate would have remained relatively unchanged. [ScienceDaily](#)

What do Superstorm Sandy and the adjunct crisis have in common? It occurred to me that Superstorm Sandy and the adjunct crisis in higher education have a lot in common. They both have their roots in neoliberal capitalism that reduces everything to the profit motive, destroying our ecosystem in the process. What's the connection to education and the adjunct crisis? The exploitation of adjuncts is an effect of the ideology of infinite growth. As Andrew Ross recently wrote in *Dissent*: “Salaries of full-time faculty have been stagnant for a long time, and the massive conversion of tenure

track jobs into contingent positions (more than two-thirds of professors are now off the tenure track) has sliced the teaching payroll at almost all institutions.” [A Post-Academic in NYC](#)

UN meteorological body approves framework for managing climate predictions: Members of the World Meteorological Organization have agreed on an implementation plan for a ‘Global Framework for Climate Services’ to manage how such information is gathered and communicated. The framework will focus on four priority areas: food security, disaster risk reduction, water and health. A series of objectives has been drawn up, beginning with short-term pilot projects to kick-start capabilities in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. There is also an ambitious ten-year plan to provide most of the 70 countries that the WMO has identified as having little or no capability in the area with the capacity to make their own predictions. [Nature](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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