



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**McGill Geography team wins Biennial Prize 2009-2011:** A McGill Geography team of 8 have won the Journal of Geography in Higher Education Biennial Prize 2009-2011 for the most outstanding article published on teaching and learning geography in higher education. The paper entitled "*Dear Diary: Early Career Geographers Collectively Reflect on Their Qualitative Field Research Experiences*" critically analyses the field experiences of the co-authors and examines strategies implemented to resolve such predicaments as ethical dilemmas, power relations and researcher fatigue. The authors argue that reflexive group journaling during fieldwork is a valuable learning tool which could be introduced into many research-active curricula. [JGHE Biennial Award](#)

**Concordia U PhD Student Annie Lalancette wins QCBS prize:** The 2012 Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Symposium was held on December 13 and 14, at the Coeur des Sciences UQAM. Concordia PhD Student Annie Lalancette was awarded a QCBS Special Prize for an integrated biodiversity science for her paper entitled "*Comprendre la dimension humaine d'une pêcherie autochtone : potentiel et limites de quelques méthodes participatives*". [2012 QCBS symposium](#)

**McMaster U's Richard Harris elected RCGS Fellow:** At the recent annual general meeting of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) Richard Harris, School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University, was elected as a RCGS Fellow. With research interests in housing, urban social geography and urban historical geography, Richard brings to the College of Fellows a broad range of experience and expertise. The College of Fellows act as the voting body of the Society and contribute to the activities, objectives and programs of the Society. [RCGS College of Fellows](#)

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## RCGS features CAG President Jean Andrey:



As a child, Jean Andrey was fascinated by how the farmers near her hometown in Ontario's Bruce County made endless decisions based on and around the weather. From waiting out rainstorms before planting crops to rushing to get a wagon of hay under cover as a thunderstorm rolled in, weather ruled the lives of the people with whom she grew up. And now, in a way, it rules hers. "I think it was that love of the land and that love of watching society try to interact with nature through the business of farming for a living that made me think geography was holistic," says Andrey, who, as a professor in the department of geography and environmental management at the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ont., now spends her days researching the interaction between weather and society, whether it's studying road maintenance in winter in Canada or the implications of climate change on road safety.

Andrey, who has been a Fellow of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society since 2011 and is president of the Canadian Association of Geographers, decided to study geography after finishing high school because she was interested in exploring the relationship between nature and society. But there were other influences as well.

"I had a great teacher who had travelled the world and who explained to us that you can use all kinds of techniques to study the Earth — everything from models and measurement all the way through to observations," says Andrey. "That's when I realized that with geography, I could do all the science and math I wanted while discovering the world."

In turn, Andrey has spent her 23 years at the university trying to inspire others. She's even collaborated on the creation of a new course, first offered in 2005, to help first-year students get excited about geography, letting them work outdoors and discover different geographic techniques and shaping them into the type of thinkers Andrey says she needs at the end of first-year studies.

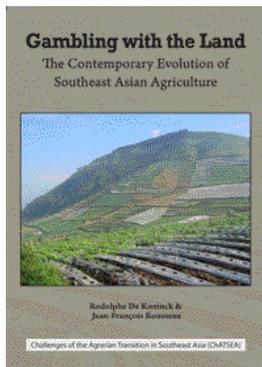
When she's teaching, Andrey says she tries to look at material from the students' perspective then presents it in a way that makes sense for everyone. That approach has won her numerous honours, the most recent of which was the Women of Waterloo Region award in the education category. Her teaching has also earned high praise from her students and even a marriage proposal, complete with a large sign propped up in the middle of a lecture.

Proposals aside, Andrey believes the best part of teaching geography is listening to students ask questions. "I watch as they discover things about the planet, their city or their regions and think that it helps them become engaged citizens," she says. "It opens up the world to them."

[RCGS Fellows](#)

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**New Book:** Rodolphe de Koninck and Jean-François Rousseau. 2012. [Gambling with the land: The Contemporary Evolution of Southeast Asian Agriculture](#). Singapore, National University of Singapore Press. 250 pages



Since the early 1960s, Southeast Asia countries have satisfied local demand for food while catering increasingly to the world market for agricultural produce, primarily through the export of industrial crops. Local production of food, particularly rice, has kept pace with population growth, while a massive intensification of cultivation along with territorial expansion of the agricultural realm have improved food security as a whole, although not for every country in the region. Expansion is also occurring in the maritime domain, with aquaculture growing even faster than land-based cultivation. Both forms of expansion have increased pressure on environmental resources, especially on forests, including coastal stands of mangrove. Countries in the region are gambling higher production levels can be sustained without jeopardizing regional food security, and the stakes are very high. *Gambling with the Land* surveys and analyzes the production and trade of major agricultural crops throughout Southeast Asia between 1960 and the first decade of the 21st century. After reviewing the post-colonial role of agriculture in the eight major agricultural countries - Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines - the authors examine regional patterns of population growth and agricultural employment, positioning the region within broader world trends. Their carefully documented investigation highlights a number of salient processes as characteristics of the region's still rapidly expanding agricultural sector, and evaluates future prospects based on current trends.

Rodolphe de Koninck is Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal and holder of the Canada Chair of Asian Research. Jean-François Rousseau is a doctoral candidate in geography at McGill University in Montreal.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Alan J. Hidy, John C. Gosse, Duane G. Froese, Jeffrey D. Bond and Dylan H. Rood. 2013. [A latest Pliocene age for the earliest and most extensive Cordilleran Ice Sheet in northwestern Canada](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 61:77-84.

Lisa J. Wood and Dan J. Smith. 2012. [Climate and glacier mass balance trends from AD 1780 to present in the Columbia Mountains, British Columbia, Canada](#). *The Holocene*.  
doi:10.1177/0959683612465450

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## Other “Geographical” News

**The Publishing Revolution: An Opportunity for Geographers:** This op-ed addresses the issue of publishing opportunities outside mainstream academic channels. The author acknowledges the value of academic books and journals, and the merits of the peer-review process. The focus is on popular publications (or non-academic writings) that geographers inside and outside the academy produce.

[AAG Press Release](#)

**Wallace’s century-old map of natural world updated:** Until today, a map from 1876 has been the backbone for our understanding of global biodiversity. Thanks to advances in modern technology and data on more than 20,000 species, scientists have now produced a next-generation map depicting the organization of life on Earth. The new map provides fundamental information regarding the diversity of life on our planet and is of major significance for future biodiversity research. [McGill News](#). Link to [YouTube video](#).

**How to prepare a really lousy submission:** Here are some tips for making journal submissions that almost certainly will have a fast track to rejection. This contribution was written by the *Water Resources Research* Editorial Team with the hope that everyone will pause and spend a little extra time to ensure that everyone has a pleasant experience as we communicate our important and exciting findings. [Eloquent Science](#)

**How not to review a paper. The tools and techniques of the adversarial reviewer:** There are several useful guides available for how to review a paper. These are soberly presented, carefully reasoned and sensibly argued. As a result, they are not much fun. So, as a contrast, this note is a checklist of how not to review a paper. It details techniques that are unethical, unfair, or just plain nasty. [Eloquent Science](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



Image credit: [U Western Geography](#)



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