



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U British Columbia's Simon Donner on climate change fears that rise, fall with temperature:**

Public opinion about the scientific truth of climate change and the dangers it poses blows hot and cold with the weather, according to a new study by researchers at the University of B.C. Every one-degree rise in the average temperature over the preceding 3 to 12 months leads to a 9.9% increase in the number of people who report being worried about climate change, said co-author Simon Donner, a professor of geography. Donner and his colleague Jeremy McDaniels analyzed U.S. poll data collected by five different agencies between 1990 and 2010 and average monthly temperatures during the same period. The number of people who believe climate change is real varied by about 20% points over the period of the study - between roughly 50 and 70% - with increases closely related to abnormally hot weather and drops to cool periods. "I had looked at a chart of opinion on climate change and it looked an awful lot like the chart of temperature variability over time; that's what prompted us to study this properly," said Donner. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

**If a single individual should get credited for saving Victoria's Chinatown, it's Dr. Lai:** When Dr. David Chuenyan Lai joined the Geography Department in 1968, Canada did not even recognize the People's Republic of China and UVic lacked courses and resources for studying China. To change that, Dr. Lai offered courses about China, East Asia, and Chinese immigration BC. He also catalogued the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's archives, which date back to 1884 and document the history of Victoria's Chinatown, and which Dr. Lai saw donated to the library in 1973. Dr. Lai also persuaded Victoria's Chinese community to help establish 13 scholarships and awards to encourage UVic students to study China and Chinatown, and to subsidize trips to China. In 1972, the Geography Department asked Dr. Lai to contribute something about Victoria's Chinatown to a colloquium. Researching the history of Canada's oldest Chinatown, then considered a slum, became his life's research. In fact, his 1979 report for the City of Victoria directly resulted in Chinatown being restored rather than bulldozed. The Gate of Harmonious Interest erected in 1981 recognizes the importance of Victoria's Chinese heritage, which Dr. Lai worked so hard to preserve. [UVic Great Moments](#)

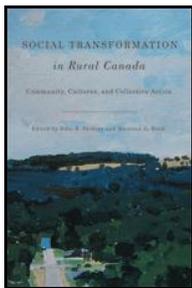
**U British Columbia Killam Doctoral Scholar, Sophie Webber:** Sophie Webber is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography at UBC, and a recipient of Killam and SSHRC-CGS doctoral fellowships. All of Sophie's research focuses on understanding climate change adaptation projects and planning in the central and south Pacific islands. Sophie is part of the Climate and Coastal Ecosystem Laboratory with Dr. Simon Donner, and with the help of Dr. Jamie Peck her dissertation research focuses on the political-economic effects of the global climate change adaptation 'industry'. As a consequence, Sophie's research tries to combine both the human and natural sciences to understand how this growing industry establishes itself, how it operates, how it moves from site to site, and with what consequences. Sophie talks about her research on [YouTube](#)

**Memorial U's Evan Edinger guest on Quirks and Quarks:** Evan Edinger was a guest on Quirks and Quarks, CBC Radio's award-winning radio science program hosted by Bob McDonald. He was there to discuss the decline of Caribbean coral reefs, a research project he has been involved with for several years. The study revealed that many Caribbean coral reefs have either stopped growing or are on the threshold of starting to erode. The researchers attribute this decline to a variety of factors, which Evan describes in his interview. [Listen to the Caribbean Coral Crisis interview.](#)

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## New Books

John R. Parkins and Maureen G. Reed. 2013. [The Social Transformation of Rural Canada: New Insights into Community, Culture, and Citizenship.](#) Vancouver: UBC Press



The rapidly changing nature of life in Canadian rural communities is more than a simple response to economic conditions. People who live in rural places are part of a new social agenda characterized by the transformation of livelihoods, landscapes, and social relations. These profound changes invite us to reconsider the meanings of community, culture, and citizenship.

*Social Transformation in Rural Canada* presents the work of researchers from a variety of fields who explore the dynamics of social transformation in rural settlements, looking at them not simply as places affected by external forces but also as incubators of change and social units with agency and purpose.

In a break from a common approach to this issue, the authors pay attention to such factors as local forms of action, adaptation, identity, and imagination as they examine how rural life in Canada -- including within Aboriginal communities -- is changing. Mobility, leadership, and the arts are among the issues that figure in these stories of transformation, stories that open a window onto parts of rural Canada that are providing exemplary models for other communities. These case studies, drawn from various regions of Canada and contributed by a number of geographers including Jonaki Bhattacharyya, Ryan Bullock, Chris Bryant, Emily Jane Davis, Greg Halseth, Lorelei Hanson, Don Manson, Ross Nelson, Laura Ryser, present a rich and diverse portrait of a country undergoing tremendous change that affects people from all walks of life. [ToC and Introduction](#)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

S.J. Albers and Ellen L. Petticrew. 2013. [Biogeomorphic impacts of migration and disturbance: Implications of salmon spawning and decay](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.02.002

Suzanne de la Barre and Patrick Brouder. 2013. [Consuming stories: placing food in the Arctic tourism experience](#). Journal of Heritage Tourism. DOI:10.1080/1743873X.2013.767811

Karenjit Clare and Elliot Siemiatycki. 2013. [Primacy or pluralism: Future directions in economic geography](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2012.757821

A.D. Clulow, C.S. Everson, J.S. Price, G.P.W. Jewitt and B.C. Scott-Shaw. 2013. [Water-use dynamics of a peat swamp forest and a dune forest in Maputaland, South Africa](#). Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions 10:1725-1768.

Jim Delaney. 2013. [Reassembling policy through research: reflections on situating policy advocacy through research and practice](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2012.757820

Yuhong Jia, Johnson Dan, Min Zhang and Fanxiang Kong. 2013. [Growth characteristics of algae during early stages of phytoplankton bloom in Lake Taihu, China](#). Journal of Environmental Sciences 25:254–261.

Ryan J. MacDonald, Sarah Boon, James M. Byrne and Uldis Silins. 2013. [A comparison of surface and subsurface controls on summer temperature in a headwater stream](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9756

Chris Muellerleile, Kendra Strauss, Ben Spigel and Thomas P. Narins. 2013. [Economic geography and the financial crisis: Full steam ahead?](#) The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2012.757819

Shawna C. Peckham, , Peter N. Duinker and Camilo Ordóñez. 2013. [Urban forest values in Canada: Views of citizens in Calgary and Halifax](#). Urban Forestry & Urban Greening. doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2013.01.001

Adam Saunders, Teresa Scassa and Tracey P. Lauriault. 2013. [Legal issues in maps built on third party base layers](#). GEOMATICA 66:279-290.

Jie Tian, Wei Tu, Stuart Tedders and Dongmei Chen. 2013. [A spatial–temporal analysis of low birth weight prevalence in Georgia, USA](#). GeoJournal. DOI:10.1007/s10708-013-9472-3

Dan K. Thompson and James M. Waddington. 2013. [Wildfire effects on vadose zone hydrology in forested boreal peatland microforms](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2013.01.014

A.G. Yates, R.B. Brua, J. Corriveau, J.M. Culp and P.A. Chambers. 2013. [Seasonally driven variation in spatial relationships between agricultural land use and in-stream nutrient concentrations](#). River Research and Applications. DOI: 10.1002/rra.2646

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**U Guelph Department of Geography Undergraduate Curriculum Survey:** The Department of Geography at the University of Guelph is looking for feedback on program curriculum from alumni. Please take a few minutes to complete a survey, by clicking on [Alumni Survey](#)

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### Other “Geographical” News

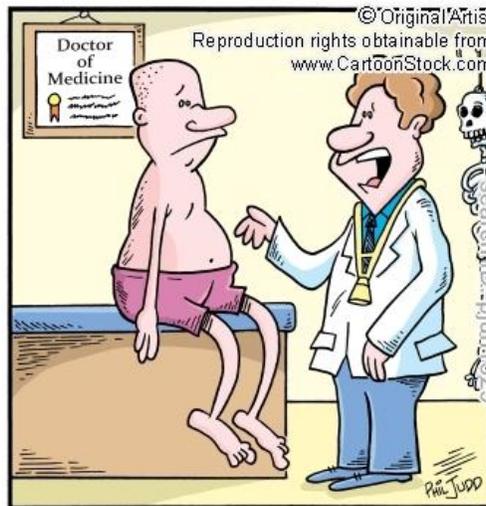
**Enough with the talk. Let's start fixing it:** Higher education needs to build consensus between administrators and faculty members around a reconfigured system that is flexible and responsive to a generation of learners for whom one mode of teaching no longer fits all, and where face-to-face, hybrid, and online-only education can peacefully coexist. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

**Precision of GPS in cities improved by 90 percent:** Researchers have developed a new system which improves the ability of a GPS to determine a vehicle's position as compared to that of conventional GPS devices by up to 90 percent, and which can be installed in any vehicle at a very low cost. [ScienceDaily](#)

**International dual PhDs gain popularity:** A new trend in doctoral studies is emerging on the Canadian university landscape. A growing number of doctoral students are choosing to study under a thesis supervisor at two universities – one in Canada and one abroad. The joint thesis supervision tends to go by its French name, cotutelle, and in Canada it is most common with students studying at francophone universities in Quebec who are doing a joint degree with an institution in France. [University Affairs](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



"Do I know much about incontinence?  
No I was never good at Geography."

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