



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**McMaster U's Allison Williams reports immigrants don't rate their quality of life as high as native-born Canadians:** Hamiltonians who were born in another country don't rate their quality of life as high as native-born Canadians, a new study done in part by McMaster University researchers has found. The study focused on key areas, including quality of schools, recreation programs and services, and a sense of belonging to the local community. Researchers found a "significant gap" between perceptions of quality of life in Hamilton which depended on whether or not the person surveyed was born in Canada. Sixty-one per cent of Canadian-born respondents rated their quality of life in Hamilton as "excellent/very good" while only 49 per cent of immigrants rated their life as positively. Dr. Allison Williams of McMaster University said quality of life is a "very broad term," but the survey accurately painted a picture of "where individuals feel they are in the community." Williams was lead researcher on the project, which looked at life in Hamilton, Saskatoon and Charlottetown. The study focused on three medium-sized cities because there has been a lack of research in that area. Seventy-five per cent of immigrants settle in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, but there has been a recent shift to other cities, including Hamilton. [thespec.com](http://thespec.com)

**U British Columbia's Graeme Wynn to present McLean lectures:** Graeme Wynn, Department of Geography and McLean Chair in Canadian Studies, will be presenting the McLean lectures this March 7, 14 and 21 @ 7:00 pm under the banner, *Navigating "A Wasting World": Perspectives on Environmentalism and Sustainability In Canada*. The lectures will be held in the main lecture hall, Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory, located at 2202 Main Mall on the UBC campus. [McLean Lectures 2013](#)

**Recollecting 1975: The British-Canadian Symposium on Historical Geography in Kingston, Ontario:** In the Autumn of 1975, Canada played a pivotal role in the fostering of international conversations amongst historical geographers. The 1975 British-Canadian Symposium on Historical Geography held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, was the first in a series of international conferences that led to the creation of the International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG). The 14th ICHG in 2009 was hosted in the city of Kyoto, the 15th and most recent ICHG took place in Prague in August 2012: the next meeting will be held in London in 2015. The theme of the three day 1975 Kingston Symposium was 'The Settlement of Canada: Origins and Transfer' and though it was aimed at fostering connections between Canadian and British geographers, a number of American geographers participated as well. NICHE – [Network in Canadian History & Environment](#)

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## New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Rosemary-Claire Collard. 2013. [Panda politics](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12010

This article argues that China's agreement in 2012 to loan Canada two panda bears is emblematic of animals' simultaneous material-symbolic inclusion and exclusion in contemporary politics. Employing a material focus, this article draws a connection between the panda gift and the promise to which it is attached: a promise of material flows; of Chinese access to Canadian resources, especially; and controversially, tar sands oil. Common to geographical flows of both pandas and oil is a devaluation of nonhuman life. In one flow, two pandas cross the Pacific for a decade of captivity at the Toronto and Calgary Zoos, where visitors will pay to view the permanently visible pandas. In the other instance, oil will be shipped across the same ocean, oil whose production comes at great cost to wildlife, including caribou, birds, and fish, and whose spill at any point along its journey to China would devastate marine and terrestrial wildlife populations. Stark power imbalances between species are at the heart of both of these flows and their material consequences. This article argues that, in emphasizing what the pandas symbolize, the extent to which their own and others' lives are materially affected is elided.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ron Buliung and Tony Hernandez. 2013. [Retail development in urban Canada: Exploring the changing retail landscape of the Greater Toronto Area \(1996 - 2005\)](#). International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research. DOI: 10.4018/jagr.2013010103

J.A. Gillies, W.G. Nickling and M. Tilson. 2013. [Frequency, magnitude, and characteristics of aeolian sediment transport: McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20007

J.M. Gregory, N.J. White, J.A. Church, M.F.P. Bierkens, J.E. Box, M.R. van den Broeke, J.G. Cogley, X. Fettweis, E. Hanna, P. Huybrechts, L.F. Konikow, P.W. Leclercq, B. Marzeion, J. Oerlemans, M.E. Tamisiea, Y. Wada, L.M. Wake and R.S. van de Wal. 2012. [Twentieth-century global-mean sea-level rise: is the whole greater than the sum of the parts?](#) Journal of Climate. doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00319.1

Christina M. Neudorf, Tracy A. Brennand and Olav B. Lian. 2013. [Till-forming processes beneath parts of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet, British Columbia, Canada: macroscale and microscale evidence and a new statistical technique for analysing microstructure data](#). Boreas. DOI: 10.1111/bor.12009

- Bernhard Lehner and Günther Grill. 2013. [Global hydrography and river network routing: baseline data and new approaches to study the world's large river systems](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9740
- Nathaniel M. Lewis. 2013. [Ottawa's Le/The Village: Creating a 'Gaybourhood' amidst the death of the village](#). Geoforum. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2013.01.004
- Andrew J. Perkins, Tracy A. Brennand and Matthew J. Burke. 2013. [Genesis of an esker-like ridge over the southern Fraser Plateau, British Columbia: Implications for paleo-ice sheet reconstruction based on geomorphic inversion](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.02.005
- Eleanor Setton, Perry Hystad, Karla Poplawski, Roslyn Cheasley, Alejandro Cervantes-Larios, C Peter Keller and Paul A Demers. [Risk-based indicators of Canadians' exposures to environmental carcinogens](#). Environmental Health 12:15 doi:10.1186/1476-069X-12-15
- Shuguang Wang, Rebecca Hii, Jason Zhong and Paul Du. 2013. [Recent trends of ethnic chinese retailing in Metropolitan Toronto](#). International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research. DOI:10.4018/jagr.2013010104
- Elisabeth Simelton, Claire H. Quinn, Nnyaladzi Batisani, Andrew J. Dougill, Jen C. Dyer, Evan D.G. Fraser, David Mkwambisi, Susannah Sallu and Lindsay C. Stringer. 2013. [Is rainfall really changing? Farmers' perceptions, meteorological data, and policy implications](#). Climate and Development. DOI:10.1080/17565529.2012.751893
- Justin K.H. Tse. 2013. [Grounded theologies: 'Religion' and the 'secular' in human geography](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132512475105
- Blake Byron Walker and Nadine Schuurman. 2012. [Environmental correlates with violent injury](#). GEOMATICA 66:269-278.
- Steve A. Wolfe, Chris H. Hugenholtz and Olav B Lian. 2013. Palliser's Triangle: [Reconstructing the 'central desert' of the southwestern Canadian prairies during the late 1850s](#). The Holocene. doi: 10.1177/0959683612470179
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### Other "Geographical" News

**Leadership in higher education: this much we (don't yet) know.** Leading higher education is tough. In the foundation's research many believe that what the most senior leaders do is in fact institutional management and that leadership is unnecessary. Staff see themselves as passionately committed to their work and, though management of an enabling environment is indispensable, the motivation and direction of leadership is not. [theGuardian](#)

**International students critical to B.C.'s colleges, universities:** International students are a vital source of revenue for B.C.'s post-secondary institutions. In some cases, foreign students are needed to prop up courses. Dangerfield said. "We wouldn't be able to realistically and financially sustain a number of our ... programs if we weren't able to bring in international students. It's a way for us to help the international community get graduates who are qualified to either Canadian or international standards accredited. [Universities News](#)

**Should 'real' students do an online course on the side?** Universities have started giving away their content free as "massive open online courses", with the satisfyingly ridiculous acronym mooc (I challenge you to say it three times with a straight face). It all sounds great for people who, for one reason or another, can't go to a traditional university. But do moocs have anything to offer students already studying at a bricks-and-mortar institution? People like me, who hate the niggling feeling that they might be missing out on a bargain? [theguardian](#)

**Getting the word out about research:** Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) aims to bring scholarship into the spotlight with a new competition designed to promote excellence in research communications. Modelled on the Three Minute Thesis, the SSHRC competition, known as Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers, encourages post-secondary students to show Canadians how social sciences and humanities research improves our lives, our world and our future. [Concordia NOW](#)

**New approach alters malaria maps:** Identifying areas of malarial infection risk depends more on daily temperature variation than on the average monthly temperatures, according to a team of researchers, who believe that their results may also apply to environmentally temperature-dependent organisms other than the malaria parasite. According to the researchers, daily temperature dynamics could have marked effects on many species, affecting understanding of both current ecology and the expected responses to future climate change. [ScienceDaily](#)

**How USA state boundaries would look based on equal population:** Neil Freeman reimaged state boundary lines based on population. He started with an algorithm and the fifty largest cities, considered proximity, urban area, and commuting patterns, and then hand-tweaked boundary lines and shapes. The state names are mostly centered around geographic features (although I would have opted for ones based on dating profiles). "Keep in mind that this is an art project, not a serious proposal, so take it easy with the emails about the sacred soil of Texas." [FlowingData](#) | [Fake is the real new](#) | [Gizmodo](#)

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### Some not so "Geographical" News



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