



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Western Division CAGers painted picture of ancient Alberta: An ancient picture of the landscape of southern Alberta, cold and ash-covered, was painted for a room of geologists [geographers!] by a visiting Royal Alberta Museum curator last weekend. The [Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#) held its [55th annual meeting](#) at the University of Lethbridge this weekend. The conference serves as a meeting of those involved in geography studies and research at universities across Western Canada. Seventy to 80 per cent of the approximately 220 people who attended the meeting this year were university students. "What's really great about this conference is how laid back it is. The environment is friendly and students can feel at ease approaching professors," said organizer Dr. Hester Jiskoot. Jiskoot is an associate professor of Physical Geography and Glaciology and director of the Glaciology & Geoscience Laboratory at the U of L. The three-day meeting of minds was comprised of casual gatherings, field trips, [poster sessions and talks](#), ending with a banquet at the Lethbridge Lodge. The U of L hosted the meeting previously in 2005. The landscape of the U of L has changed since then, with four new buildings on campus. Jiskoot was proud to have the opportunity to showcase the facilities and the city to newcomers. The next meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers will be hosted by the [Department of Geography](#) at the University of Victoria in 2014. [Lethbridge Herald](#)

Western University's Isaac Luginaah wages battle in Malawi with tiny black-eyed pea: The tiny black-eyed pea is about to wage battle in Malawi. The small country in southeast Africa is the site of a project to help with food security, nutrition and income. Western University researchers are among those who will work with 30,000 farmers to help diversify crops into protein-rich legumes, such as the black-eyed pea, a popular type of cow pea in Malawi. "The most basic crop there is maize (corn)," said Isaac Luginaah, project leader for Western. "No one is saying they have to stop growing maize, but we get the farmers to use a small portion of their land to grow something new. We go through the whole process with them; they see their soil is richer." Luginaah is a professor of geography and the Canada research chair in health geography. The five-year project is funded through the Canadian International Development Agency's program that put in \$2.5 million. "In the long term, we will look at how this has improved food security," Luginaah said. "For kids, for example, we can weigh them now and weigh them later. We can see if a family's income has improved. "We're not training scientists, we're training farmers. We hope they'll see the yields and start to experiment on their own farms. We don't want to impose any crops on them; we want to show them they can experiment." Food security also is tied to gender equality, Luginaah said. [Western News](#) | [London Free Press](#)

Urban Geography Specialty Group of AAG announces 2013 award winners: The Urban Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers announced their 2013 award winners last week, and two of the recipients are Canadian. Katherine Burnett of the University of Victoria won the 2013 Graduate Paper Award, and Björn Surborg of the University of British Columbia won the 2013 Dissertation Completion Award.

Western University PhD candidate earns Jeanne X. Kasperson Award: [Chad Walker](#), a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at Western University, recently earned a 2013 Jeanne X. Kasperson Award from the Hazards, Risks and Disasters Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. Next month, he will join a special session at the AAG annual meeting in Los Angeles, California where he will showcase his Master's thesis and ongoing work in a presentation called, "[Winds of Change": Explaining Support for Wind Energy Developments in Ontario, Canada](#)."

Trent U geography enrolment peaks in first year: First-year human geography enrolment is at all-time high at Trent University. Enrolment in the Geography program's introductory BA course ([GEOG 1030H Human Geographies in Global Context](#)) has reached a new record at 355.

U Guelph's Aaron Berg receives Tier 2 CRC in Hydrology and Remote Sensing: The University of Guelph will receive \$2.4 million through two new prestigious Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) and the renewal of an existing chair. One of the Chairs was received by geography professor Aaron Berg. Berg studies spatial and temporal changes in soil moisture using remote sensing, land surface models and data assimilation systems. Knowing how much water is available in soils helps in agricultural production, flood and drought detection and prediction, and weather and climate forecasting. Improved observation of soil moisture processes will help with water resources management, evaluation of ecosystems and agricultural health, and climate predictions. "Being awarded a CRC is certainly an honour," Berg said. "Personally, I am excited by the opportunities provided by this award to accelerate my research program, pursue some new research avenues, and build on my collaborations with researchers within the University, across Canada and internationally." [U Guelph News Release](#)

Ryerson geographers recognized for excellence: Dr. [Wayne Forsythe](#) is the recipient of the Faculty of Arts Service Award and Dr. [Claus Rinner](#) is the winner of the Faculty of Arts Scholarly Research Committee Award. Both recipients will be acknowledged at an upcoming awards ceremony.

Memorial U Geography puts graduate spotlight on Nicole Renaud: Nicole Renaud received her MA in Geography from Memorial in May 2012. She is now a doctoral student at the University of Western Ontario, where she is conducting a comparative case study involving small-holder farmers in northern and central Malawi. "I am interested in assessing how agroecological and industrial farming approaches influence small-holder farmer agricultural water security, as well as the gender and food security implications for the different agricultural approaches," explained Nicole. "I am also interested in examining how multi-level actors address drought vulnerability in sub-Saharan Africa." A mainlander, Nicole came to Memorial for one reason: "Location, location, location!" She explained, "I have always felt an affinity for East Coast culture and its people, and once I perused the faculty pages in the Geography Department, Dr. Vodden's community engagement and research interests caught my eye. From my first email to her all those years ago, continuing on today, her unrelenting support and kindness played a big role in my graduate university choice and success." [MUN Geography](#)

U Alberta announces Dr Sandeep Agrawal its inaugural Director of Planning Program: The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has announced the hiring of Dr. Sandeep Agrawal as its inaugural Director of the Undergraduate Program in Planning. Dr. Agrawal comes to the University of Alberta from Ryerson University where he is the founding Director for the Master of Planning program in Urban Development. Dr. Agrawal's research focuses on the effects of multiculturalism, ethnicity and religion on urban structures and public policies, and on land use planning, urban design and development. His research has included work in Canada, other industrialized nations, and in third world countries, particularly India and Sri Lanka. The undergraduate program in planning launched in Sept, 2013. In addition to Dr. Agrawal, the program expects to add up to three new faculty members as early as this summer. The program is a partnership between the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Extension with the program being located in the EAS Department. [EAS News](#)

McGill U graduate student Thomas A. Fox receives André Hamer Postgraduate Prize: McGill U geography grad student [Thomas A. Fox](#) was awarded an André Hamer Postgraduate Prize. The NSERC André Hamer Postgraduate Prizes are awarded to the four most outstanding candidates in NSERC's postgraduate scholarships competition at the Master's level.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Abdullah BaMasoud and Mary-Louise Byrne. 2013. [The predictive accuracy of shoreline change rate methods in Point Pelee](#), Canada. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 39:173–181.

Joan Bunbury and Konrad Gajewski. 2013. [Effects of the White River ash event on aquatic environments, southwest Yukon, Canada](#). *Arctic* 66.

H. Croft, K. Anderson, R.E. Brazier and N.J. Kuhn. 2013. [Modelling fine scale soil surface structure using geostatistics](#). *Water Resources Research*. DOI: 10.1002/wrcr.20172

David Edgington and Roger Hayter. 2013. [The in situ upgrading of Japanese electronics firms in Malaysian industrial clusters](#). *Economic Geography*. DOI: 10.1111/ecge.12007

Geoff B. Hill, Cecilia Lalander and Susan A. Baldwin. 2013. [The effectiveness and safety of vermi-versus conventional composting of human feces with *Ascaris suum* ova as model helminthic parasites](#). *Journal of Sustainable Development* 6. doi:10.5539/jsd.v6n4p1

A. Mathys, T. A. Black, Z. Nestic, G. Nishio, M. Brown, D.L. Spittlehouse, A.L. Fredeen, R. Bowler, R.S. Jassal, N.J. Grant, P.J. Burton and J.A. Trofymow. 2013. [Carbon balance of a partially-harvested mixed conifer forest following mountain pine beetle attack and its comparison to a clearcut](#). *Biogeosciences Discussions* 10:4927-4968.

D.A. McFarlane, J. Lundberg and Neff. 2013. [A speleothem record of early British and Roman Mining at Charterhouse, Mendip, England](#). *Archaeometry*. DOI: 10.1111/arc.m.12025

Janet C. Sturgeon. 2013. [Introduction – Regionalization at the margins: Ethnic minority cross-border dynamics in the Greater Mekong Subregion](#). *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 34:3–8.

Sarah Turner. 2013. [Under the state's gaze: Upland trading-scapes on the Sino-Vietnamese border](#). *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 34:9-24.

Eric Vaz. 2013. [Collapsing landscapes? The regional science contribution to spatial understanding](#). *Geography Publications and Research*. Paper 44.

Other “Geographical” News

Volcano Plosky Tolbachik, Kamchatka, Russia, 2012: Air Pano's relationship with volcanoes and mountains is complicated. It is interesting that 3-day trip to Kamchatka is more expensive than a weeklong 5-star vacation in Dubai. This 360° aerial panorama can be opened in several different resolutions. [Volcano Plosky Tolbachik](#)

Remember the lost places: Years ago, when I first arrived in Ottawa, I lived in the west end near Shoppers City mall. The mall is long gone but whenever I drive by I can't help but see the old mall in my mind's eye, its shops superimposed on the current configuration like a shimmering image of some oasis of the past. Geographers recognize that we "know" the world subjectively; that is, through our emotional and psychological responses to experience. We might know a place "scientifically" from maps and satellite, but that's not the same as walking the streets, shopping in the stores, or attending the schools. Place, in this sense, is "an organized world of meaning," to borrow geographer Yi-Fu Tuan's phrase. To "live" a place is, as he says, "to be aware of it in the bones as well as with the head." [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Is it OK to mentor someone who is writing a peer review? The short answer to your question is that as long as your mentor treats the manuscript confidentially, then I personally wouldn't have a problem with it. Some journals say that if you discuss a manuscript in review with someone else then you have to disclose that to the Editor. If your mentor was critiquing the science of the manuscript along with your comments, then I would tend to agree that his or her name should be disclosed to the Editor. If your mentor was just helping you craft your words better and helped you write the review in the proper format, then I wouldn't bother reporting it. We all seek out advice at some point or another when writing our reviews. It's perfectly natural to do so. [Eloquent Science](#)

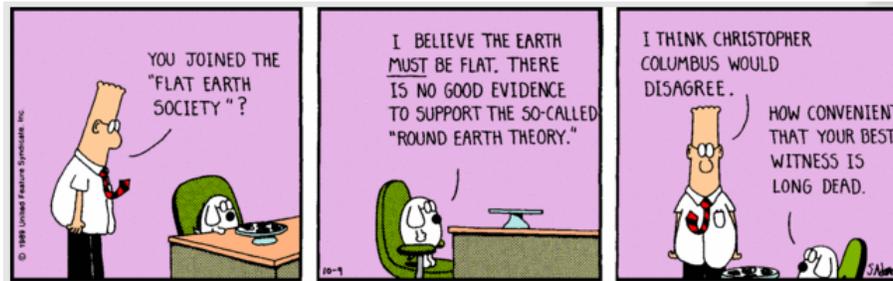
Global geographies of higher education. The perspective of world university rankings: This paper contributes to emerging debates about uneven global geographies of higher education through a critical analysis of world university rankings. The paper examines two of the major international ranking schemes that have had significant public impact in the context of the on-going neoliberalization of higher education. The authors argue that the emergence of these global rankings reflects a scalar shift in the geopolitics and geoeconomics of higher education from the national to the global that prioritizes academic practices and discourses conducted in particular places and fields of research. Their analysis illustrates how the substantial variation in ranking criteria produces not only necessarily partial but also very specific global geographies of higher education. In comparison, these reveal a wider tension in the knowledge-based economy between established knowledge centers in Europe and the United States and emerging knowledge hubs in Asia Pacific. [Geoforum](#)

Multilevel governance and American influence on Canadian climate policy: Canada and the United States are economically interdependent with the latter clearly the dominant partner. It is thus hardly surprising that the US has exerted considerable influence over Canadian climate change policy. Canadian governments have retreated time and again from proposals to regulate Canadian sources amid concerns about economic competitiveness. However, the prospect of regulatory action by the US Environmental Protection Agency promises to transform the US' impact on Canadian climate policy from one of negative to positive influence. [Zeitschrift für Kanada-Studien](#)

New light shed on role of climate in influenza transmission: Two types of environmental conditions -- cold-dry and humid-rainy -- are associated with seasonal influenza epidemics, according to a recent epidemiological study. The researchers present a simple climate-based model that maps influenza activity globally and accounts for the diverse range of seasonal patterns observed across temperate, subtropical and tropical regions. [Science Daily](#)

Tracking sediments' fate in largest-ever dam removal: The 108-foot Elwha Dam was built in 1910, and after decades of debate it was finally dismantled last year. Researchers are watching what's beginning to flow downstream -- sediments from the largest dam-removal project ever undertaken. It turns out there is even more sediment than originally thought -- about 34 million cubic yards. That's more than 3 million truck loads. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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