



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 251, June 22, 2013
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Suspension of service notice: Release of *GeogNews* will cease until mid-August. Our summer research season has arrived and it is time to escape with my graduate students to remote internet-free mountainsides. Have a good summer all.

Dan

Laurier launches world-class research centre for sustainable food systems led by Alison Blay-Palmer: Wilfrid Laurier University is launching a world-class research centre linking two of the most pressing issues of our time — sustainability and food. The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) will be led by Alison Blay-Palmer, an associate professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at Laurier and leader of the Nourishing Ontario research and community outreach project (nourishingontario.ca). Blay-Palmer brings her international connections with leading authorities to the centre, many of whom will be sitting on the advisory committee. “We are very excited about the creation of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems,” said Blay-Palmer. “Local and sustainable community food initiatives reflect growing public awareness that food can act as a vehicle for positive change. We plan to be at the forefront of research on these initiatives.” A core of Canadian and international researchers involved with Nourishing Ontario will continue their collaboration through the CSFS. “This centre will put Laurier and Kitchener-Waterloo on the map on the issue of sustainability and food,” said Blay-Palmer. [WLU Headlines](#)

Spotlight on Sustainability: Dianne Draper, University of Calgary geography professor: From studying cruise ships in the Arctic, fisheries and offshore oil development in Newfoundland and water resources in Banff, Dianne Draper helps people make “decisions that will ensure that we have the best quality resources available for the longest time.” The geography professor in the Faculty of Arts also teaches students in the Faculty of Environmental Design and is a research fellow with the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies on campus. After years working with fisheries management through Memorial University of Newfoundland, she came to Calgary where her research includes water resources, tourism growth management, parks and protected areas and community sustainability, mostly in Canada. “As a geographer, I have a very broad perspective on the world and how it operates,” Draper says. “I try to understand how people can make more effective decisions so that use of our natural resources results in environmentally, socially and economically sustainable outcomes.” She says geography offers students “a number of different ways” to be involved in making decisions about environmental sustainability. To illustrate that point, Draper invites former students back into the class to discuss how they’ve used geography to build successful careers. “It doesn’t matter whether they become a park warden or a writer or an ecotourism consultant,” she says. “There are many ways to employ the background and understanding that a contemporary geographical education provides.”

[UToday](#)

Kindling Impact – Spotlight on Simon Springer, University of Victoria: The academic with the most followers on Academia.edu might surprise you. Simon Springer, a humble assistant professor at the University of Victoria, has slowly cultivated an impressive global following of 6,244 (and counting), a number that tips off his tenure and promotion committee that he means business. “I’m going to use this when I go up for promotion in a year’s time. I think it will be really valuable to show that my work has made an impact and that people are interested in what I’m doing. I think that’s important for building a reputation in particular fields,” says Simon. But to Simon 6,000 followers on Academia.edu isn’t just about getting tenure. It means so much more. “There are over 2 million users on Academia.edu, so it’s a high-profile website and I think to be ranked highly on it and to have my work being looked at and recognized is really an honor,” says Simon. The global interest he’s been attracting will be crystal clear when he includes in his promotion application the number of profile views, document views, and followers he’s attracted across the world. Showcasing global readership is especially important to Simon, who was hired at the University of Victoria as an international development geographer. “The University has a strategic mandate to push the internationalization of the institution, and so the fact that I can show that I am contributing to that internationalization I think is important,” says Simon. Thousands of global followers also means a much higher and faster rate of feedback. [Academic.edu](#)

U Calgary geographer Christopher Hugenholtz adds expertise to NASA research into Mars water question: University of Calgary geographer Christopher Hugenholtz has lent his expertise to a NASA research project which challenges the widely circulated theory that water exists on Mars. How did an Alberta geographer wind up working on a NASA study on the surface of Mars? “My background is geomorphology,” explains Hugenholtz. “It’s a discipline that focuses on land forms and processes. When I was looking at the images of Mars online and reading all these reports about water on Mars, I felt that these theories just didn’t line up.” In particular, Hugenholtz noticed that small pits existed at the bottom of the Martian gullies. “To me, this suggested water was not the cause for the gullies,” he says.

[UToday](#)

U Guelph’s Noella Gray awarded SSHRC grant to study volunteer tourism in Belize marine protected areas: Noella Gray, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph received a SSHRC grant that will support the study of volunteer tourism in marine protected areas in Belize, examining the benefits and challenges of using volunteer tourism to generate policy-relevant knowledge, local benefits, and effective conservation outcomes. Grad student Alex Meeker is in Belize this summer, starting work on the project. [Noella Gray homepage](#)

Memorial U's "Toxic Legacies" partnership to investigate communicating toxic hazards to future generations: Arn Keeling (MUN geography) and John Sandlos (MUN history) are traveling to Yellowknife in July to launch a public engagement and research partnership focusing on the "perpetual care" of a toxic mining waste site in the Northwest Territories. Working with academic partners, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Alternatives North, a Yellowknife NGO, Keeling and Sandlos received a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to study the toxic waste disposal plans at Giant Mine. The project, entitled "Toxic Legacies: Community Perspectives on Arsenic Pollution at Yellowknife's Giant Mine," seeks to generate both public engagement and deeper understanding around the challenges posed by long-term environmental contamination. The three-year Toxic Legacies project is an outgrowth of Sandlos and Keeling's [Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada](#) project, a multi-year, SSHRC-funded investigation into the environmental and social legacies of industrial mineral development in Northern Canada. [Memorial Geography News](#)

Brock U's Christopher Fullerton on creating places people want to be: Brock University geography professor Christopher Fullerton delivers a short talk, entitled "You have to create a place where people want to be", at the "Sustainable Economies, Sustainable Communities" conference hosted by Queen's University's Monieson Centre in April 2012. Click the [YouTube](#) link to watch the presentation. [Brock News Around Campus](#)

[Communications from the CAG Executive...](#)



[Communications du comité exécutif de l'ACG...](#)

The Canadian Association of Geographers has posted the most recent issue of 'Communications from the CAG Executive' on the association website. Featured is the *President's Column* describing "the pre-conference gathering of leaders in the field of geographic education is taking shape for St. John's in August 2013". [Download Volume 20\(2\)](#) as a pdf.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Tapan Kumar Dhar, Md. Sk. Maruf Hossain and Khan Rubayet Rahaman. 2013. [How does flexible design promote resource efficiency for housing? A study of Khulna, Bangladesh](#). Smart and Sustainable Built Environment.

Dada Docot, Jessica Hallenbeck, Paige Patchin, Paul Pickell and Duncan Ranslem. 2013. [Cruel optimism](#). Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2013.795723

Wendy B. Foden, Stuart H. M. Butchart, Simon N. Stuart, Jean-Christophe Vié, H. Resit Akçakaya, Ariadne Angulo, Lyndon M. DeVantier, Alexander Gutsche, Emre Turak, Long Cao, Simon D. Donner, Vineet Katariya, Rodolphe Bernard, Robert A. Holland, Adrian F. Hughes, Susannah E. O'Hanlon, Stephen T. Garnett, Çagan H. Şekercioğlu and Georgina M. Mace. [Identifying the world's most climate change vulnerable species: a systematic trait-based assessment of all birds, amphibians and corals](#). PLoS ONE 8: e65427. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065427

Donald L. Forbes, Thomas S. James, Michael Sutherland and Susan E. Nichols. 2013. [Physical basis of coastal adaptation on tropical small islands](#). Sustainability Science. DOI:10.1007/s11625-013-0218-4

Chris Hopkinson, Jenny Lovell, Laura Chasmer, David Jupp, Natascha Kljun and Eva van Gorsel. 2013. [Integrating terrestrial and airborne lidar to calibrate a 3D canopy model of effective leaf area index](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 136:301–314.

Scott J. Ketcheson and Jonathan S. Price. 2013. [Characterization of the fluxes and stores of water within newly formed Sphagnum moss cushions and their environment](#). Ecohydrology. DOI: 10.1002/eco.1399.

J.M. Kovacs, X.X. Lu, F. Flores-Verdugo, C. Zhang, F. Flores de Santiago and X. Jiao. 2013. [Applications of ALOS PALSAR for monitoring biophysical parameters of a degraded black mangrove \(Avicennia germinans\) forest](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 82:102–111.

Elizabeth Lunstrum. 2013. [Articulated sovereignty: Extending Mozambican state power through the Great Limpopo Transfrontier](#). Political Geography 36:1–11.

Paul Mkandawire, Chantelle Richmond, Jenna Dixon, Isaac N. Luginaah and Joshua Tobias. 2013. [Hepatitis B in Ghana's Upper West Region: A hidden disease in need of national policy attention](#). Health & Place. doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2013.06.001

P.D. Morse and C.R. Burn. 2013. [Field observations of syngenetic ice-wedge polygons, outer Mackenzie Delta, western Arctic coast, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20086

Martin Lavoie, Stéphanie Pellerin and Marie Larocque. 2013. [Examining the role of allogeous and autogeous factors in the long-term dynamics of a temperate headwater peatland \(southern Québec, Canada\)](#). Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology. doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2013.06.003

Jerry Patchell and Roger Hayter. 2013. [Environmental and evolutionary economic geography: Time for EEG2?](#) Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography 95:111–130.

David B. Richardson. 2013. [Encouraging vehicle-to-grid \(V2G\) participation through premium tariff rates](#). Journal of Power Sources. doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2013.06.024

Lauren Q. Sneyd, Alexander Legwegoh and Evan D.G. Fraser. 2013. [Food riots: Media perspectives on the causes of food protest in Africa](#). Food Security. DOI:10.1007/s12571-013-0272-x

Iain D. Stewart, T.R. Oke and E. Scott Krayenhoff. 2013. [Evaluation of the 'local climate zone' scheme using temperature observations and model simulations](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI: 10.1002/joc.3746.

Eric Vaz and Ana Claudia Campos. 2013. [A multi-dasymeric mapping approach for tourism](#). Geography Publications and Research. Paper 54.

Philip Feifan Xie. 2013. [The "Great Wall" in tourism research – a portrait of Geoff Wall](#). Anatolia: An International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research. DOI:10.1080/13032917.2013.807390

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jonathan Feakins. 2013. [Planning Like It's 2099: The Use and Distribution of Smartphone Transit Applications in Chicago, Illinois](#). Unpublished MSc (GPE) thesis. Department of Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Damon Matthews.

Other “Geographical” News

Canada atlas of true names: The Atlas of True Names reveals the etymological roots, or original meanings, of the familiar terms on today's maps of the World, Europe, the British Isles, Canada and the United States. The 'True Names' of 3000 cities, countries, rivers, oceans and mountain ranges are displayed on these four fascinating maps, each of which includes a comprehensive index of derivations. [Atlas of True Names](#)

Unhappy? I think students may be too happy: A new report about the state of health among Canadian university students notes that many university students feel overwhelmed, anxious, and in some cases, suicidal. But when I looked at the statistics for myself, I too was troubled. Just not for the reasons that everyone else is. I was struck not by how many students are having difficulty, but, rather, by how many of them are not. [Macleans.ca](#)

Taking the pulse of the planet: How Twitter erases geography: Real-time social networks like Twitter and Facebook are connecting people around the globe in a myriad of different ways, millions of times every minute, but we hardly ever get to see those connections represented visually. That's why research projects like a recent study from a team of scientists at the University of Illinois are so valuable — they allow us to see how these networks connect us, and how services like Twitter are making geography less and less relevant. The study, entitled “Mapping the global Twitter heartbeat,” was published in the university's peer-reviewed journal First Monday in May, and used what is known as the Twitter “Decahose” — which is made up of one-tenth of all the messages sent across the network. [Gigaom](#)

Do cities work like stars? Cities have been compared to living organisms, machines, river networks and insect colonies. Instead, suggests a new study, urban centers are more like stars, fusing human connections as if they were hydrogen atoms. [DNews](#)

Current global food production trajectory won't meet 2050 needs: Crop yields worldwide are not increasing quickly enough to support estimated global needs in 2050. Researchers assessed agricultural statistics from across the world and found that yields of four key crops -- maize, rice, wheat and soybean -- are increasing 0.9-1.6 percent every year. At these rates, production of these crops would likely increase 38-67 percent by 2050, rather than the estimated requirement of 60-110 percent. [ScienceDaily](#)

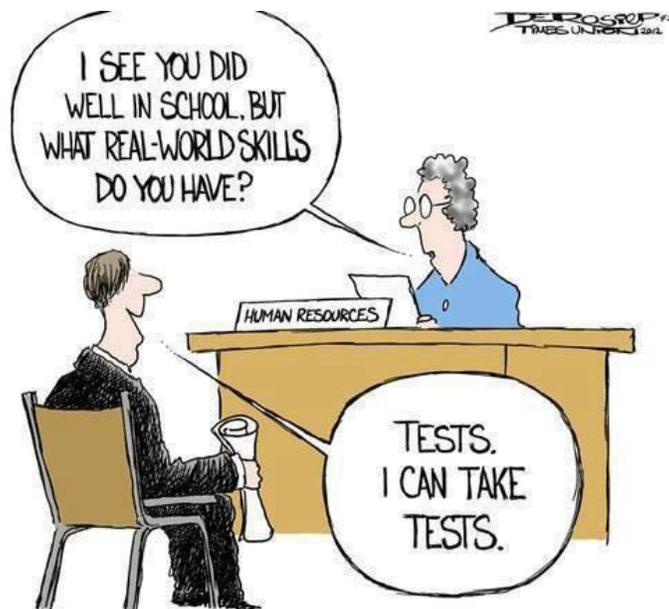
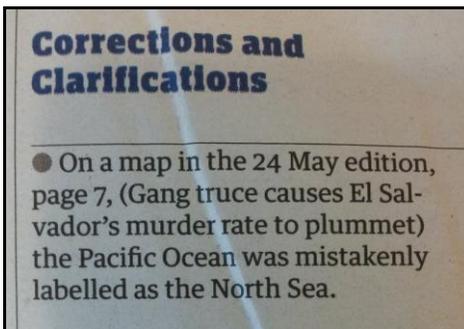
Global warming to make monsoons worse: Experts say that predictions of weather events associated with the monsoons will only get more difficult with climate change. As we pump more carbon dioxide into the air, the increasing temperatures will shift weather systems that are tied into the monsoon. [DNews](#)

Women missing from university leadership: While the number of women enrolled in higher education and hired as staff in universities is rising worldwide, the pace of this change and shift in attitude toward women leaders of universities is not happening quickly enough. [Macleans.ca](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Cross-border squirrels: Ottawa residents deporting unwanted rodents to Quebec: Just how many people in the city's Westboro neighbourhood are driving live squirrels to Quebec, anyway? Environmental consultant Dan Brunton suggests it is “illegal in a whole bunch of ways, both in Ontario and in Quebec.” He has even heard of animals trapped and marked that returned from Quebec.
[Calgary Herald](#)

Corrections and Clarifications section of the Guardian Weekly published on 7th June 2013 included the following:



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>
