



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Wilfrid Laurier U's Margaret Walton-Roberts on migrant transition programs: Laurier Associate Professor Margaret Walton-Roberts has been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Knowledge Synthesis Grant to disseminate her work on migrant transition programs and its implication for labour market planning for the nursing sector. Walton-Roberts and Laurier Associate Professor Jenna Hennebray will work with research assistants Jennifer Guo and Keegan Williams to look at two forms of immigration status transition that have increased in Canada – temporary-skilled migrant workers converting to permanent status, and international students converting from student visas to working visas – and will focus specifically on how these developments influence the nursing sector. The researchers will prepare two public reports analyzing information on immigration and labour market planning and policies. The first will identify trends in visa transitions for temporary skilled workers and international students. The second will address the implications of visa transitions for Canada's nursing workforce. Three short videos on the key findings and recommendations will also be released. "Nursing presents one case where training lags, retirements, enhanced technological change, and skilled labour exit from the sector are evident," said Walton-Roberts. "We have selected the nursing sector for detailed analysis because in Ontario alone it is the third largest profession with internationally trained members; we also suspect that nursing is one of the most heavily impacted professions by those transitioning from Live-in Caregiver temporary visas and international student visas." [WLU Headlines](#)

U Guelph's Ze'ev Gedalof on why fire is not a four letter word: Ze'ev Gedalof, Department of Geography, University of Guelph presents the "two cultures" in our understanding of fire in the Canadian boreal forest and how a new concept of "mixed severity" is changing our understanding of how complex forests develop. High frequency, low severity fires are the fires that remove underbrush and reduce the fuel in the forest. Native people were responsible for these types of fires on boreal forest/prairie boundaries. High severity, low frequency fires are more typical of the boreal forest and tend to be large, stand replacing fires. High severity fire science has led to stand origin mapping. Low severity fire science have led to fire scar analysis. He then shows how these two techniques are done in the field. Understanding mixed severity fires bumps up against our historical suppression of fire. Dr. Gedalof describes how some of our management techniques combined with fire suppression introduce complications to the fire regime of Alberta's boreal forests. Mixed severity fires introduces variability in severity and changes the minimum sample size. Where did mixed severity fires occur? Aspect and elevation are components; drought is less a factor than in large stand replacing fires. Dr. Gedalof finishes by talking about the management challenges and opportunities that come from an understanding of mixed severity fires as a natural disturbance on Alberta's boreal landscapes. [YouTube](#)

U Toronto PhD candidate Brett Story explores the concept of solitary confinement: When the concept of solitary confinement was first implemented in the early 19th century, the idea was not to punish the prisoner, but to give him space to reflect and reform. Two centuries later, despite the growing use of segregation in Canada and the United States, the practice continues to produce very different results. Prisoners who have lived through solitary confinement say the experience is torturous. Brett Story, a PhD student in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto explores the roots of this practice in North America on CBC Radio's 'Ideas'. Brett examines the profound and often devastating impact it has on people who are severed from social contact. [Listen Ideas.](#)

McMaster U's Susan Vajoczki to be honoured as an 'outstanding university teacher': Award-winning teaching professor Susan Vajoczki has been posthumously named one of Ontario's most outstanding university teachers by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. Vajoczki, who passed away in October 2012, taught in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, and in 2010 was named director of McMaster's Centre for Leadership in Learning (now known as the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning). Vajoczki will be honoured with an OCUFA Teaching Award September 28 at a ceremony in Toronto. A three-time McMaster graduate, Vajoczki was known as an enthusiastic educator and lifelong learner. She was committed in all her endeavours to helping improve student learning at every level. The Susan Vajoczki Legacy Fund was established in 2012 to create ongoing undergraduate scholarship to help talented students pursue research in geography and Earth sciences, pedagogical research and evidence-based teaching and learning projects. [McMaster Daily News](#)

In Memorium



Dr. Owen Hertzman passed away last week after a long battle with cancer. Owen taught as a Senior Lecturer at Simon Fraser University for many years. He received a PhD in Atmospheric Science at the University of Washington. He then taught at Dalhousie for a number of years and founded an Environmental Studies program. In 2001, he moved west again to teach classes at the University of British Columbia at later at Simon Fraser University. Owen was generous, garrulous, kind, and immensely knowledgeable about climate and weather. Owen was always sharing information about microclimates. All inquiries on such issues were taken very seriously and he would frequently come back days later to fill in gaps in his initial explanation. Owen was also sincerely and extraordinarily committed to undergraduate teaching. His hallmark gesture was to take the extra time in faculty meetings to query whether such and such a development or policy would help or hinder his beloved undergraduates. Owen cared so deeply about the welfare of students that he made personal sacrifices to help individual students or his classes. He was seen in his office talking to students at the earliest hours - and long after most faculty had left. Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, he persevered in coming into the Department and teaching as many courses as he possibly could. He was also immensely proud of his brother Clyde Hertzman who won the Order of Canada in 2013. Indeed, Owen cared for others and applauded their achievements. Here's to a genuine, larger than life member of SFU's Geography Department.

PCAG 2013 Conference

The [37th annual conference](#) of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) will be hosted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of the University of Regina. This year's conference will be held in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, from September 20 to 22, 2013. You can [download the complete program](#), including paper and poster presentation abstracts. Its not too late to join the PCAG in Esterhazy.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathan James Bennett and Philip Dearden. 2013 [Why local people do not support conservation: Community perceptions of marine protected area livelihood impacts, governance and management in Thailand](#). Marine Policy. doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2013.08.017

Katherine V. Boldt, Charles A. Nittrouer, Bernard Hallet, Michele N. Koppes, Brittany K. Forrest, Julia S. Wellner and John B. Anderson. 2013. [Modern rates of glacial sediment accumulation along a 15° S-N transect in fjords from the Antarctic Peninsula to southern Chile](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20145

Zhao-Jun Bu, Xing-Xing Zheng, Håkan Rydin, Tim Moore and Jinze Ma. 2013. [Facilitation vs. competition: Does interspecific interaction affect drought responses in Sphagnum?](#) Basic and Applied Ecology. doi.org/10.1016/j.baae.2013.08.002

Sébastien Caquard and Daniel Naud. 2013. [A spatial typology of cinematographic narratives](#). ICC 2013 Proceedings.

C.Ó Cofaigh, C.R. Stokes, O.B. Lian, C.D. Clark and S. Tulaczyk. 2013. [Formation of mega-scale glacial lineations on the Dubawnt Lake Ice Stream bed: 2. Sedimentology and stratigraphy](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 77:210–227.

Xavier Comas, Nicholas Kettridge, Andrew Binley, Lee Slater, Andrew Parsekian, Andy J. Baird, Maria Strack and James M. Waddington. 2013. [The effect of peat structure on the spatial distribution of biogenic gases within bogs](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10056

John Gyepi-Garbrah, Ryan Walker and Joseph Garcea. 2013. [Indigeneity, immigrant newcomers and interculturalism in Winnipeg, Canada](#). Urban Studies. doi: 10.1177/0042098013502826

Joel Hartter, Sadie J. Ryan, Catrina A. MacKenzie, John N. Parker and Carly A. Strasser. 2013. [Spatially explicit data: Stewardship and ethical challenges in science](#). PLOS Biology.

Megan F. King and Jutta Gutberlet. 2013. [Contribution of cooperative sector recycling to greenhouse gas emissions reduction: A case study of Ribeirão Pires, Brazil](#). Waste Management. doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2013.07.031

Steven Moore, Vincent Durant and Warren E. Mabee. 2013. [Determining appropriate feed-in tariff rates to promote biomass-to-electricity generation in Eastern Ontario, Canada](#). Energy Policy. doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2013.08.076

Scott E. Nielsen, Marc R.L. Cattet, John Boulanger, Jerome Cranston, Greg J. McDermid, Aaron B.A. Shafer and Gordon B. Stenhouse. 2013. [Environmental, biological and anthropogenic effects on grizzly bear body size: Temporal and spatial considerations](#). BMC Ecology 2013, 13:31 doi:10.1186/1472-6785-13-31

Michelle Elise Porter. 2013. [Marginal recycling: place and informal recycling in St. John's, Newfoundland](#). Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability. DOI:10.1080/13549839.2013.836162

Laura I. Thomson, Gordon R. Osinski and Wayne H. Pollard. 2013. [Application of the Brewster angle to quantify the dielectric properties of ground ice formations](#). Journal of Applied Geophysics. doi.org/10.1016/j.jappgeo.2013.08.015

Alan Walks. 2013. [From financialization to sociospatial polarization of the city? Evidence from Canada](#). Economic Geography. DOI:10.1111/ecge.12024

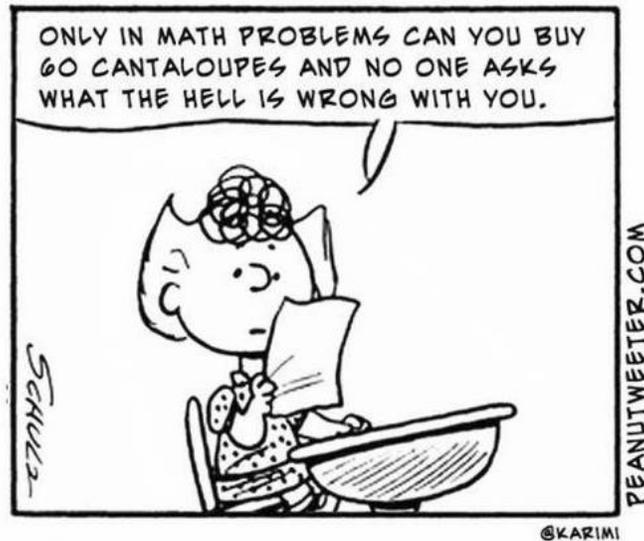
Other “Geographical” News

World's first invisible skyscraper going up: Now that a construction permit has been granted, work can begin on The Tower Infinity, which will be located near the Incheon Airport outside of Seoul, South Korea. Once completed, the tower will top out at 1,476 feet. Also known as the City Tower, the building's optical illusion will be made possible by a high-tech LED facade that includes projectors and 18 weatherproof cameras strategically placed on the external surface. The cameras will capture real-time photos of the area directly behind the tower. Those images will then be digitally stitched into a panorama and projected back onto the building's surface. At certain times of the day, viewers will get the feeling of looking through the building to the other side. [DNews](#)

Scientists in white lab coats rally against federal government: Hundreds of frustrated scientists clad in their telltale white lab coats descended Monday on Parliament Hill to demand that the Harper government stop muzzling scientists and cutting research funding. “What do we want? Evidence-based decision-making!” chanted the protesters as they gathered in the shadow of the Peace Tower, complaining about what they see as the government's efforts to commercialize research. The very fact that such a typically apolitical group felt the need to make their voices heard speaks volumes, said Jeremy Kerr, a professor at the University of Ottawa. “As a commentary on the state of affairs, when people like me start showing up wearing their lab coats having come from their laboratories, things are pretty bleak,” Kerr told the crowd. The fundamental message is “simplicity itself,” Kerr said: “Sound policy needs sound science.” [Macleans.ca on campus](#)

World's most vulnerable areas to climate change mapped: Using data from the world's ecosystems and predictions of how climate change will impact them, scientists have produced a roadmap that identifies the world's most vulnerable and least vulnerable areas in the Age of Climate Change. The authors say the vulnerability map will help governments, environmental agencies, and donors identify areas where to best invest in protected area establishment, restoration efforts, and other conservation activities so as to have the biggest return on investment in saving ecosystems and the services they provide to wildlife and people alike. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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