

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 269, November 13, 2013
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

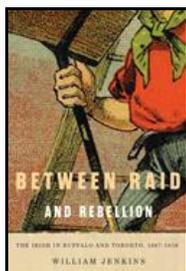
Brandon U's Daniel Olsen tapped for world conference: A Brandon University professor will be a keynote speaker at the first-ever international conference on spiritual tourism, the United Nations World Trade Organization (UNWTO) Spiritual Tourism for Sustainable Development, later this month in Viet Nam. Dr. Daniel Olsen, Chair of BU's Geography Department, is one of a handful of scholars in the world studying the links between tourism and spiritualism. [*Tourism, Religion and Spiritual Journeys*](#), which he co-edited and released in 2006, has become the seminal book on this emerging sector. "Since the dawn of time, people have travelled to places in search of spiritual renewal or the meaning of life," says Dr. Olsen. "This sector is now experiencing enormous growth, particularly in south-east Asia, and our conference will explore the impact of tourism on local culture, environment, and business." The two day conference will draw policy makers, spiritual leader, and representatives from the tourism industry, NGOs and academic institutions. Dr. Olsen is the only academic invited to speak and his remarks will set the context for the event, from which a declaration on spiritual tourism is expected. "In 2012, a billion tourists crossed international borders, many seeking spiritual encounters," Dr. Olsen says. "This type of travel transcends all religions and includes virtually all destinations. We need to talk about it now to properly prepare." [Brandon U News](#)

Exploring extractive industries in the Arctic. Memorial geographers co-ordinate international workshop: With considerable popular and scholarly attention drawn to the future of the Arctic due to climate change, Memorial University hosted an two-day international workshop, organized by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, that examined the impacts of previous resource booms while turning a critical eye on the promises of the current resource rush. Co-ordinated by John Sandlos (Memorial history and geography, and fellow of the Rachel Carson Centre) and Arn Keeling (Memorial geography), the workshop brought together an interdisciplinary group from fields as diverse as environmental history, anthropology, geography and social work. The workshop included paper sessions, a panel discussion on "Arctic Futures" (featuring a commentary by prominent resource geographer Gavin Bridge), and a public talk on images of Inuit by Frank Tester of the UBC School of Social Work. Workshop participants found many compelling continuities in the experiences of extractive development through time and space in the Arctic. At the same time, participants found themselves continually asking what was particularly "Arctic" about our case studies—whether resource development proceeded here in much the same way in other hinterland regions. [Memorial Geography](#)

Saint Mary's Department of Geography part of new School of the Environment: The School of the Environment is home to four academic programs: B.A. and B.Sc. degrees in Geography, a B.Sc. in Environmental Science, and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES). All of these interdisciplinary programs draw upon social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences to help students address the challenges of our changing world. Under the guidance of recently appointed Director Dr. Tony Charles, environmental science and Sobey School of Business professor, the School of the Environment will showcase the wide range of environmental research conducted by Saint Mary's researchers—both on campus and in the field. Through a series of [seminars](#) and public events, the School of the Environment will encourage interdisciplinary and community collaboration amongst researchers, government agencies, local groups, and national organizations committed to environmental education, research, and sustainability. “Our vision for the School of the Environment is to be the ‘go to’ place for ideas and solutions to our environmental challenges in Nova Scotia and beyond.” says School of the Environment Director Dr. Tony Charles. “In addition to preparing our students to tackle environmental issues around the world, our researchers have the interdisciplinary expertise necessary to help government, industry, and communities address these issues.” “The School of the Environment further illustrates Saint Mary's commitment to sustainability,” says Dr. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University. [Saint Mary's Media Release](#)

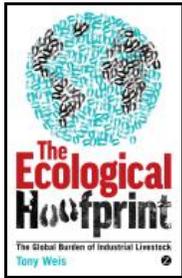
New Books

William Jenkins. 2013. [Between Raid and Rebellion: The Irish in Buffalo and Toronto, 1867-1916.](#) McGill-Queen's University Press.



In Between Raid and Rebellion, William Jenkins compares the lives and allegiances of Irish immigrants and their descendants in one American and one Canadian city between the era of the Fenian raids and the 1916 Easter Rising. Highlighting the significance of immigrants from Ulster to Toronto and from Munster to Buffalo, he distinguishes what it meant to be Irish in a loyal dominion within Britain's empire and in a republic whose self-confidence knew no bounds. Jenkins pays close attention to the transformations that occurred within the Irish communities in these cities during this fifty-year period, from residential patterns to social mobility and political attitudes. Exploring their experiences in workplaces, homes, churches, and meeting halls, he argues that while various social, cultural, and political networks were crucial to the realization of Irish mobility and respectability in North America by the early twentieth century, place-related circumstances linked to wider national loyalties and diasporic concerns. With the question of Irish home rule animating debates throughout the period, Toronto's unionist sympathizers presented a marked contrast to Buffalo's nationalist agitators. Although the Irish had acclimated to life in their new world cities, their sense of feeling Irish had not faded to the degree so often assumed. William Jenkins is director of the graduate program in history and associate professor in the Department of Geography at York University.

Tony Weis. 2013. [The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock](#). Zed Books Ltd.



The exploding global consumption of meat is implicated in momentous but greatly underappreciated problems, and industrial livestock production is the driving force behind soaring demand. Following his previous ground-breaking book *The Global Food Economy*, Tony Weis explains clearly why the growth and industrialization of livestock production is a central part of the accelerating biophysical contradictions of industrial capitalist agriculture. *The Ecological Hoofprint* provides a rigorous and eye-opening way of understanding what this system means for the health of the planet, how it contributes to worsening human inequality, and how it constitutes a profound but invisible aspect of the violence of everyday life.

Tony Weis is an associate professor of geography at the University of Western Ontario. His research is broadly located at the intersection of political ecology and agrarian political economy. He is the author of *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming* (Zed Books, 2007), and numerous articles and book chapters on environmental and development issues surrounding agriculture.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Justin R. Adams, Tracy L. Rowlandson, Steven J. McKeown, Aaron A. Berg, Heather McNairn and Stewart J. Sweeney. 2013. [Evaluating the Cloude–Pottier and Freeman–Durden scattering decompositions for distinguishing between unharvested and post-harvest agricultural fields](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-040

Daniel Germain and Marie-Audray Ouellet. 2013. [Subaerial sediment-water flows on hillslopes. Essential research questions and classification challenges](#). Progress in Physical Geography doi:10.1177/0309133313507943

Joshua R. Thienpont, Steven V. Kokelj, Jennifer B. Korosi, Elisa S. Cheng, Cyndy Desjardins, Linda E. Kimpe, Jules M. Blais, Michael FJ. Pisaric and John P. Smol. 2013. [Exploratory hydrocarbon drilling impacts to Arctic lake ecosystems](#). PlosOne. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0078875

Other “Geographical” News

Logbooks reveal hidden history of Yukon weather: The Yukon Research Centre has digitized 50 years of historical weather data and put it online for everyone to see. Somewhere in the Yukon Archives labyrinth sat logbooks from the White Pass and Yukon Route from 1902-1957. Inside them

was a wealth of weather data hidden, until now, from the eyes of climate scientists in the Yukon and beyond. [Yukon News](#)

Where poor and uninsured Americans live: This interactive map includes adults ages 19 to 64 and excludes people living in institutions and people who would not qualify for expanded Medicaid because of their immigration status. The estimates of the poor and uninsured population are from the Census Bureau's 2011 American Community Survey as provided by the University of Minnesota Population Center. Poverty rates are based on the federal poverty guidelines and family definitions used in determining Medicaid eligibility and provided by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center. Immigration status was estimated based on a methodology devised by the Pew Hispanic Center. [New York Times](#)

I bought an essay for \$25 per page. How easy is it to hand in a paper you didn't write? I approached the shop on Yonge Street a little nervous, uncertain of what I'd find. Chain-smoking felons? Security dogs? I found a clean store staffed by an intelligent, personable man named Mike. I told him I wanted a run-down. He said that master's graduates write all the essays and they have a writer for each subject, from biology to philosophy. He showed me a database on his computer screen with at least 30 names. I asked how many customers he had and he showed me a weekly schedule that appeared to show more than 25 essays per week. The price was normally \$30 per page but would only be \$25 per page for me since there was a promotion that day and I was willing to wait five days. Mike wouldn't answer me about whether I would be cheating if I handed in the essay as my own. "We don't really have that conversation here," he said. "It's all original work; it's not plagiarized." [Macleans.ca](#)

The role and place of the academic is changing – and it's a good thing: The academic career is dead. There, I've said it. Over the last few years I have been trying to build an academic career, in the process losing sight of why I became an academic in the first place. I decided to take stock and consider what an academic career really is and have come to the conclusion that the traditional notion is outdated and potentially at odds with the philosophy of academia. I suspect that the academic of the future will not be tied to an institution but be a thought leader, communicator and teacher undertaking a range of activities on a freelance/contract basis – and that the world will be a better place for it. [Higher Education Network](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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