



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Influential AAG award goes to U of Toronto's Meric Gertler: The Association of American Geographers will confer their most prestigious distinction on Meric Gertler next spring, awarding him the 2014 Distinguished Scholarship Honor for outstanding contributions to the advancement of geography. "Meric Gertler is an unusually creative scholar whose large body of published work is wide ranging and widely cited," said Richard A. Marston. "His papers have been genuinely path-breaking, providing a firm analytical and empirical foundation for understanding the evolution of Canadian and American regional systems over the 20th century." Marston added that no other single author had as many articles in the top 25 most-cited articles in economic geography from 1982 to 2006. "When I look at my work that's been most highly cited, it's that aspect of my research that is trying to understand the qualities of economically successful cities and how they spawn and support innovation-generating activity," said Gertler. "My work in that area seems to have really resonated with people." It's been a big year for Gertler, who took on the role of university president in November, and says that this honour from the AAG is a meaningful recognition. [U of T News](#)

Queen's U's John Holmes awarded CAUT Distinguished Academic Award: John Holmes has been awarded the [CAUT Distinguished Academic Award](#). The award recognizes academics who excel in each of the domains of academic life: teaching, research, service to the institution and to the community. The recipients are individuals whose teaching, research and service have contributed noticeably to the lives of their students, to their institution, to their field of study, and to the community. The Award will be presented at the Spring CAUT Council. John Holmes has been invited to give an address to Council and his address will subsequently be published by CAUT. [QUFA](#)

U Waterloo's Su-Yin Tan joins "space mafia": Su-Yin Tan is a rising star in the field of remote sensing and geographic information systems. Tan established herself as the leading force behind the Applied Geomatics Research Laboratory, a new Waterloo research and teaching venture dedicated to applying GIS to environmental, physical sciences, climate change, social, and health sciences research at national, regional, and local scales. When Tan is not teaching GIS students, she serves as Chair of the Space Applications Department in the Space Studies Program at the International Space University. "As one of the few geographers or environmental scientists on program staff, my initial involvement was "accidental," since I wasn't always a space enthusiast," Tan says. [UWaterloo](#)

UTSC's Susannah Bunce and Malcolm Campbell use research in community building: As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. And as Susannah Bunce and Malcolm Campbell are proving, it takes a village to raise a neighbourhood out of decline. Bunce and Campbell are both researchers at the University of Toronto Scarborough — she's a professor in the Department of Human Geography's City Studies Program and he's a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. They, along with others, are among the leaders of a project to renew and reinvigorate the Kingston Galloway/Orton Park region in Scarborough. One of 13 "priority neighbourhoods" across Toronto, KGO is facing many complex and vitality- draining challenges of modern urban life, including poverty and the widespread decampment of residents and businesses. As KGO fights the deterioration of its physical and social infrastructure, Bunce and Campbell have launched a partnership between UTSC and the community group East Scarborough Storefront to build on existing community revitalization efforts. The overall goal of the partnership: to strengthen the KGO neighbourhood, improve residents' quality of life and create a sense of belonging in the community. UTSC students are gaining a nuanced view of everyday realities in underserved neighbourhoods and their resulting feelings of engagement and compassion are serving them well as they conduct research on issues of importance to community residents and organizations, including housing, public transit and green space. [Edge/Fall 2013](#)

U Toronto Mississauga's Alan Walks says gentrification creates a social justice issue: Toronto's tree-lined streets are getting a makeover. Contractors replace windows and sagging porches. Real estate signs dot elegant gardens. Gentrification makes the city a better place to live. Or does it? "Canadian cities are growing more unequal," says Alan Walks, an associate professor in the University of Toronto Mississauga's Department of Geography. "Over the last 50 years, a series of working-class neighbourhoods has been redeveloped for high-income households, and in recent times at quite rapid speeds." In the traditional model of gentrification, which Toronto experienced from the late 1960s through the 1980s, working-class areas are first colonized by artists, who provide the cachet that attracts tenure conversion and eventually high-income purchasers. The original inhabitants are displaced. More recently, Walks says, gentrification has become so well established that almost any area in the inner city is fair game for speculators and higher-income individuals. The process is fueled by easy credit, which in the 2000s was driven by low interest rates and government mortgage policies. Walks points out that gentrification involves distinct winners and losers. Municipalities encourage gentrification because it increases tax revenue. Speculators make money. Those with higher incomes have pleasant, accessible places to live. Gentrifying neighbourhoods enjoy ever-better services and more diverse retail. That's the winning side. Those with lower incomes find themselves priced out of inner cities entirely and compelled to live in cheaper neighbourhoods with poor transit. These newly displaced citizens can experience isolation, difficulty accessing employment and services and a lowered quality of life. "There's a social justice issue here: Who deserves to live in the high-accessibility, transit-friendly, walkable neighbourhood?" says Walks. [Edge/Fall 2013](#)

Memorial graduate research featured on Nunavut Government website: Tara Cater's thesis and a summary of her research are featured on the [Nunavut Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees website](#) where regional committee members and the public in Nunavut can access key information on the impacts of development in the territory. Tara completed her thesis, "When Mining Comes (Back) to Town: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Mining Encounters in the Kivalliq Region, Nunavut," in August. Her research addresses the social and environmental legacies of historic mining in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, and the community's relationship with current and projected mineral developments in the region. Tara recently returned from a trip to Rankin Inlet to discuss results with community leaders and research participants. Findings from the thesis are also of strong interest to policy-makers in the territory who are facing a series of proposed major mining projects in the near future. The Kivalliq SEMC, in the region where Tara conducted her research, is currently focused on changes associated with the Agnico-Eagle Meadowbank Mine near Baker Lake, which employs Inuit from across the region, including Rankin Inlet. [Memorial U Geography News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Idowu Ajibade. 2013. Climate change and human rights: a case study of vulnerability and adaptation in coastal communities in Lagos, Nigeria. Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Gordon McBean.

Emmanuel Chilanga. 2013. Assessing the impact of nutritional education on gender roles and child care in northern Malawi. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr's. Rachel Bezner Kerr and Isaac Luginaah.

Anna J Crawford. 2013. [Ice island deterioration in the Canadian Arctic: Rates, patterns and model evaluation](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Carleton University. Ottawa. Supervisor: Derek Mueller.

Francisco Flores de Santiago. 2013. Multiple approaches for assessing mangrove biophysical and biochemical variables using in situ and remote sensing techniques. Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jinfei Wang.

Mohammadreza Jelokhani Niaraki. 2013. Web 2.0-based collaborative multicriteria spatial decision support system: a case study of human-computer interaction patterns. Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jacek Malczewski.

Janet Loebach. 2013. Examining children's perception and use of their neighbourhood environments for healthy activity. Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland.

Qin Ma. 2013. Application of RADARSAT-2 polarimetric data for land use and land cover classification and crop monitoring in southwestern Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jinfei Wang.

Catherine McLean. 2013. Attracting and retaining the highly skilled in medium-sized city-regions of Ontario: the role of the built environment. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Mike Buzzelli.

Xue Qin. 2013. Local ideal point method for gis-based multicriteria analysis: a case study in London, Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jacek Malczewski.



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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jessica L. Blythe, Grant Murray and Mark S. Flaherty. 2013. [Historical perspectives and recent trends in the coastal Mozambican fishery](#). Ecology and Society 18: Art. 65.

Anders Knudby, Lina Mtwana Nordlund, Gustav Palmqvist, Karolina Wikström, Alan Koliji, Regina Lindborg and Martin Gullström. 2014. [Using multiple Landsat scenes in an ensemble classifier reduces classification error in a stable nearshore environment](#). International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation 28:90–101.

George Mammen, Michelle R. Stone, Guy Faulkner, Subha Ramanathan, Ron Buliung, Catherine O'Brien and Jacky Kennedy. 2013. [Active school travel: an evaluation of the Canadian school travel planning intervention](#). Preventive Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2013.12.008

Alison Mountz and Nancy Hiemstra. 2013. [Chaos and crisis: Dissecting the spatiotemporal logics of contemporary migrations and state practices](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2013.857547

Stanislav Ogorodov, Vasiliy Arkhipov, Osip Kokin, Aleksey Marchenko, Paul Overduin and Donald Forbes. 2013. [Ice effect on coast and seabed in Baydaratskaya Bay, Kara Sea](#). Geography, Environment, Sustainability 3: 21-37.

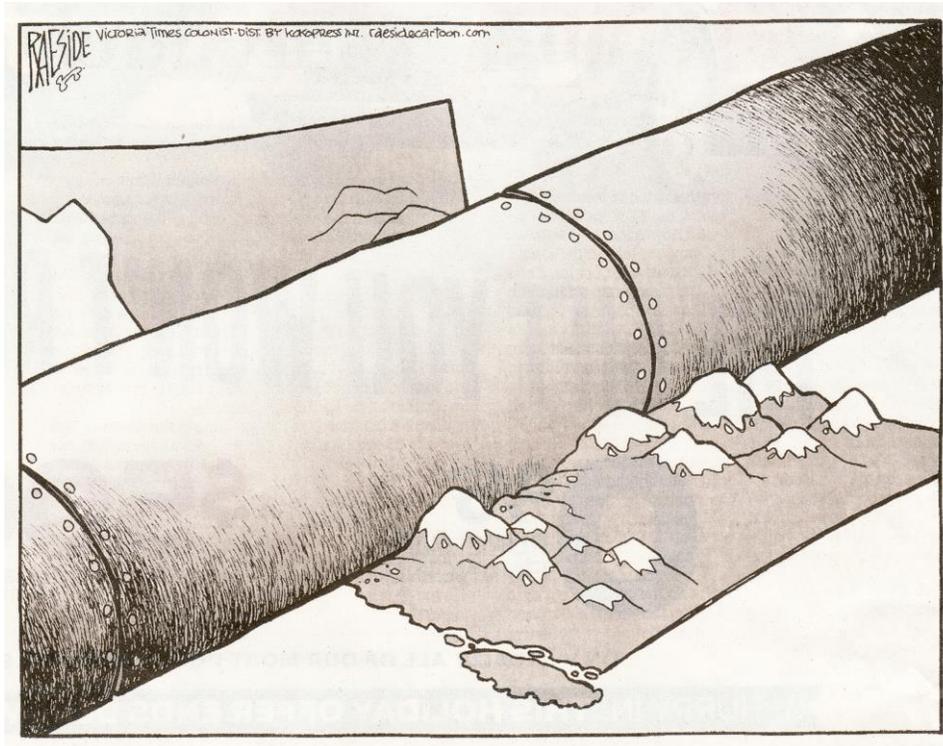
Lindsay C. Orr, Daniel L. Curtis, Stephen F. Cross, Helen Gurney-Smith, Alynn Shanks and Christopher M. Pearce. 2013. [Ingestion rate, absorption efficiency, oxygen consumption, and faecal production in green sea urchins \(*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*\) fed waste from sablefish \(*Anoplopoma fimbria*\) culture](#). Aquaculture. doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2013.11.030

Other “Geographical” News

Geographers map out the seven deadly sins: Looking for where the seven deadly sins are most common? There's a map for that. Actually, there's a couple of maps. These maps — originally published in 2009, when Kansas State University geographers researched and mapped out where the seven deadly sins are most prevalent in the United States — recently resurfaced and are gaining attention. Each map shows a mostly pale yellow United States with splotches of blue and red splattered throughout. Red regions show where that specific deadly sin is more prevalent, whereas blotches of blue show where it is seen less. [Desert News](#) | [WND U.S.](#)

Final exam comes with answers included for Ryerson University students: Nearly 200 university students hunkered down for their exam got an early Christmas present. The answers to the first 20 of their 50 questions were included with the exam. “It’s a professor’s nightmare,” said professor John Turtle, “like students have nightmares of showing up naked to exams.” Approximately 1,000 Ryerson University students took the Dec. 9 exam for Chemistry 102, and three different versions of it were handed out to discourage cheating. One professor accidentally printed off answers along with the version that was distributed to 190 students, and the answer sheet was inside the booklet. An honest student gave authorities a heads-up about the gaffe in mid-exam, and they halted everything while they decided what to do. [Universities News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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