



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 282, January 8, 2014**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**U Western's Phil Stooke's book chosen as Outstanding Academic Title by American Library Association:** Western Geography Professor Phil Stooke's [\*The International Atlas of Mars Exploration\*](#) was chosen by the American Library Association's CHOICE reviews magazine as one of its "Outstanding Academic Titles" of 2013. Each year they pick from among the 7,000 or so books they have reviewed during the year. [Choice Reviews Online](#)

**UQAM and York U geographers on why good fences can make bad neighbours:** People often say that good fences make good neighbours, but that is far from being true along the U.S.-Mexico frontier. For the most part, say many experts, walls are not even very good at achieving what is usually their avowed purpose — keeping things or people in. They are not a solution," says Élisabeth Vallet, a professor of geography at the University of Quebec at Montreal. "I'm not even sure that walls actually are truly a means of preventing people from crossing a border." "When we speak about walls, we will always say the physical wall is only a part of the equation," says Vallet. Prohibitive measures such as visa restrictions can be just as effective as a physical wall and possibly even more effective — at least in the short term — but they tend to mask problems rather than solve them. That's the main motor of the dilemma. Unlike water, the flow of international migrants tends to move from low to higher ground — at least in economic terms. "The problem of economic disparity needs to be solved," says Tristan Sturm, a geographer at York University, who believes emphatically that walls are not the answer. "They are a short-term solution to a long-term problem." [Toronto Star](#)

**Carleton U's Stephen Gruber CFI support to establish permafrost study infrastructure:** Stephen Gruber, associate professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University will receive funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) as part of The John R Evans Leaders Opportunity Fund to establish the infrastructure necessary to understand and measure permafrost thaw. This support is timely because large areas of permafrost are thawing and established measurement systems are not able to provide us with the information Canada needs to adapt to the accompanying landscape changes. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

---



**WDCAG 2014**

Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Visit <http://wdcag.geog.uvic.ca>,  
Contact [wdcag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:wdcag@geog.uvic.ca)  
Join [@WDCAG2014](#)

---

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathaniel Bergman, Ofer Sholker, Joel Roskin and Noam Greenbaum. 2014. [The Nahal Oz Reservoir dam-break flood: Geomorphic impact on a small ephemeral loess-channel in the semi-arid Negev Desert, Israel](#). *Geomorphology*. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.12.024

Francesco Mazzei, Roslyn Gillan and Denise Cloutier. 2013. [Exploring the influence of environment on the spatial behavior of older adults in a purpose-built acute care dementia unit](#). *American Journal of Alzheimer's Diseases & Other Dementias*. DOI:10.1177/1533317513517033

Claire Jocelyn Oswald, Andrew Heyes and Brian A. Branfireun. 2014. [Fate and transport of ambient mercury and applied mercury isotope in terrestrial upland soils: Insights from the METAALICUS watershed](#). *Environmental Science and Technology*. DOI: 10.1021/es404260f

Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi and Michael F.J. Pisaric. 2014. [Holocene climate–fire–vegetation interactions at a subalpine watershed in southeastern British Columbia, Canada](#). *Quaternary Research*. doi.org/10.1016/j.yqres.2013.12.002

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*. 11(9): e1001634.

Qun Miao, Michèle Bouchard, Dongmei Chen, Igor Burstyn, John J. Spinellif and Kristan J. Aronsona. 2014. [Assessing traffic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon exposure in Montreal, Canada](#). *Science of the Total Environment* 470–471:945–953.

Jamie Linton. 2014. [Modern water and its discontents: a history of hydrosocial renewal](#). *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water* 1:111–120.

Valentina Radić, Andrew Bliss, A. Cody Beedlow, Regine Hock, Evan Miles and J. Graham Cogley. 2014. [Regional and global projections of twenty-first century glacier mass changes in response to climate scenarios from global climate models](#). *Climate Dynamics* 42:37-58.

Laura Roch and Jochen A.G. Jaeger. 2014. [Monitoring an ecosystem at risk: What is the degree of grassland fragmentation in the Canadian Prairies?](#) *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. DOI:10.1007/s10661-013-3557-9

Juan A. Sanchez, Vishnu Reddy, Michael S. Kelley, Edward A. Cloutis, William F. Bottke, David Nesvorný, Michael P. Lucas, Paul S. Hadersen, Michael J. Gaffey, Paul A. Abell and Lucille Le Corre. 2014. [Olivine-dominated asteroids: Mineralogy and origin](#). *Icarus* 228:288–300.

Luisa Veronis. 2013. [The border and immigrants in Ottawa-Gatineau: governance practices and the \(re\)production of a dual Canadian citizenship](#). *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 28:257-271.

Jelle S. Zijlstra, Donald A. McFarlane, Lars W. van den Hoek Ostende and Joyce Lundberg. 2014. [New rodents \(\*Cricetidae\*\) from the Neogene of Curaçao and Bonaire, Dutch Antilles](#). *Palaeontology*. DOI:10.1111/pala.12091

---

## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Guillermo Azocar. 2013. [Modeling of permafrost distribution in the semi-arid Chilean Andes](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.

---

## Other “Geographical” News

**Geographic lines of history:** Think maps and we think of somewhat boring history and geography classes many of us left behind in schools. But maps, when made interesting, narrate fascinating stories of history — stories of early trade routes, conquests and growth in the region. Armed with a doctorate in geography from Delhi University, Manosi Lahiri has had a long journey in tracing the history of maps of India. [The Hindu](#)

**Monday morning e-mail syndrome in University:** Most academics in universities all over the world benefit from the use of e-mail for workplace communication..Among a plethora of occupational stressors, our attention was drawn to sources of pressure that could be related to e-mail stress. Changes in the work have blurred the boundaries between work and non-work for academics. Work is not dependent on working hours and the workplace, or even on the location. More than ever the academic's work has become modus vivendi. Higher demands have been established for academics to be "always online," "always ready to react," and "ready to work." Interruptions in non-work time (family, friends, leisure, hobbies etc.) have become common and increase the level of occupational stress. The interviews showed that e-mail stress most typically occurred on Monday morning. [Science Daily](#)

**How can geography literacy be so bad in the age of Google Earth?** We actually know why. Imperialists nations have always cared a lot about geography, for conquest and colonization purposes. European peoples for instance started very early to map the world, explore it, describe and define it as accurately as possible to assess the values of lands in terms of military resources needed VS commercial potential. A lot of the geographical knowledge was built in that context (anthropology, botanic, species inventories, climatic event description, etc.). As a result, mathematics, physics and computer science became the most valued options in the academic & corporate worlds. Geography went into an existential crisis at that time, especially in the 1960's: if we know everything about every places of the world now, what use can we make of such a field? Where can it stand in a world obsessed by productivity and technical progress? Geography had to redefine itself. And it is not something that happened in six months. It took a couple of decades for geography to be re-born as a much wider discipline, now studying all forms of multiple and complex interactions people & societies have with their spaces, places and territories. [Directions Magazine](#)

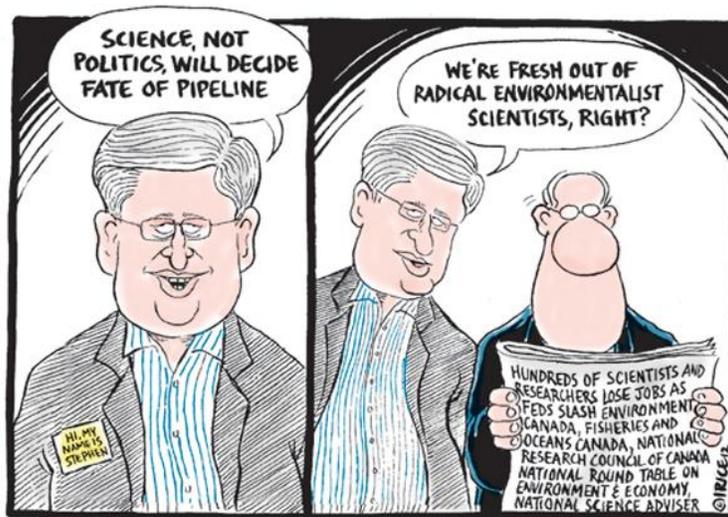
**Academics' occupational stressors:** University teaching has traditionally been regarded as a low stress occupation. In historical point of view it could be true, but it seems not to be so at modern universities. We found that the sources of stress were not university-specific and were also not academic culture-specific. The research shows that all 90 sources of stress were involved as stressors for academics at different universities. One most intriguing cultural difference was how academic staff members feel about the students -- in other words, to what extent the students are a source of stress for the academic staff member. For academics in Estonian universities, students were significantly higher source of pressure than for academics from University of Bordeaux. Estonian academics significantly more blamed students for their different levels of preparation for studies at university, inadequate study skills, low level of preparation, low study/work motivation, absenteeism, ineffective time planning and time management, unconcern and lack of responsibility, low level of discipline or inadequate behavior. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Beware the passion track:** Given the dismal academic job market described by numerous writers, you'd think humanities Ph.D. programs would have shuttered their doors, boarded up their windows and hung a sign on the front entrance that reads, "Out of Business." On the contrary, a recent Inside Higher Ed article shows the number of humanities Ph.D.s rising by over 500 graduates between 2010 and 2012. Why haven't humanities students scattered like rats fleeing a sinking ship? If a Ph.D. program can no longer justify itself in that way, then passion can't save it. Worse, it acts as a cover, for students as they chase the token jobs, and for the university as it cannibalizes its own departments, corralling Ph.D.s. into its ever-growing contingent labour force. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

**New year, new career: 10 questions academics should ask themselves:** The seasonal tendency towards a spot of healthy self-reflection can be usefully be applied to your academic career and, specifically, whether your current career plan is still the right one for you. Ten questions are offered to prompt your reflection. [Higher Education Network](#)

---

### Some not so "Geographical" News



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>

---