

GeogNews



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Brandon U geographers collaborating to aid Mexican tourism: Researchers from Brandon University (BU) are collaborating with one of Mexico's most significant universities to help guide sustainable, ecologically friendly growth at a favourite tourist destination. "Professors from BU have been working with Universidad De Guadalajara (UDEG) for more than a decade," says Dr. Derrek Eberts, Department of Geography, who is studying the effects of surging tourism on the local economy and quality of life of residents in small towns and villages around Puerto Vallarta. "The main thrust of our work is to inform public policy discussions about developing tourism in a sustainable manner." Dr. Eberts was joined by Dr. Daniel Olsen and Dr. Chris Malcolm from BU's Department of Geography. "Whale-watching is a booming sector of the local tourist trade," says Dr. Malcolm, "as the waters off Puerto Vallarta are an important breeding ground for humpback whales. We are studying whether tourists are gaining a better knowledge of marine conservation through their whale-watching experience, an important take-away which has never been fully assessed. Dr. Olsen looked at several sites near Puerto Vallarta enjoying increased attention through spiritual tourism. "One church, in particular, is only accessible by foot," he says. "The additional tourist traffic has turned the walking trail into a litter-ground, and created friction with the church's congregation as more and more people seek time within the sacred walls." Robert Moore, a BU Geography Major, made the trip to assist in Dr. Malcolm's research, and a student from Universidad De Guadalajara also lent a hand in surveying whale-watching tour operators and clients. As a result, Dr. Malcolm has agreed to supervise the Mexican student's upcoming thesis project. [Brandon U News](#)

Heather Castleden to join the Departments of Geography and Public Health Sciences at Queen's University: Dr. Heather Castleden is a geographer and community-based participatory researcher who studies the intersections of environment and human health. She is currently an Associate Professor in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies and holds cross appointments in the Department of Bioethics and the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology as well as the College of Sustainability at Dalhousie University. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Anthropology and Native Studies) from the University of Manitoba (1996), a Master of Education Degree (Adult and Higher Education) from the University of Alberta, and a PhD (Health and Environmental Geography) at the University of Alberta. Before taking up her appointment at Dalhousie University, she was a NEARBC and SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Victoria. Dr. Castleden is a CIHR New Investigator in the area of Knowledge Translation (2013-2018); in addition to this prestigious award, she has received a number of other awards including the Canadian Association of Geographers' Julian M. Szeicz Award (2010), which is presented annually in recognition of significant research achievement by a Canadian Geographer at an early career stage. [Queen's Geography](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser asks "Are more food protests around the corner?": Three seemingly unrelated stories that have developed over the past week might have much broader and long lasting implications for the international community. The first story is that of the terrible drought that is currently affecting large parts of the Middle East. This leads to the second story, namely the escalating crisis in Ukraine that have commodity traders starting to question whether the developments of the past few weeks threaten the ability of both the world's fifth largest exporter of wheat (Russia) and the world's eighth largest wheat exporter (the Ukraine) to keep supplying the global food system. This leads to a third story, an FAO report that notes global food prices jumped 2.6 percent since January. These three stories are already combining to spook commodity markets. It is clear that major change can emerge from the intersection of political and environmental disruption, a fact that should give policymakers and leaders pause for thought as they survey recent developments in the Middle East. In the meantime, though, many in the region will be left wondering over something much more immediate: Where their day's bread will come from – and whether they can afford to put food on their table. [CNN](#)

UBC Geographers attend WDCAG 2014: The UBC Geography delegation consisted of twenty-four UBC undergraduate students from all three geography program streams (GEOB, E&S, Human). A total of fifteen undergrads were directly involved in contributing to the conference with either oral presentations or posters. The group decided to submit a video for this year's "Day in the Life of a Geographer" contest by bringing their cameras on the bus, to the conference, on field trips and at social gatherings to capture the spirit of the UBC Geography delegation. Their submission, which is a (music) video can be [viewed here](#). Professor David Edgington accompanied the group and is thanked for coming to the conference and supporting the UBC GSA. [UBC Geographer](#)

Laurier event exploring field of citizen science to geographer Robert McLeman: How can Canadian families protect nature by using their smartphones—and have fun doing it? This question will be explored at a Wilfrid Laurier University event about the growing field of "citizen science" on Monday, March 17. The event, titled "Every citizen an environmental scientist," is part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC) "[Imagining Canada's Future](#)" initiative. The event will feature Robert McLeman, associate professor, Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, and leader of Laurier's NatureWatch 2.0 citizen science project. [WLU Headlines](#)

Memorial U's Rodolphe Devillers says conservation efforts often misdirected: While well-intended, marine conservation efforts may be misguided in many cases. That's the word from Rodolphe Devillers, a Memorial University geographer. He just published a study that reports marine conservation efforts often failed because they didn't address areas under actual threat. Conservation areas conveniently were placed outside commercial fishing and industrial areas even though conservation was needed most inside those places. Government did this to avoid damaging economic development without regard to actual conservation, Devillers found after analyzing more than 5,000 marine conservation hotspots in a worldwide database. Of those, only 10 contained contained more than 50 percent of protected waters and nine of those weren't under direct risk. Devillers said nations needed to get serious about marine conservation That included being ready to trade off some economic gain for serious environmental protection. Canadian officials needed to pay attention to scientists' choices for protection area, he said. [eCanadaNow](#)

Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop: Water & Innovation: The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies recently hosted an international Exploratory Workshop on water and innovation, led by Principal Investigator, UBC Geographer Karen Bakker. Watch the short video below to learn more about what UBC's experts are saying about the world's most pressing water issues. [Watch Water & Innovation](#)

UTMississauga Undergrad Student, Tasneem Patel recipient of 2014 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award: Tasnim Patel has been selected as a recipient of a Cressy Student Leadership Award. The Cressy Awards recognise graduating students who have made outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their college, faculty or school, or to the university as a whole. The award will be presented at a ceremony at Convocation Hall on Wednesday, April 16th, 2014. [UTM Geography](#)

New Book

Catherine Etmanski, Budd L. Hall and Teresa Dawson (EDS). 2014. [Learning and Teaching Community-Based Research. Linking Pedagogy to Practice](#). University of Toronto Press, Toronto.



Community-Based Research, or CBR, is a mix of innovative, participatory approaches that put the community at the heart of the research process. [Learning and Teaching Community-Based Research](#) shows that CBR can also operate as an innovative pedagogical practice, engaging community members, research experts, and students. This collection is an unmatched source of information on the theory and practice of using CBR in a variety of university- and community-based educational settings. Developed at and around the University of Victoria, and with numerous examples of Indigenous-led and Indigenous-focused approaches to CBR, Learning and Teaching Community Based-Research will be of interest to those involved in community outreach, experiential learning, and research in non-university settings, as well as all those interested in the study of teaching and learning.

Catherine Etmanski is an assistant professor in the School of Leadership Studies and First Year Program Head for the master's of arts in leadership at Royal Roads University. Budd L. Hall is co-chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education and a professor of community development in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria. Teresa Dawson is Director of the Learning and Teaching Centre and an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria.

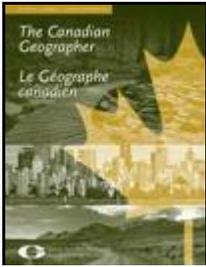
IGU Commission on Political Geography

From June 19-21, 2014, the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon will host a meeting of the IGU Commission on Political Geography in Eugene, Oregon, focused on the political geography of the environment. We have extended the deadline for abstract submission until April 20 to give participants in the Tampa AAG meeting time to put together an abstract following the conference. The conference promises to be an interesting gathering, featuring plenary addresses by Simon Dalby and Shannon O'Lear, papers from a range of participants coming from different countries, and a field trip to the Oregon coast. For information about the conference, including how to register, submit an abstract, and reserve a hotel room, please go the following URL: geography.uoregon.edu/pgc

CAG 2014: Upcoming Deadlines

March 31, 2014 (Early-bird Registration): If you are interested in participating in CAG 2014, you must register for both Congress and CAG. Instructions on how to register are available online at: [registration](#). If you would like to avoid late fees, please register before March 31, 2014. Once you have registered online, you can sign up for the banquet and/or a field trip by completing the CAG 2014 field trip and banquet participation form (also found online at: [registration](#)).

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Skye Augustine and Philip Dearden. 2014. [Changing paradigms in marine and coastal conservation: A case study of clam gardens in the Southern Gulf Islands, Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12084

Elaine C. Wiersma and Rhonda Koster. 2014. ["It's not only for sick people": The place of the local hospital in a rural northern Ontario community](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12085

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nesar Ahmed and Mark S. Flaherty. 2014. [Opportunities for aquaculture in the ethnic Garo community of northern Bangladesh](#). Water Resources and Rural Development. doi.org/10.1016/j.wrr.2014.03.001

Oumer S. Ahmed, Steven E. Franklin, and Michael A. Wulder. 2013. [Interpretation of forest disturbance using a time series of Landsat imagery and canopy structure from airborne lidar](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 39: 521-542.

Matthew J. Beedle, Brian Menounos and Roger Wheate. 2014. [An evaluation of mass-balance methods applied to Castle Creek Glacier, British Columbia, Canada](#). Journal of Glaciology 60(220): 262-276.

A. Brenning, M. Schwinn, A.P. Ruiz-Páez and J. Muenchow. 2014. [Landslide susceptibility near highways is increased by one order of magnitude in the Andes of southern Ecuador, Loja province](#). Natural Hazards and Earth Systems Science Discussions 2:1945–1975.

Simon Dalby. 2014. [Rethinking geopolitics: Climate security in the Anthropocene](#). Global Policy 5:1-9.

Tara Holland, Barry Smit and Gregory V. Jones. 2014. [Toward a conceptual framework of terroir tourism: a case study of the Prince Edward County, Ontario wine region](#). Tourism Planning & Development.

Josh Lepawsky. 2014. [The changing geography of global trade in electronic discards: time to rethink the e-waste problem](#). The Geographical Journal. DOI: 10.1111/geoj.12077

Larissa Pizzolato, Stephen E. L. Howell, Chris Derksen, Jackie Dawson and Luke Copland. 2014. [Changing sea ice conditions and marine transportation activity in Canadian Arctic waters between 1990 and 2012](#). Climatic Change 123:161-173.

Erik Schiefer, Ellen L. Petticrew, Richard Immell, Marwan A. Hassan and Derek L. Sonderegger. 2014. [Land use and climate change impacts on lake sedimentation rates in western Canada](#). Anthropocene. doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2014.02.006

Emmanuel Songsore and Michael Buzzelli. 2014. [Social responses to wind energy development in Ontario: The influence of health risk perceptions and associated concerns](#). Energy Policy. doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2014.01.048

Other “Geographical” News

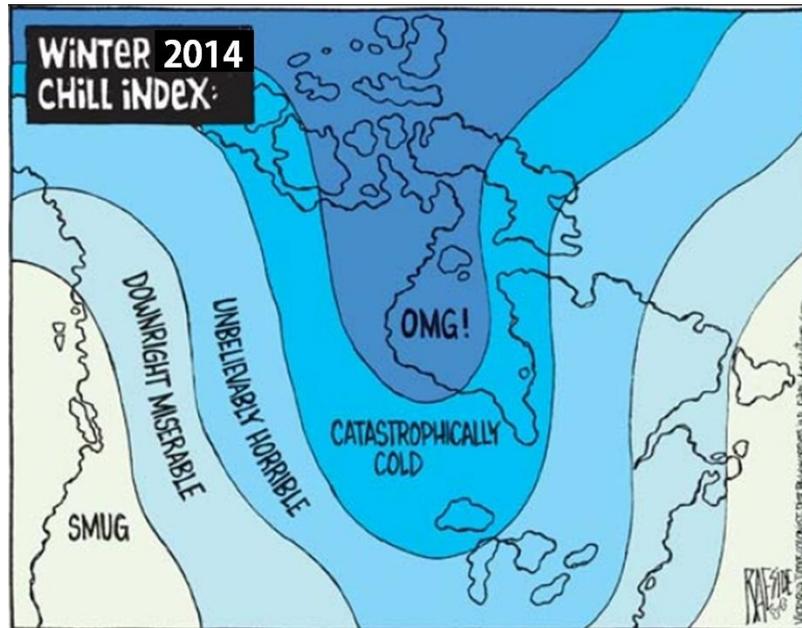
How can universities stop students cheating online? Cheating isn't a new problem for universities, but the growth in online courses – particularly massive open online courses (Moocs) – has forced academics to search for new ways to ensure honesty and protect academic integrity. Free courses are usually designed to benefit only the student's education, with no accreditation that could boost employment opportunities or open routes to further education. While the resources and opportunities to learn for free are widely available, the means for ensuring honesty and academic integrity are largely confined to courses with explicit academic value – and a price tag. [The Guardian](#)

Counting craters. You can help map the moon: Crowdsourcing is the 21st century way of solving big problems. We crowdsource answers to our computer problems, funding for our start ups, and even science itself. A new study comparing the accuracy of crater counting from thousands of volunteers with that of experts shows that crowdsourcing science works. Turns out, the volunteers do just as well as the experts! There is an advantage, however, in the nature of crowd-sourcing. A lot of volunteers can map the moon a lot faster than a few researchers. Why is counting craters so important, anyway? The relative ages of planetary surfaces can be determined by crater counts where, generally, older surfaces have more craters per unit area than younger surfaces. The Moon, unlike Earth, has undergone very little geologic change in its history, so the impact history has been preserved even while most of Earth's has been erased. [DNews](#)

Life without tenure: how I've found fulfilment in academia: My university offers both undergraduate and graduate programmes, while others in the region focus on undergraduates. These colleges and universities often seek PhD candidates like me to teach the "survey" or introductory courses, allowing tenured professors to focus on developing courses in line with their current research. As an instructor, I've also developed and taught my own specialised courses. I've been given the chance to do this through my own department and through university programmes that don't have tenure-track lines and are therefore more likely to seek assistance from adjuncts. uch programmes may struggle for recognition and financial support, but they [can be wonderful places for innovation and provide fabulous outlets for first-time instructors](#). [The Guardian](#)

Number of days without rain to dramatically increase in some world regions: By the end of the 21st century, some parts of the world can expect as many as 30 more days a year without precipitation, according to a new study. Ongoing climate change caused by human influences will alter the nature of how rain and snow falls; areas that are prone to dry conditions will receive their precipitation in narrower windows of time. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



But then, perhaps Rick Mercer said it best [Seven Day Forecast](#)



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