



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 306, May 31, 2014
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

U Toronto graduate Dr. John Paul Cervas Catungal awarded Governor General's Gold Medal Honoring Academic Excellence: In December 2013, under the supervision of Professors Deborah Leslie and Matthew Farish in the Department of Geography, Dr. Catungal completed his doctoral dissertation *For Us, By Us: Political Geographies of Race, Sexuality and Health in the Work of Ethno-specific AIDS Service Organizations in Global-multicultural Toronto*. Described by his external thesis examiner as an "original, moving piece of scholarship," Dr. Catungal's dissertation makes important contributions—not only to a theoretical understanding of intersectionality and difference—but to policy communities and social service agencies concerned to make their programming sensitive to the needs of racially diverse queer communities. Dr. Catungal has an extensive publication record, with refereed journal publications in top international journals as well as an edited book. A piece of his dissertation recently appeared in the open-access *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, in a special issue on sexualities which Dr. Catungal co-edited. In January 2014, Dr. Catungal commenced a two-year concurrent SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship and Killam Honourary Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of British Columbia's Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice and Department of Geography. He is currently pursuing a new research project on the political figure of the straight ally and his/her place in contemporary queer politics.

York U's Lucia Lo receives Rockefeller Foundation writing fellowship: Together with her collaborator, Lucia Lo of the Department of Geography at York University, Arizona State University professor Wei Li has been awarded the Rockefeller Foundation's prestigious Bellagio Center writing residency fellowship. As a Bellagio Fellow, Li will spend four weeks this fall at the Bellagio Center on Lake Como in Northern Italy. The Resident Fellows program combines the opportunity for uninterrupted work during the day, with the opportunity to spend time with other Fellows in the evenings – leaders, writers and artists from a wide array of fields. Li and Lo will use their time at the Bellagio Center to write up their research on access of immigrants and immigrant businesses to formal financial services throughout North America. The two researchers will compare and contrast financial regulatory histories and immigration policies in the United States and Canada, and among varied immigrant groups. [ASU News](#)

U Ottawa PhD candidate Saulius Svirplys examines unique housing of Ottawa and Toronto:

Saulius Svirplys's academic expertise in suburban architecture began as a hobby, collecting the floorplan drawings of houses in Bramalea, on the northwestern outskirts of Toronto, where he grew up. Now a PhD candidate in geography at the University of Ottawa, Mr. Svirplys has expanded his interest to include awkwardly Spanish themed villas in Ottawa's 1970's west-end suburbs, and in the process built up an unrivalled collection of suburban floor plans. In them, he has not only brought academic rigour to an architectural field that is typically ignored in favour of more grand urban buildings. He has also sketched a unique historical moment in do-it-yourself Canadian architecture. By documenting the ways people renovate their houses, and tracking this architectural change according to social theories, he has shown that suburbs of both Ottawa and Toronto have unique housing that reflects the elite cultural status of their designers, which is at odds with the people who have lived in them. This tension sets in play a slow dynamic in which "homeowners feel ill at ease or out of place with the landscape, and a struggle ensues in which they adapt the existing framework so they are comfortable." [National Post](#)

Mac's maps help solve Aussie grave mystery: For 80 years, Pte. William Phillips lay in the wrong grave. With help from McMaster University's map collection, a grand-nephew in Australia tries to solve the mystery and lay him to rest alongside his comrade. The Lloyd Reeds maps collection is filled with globes and atlases; old WWI maps marked "SECRET," the German versions, "Geheim!" The maps, some with pencil notations, show the radial setup of most French towns, and the countryside, with little circles marking the roadside trees Napoleon planted so his troops would be shaded and have more energy on their marches. In 1914, Napoleon had about the same historical distance as Gen. Douglas Haig does now. The university's First World War trench map and aerial photography collection is one of the most extensive in Canada, only rivalled by Ottawa's federal collections. Beck is always fielding calls from researchers and museums in France and Belgium. [Toronto Star](#)

New Books

Shuguang Wang. 2014. [China's New Retail Economy. A Geographic Perspective](#). Routledge



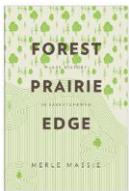
Retail is the essential link between production and consumption. The dynamics of a nation's economy cannot be fully understood without a good understanding of its retail sector. This book is written to achieve three broad objectives. First, it provides a comprehensive assessment of the changes in consumption patterns in China, the current size of the Chinese consumer market, and the regional variations. Second, it presents an interpretation of the changes in the country's regulatory system and the corresponding policy initiatives, including the new state spatial strategies devised after its admission to the WTO. Third, it delivers a systematic analysis of the transformation of China's retail sector. This includes the entry and expansion of foreign retailers, the development of indigenous retail chains as a national strategy to modernize China's retail industry, and the changing retailer-supplier relations. This book is a useful reference not only for university students and faculty researchers, but also for international retailers and commercial real estate developers who contemplate business and investment opportunities in China.

Sharon-Dale Stone, Valorie A. Crooks and Michelle Owen (Eds.) 2014. [Working Bodies Chronic Illness in the Canadian Workplace](#). McGill-Queen's University Press.



While significant research has been produced in the field of disability studies, little attention has been paid to experiences of chronic illness. *Working Bodies* emphasizes the workplace as an important site for understanding such experiences, as employment status has an enormous impact on social and economic standing in Canadian society. The essays in this collection examine the perspectives of both workers and employers, painting a disturbing picture of the challenges that people with chronic illness face in an already demanding labour market. The focus on the Canadian workplace allows for an in-depth understanding of this context and for meaningful comparisons between populations and across workplace environments. Contributors include scholars and practitioners in disability studies, health sciences, geography, occupational therapy, sociology, and labour relations, their expert knowledge ranging from the imperatives of employers, to lived experiences of chronic illness, to the application of workplace policy. By combining research-based chapters with personal reflections on work and chronic illness, *Working Bodies* grounds itself in existing scholarship while opening up new avenues of discussion. Contributors include Terri Aversa, Andrea Black, Keri Cameron (McMaster University), Nicolette Carlan (University of Waterloo), Vera Chouinard (McMaster University), Valorie A. Crooks (Simon Fraser University), Julie Devaney, Le-Ann Dolan, Adam Gilgoff, Nancy Hutchinson (Queen's University), Vicki Kristman (Lakehead University), Terry Krupa (Queen's University), Rosemary Lysaght (Queen's University), Margaret Oldfield (University of Toronto), Michelle Owen (University of Winnipeg), Melissa Popiel, Wendy Porch, William S. Shaw (University of Massachusetts), Corinne Stevens, Iffath Syed (York University), Joan Versnel (Dalhousie University), and Kelly Williams-Whitt (University of Lethbridge).

Merle Massie. 2014. [Forest Prairie Edge. Place History in Saskatchewan](#). University of Manitoba Press.



Merle Massie (SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, University of Ottawa, Department of Geography; Adjunct Professor, University of Saskatchewan) has just published a new book on Saskatchewan history. Delving into the boreal forest fringe as the major transition zone between 'south' and 'north' in Canada, Massie's book, *Forest Prairie Edge: Place History in Saskatchewan* from University of Manitoba Press (2014) focuses on the Prince Albert region of Saskatchewan. Instead of a typical 'prairie' history, Massie's book looks at Saskatchewan's development through the lens of the forest. It argues that Saskatchewan's past hinged on using both north and south, and suggests that historians and geographers must not take 'regional' stereotypes for granted.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Evan Cleave and Godwin Arku. 2014. [Competitiveness through cooperation: Analysis of spatial patterns and inter-jurisdictional collaboration in the place branding of Ontario communities, Canada](#). Local Economy. doi: 10.1177/0269094214535716
- T.L. Evans, M. Costa, W.M. Tomas and A.R. Camilo. 2014. [Large-scale habitat mapping of the Brazilian Pantanal wetland: A synthetic aperture radar approach](#). Remote Sensing of Environment. doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2013.08.051
- Peter V. Hall. 2014. [Transport geography in Canada](#). Journal of Transport Geography 36:163-164.
- Aerin L. Jacob, Tyler R. Bonnell, Nicholas Dowhaniuk and Joel Hartter. 2014. [Topographic and spectral data resolve land cover misclassification to distinguish and monitor wetlands in western Uganda](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 94:114–126.
- John D. Jacobs. 2014. [The fast-changing Arctic: Rethinking Arctic security for a warmer world](#). Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research 46:527-528.
- Merje Kuus. 2014. [Transnational bureaucracies. How do we know what they know?](#) Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132514535285
- N.A. Svacina, C.R. Duguay and L.C. Brown. 2014. [Modelled and satellite-derived surface albedo of lake ice – Part I: evaluation of the albedo parameterization scheme of the Canadian Lake Ice Model](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10253
- Karin Y. van Ewijk, Christophe F. Randin, Paul M. Treitz and Neal A. Scott. 2014. [Predicting fine-scale tree species abundance patterns using biotic variables derived from LiDAR and high spatial resolution imagery](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 150:120–131.
- Michael J. Wagner, Kevin D. Bladon, Chris H.S. Williams, Amanda M. Martens, Sarah Boon, Ryan J. MacDonald, Micheal Stone, Monica B. Emelko, and Axel Anderson. 2014. [Catchment-scale stream temperature response to land disturbance by wildfire governed by surface-subsurface energy exchange and atmospheric controls](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.05.006
- Blake Byron Walker, Cameron Taylor-Noonan, Alan Tabbernor, T'Brenn McKinnon, Harsimran Bal, Dan Bradley, Nadine Schuurman and John J. Clague. 2014. [A multi-criteria evaluation model of earthquake vulnerability in Victoria, British Columbia](#). Natural Hazards. DOI10.1007/s11069-014-1240-2
- Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Eleanor Stephenson, Jim Allen, François Bourque, Alexander Drossos, Sigmund Elgarøy, Michael J. Kral, Ian Mauro, Joshua Moses, Tristan Pearce, Joanna Petrusek MacDonald and Lisa Wexler. 2014. [Examining relationships between climate change and mental health in the Circumpolar North](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI10.1007/s10113-014-0630-z
- Taiyang Zhong, Bruce Mitchell and Xianjin Huang. 2014. [Success or failure: Evaluating the implementation of China's National General Land Use Plan \(1997–2010\)](#). Habitat International 44:93–101.
-

Other “Geographical” News

Glaciers in Nepal retreating at an alarming rate: Nepal has lost more than a quarter of its glacial mass in the last three decades, and the accelerated melting is posing a potential threat to neighbouring ice sheets, a new study shows. The total glacier area and ice reserves in the landlocked Himalayan country came down by 24 per cent and 29 per cent respectively between 1977 and 2010, according to a report released by the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on 16 May. [SciDevNet](#)

When universities make choices, deans must fall in line: Freedom of speech on the other hand is based on ethical guidelines and intellectual standards: It is for these reasons that Canadians have entrenched careful limits, and why we have laws about libel, slander and hate crimes. Certainly campuses are places where free debate must reign, even heatedly, and this free speech – just like academic freedom – must be defended in the strongest terms. Before decisions are made, faculty and those in leadership positions, especially vice-presidents and deans, should debate issues and question directions – just as they have had extensive opportunity to do during the TransformUS discussions at the University of Saskatchewan. But to suggest that deans be permitted to publicly condemn the decisions of the senior leadership or board at all times after a decision has been arrived at is folly. This is no different to decision making principles in a cabinet. No organization can advance without these principles. [AUCC](#)

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>

@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
