



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 315, July 29, 2014
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Brock U Department of Geography offers online Human Geography course to help students understand society: Why do people in North American cities rely so heavily on their cars to get around, whereas people in most European countries tend to walk, cycle or use public transit far more often? What is it that draws young people to live in particular places after they graduate from college or university? Why are more and more people moving to rural communities within commuting distance of the city? Those are the kind of issues undergraduate students will discuss while taking the new Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 1F90) online course, which is available for the 2014-15 academic year. "We're trying to give them a preliminary glimpse at the work human geographers do, how they do it, (and) the different ways that human geographers study places," said Chris Fullerton, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, who will join Professor Catherine Jean-Nash in teaching the course. "The essence of human geography is trying to better understand the world and to make sense of all the things happening in it. It is also about looking at how the particular characteristics of places may influence how events unfold in those places and what it means for the people living there". [The Brock News](#)

UVic PhD geography candidate Christina Service shows grizzly bears moving onto islands along the central BC coast: Grizzly bears are moving onto islands along the central BC coast, according to new research by [Christina Service](#), a University of Victoria PhD candidate in geography. Collaborating with other wildlife scientists from UVic, the Kitsoo/Xais-xais-operated Spirit Bear Research Foundation, and the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Service found evidence of grizzly bears on 10 central coast islands—affirming local Indigenous knowledge that the bears are on the move. "Remote cameras located at non-invasive hair snag sites detected a range of individual grizzly bears, including mothers and cubs," said Service. "The snagged hair provided DNA material that revealed species, gender and individual identity of bears." Through two years of interview work with Kitsoo/Xais-xais and Heiltsuk Nations who live in the area, map work and the collection of scientific data, the research team documented an increase in sightings of island bears over the past three decades. They say the presence of grizzlies on islands could trigger new and legally enforceable habitat protection. The grizzly bears that have currently migrated to islands are not protected because they have moved outside the conservation boundary recognized by the Province of British Columbia. [UVic Media Tips](#)

Carleton U's Chris Burn and Iain Wallace awarded RCGS 2014 Camsell Medals: Two veteran Royal Canadian Geographical Society volunteers — Chris Burn and Iain Wallace — will receive Camsell Medals this year. Up to 2 medals may be awarded each year for outstanding service to the Society. For the last 31 years, **Iain Wallace**, professor emeritus, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Carleton University, served the Society in a number of capacities. He was a member of the Research Grants Committee (also serving as its Chair), the Awards Committee, the Policy & Planning Committee and the Editorial Advisory Committee. In addition, he served on the Board of Governors from 1995 to 2000 and 2010. **Chris Burn**, professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, has been involved with the Society for 20 years. He has served on the Research Grants Committee (also serving as its Chair), the Policy & Planning Committee and the Nominating Committee (also serving as its Chair). Chris was on the Board of Governors from 2001 to 2009. He served on the Executive as the Society's Vice-President from 2005 to 2009. During the long period of their involvement, the Society benefited greatly from their expertise, wisdom and dedication. The Camsell Medals are well-deserved recognition for these two Fellows and their many contributions to the Society. [RCGS Fellows Journal](#)

U Victoria's Phil Dearden gives keynote address at 5th World Ecotourism Conference: Phil Dearden, Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, recently gave an opening Keynote Address titled "Marine Protected Areas: Anchors for Ocean Sustainability, Platforms for Community Development?" at the 5th World Ecotourism Conference, Cebu, Philippines, Feb 19-22. The 5th World Ecotourism Conference under the theme — "Marine and Coastal Ecotourism: Oceans of Uncertainties, Waves of Opportunities" provided a strategic podium for high level ecotourism experts, proponents, practitioners, stakeholders, legislators, educators and consultants to network and share among their peers their knowledge and experiences with coastal communities in developing nations. Professor Dearden, Leader of the Marine Protected Areas Research Group at the University of Victoria, reviewed the declining health of global marine ecosystems and the ecosystem services that support coastal livelihoods. One of the main tools to address these declines is marine protected areas (MPAs) if they are planned and implemented in an effective manner. Professor Dearden drew on his global experience in this area to illustrate some of the potential for MPAs to contribute to marine conservation and assist in enhancing coastal community livelihoods. [RCGS Fellows Journal](#)

Memorial U Geography graduate spotlight on Creighton Connolly, M.A.: Creighton Connolly graduated with a MA in Geography in 2012. He was recruited to the Geography Department by his advisor, Dr. Josh Lepawsky, to work on a project involving the mapping of international trade in electronic waste. As a student, Creighton received funding from a SSHRC grant for the project, baseline graduate support, and employment as a teaching assistant. His research was based in Singapore, where he investigated "the city-state's role in facilitating the international trade and traffic in electronic waste." Creighton is studying in the School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED) at the University of Manchester, where he is a Marie Currie Fellow and PhD candidate. His PhD research is in human geography, and he is working on a project (EU funded) that is focused on political ecology. His research project "examines the landscape political ecology of edible birds' nest harvesting in Malaysian cities, particularly in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Malacca and George Town (Penang)." Creighton credits two main experiences in the Geography Department at MUN that have benefited him as he continues his postgraduate education: the "rigor and diversity of the course work," and second, the "supervision received from Dr. Lepawsky and other members of [his] supervisory committee was extremely useful." [MUN Geography](#)

Mount Allison U adjunct professor Stuart Semple meets with Australians involved with new National Curriculum: [Stuart Semple](#) of Nova Scotia has been meeting in Australia with people involved with geography in its new National Curriculum. Geography will be a compulsory subject, stand-alone, conceptually structured and place-based. In New South Wales, which most closely resembles

Ontario in providing geographical education, the subject will be compulsory to grade 10 and optional in grades 11 and 12. The Geography Teachers' Association of NSW (the equivalent of the Ontario Association for Geography and Environmental Education) is organizing seminars to prepare teachers for it. In other states, where geography has been less emphasized or there is a shortage of qualified teachers, it is likely to be compulsory to grade 8. The Australians were pleased to see Canada's St. John's Declaration developed by the RCGS and Canadian Association of Geographers. As implementation of the declaration proceeds, opportunities could abound for ongoing and formal dialogue, and even visitor exchanges. Geographic educators in the two countries can learn much from each other. [RCGS Fellows Journal](#)

Brock U's Christopher Fullerton studies rural economic development: [Christopher Fullerton](#), an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Brock University has received a grant from the Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRISS) to assist him with his in-depth longitudinal study of rural economic development. In particular, his case study community is the small town of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan (population 1200). He has been studying this community since 2005 by interviewing key community members at various times since then. These interviews enable the participants to provide a first-hand account of their experiences in the development process, to reflect on what development strategies have or haven't worked well over time, and to consider the importance of social relationships in achieving community economic development goals. According to Dr. Fullerton, this project will "advance our understanding of how community economic development (CED) initiatives can enhance the quality-of-place and quality-of-life in Canada's small rural communities. This research will provide communities, economic development practitioners and rural policymakers with clear evidence of how place-based, grassroots-driven CED initiatives work, the challenges that are typically encountered through such a process, and the long-term benefits they can bring to rural communities." [Brock News Around Campus](#)

U Toronto News watches geography graduates Nishi Kumar and Francesco Petrisano: Writer Dominic Ali shares the stories of U of T's city builders Nishi Kumar and Francesco Petrisano. **Nishi Kumar** just received her Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in Environmental Geography and Urban Studies. During her final year, this Winnipeg-raised resident worked as a research assistant on a community project in Toronto's low-income Regent Park neighborhood. Four years at U of T have also made their mark on Kumar's approach to life. "Being surrounded by classmates, teachers and colleagues from dramatically different backgrounds was often challenging, but always rewarding," she says. "I was exposed to so many new perspectives and had to re-assess my own." **Francesco Petrisano** recently with a Bachelor of Arts double major in urban studies and environmental geography. While at U of T, Petrisano interned with the arts non-profit Artscape, where he mapped the existence of "art deserts" throughout Toronto. His work will help Artscape fulfill its mission to make creative spaces available to artists and organizers that transform communities. [U Toronto News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Rizwan Shahid. 2014. [Integrating spatial analysis and system dynamics to model childhood overweight and obesity prevalence](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Calgary Alberta. Supervisor: Stefania Bertazzon.

Linlin Xu. 2014. [Mixture of latent variable models for remotely sensed image processing](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Jonathan Li.



U Calgary Geographers Mryka Hall-Beyer, Dianne Draper, Byron Miller, Kathy Rettie, Darren Sjogren, Aaron Williams and Andrea Freeman awarded Teaching and Learning Grant for a project that looks at integrating experiential learning into a course. [UCalgary News](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser has been doing some popular writing on topics relating to food and food security. He recently posted an article Are More Food Protests around the corner? on CNN's [Fareed Zakaria's website](#).

UBC Professor Emeritus Olav Slaymaker conducted a field trip in July for a group of 25 Austrian students from the Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna across the Canadian Cordillera from Vancouver to Whitehorse and from Victoria to Banff and Jasper.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

David Frost Attaway, Kathryn H Jacobsen, Allan Falconer, Germana Manca and Nigel M Waters. 2014. [Assessing the methods needed for improved dengue mapping: a SWOT analysis](#). The Pan African Medical Journal 17:289. doi:10.11604/pamj.2014.17.289.3435

J.L. Blythe. 2014. [Resilience and social thresholds in small-scale fishing communities](#). Sustainability Science. DOI10.1007/s11625-014-0253-9

T. Chu and X. Guo. 2014. [An assessment of fire occurrence regime and performance of Canadian fire weather index in south central Siberian boreal region](#). Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences Discussion 2:4711–4742.

Rachel Engler-Stringer, Tayyab Shah, Scott Bell and Nazeem Muhajarine. 2014. [Geographic access to healthy and unhealthy food sources for children in neighbourhoods and from elementary schools in a mid-sized Canadian city](#). Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology. DOI:10.1016/j.sste.2014.07.001

Jason N. Goetz, Rainer Bell and Alexander Brenning, 2014. [Could surface roughness be a poor proxy for landslide age? Results from the Swabian Alb, Germany](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3630

Stefan Gössling, Daniel Scott and C. Michael Hall. 2014. [Inter-market variability in CO2 emission-intensities in tourism: Implications for destination marketing and carbon management](#). Tourism Management 46:203–212.

Peter Johnson and Pamela Robinson. 2014. [Civic hackathons: Innovation, procurement, or civic engagement?](#) Review of Policy Research 31:349–357.

Scott F. Lamoureux, Melissa J. Lafrenière and Elena A. Favaro. 2014. [Erosion dynamics following localized permafrost slope disturbances](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2014GL060677

Joseph Leibovitz. 2014. Insurgent citizenship: Radicalism, co-optation and neighbourhood geopolitics among the Palestinian citizens of Haifa, Israel. In S. Griggs, A.J. Norval & H. Wagenaar (Eds.),

[Practices of Freedom: Decentred Governance, Conflict and Democratic Participation](#). 249-276. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Yue Liu, Qiuming Cheng, Qinglin Xia and Xinqing Wang. 2014. [Mineral potential mapping for tungsten polymetallic deposits in the Nanling metallogenic belt, South China](#). *Journal of Earth Science* 25:689-700.

Stephen K. Oni, Martyn N. Futter, Jim Buttle and Peter J. Dillon. 2014. [Hydrological footprints of urban developments in the Lake Simcoe watershed, Canada: a combined paired-catchment and change detection modeling approach](#). *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10290

Dave Murray-Rust, Derek T. Robinson, Eleonore Guillem, Eleni Karali and Mark Rounsevell. 2014. [An open framework for agent based modelling of agricultural land use change](#). *Environmental Modelling & Software* 61:19–38.

Nancy Perry, L. Earle Reybold and Nigel Waters. 2014. [“Everybody was looking for a good government job”: Occupational choice during segregation in Arlington, Virginia](#). *Journal of Urban History* 40:719-741.

Christina N. Service, Megan S. Adams, Kyle A. Artelle, Paul Paquet, Laura V. Grant and Chris T. Darimont. 2014. [Indigenous knowledge and science unite to reveal spatial and temporal dimensions of distributional shift in wildlife of conservation concern](#). *PLoS ONE* 9: e101595.

Kate Trincsi, Thi-Thanh-Hiên Pham and Sarah Turner. 2014. [Mapping mountain diversity: Ethnic minorities and land use land cover change in Vietnam's borderlands](#). *Land Use Policy* 41: 484–497.

Jason J. Venkiteswaran, Sherry L. Schiff and Marcus B. Wallin. 2014. [Large carbon dioxide fluxes from headwater boreal and sub-boreal streams](#). *PLoS ONE* 9: e101756.

Other “Geographical” News

Solve climate change make people smaller: Bigger people consume more energy, say researchers, who are proposing that reducing the size of humans could mitigate climate change. The plan to engineer a shorter, smaller human race to cope with climate change is almost as big and bold as the schemes of people working to convince themselves climate change won't affect them. [The Guardian](#)

Lead pollution beat explorers to South Pole, persists today: Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole in December 1911. More than 100 years later, an international team of scientists has proven that air pollution from industrial activities arrived to the planet's southern pole long before any human. Using data from 16 ice cores, industrial lead contamination was pervasive throughout Antarctica by the late 19th century. [ScienceDaily](#)

The visitor sensescape in Kluane National Park and Reserve: The importance of tourism to the sustainability of northern parks and the need for research to better understand how natural environments are experienced are well established in the literature. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with overnight visitors in Kluane National Park and Reserve in Canada's northern periphery. Content analysis identified the senses – especially the visual – as the predominant themes of the experience. [Journal of Unconventional Parks, Tourism & Recreation Research](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

IN A NOT SO SURPRISING MOVE, PRIME MINISTER HARPER HAS SIGNED ANOTHER TRADE DEAL THAT WILL SEE THE EXCHANGE OF A SOUTH AMERICAN ALPACA FOR THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



The CAG 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>
