



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**The geography PhD in Canada, by Audrey Kobayashi:** This overview of trends in PhD training in Canada shows very robust enrolments across the country, but especially in Ontario where growth has been rapid since the inception of the Reaching Higher program. Programs are well funded and of high intellectual quality. There is no doubt that the generational transition from a majority of faculty having been trained abroad in the 1970s to the majority trained in Canada today has resulted in strong development of research on geographies of Canada. The future prospects for those currently enrolled in Canadian PhD programs is difficult to assess. More in-depth research is required to assess where graduates are currently being placed, and where there is demand: in international programs, in government and the private sector, and in the growing community college sector. [Geojournal](#)

**Québec City to welcome 2000 geographers in 2018:** During the recent International Geographical Union (IGU) Regional Conference held in Krakow, Poland, the IGU executive committee unanimously approved Québec City to host the 2018 IGU Regional Conference. This important decision marks the first IGU conference in North America in two decades, and will encourage the participation of French-speaking geographers. August 6–10, 2018, some 2,000 geographers from all over the world will be convening at the Québec City Convention Centre. The spinoffs from this international conference are estimated at nearly \$3 million—a boom for the regional economy. Backed by the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), Regroupement des géographes du Québec (RGQ), and Université Laval's geography department, Québec City's application to become a host city was successfully organized and secured by two tenured Université Laval geography professors—Dr. Laurent Bourdeau and CAG executive committee member Dr. Matthew Hatvany—and by Jocelyn Guertin, international market account executive with the Québec City Convention Centre. The local organizing committee is based in Université Laval's geography department, and is already at work planning the scientific conference on human and physical geography. The program will feature a slew of pre- and post-conference activities, including exciting field trips and a unique excursion into the North. Geographers from foreign countries will have the chance to explore the natural and cultural diversity of Canada's geography, and their Canadian colleagues will have an unparalleled opportunity to share their work. [ITCM News](#)

**Canadian geographers at International Symposium held in Tumbler Ridge:** Experts on aging and volunteerism recently gathered in Tumbler Ridge for presentations, discussions and deep thoughts on the similarities and differences between rural communities around the world when it comes to getting older. Mark Skinner, from Trent University, says the conference was held in Tumbler Ridge because it is one of the fastest aging resource towns in Canada. Since 1991, the number of people 65 and over has gone from 20 to 265, a 1225 percent increase. Skinner says more work needs to be done to understand how communities are responding to the challenges and opportunities of population aging, but says there is “compelling evidence” that the voluntary sector and volunteers have a key role to play in creating supportive environments for aging in place and positive community development. The presentations began with Neil Hanlon, Chair of the Geography Program at UNBC, and a presentation that defined the scope of what the symposium was about. The second session, on rural population aging, ended with a presentation by Denise Cloutier of the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, who presented data from a study comparing aging in rural and urban environments in the Fraser Valley Health Authority area. One of the big findings of her study is that a large majority of rural residents are aging in place rather than moving into long term care facilities. [Tumbler Ridge News](#)

**U Guelph’s Evan Fraser to receive Trudeau Fellowship:** A University of Guelph geography professor teaching global food security in novel ways has received a prestigious research award from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Evan Fraser will receive one of three 2014 Trudeau Fellowships, worth \$225,000 over three years. He is the first U of G professor to receive the honour. Says Desmarais: “It speaks highly of Evan’s reputation and to the contribution he is making in Canada and beyond.” Fraser joined U of G in 2010 as a geography professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Human Security. He has raised awareness of the social and environmental consequences of food price volatility and sought ways to reduce waste in global food systems. Most recently, he created “[Feeding Nine Billion](#),” a project intended to spark discussion through social media about feeding the Earth’s ballooning human population. [U Guelph News Release](#)

**UBC MA student Caroline Grego wins CSN-RÉC Prize:** UBC MA student Caroline Grego for has won the MA-level Major Research Paper Prize from CSN-RÉC (Réseau d’études canadiennes). The winning paper as titled, “*Imagining a Community-Oriented ‘National Park Nature: Conflict, Management, and Conservation in the Proposed South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen National Park Reserve.*” According to the congratulatory message from the CSN-RÉC, “The adjudicating committee members agreed that Grego’s thesis represents a significant contribution to the field of Canadian Studies. Starting from a personal narrative reflecting on her relationship with the environment of the Okanagan Valley and her native South Carolina and moving into a nuanced discussion of the politics surrounding the proposed South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen National Park Reserve, Grego’s thesis combines an impressive theoretical grounding in concepts of nature and wilderness, a thorough exploration of the history of the region, and a balanced acknowledgement of the plurality of voices in this debate. We enjoyed reading this thesis a great deal and wish to congratulate Caroline on a fine piece of work.” [UBC Geography](#)

## **UFV's Department of Geography and the Environment is celebrating 40 years of Geography in the Fraser Valley:**

UFV's Department of Geography and the Environment is celebrating 40 years of Geography in the Fraser Valley. The first Geography course offered at the then Fraser Valley College was offered in 1974, and the first Geography faculty member was hired the following year. Building on the theme "Local and Beyond", UFV is celebrating its 40th anniversary with events throughout the year and in the communities that the universities serves. In honour of its 40th anniversary, the UFV Department of Geography and the Environment has launched its Research Notes series. The first of these was produced by Dr. Lenore Newman and Dr. Denver Nixon is titled "The Effectiveness of Farm-Centred Land Use Regulations in Periurban Areas: The Case of British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve".

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### **Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers**

B. Crawford and A. Christen. 2014. [Spatial variability of carbon dioxide in the urban canopy layer and implications for flux measurements](#). Atmospheric Environment.

DOI:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.08.052

J.N. Goetz, R.H. Guthrie and A. Brenning. 2014. [Forest harvesting is associated with increased landslide activity during an extreme rainstorm on Vancouver Island, Canada](#). Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences Discussions 2:5525–5574.

A. Hasler, M. Geertsema, V. Foord, S. Gruber and J. Noetzli. 2014. [The influence of surface characteristics, topography, and continentality on mountain permafrost in British Columbia](#). The Cryosphere Discussion 8:4779–4822.

Hung Chak Ho, Anders Knudby, Paul Sirovyak, Yongming Xu, Matus Hodul and Sarah B. Henderson. 2014. [Mapping maximum urban air temperature on hot summer days](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 154:38–45.

Reiko Obokata, Lusia Veronis and Robert McLeman. 2014. [Empirical research on international environmental migration: a systematic review](#). Population and Environment 36:111-135.

Andrew J. Perkins and Tracy A. Brennand. 2014. [Refining the pattern and style of Cordilleran Ice Sheet retreat: palaeogeography, evolution and implications of lateglacial ice-dammed lake systems on the southern Fraser Plateau, British Columbia, Canada](#). Boreas.

DOI:10.1111/bor.12100

R.L. Raddatz, T.N. Papakyriakou, B.G. Else, M.G. Asplin, L.M. Candlish, R.J. Galley and D.G. Barber. 2014. [Downwelling longwave radiation and atmospheric winter states in the western maritime Arctic](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI: 10.1002/joc.4149

Tod D. Rutherford and John Holmes. 2014. [Manufacturing resiliency: economic restructuring and automotive manufacturing in the Great Lakes region](#). Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society. DOI:10.1093/cjres/rsu014

Lianne Soller, Moshe Ben-Shoshan, Daniel W. Harrington, Megan Knoll, Joseph Fragapane, Lawrence Joseph, Yvan St. Pierre, Sebastien La Vieille, Kathi Wilson, Susan J. Elliott and Ann E. Clarke. 2014. [Prevalence and predictors of food allergy in Canada: a focus on vulnerable populations](#). The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice. DOI:10.1016/j.jaip.2014.06.009

Jeremy G. Venditti and Michael Church. 2014. [Morphology and controls on the position of a gravel-sand transition: Fraser River, British Columbia](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/2014JF003147

Lusia Veronis and Robert McLeman. 2014. [Research brief: Environmental influences on African migration to Canada: Focus group findings from Ottawa-Gatineau](#). Population and Environment. DOI 10.1007/s11111-014-0214-3.

Fumin Wang, Alemu Gonsamo, Jing M. Chen, T. Andrew Black and Bin Zhou. 2014. [Instantaneous-to-daily GPP upscaling schemes based on a coupled photosynthesis-stomatal conductance model: correcting the overestimation of GPP by directly using daily average meteorological inputs](#). Oecologia. DOI:10.1007/s00442-014-3059-7

Jianghua Wu and Nigel T. Roulet. 2014. [Climate change reduces the capacity of northern peatlands to absorb the atmospheric carbon dioxide: the different responses of bogs and fens](#). Global Biogeochemical Cycles. DOI:10.1002/2014GB004845

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Matthew Vetta. 2014. [Examining slope instability dynamics on a small bank slope along the Schoharie Creek in New York State](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Jaclyn Cockburn.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Experts making maps through Google Earth to predict malaria:** Experts are working to create an online platform that health workers around the world can use to predict where malaria is likely to be transmitted using data on Google Earth Engine. The goal is to enable resource poor countries to wage more targeted and effective campaigns against the mosquito-borne disease, which kills 600,000 people a year, most of them children. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Geography professors compile database of dissertations to analyze changes over time:** Two professors frustrated by the lack of analytical data on the evolution of their discipline have compiled all of the field’s doctoral dissertations into a database to track growth and changes in the field. David Kaplan and Jennifer Mapes hope their study will provide geographers with a comprehensive overview of shifts in the regions and topics of interest from the ground up. Some findings were as they expected. Dissertations related to more analytical work, such as geographic information systems, have grown more popular in the past few decades, for example. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

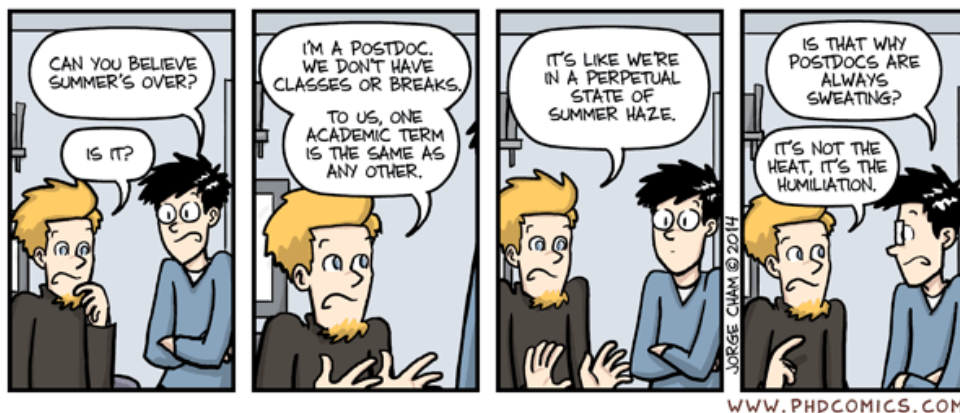


**How to leverage media attention into a tenure-track faculty position:** In the increasingly arduous toil for tenure at research universities, it's no longer sufficient that an assistant professor has acceptable publication and teaching records. Promotion committees look for evidence of a national reputation, such that a scholar's name is associated with a certain brand of research among his or her peers. A national reputation allows professors to attract desirable resources for themselves and their universities, such as grant money, talented colleagues and high-calibre graduate students. Any evidence that a scholar has begun to develop a national reputation during their PhD studies signals their future capacity to contribute in meaningful ways to their university. Securing media attention for your research as soon as you start publishing can go a long way in reassuring prospective employers of your potential to establish a national reputation. With the proliferation of media by which news is delivered, there are more opportunities than ever for PhD students to gain attention for their research. [University Affairs](#)

**QS world university rankings 2014 in geography:** The top 100 universities in the world for [geography](#), as ranked by higher education data specialists QS. [The Guardian](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>

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

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