

GeogNews



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Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

Western U Geography PhD student Erin Huner wants to make the past accessible for SW Ontario community: Erin Huner wants to make the past accessible for one southwestern Ontario community. The Geography PhD student has long been intrigued by the idea of nation-building – giving autonomy back to communities from which it had been taken away. And through a collaborative project with Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island), she is helping the nation access at least one small piece of its past. Huner's work looks to create a framework for an indigenized traditional knowledge database containing archival elder interviews. That idea recently earned her the 2014 Canadian Institutes of Health (CIHR) Institute for Aboriginal Peoples' Health Scientific Director's Award for PhD work on Aboriginal Health. "The reason, say Walpole, is in the condition they're in is because of enforced colonialism," Huner said. "We're hoping instead of doing this under sort of the guise of decolonization, what we're really looking at is the idea of nation-building. We recognize you can't just wipe the slate clean and say, 'Now you're on your own, make a nation,' because that is a dangerous proposition. [Western News](#)

U Fraser Valley Geography and the Environment (GATE) is hosting a panel discussion on Monday, September 29, on "Pipelines, Rights, and Boundaries". The panel includes discussants from the Fraser Valley Regional District, City of Abbotsford, UFV, and the Sto:lo Nation. The panel is scheduled from 7-9 pm, on the Abbotsford campus, in B101. Forum is free, and open to the public. [UFV Events](#). On Wednesday, October 1, UFV is also hosting a forum called "*Life in Agriburbia*", organized by Canada Research Chair and GATE faculty member Lenore Newman. The forum will explore the complex challenges created in the spaces where food producers and suburban development intersect. "Agriburban development requires a delicate balancing act as planners struggle to meet national food production requirements and local residential demands," Newman notes. The panel will include farmers, academics, and city planners from across the lower mainland. The even will begin at 4pm on the Abbotsford campus, in B101. Forum is free, and open to the public. More information at: [UFV Today](#)

U Western's Isaac Luginaah named an Inaugural Member of 'The College': [Isaac Luginaah](#) of the Department of Geography at Western University has been selected as an inaugural member of the [Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists](#). Those named to the College represent the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership in Canada.

Carleton U's John Clarke receives the 2013 J.J. Talman Award: John Clarke, is a historical geographer at Carleton University, Ottawa where he holds the title of Distinguished Research Professor. Recently The Ontario Historical Society presented the 2013 J.J. Talman Award for best book on Ontario's social, economic, political, or cultural history to John Clarke for his book, [The Ordinary People of Essex; Environment, Culture, and Economy on the Frontier of Upper Canada](#), published by McGill-Queen's University Press. *The Ordinary People of Essex* is a superb analysis of how Ontario's nineteenth-century settlers were actors pursuing individual, family, and culturally determined scripts in their interaction with the environment, culture, and economy. [Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies News](#)

UNBC geography professor Greg Halseth says clubs hurt by changing demographics, expansion of social media: As UNBC's Canada Research chair in Northern B.C. for rural and small town studies, geography professor Greg Halseth says the struggles of service clubs to survive and keep up their activities in communities are part of a North American-wide phenomenon." Part of it has to do with changing demographics, it's an older population than it was years ago, and part of it has to do with the slackening off of the baby boom so there are fewer young people coming up," said Halseth."People's lives have just gotten busier and there are a lot more ways to interact than there were in the past. Service clubs, as well as providing valued services and activities in the community, were a way to interact. Now, we can connect with people in our social circle around the world, face-to-face on an instantaneous basis."That doesn't mean the parks and arenas they build and the medical services they fund aren't needed. In fact, with government funding sources diminishing as the population ages, the need for service clubs to provide goods and services that make communities better places is greater than ever. [Prince George Citizen](#)

Nipissing U's April James helping understand Lake Nipissing: In the face of harmful algae blooms popping up on Lake Nipissing, students and researchers at Nipissing University are working to better understand what is happening in the lake. The Lake Nipissing Bays project involves students and faculty from the university's Geography department, Computer Science and Mathematics departments and Watershed Analysis Centre collecting and interpreting key data for a greater understanding of water quality conditions in different parts of the lake, including bays of interest for drinking water quality, recreation and fish habitat. The project began in 2013, when researchers in the Geography department began intensive monitoring using a lake buoy to suspend instrumentation in the water column. "In order to protect the longterm health of Lake Nipissing, we need to understand exactly what is happening in it and how a number of factors could be impacting water quality" said Dr. April James, Canada Research Chair – Watershed Analysis and Modelling at Nipissing University. "This is a long term project where we need to collect data over a number of years to start answering our scientific questions. With this project, we hope to build a more complete understanding of all the factors affecting the lake, which can be used to inform future decisions." [Nipissing U News](#)

Western U master's student Kevin Vuong answering the Geneva Challenge: Every year millions of Indonesian workers, predominately women, leave their families and villages to seek work abroad as migrant workers. The exploitation and poor treatment of these female workers continues to cause public outcry and has even included killings and families requesting 'blood money' to release women falsely accused of crimes. Western student Kevin Vuong is hoping to begin to reverse this destructive trend. A graduate of Western's Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies program, and currently working on a master's degree in Geography, Vuong is part of a Canadian team being flown to Geneva, Switzerland, this weekend to present their proposal. Vuong, who teamed up with four students from the University of Toronto, is heading to the inaugural Geneva Challenge on Empowering Women for Development to compete against two other global finalists – one from the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), one from the University of Reading (U.K.) – to promote gender equality and empower women. [Western News](#)

Western U's Jason Gilliland moderates a community chat about London's future: Emerging Leaders' community conversation was crafted to give people a venue to weigh in on several important issues including ReThink London and The London Plan, what wards individual participants represented, and how the public can best engage with council. Western University professor Jason Gilliland moderated the conversation. Gilliland, director of the urban development program at Western, said the topics discussed at the forum are "big issues, important issues for the future of London," and so it is important for people to have their say on them. Gilliland admitted he could well have been the ideal choice for moderator because, as a college professor, he gets to hear from Emerging Leaders' 18-35 demographic on a regular basis. "People's behaviours aren't necessarily dependant on age. We want (young people) to understand their voices are being heard," Gilliland said. "We want them to get a taste of democracy in action. This is a wonderful forum. I think of this as London's living room and we are having a comfortable chat about these issues." [London Community News.com](#)



Western U's Sarah Mason 2014 Vanier Scholar receives \$50,000 annually for up to three years for her work on Community conflict and management challenges surrounding urban biosolids in rural areas. [Western U News](#)

Western U [Geography Urban Development](#) Students Alexandra Fieder, Madeleine Hicks, Julianne Wood and Cornelia Le Awarded Scholarships from Toronto CREW. [Western's Urban Development Program](#) were recipients of [Toronto CREW](#) Scholarships. Toronto CREW is a business development network for women across a broad cross section of disciplines.

Western U Geography Students Nathaniel Pace, Robert Richards and Kailey Brisbin received SIOR Awards. The Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) is the leading professional commercial and industrial real estate association, with more than 3,000 members in more than 630 cities in 29 countries.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Amy Buckland. 2014. [Spatial analysis of LEED Projects in the Toronto and Vancouver census metropolitan areas from 2001 to 2013](#). Master of Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, Ryerson University. Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe.

Rushdia Mehreen. 2013. [How are inner-city population densities affected by freeways? A study of eight Canadian cities](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisors: Craig Townsend and Jochen Jaeger.

Danielle Mitchell. 2014. [Identifying salinization through multispectral band analysis: Lake Urmia, Iran](#). Master of Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, Ryerson University. Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Heather Castleden and E. Skinner. 2014. [Whitewashing Indigenous water rights in Canada](#). In: Adaptation to Climate Change Through Water Resources Management: Capacity, Equity and Sustainability. Edited by: Elena Lopez-Gunn and Dominic Stucker. Routledge.

Jason N. Goetz, Raymond Cabrera, Alexander Brenning, Gerhard Heiss and Philip Leopold. 2015. [Modelling landslide susceptibility for a large geographical area using weights of evidence in lower Austria, Austria](#). Engineering Geology for Society and Territory. Volume 2:927-930.

Britta J.L. Jensen, Sean Pyne-O'Donnell, Gill Plunkett, Duane G. Froese, Paul D.M. Hughes, Michael Sigl, Joseph R. McConnell, Matthew J. Amesbury, Paul G. Blackwell, Christel van den Bogaard, Caitlin E. Buck, Dan J. Charman, John J. Clague, Valerie A. Hall, Johannes Koch, Helen Mackay, Gunnar Mallon, Lynsey McColl and Jonathan R. Pilcher. 2014. [Transatlantic distribution of the Alaskan White River Ash](#). Geology 42:875-878.

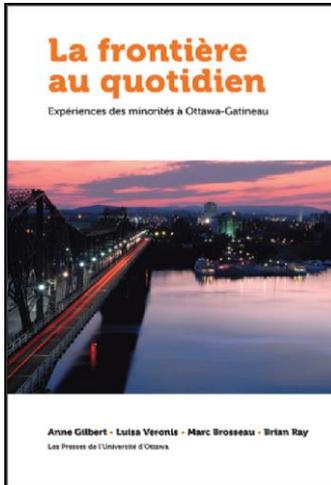
Jennifer Logan and Robert Murdie. 2014. Home in Canada? [The settlement experiences of Tibetans in Parkdale, Toronto](#). Journal of International Migration and Integration. DOI:10.1007/s12134-014-0382-0

Graham McDowell, Eleanor Stephenson and James Ford. 2014. [Adaptation to climate change in glaciated mountain regions](#). Climatic Change 126:77-91.

Bradley A. Wilson and Sarah McKenzie. 2014. [Mapping food desert persistency in Thunder Bay, Ontario, 1996-2006](#). Canadian Social Science 10.

New Book

Anne Gilbert, Luisa Veronis, Marc Brosseau and Brian Ray. 2014. [La frontière au quotidien. Expériences des minorités à Ottawa-Gatineau](#). Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa.



La région d'Ottawa-Gatineau a quelque chose d'unique. Traversée par la frontière provinciale qui a la plus forte charge symbolique au pays, elle se caractérise par une dynamique particulière. De part et d'autre de la frontière, les populations, les cultures et les pratiques sont différentes. D'aucuns investissent la région d'une mission particulière : contribuer à limiter les risques de dislocation du Canada en favorisant une territorialité transfrontalière des individus et des groupes pour devenir ainsi le creuset d'une nouvelle identité canadienne. Les populations minoritaires sont plus vulnérables et davantage susceptibles de mettre en place des stratégies particulières pour tirer profit des occasions qu'offre la frontière. Cet ouvrage, rédigé par quatre géographes de l'Université d'Ottawa, jette un éclairage nouveau sur les effets intrinsèquement ambigus et contradictoires de la frontière dans la région de la capitale nationale.

The Ottawa-Gatineau metropolitan region is unique in many ways. Divided by one of the most symbolically charged borders in Canada – between Ontario and Quebec – the city's physical territory and social environments are strongly influenced by two very different provincial administrations and city governments. Through numerous legal and regulatory practices, as well as countless acts of everyday life, the interprovincial border is instrumental in influencing social groups, cultures, and practices. In short, Ottawa-Gatineau's social geography and border are tightly wound together. The Ottawa-Gatineau region also has a unique role at the national scale: the ability of groups and individuals to building meaningful social relations that cross a linguistic and identity border speaks to the region's importance in building a new Canadian identity. The focus of this study is on minority populations who often are the most vulnerable to the inequities created by the border, as well as extremely strategic in taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by long-standing border practices. Written by four geographers from the University of Ottawa, this study sheds new light on the ambiguous and contradictory effects of the interprovincial border in the national capital region.

Other “Geographical” News

Status of Geography Education in the United States: This report was prepared to examine the nature of geography as a school subject in the K- 12 United States education system. While geography standards and concepts are represented in all 50 state’s social studies standards, only 10 states require a geography course for graduation at the high school level, and 17 states require a geography course at the middle school level. Efforts have been undertaken to remedy the issue of acquiring consistent funding for geography education initiatives and projects, however, geography remains a named core academic subject with no dedicated federal funding stream since the passage of No Child Left Behind in 2001. [National Geographic Society Education Foundation Report](#)

Universities need scholarship that is more confusing – and more exciting: When academic leaders proclaim that the problems of the modern world are too complex for traditional disciplines, and that we have to move to a "new paradigm" of inter-disciplinary thought, a polite cough may be the appropriate response. Despite their claims to be breaking down barriers, virtually every university is still designed around the idea that universities teach in single-subject disciplines. [The Guardian](#)

Microplastic pollution discovered in St. Lawrence River: A team of researchers from McGill University and the Quebec government have discovered microplastics (in the form of polyethylene ‘microbeads,’ less than 2 mm in diameter) widely distributed across the bottom of the St. Lawrence River, the first time such pollutants have been found in freshwater sediments. [McGill University News](#)

U.S. releases enhanced shuttle land elevation data: High-resolution topographic data generated from NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) in 2000, previously only available for the United States, will be released globally over the next year, the White House announced at the United Nations Heads of State Climate Summit in New York. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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