



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 328, October 28, 2014
Compiled by Dan Smith [<caq@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)

Simon Fraser U's Valorie Crooks awarded CRC in Health Geographies: Valorie Crooks, an associate professor in the Department of Geography and a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar, is a health geographer who specializes in health services research. She holds the new Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Health Geographies. In 2008, Crooks became the first Canadian researcher to receive a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant to study medical tourism. Since then, she has led many CIHR-funded studies investigating complex, overlapping ethical, equity and consumer issues generated by the industry's prolific global growth. Through the Medical Tourism Research Group, which she founded in 2009 at SFU, Crooks collaborates with numerous researchers on studying patients' private purchase of medical procedures and treatments abroad. Her findings are regularly published in high-profile journals and disseminated through her research group's website. Crooks has also co-edited numerous books, including [Working Bodies](#), which explores how Canadians living with chronic illnesses navigate workplace environments. [SFU News](#)

Carleton U's DGES PhD student Beth Mburu writes about her fieldwork in Kenya: I have to admit that doing field work in rural Kenya has been the highlight of my doctoral work. Which reminds me of something I read from a blog recently "doing a thesis is like mucking out a stableyou have to tackle it one wheelbarrow load of sh*t at a time – if you stay in the stable too long, the stink will kill you" (Thesis Whisperer, 2011). This post is a way for me to step out of the stable for a breather but it is actually more about wheelbarrows than muck. My research is focused on smallholder farmers in Kenya – assessing their interaction with and the role of institutions around themes of climate change and food security. [gLoeb XPress](#)

U British Columbia's Trevor Barnes on how Seattle soars as land costs stall Vancouver growth: In the early 1990s, Vancouver's income and housing balance was slightly better than Seattle's. It's a much different story today. Before Trevor Barnes began a research project comparing the economies of Seattle and Vancouver, he was "a bit snooty" about the city he's called home since 1983. "I thought Vancouver was by far the superior city, and it may well be in terms of environment, but not in terms of economy," said Barnes, a professor at the University of British Columbia who studies economic geography. "We are just pathetic in relation to Seattle." To observers of Vancouver's economy, the city's economic engine increasingly appears to be stuck in neutral. Despite a growing tech sector, renewed activity in film and TV production and stalwart sectors like financial services, incomes continue to lag behind those in other Canadian cities and have even fallen in the past few years compared with other metropolitan areas. [Business Vancouver](#)

Nipissing U's Kirsten Greer and Adam Csank earn grant to study climate, empire and timber trade: Kirsten Greer, assistant professor of Geography and History, and Dr. Adam Csank, assistant professor of Geography, were awarded an Insight Development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for their two-year project, Empire, Trees, and Climate in the North Atlantic: Towards Critical Dendro-Provenancing. Greer, a historical geographer, and Csank, a dendrochronologist, have brought together scholars from geography, marine archaeology, and history to understand how the Atlantic "triangle" trade in timber can inform studies on climate. In the early to mid-nineteenth century, British North America was an integral site in Britain's trans-Atlantic trade of timber, fish, sugar, rum, and molasses with the West Indies. Known today as eastern Canada, the region's forests and watersheds were transformed into the modern world system as the Crown secured lands and timber rights during the Napoleonic Wars. Considering that British North American timber was integral to ship-building, imperial infrastructure (dockyards, fortifications, government buildings), and maritime supremacy in the age of sail, the project's research team will integrate archival and museum research, dendro-provenancing (e.g. analysis of tree ring widths of historic buildings and shipwrecks), and visualizing techniques using GIS in order to uncover important insights into climatic conditions, and forest resource use, of the past. [Nipissing University News](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont on B.C.'s controversial trophy bear hunt: While bear tourism has become an economic boon, the province is expanding a trophy bear hunt that is controversial with both scientists and First Nations. Eighty-seven per cent of British Columbians oppose the killing of the province's largest and most iconic animals, according to a recent poll. That even includes some hunters who feel the bears should not be shot for sport. Carnivore biologist Chris Darimont believes there could be as few as 6,000 grizzlies in B.C. Darimont, who teaches in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, accuses the government of producing "junk science," of padding its count to justify the hunt's continued existence. Admittedly, the provincial government has done a few things to sow doubt. In 1990, for example, it unilaterally doubled the bear's herd size: to 13,160, up from 6,600. Government scientists based the sudden inflation on a single study of B.C.'s southeastern Flathead Range. In 2000, it suppressed the work of one of its own biologists, Dionys de Leeuw, for suggesting the hunt was excessive and could be pushing the bears to extinction. [Macleans](#)

McMaster U's PhD student Chris Higgins sets the record straight on Cable 14's trending: The topic for this episode was Hamilton's rapid transit debate: light rail transit (LRT), bus rapid transit (BRT) and the ongoing confusion over technologies, routes, funding and viability. On the program was Chris Higgins, McMaster PhD student in geography and the lead author of a few reports on LRT in Hamilton; Martinus Geleynse, published of urbanicity and organizer of urban bus tours; and Jim Dunn, professor of Social Science at McMaster specializing in socioeconomic inequalities in health in urban areas. Higgins is a responsible academic and his arguments are consequently nuanced and careful. Yet he leaves no doubt about his own preference for LRT, or his understanding that his report is not an argument against LRT but rather a "call to action" to support LRT with the right planning policies to ensure success. "The LRT/BRT thing is, it's a decision over what vehicles you want to run on a dedicated right-of-way. BRT done properly - which is not reflected in the B-Line today - BRT done properly would be essentially building an LRT without the tracks, and instead of running a train we run a bus right down those dedicated lanes. So we're still losing two lanes of King Street, and I guess Main when it goes around McMaster. But otherwise, it really just comes down to either tracks and trains, or is it a bus? And it provides very similar levels of service. It really comes down to the X factor that's behind a train versus a bus. And from my research, there's no question that people kind of subliminally, or overtly, prefer trains for many things. There's a certain stigma attached with buses and that kind of bleeds into the other elements of why LRT has better city-building capacities." [Raise the Hammer](#)

Carleton U'S Murray Richardson studies metal and mercury exposure in water on Temagami First Nation: Daisy Fannin describes the Temagami First Nation's (TFN) relationship to the land and water as sacred. That's why Fannin, a communications officer with the TFN Band Office, says the community is concerned about metal and mercury exposure in fish and waterways because of mining, and other industrial activities within their traditional territory. Now, a Carleton researcher is teaming up with this community and an educational organization to try and solve the problem. "Mercury is one of the leading causes of fish consumption advisories for Ontario's inland lakes," says Murray Richardson, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University. With funding from Health Canada, Richardson is conducting research in the community, located near Sudbury, Ont., from June 2014 to March 2015. He is studying the types of metals and amount of mercury found in aquatic life and water, and establishing a database that can be used to track changes in metal contaminants from local industries and regional pollution sources over time. This data will help create a baseline that will be available to the community, says Murray – which is especially important since pressure for industrial development is expected to increase, such as the new Young-Davidson gold mine in the northern end of the territory. [Carleton Now](#)

Launch of crowd-sourced information system brings together small-scale fisheries researchers from around the world: Day two of the 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress marked the official launch of the Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF). This online, user-contributed information system offers a platform for people interested in small-scale fisheries around the world to collaborate and share data. The system was showcased throughout the five-day conference, with participants from a diverse range of countries and backgrounds stopping in to contribute and discuss the future role for this tool in small-scale fisheries research. [Memorial Geography](#)

U Toronto's Ron Buliung on making cities more accessible for everyone: Ron Buliung's interest in urban design initially started with his travels to Europe and India where he saw how different cities dealt with issues such as space, wealth, poverty, street life, congestion and transport. But his research became intensely personal with the birth of his youngest daughter, who was born with the genetic neuromuscular disease known as spinal muscular atrophy. The disease profoundly limits her physical mobility, and she requires a power chair to move around on her own. "The moment of her diagnosis instantly changed how I saw the city," says Buliung. An associate professor of geography with the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus, Buliung conducts research that explores the relationship between accessibility and mobility in built environments, such as cities. "I am an obsessed road cyclist and bicycle commuter, so I have a particular appreciation for cities where the bicycles are embedded within the everyday lives of city dwellers. We have a fascinating urban and political geography, neighbourhoods of all shapes, and people from everywhere. I think Toronto should be its own model, and figure out how to do things with help from the public and the local experts that we have here at the University of Toronto, and at the other universities, firms and other institutions located across the region." [U of T News](#)

York U's Tarmo Rimmel leads field course at Lake St. George Conservation Field Centre: From 23-36 October, students enrolled in the Field Studies in Physical Geography (GEOG3540) at York University headed to the Lake St. George Conservation Field Centre to complete the mandatory field camp. Under the supervision of Professor Tarmo Rimmel and with the assistance of Patrick Mojdehi, our technician, 8 different field experiments were conducted. During three intense days, this group of 22 students collected water samples from constructed wetlands, lakes and creeks; cored soils; measured vegetation, and experienced the beauty of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The data collection was based on projects designed by the students and will be further analyzed in the laboratory, leading to substantive research papers by early December. [York Geography News](#)



U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson and her research team develop crowd sourced mapping website that allows cyclists to log and map events such as accidents, hazards and thefts. BikeMaps.org

Brock U's Christine Alic wins CAGONT 2014 Best Student Paper Prize in the undergraduate category with her essay titled "*Contested Landscapes of the Female Gaze: Self Portraits as resistance to gender oppression*". [Brock News Around Campus](#)

U British Columbia's Jonathan Luedee recipient of the 2014 James Bourque Northern Doctoral Scholarship from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. [UBC Geography News](#)

U Ottawa's Luke Copland and Laura Thompson are featured on [Arctic Profiles](#).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jodi N. Axelson, Dan J. Smith, Lori D. Daniels and Rene Alfaro. 2015. [Multicentury reconstruction of western spruce budworm outbreaks in central British Columbia, Canada](#). Forest Ecology and Management 335:235-248.

Patrick Brouder and Dimitri Ioannides. 2014. [Urban tourism and evolutionary economic geography: Complexity and co-evolution in contested spaces](#). Urban Forum. DOI:10.1007/s12132-014-9239-z

P. Dölla, B. Jiménez-Cisneros, T. Oki, N.W. Arnell, G. Benito, J. G. Cogley, T. Jiang, Z.W. Kundzewicz, S. Mwakalila and A. Nishijima. 2014. [Integrating risks of climate change into water management](#). Hydrological Sciences Journal. DOI:10.1080/02626667.2014.967250

Richard Harris. 2014. [Using Toronto to explore three suburban stereotypes, and vice versa](#). Environment and Planning A. DOI:10.1068/a46298

Audrey Kobayashia. 2014. [The dialectic of race and the discipline of geography](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 104:1101-1115.

Mélanie N. Langlois, Jonathan S. Price and Line Rochefort. 2014. [Landscape analysis of nutrient-enriched margins \(lagg\) in ombrotrophic peatlands](#). Science of The Total Environment 505:573-586.

Amy M. Lerner, Thomas K. Rudel, Laura C. Schneider, Megan McGroddy, Diana V. Burbano and Carlos F. Mena. 2014. [The spontaneous emergence of silvo-pastoral landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon: patterns and processes](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI:10.1007/s10113-014-0699-4

Craig Mahoney, Natascha Kljun, Sietse O. Los, Laura Chasmer, Jorg M. Hacker, Christopher Hopkinson, Peter R. J. North, Jacqueline A. B. Rosette and Eva van Gorsel. 2014. [Slope estimation from ICESat/GLAS](#). Remote Sensing 6:10051-10069.

Elanna Nolan and Daniel Hiebert. 2014. [Social Perspectives on National Security: A review of recent literature](#). TSAS Working Paper Series. No.14-10. University of British Columbia.

Michael G. Reid, Colleen Hamilton, Sarah K. Reid, William Trousdale, Cam Hill, Nancy Turner, Chris R. Picard, Cassandra Lamontagne and H. Damon Matthews. 2014. [Indigenous climate change adaptation planning using a values-focused approach: a case study with the Gitga'at Nation](#). *Journal of Ethnobiology* 34:401-424.

Sienna Svob, J Pablo Arroyo-Mora and Margaret Kalacska. 2014. [A wood density and aboveground biomass variability assessment using pre-felling inventory data in Costa Rica](#). *Carbon Balance and Management* 2014, 9:9 doi:10.1186/s13021-014-0009-y

Vivian Wasiuta, Melissa J. Lafrenière, Ann-Lise Norman and Meredith G. Hastings. 2014. [Summer deposition of sulfate and reactive nitrogen to two alpine valleys in the Canadian Rocky Mountains](#). *Atmospheric Environment*. DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.10.041

Other “Geographical” News

Québec City on Map with Geographers: The International Geographical Union (IGU) has unanimously approved Québec City to host its 2018 regional conference. The event, which will run August 6-10, 2018 at the Québec City Convention Centre, will be the first IGU conference held in North America in two decades. Québec City’s bid to become a host city was backed by the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), Regroupement des géographes du Québec, and the geography department at Université Laval. It was organized and secured by two tenured Université Laval geography professors—Dr. Laurent Bourdeau and CAG executive committee member Dr. Matthew Hatvany—and Jocelyn Guertin, international market account executive with the Québec City Convention Centre. The conference is expected to draw approximately 2,000 geographers from around the world. Organizers hope for an uptick in French-speaking delegates thanks to the location. [International Meetings Review](#)

Citizen science network produces accurate maps of atmospheric dust: Measurements by thousands of citizen scientists in the Netherlands using their smartphones and the iSPEX add-on are delivering accurate data on dust particles in the atmosphere that add valuable information to professional measurements. The research team analyzed all measurements from three days in 2013 and combined them into unique maps of dust particles above the Netherlands. The results match and sometimes even exceed those of ground-based measurement networks and satellite instruments. [ScienceDaily](#)

Top ten questions for the PhD oral exam: When you have finally finished writing a PhD dissertation or thesis, and submitted it to the university for review, you are at the end of a long period of grappling with dozens of tricky and detailed problems and issues. For instance, how to upgrade the dodgy paragraph on page 102; what the sources were for Figure 5.7; or how to best (re-)phrase your hypotheses or expectations so as to fit the research you actually did. Perhaps for some weeks after submission these kinds of concerns will buzz around your head. They may even prompt you to lie awake at night rehearsing answers to the examiners, if they should ask about why you did x at one point, instead of y. Yet an oral examination of a doctorate is rarely just an exercise in ‘Spot the problem’/ ‘Frame an answer’ mode. Many PhDers are surprised to find themselves immersed in a far more generalist (albeit still highly professional) conversation than they had initially anticipated. To prepare effectively for the big day and avoid being blind-sided you may need to change mindset a lot. [Writing for Research](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CanGeographers). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](https://twitter.com/CanGeographers)

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

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