



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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York U's Steven Tufts weighs on unpaid internships: Whatever you think of a suggestion by Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz that young people discouraged by unemployment should work for free to bolster their resumes, it's clear that just having experience on one's resume, from unpaid or paid work, won't solve our country's problem with youth unemployment. Besides the well-known issues associated with unpaid labour — only the privileged can work for free, it undercuts the labour market, it's often illegal — the more pressing problem is what comes after. "Government and private sectors don't want to make long term commitments to people, and they require flexibility and demand flexibility," says Steven Tufts, a professor at York University who studies economic geography and labour issues. "It reduces liability and pensions and everything else." [Financial Post](#)

U Victoria's Bike Maps project goes global: A new interactive online map that tracks cycling crash hotspots and near-misses may soon spread to cities across the world. [Bike Maps](#) has already drawn 9,500 online visitors and reports of 466 cycling incidents in its first month of operation, says Trisalyn Nelson of the Department of Geography, who created the project with a small team in UVic's Spatial Pattern Analysis and Research lab. Bike Map's main feature is collecting reports of cycling-involved crashes fusing data from ICBC, the Victoria Police Department and the public, who are invited to submit their own experiences. Researchers are keeping the emphasis on Greater Victoria for now. "What we're seeing is there are hotspots of bike incidents around the city that wouldn't have shown up using strictly ICBC data because they're not vehicle-related and therefore don't result in claims," Nelson said. Building the site was tasked to fourth year undergraduate Taylor Denouden, who spent the summer putting in the work. Now that Bike Maps is live, SPAR masters student Ben Jestico is continuing his graduate work to study predictors of cycling safety. A fourth member, Karen Laberee, is in charge of publicity. [BC Local News](#)

U Waterloo's Susan Elliott releases new edition of Geographies of Health: Susan Elliott, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, cross appointed with the School of Public Health and Health Systems has released a new edition of her seminal book *Geographies of Health: An Introduction*, co-edited with Anthony C. Gatrell of Lancaster University's Lancaster Medical School. As the third edition the publication sets out the debates and reviews evidence linking health outcomes with social and physical environments. The well-established text offers an accessible overview of the theoretical perspectives, methodologies, and research in the field of health geography. [U Waterloo GEM News](#)

Concordia U's Sébastien Caquard discusses "The politics of making maps": Borders remain quite abstract until they are defined, measured and recorded. The process of mapping makes borders real, and cartographers like Concordia University professor Sébastien Caquard understand the politics of creating borders intimately. Twenty years ago, he says, we were mainly users of maps, and now we are also map-makers. How is this changing our world? Technology has both created new sources of border conflict, but is also empowering communities to create their boundaries. Caquard's research interests span the gamut on the subject, from the mapping of cinema, indigenous territories and life stories, but he discussed the politics of map making with OpenCanada for this week's Border Check series — exploring the development of crisis mapping, the risks and advantages of digital mapping for indigenous communities and digital projects that make mapping an exciting field of study.

OpenCanada.org

Université du Québec à Montréal's Laurie Guimond s'intéresse aux relations entre les travailleurs au chantier hydroélectrique de la Romaine: Lancé en 2009, le chantier hydroélectrique de la Romaine, en Minganie, doit s'échelonner jusqu'en 2020. Quatre centrales hydroélectriques seront alors en activité le long de la rivière qui s'écoule sur environ 500 kilomètres. Cet immense chantier emploie quelque 2000 travailleurs, dont des membres de la communauté innue puisqu'il s'agit de leur territoire ancestral. La professeure Laurie Guimond, du Département de géographie, s'intéresse à l'espace social dans lequel évoluent les travailleurs allochtones et autochtones sur ce chantier ainsi qu'aux relations qui s'établissent entre eux. Elle a organisé un cours-terrain de deuxième cycle – Relations interethniques – qui sert de tremplin à un projet de recherche. Sur le chantier ainsi qu'à Havre Saint-Pierre, Ekuanitshit, Baie-Johan-Beetz, Nutashkuan et Natashquan, les jeunes chercheurs ont mené une douzaine d'entrevues avec des travailleurs du chantier et des acteurs clés régionaux, Innus et non Innus, tout en visitant les communautés. «Les gens ont participé au-delà de nos attentes, précise Laurie Guimond. Nous avons pu les questionner sur les relations interethniques au chantier, comme ailleurs en Minganie, mais aussi sur les répercussions sociodémographiques, économiques et environnementales du chantier sur la région. [Actualités UQAM](#)

Memorial U's Norm Catto invites Newfoundlanders to take advantage of climate changes: Norm Catto of the MUN Department of Geography studies coastal management and the impacts of climate change. He said the increase in temperatures forecasted in the coming decades — predicted in his colleague Joel Finnis' 2013 research report on the projected impacts of climate change in this province — should lead to more growing days of at least 10C (about 50 days) and an increase in frost-free days (about 44 days) in parts of Newfoundland and Labrador. The shorter winter seasons, and less snow cover, will also typically mean longer growing seasons, the researcher said. The specific effects will vary throughout the province, even within short proximity in certain areas, but generally a 3 C rise can be expected over the next few decades. The province is also expected to experience more intense precipitation and storm activity in the decades ahead, according to Finnis' study, said Catto. It appears multiple days of intense rain and storm periods will increase, which can be detrimental to the industry in terms of the destruction of infrastructure, resources and products. "We can apply our best practices," Catto said. "We have achieved adaptations. ... We do have some substantial opportunities here to take advantage of the changes we can expect in the climate over the next 40 years or so." [The Telegram](#)

Université du Québec à Rimouski vient de lancer un portail de données géospatiales unique dans l'Est du Québec: Plusieurs types de données géospatiales sont regroupées dans le Géocatalogue. "Nous avons développé cet outil afin de créer un guichet unique pour centraliser, partager et faciliter la recherche de l'information géographique", explique la cartotheque Kati Brown. "Le Géocatalogue se veut un portail de l'information cartographique de l'UQAR, des organismes gouvernementaux et des partenaires régionaux." Le Géocatalogue comporte également un volet d'archives cartographiques régionales. Hébergé sur le site www.uqar.ca/cartotheque/, le Géocatalogue est accessible à toute la communauté de l'UQAR, mais également aux internautes qui sont à la

recherche d'informations géographiques. "L'Université du Québec à Rimouski fait figure de pionnière avec cet outil, qui est d'ailleurs le seul de l'Université du Québec", indique Antoine Morissette, auxiliaire d'enseignement et de recherche. La MRC de Bonaventure a d'ailleurs participé au projet du Géocatalogue en autorisant l'accès à l'Université à ses données géospatiales. Le développement du Géocatalogue a été rendu possible grâce à la collaboration de Kati Brown, d'Antoine Morissette du Département de biologie, chimie et géographie et de l'analyste en informatique James Caveen, du Service des technologies de l'information. [UQAU-Info](#)

UBC Geography MSc student Joey Lee and his colleague Benedikt Groß launch a Kickstarter project called "Aerial Bold": The two man army plans to build the first global map and typeface of the earth by traversing the satellite imagery of the entire planet and developing a set of image processing algorithms to find the alphabet shapes that are formed from the topology of buildings, roads, trees, lakes, etc. While Aerial Bold is a fun project looking to turn "topography into typography", it is an interesting example of what it means to be a geographer and what we as geographers can do with our tools and skills. This project shows us that GIS and remote sensing are not just tools to be used in an academic context, but skills that can be (ab)used and hacked to read space and time in new and exciting ways. Most importantly, the project shows us that the type of jobs that are open to geographers aren't limited to the bullet point list on the side of the Geography Office, but rather that the possibilities are endless, especially for those interested to 'read between the lines'. [UBC Geography](#)

U Waterloo Department of Geography and Environmental Management offers undergraduates new climate change specialization: Beginning in 2015, undergraduate students in [the Department of Geography and Environmental Management](#) will have an opportunity to obtain a specialization in climate change. This addition to the curriculum builds on the Department's recent launch of Canada's first [Master of Climate Change](#) program, and its associated internationally-recognized expertise in human and physical dimensions of climate change. Unlike other specializations offered by GEM, climate change requires courses in both human and physical geography. This broad course base ensures that students will gain an understanding of both the physical science of climate change, as well as its impacts on natural and socio-economic systems. The specialization is available to students majoring in Honours Geography and Environmental Management, Geography and Aviation, and Geomatics. [UWaterloo Environment News](#)

McGill U PhD candidate Drew Bush researching effective models of teaching students about climate change: High school and CGEP (Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel) students are opening the "Black Box" of global climate modelling as part of the doctoral research of McGill University student Drew Bush. His research tests how student experiences with Columbia University's Educational Global Climate Model, or a suite of tools that allows them to use NASA/GISS Model II, impacts student learning. He's taught multiple groups of students as part of a yearly summer camp hosted at McGill and during the academic year as part of an Earth System Science course at John Abbott College on Montreal's West Island. A major focus of his curriculum is not just teaching the evidence of anthropogenic climate change but also the critical thinking and science process skills needed to operate a GCM and understand how scientists research and think about this issue. [The McGill Daily](#)

U Victoria adjunct professor Paul Paquet suggests heavily hunted wolves more stressed: Wolves in areas of Canada where they are heavily hunted experience higher levels of stress and reproductive hormones — which could change their evolution — suggests new research. "Wolves are highly social, like people. What we're seeing is a disruption to wolf populations in heavily hunted areas beyond just numbers," said Paul Paquet, a senior scientist with Raincoast and adjunct professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. The study notes wolves in many parts of the country are viewed as threats to livestock and game species, making them subject to poorly managed

cull programs that can see up to 50 per cent of a population killed in a year and 90 per cent in some cases. Test wolves showed higher levels of cortisol, progesterone and testosterone in areas of the north where they are more intensely hunted, with higher kills and snowmobile chasing, and in a small area of Alberta where wolves are shot from helicopters to help control endangered caribou populations. In the larger boreal forest, where kills are fewer and traplines are used, the hormone levels were lower. Paquet said the higher levels of stress hormones could lead to changes in immune systems, disorders and genetic affectations passed down in the DNA. The elevated presence of progesterone, a pregnancy hormone, indicates the stress of being hunted by humans has reproductive effects. [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Geographer Mark Skinner leads Trent Centre for Aging and Society through successful inaugural year: We've started out strong," Dr. Mark Skinner says, speaking about the success of the new Trent University Centre for Aging and Society in its inaugural year. "There are many facets of aging that have yet to be fully explored and understood. I'm pleased with how we are helping inform and shape the conversation from a much-needed critical perspective." Announced in the summer of 2013, the new Trent Centre for Aging and Society aims to focus greater attention on issues surrounding the aging population in the City and County of Peterborough and Canada. The Centre has brought together a multidisciplinary group of research faculty with common interests in aging studies to work toward informing public policies that are responsive to the challenges and opportunities facing older people and aging communities locally and internationally. [Trent News](#)

McMaster U's Richard Harris comments on hot housing market in Hamilton: Hamilton's house prices are up more than 7 per cent over the past year, and bidding wars abound, even in the central core. But Richard Harris from McMaster University says don't be surprised if homes around the core are priced higher than you expected. Richard Harris, Geography Professor, McMaster University: "The area in and around the downtown, the residential properties in and around the downtown have seen believe it or not the highest rate of increase in prices of any neighbourhood or area in Hamilton." Canada's Mortgage and Housing Corporation says the price of homes in Hamilton Centre are expected to rise more than 2.5% every year for the next two years. Harris warns the price hike could be too much for some residents: "Cities like Toronto, Vancouver and other places that have seen a lot of gentrification or revitalization of inner-city neighbourhoods do get concerned. Many planners and local residents do get concerned around that kind of displacement when that happens." [CHCH](#)

Memorial U's CARRA project team is busy reporting on progress: The Coastal Archaeological Resources Risk Assessment (CARRA) project team, based in the Geography Department, has been busy reporting on progress and summer fieldwork activities recently. In October, CARRA was invited to present at the annual meeting of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANL), which this year focused on "Climate Change and Museums". Our presentation focused on the vulnerability of coastal heritage to rising sea level and increased storm activity. We discussed the potential role of MANL, with its membership of over 150 museums and heritage sites around the province, in monitoring sites that are at high risk of flooding and erosion. In early November, Marc Storey, an MA candidate in Geography, represented the CARRA team at the Geomatics Atlantic 2014 conference, presenting on the issue of topographic and archaeological data resolution in conducting vulnerability assessments of coastal heritage. In mid-November, CARRA was invited by the Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society to present on recent field activities at the Coffee and Culture afternoon in The Rooms. [Memorial Geography News](#)

U Toronto's Tammara Soma comments on Food Waste Symposium: Many kids have faced mothers who threatened punishment for not eating everything on their plates and wasting food. But, judging from the estimated \$27 billion worth of food Canadians throw away each year, that tactic hasn't worked. Things may change with the upcoming food waste symposium taking place at the University of

Toronto November 24, organized by Trudeau Foundation Scholar and PhD candidate Tammara Soma and Lauren Baker, a U of T course instructor and Toronto Food Policy Council member. Tammara comments “Reducing household food waste requires that people change their patterns of consumption while juggling everyday life and I am aware that this can be difficult. However, there are numerous resources out there to help individuals reuse leftovers, or understand food labelling and better food storage (www.lovefoodhatewaste.com). The first step I took with my family of five was to be less picky and to cook smaller portions. For example, I noticed that I always cook too much oatmeal for breakfast, so the next time around I actually used a measuring cup. I also try my best to spruce up leftovers with spices/condiments instead of buying takeout. Bringing food containers also comes in handy when I go to restaurants. Witnessing waste pickers having to eat leftover food from the dumpsite was a wake-up call for me to reflect upon the ethical issues of wasting food. [U of T News](#)



[Canadian Association of Geographers \(CAG\) 2015 annual conference and meetings](#) will be held at Simon Fraser University, June 1-5, 2015. This celebration of Geographic Diversity and Dialogue will take place in Simon Fraser’s downtown locations, principally at Harbour Centre and the (adjacent) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

The conference begins with an icebreaker event on Monday evening, has oral presentations, posters and special events from Tuesday to Friday, and field trips throughout the conference. The John Wiley Presentation will be delivered by Professor Andrew J. Weaver, a leading authority on global climate change and the first Green Party member of British Columbia’s Legislative assembly.

Following the AGM, the banquet will be held on Thursday, June 4th in the Stanley Park Pavilion.

For more info, please visit [CAG2015 home page](#).



Newsletter of Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers is now published for your reading pleasure. Link to [Fall 2014 Newsletter](#). Archived newsletters at [WDCAG Publications](#)

Memorial U’s Mark Leeming, Department of Geography, awarded SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowships for his research on *Thinking green: radical environmentalism in Canada 1970-1998*. [Today.MUN.Ca](#)

Memorial U’s John Michael Davis, Department of Geography, awarded Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for his research on *Refining an e-waste fair trade*. [Today.MUN.Ca](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Sean J. Bennett, Peter Ashmore and Cheryl McKenna Neuman. 2014. [Transformative geomorphic research using laboratory experimentation](#). Geomorphology. DOI:10.1016/j.geomorph.2014.11.002

Carlos A. Botero, Beth Gardner, Kathryn R. Kirby, Joseph Bulbulia, Michael C. Gavin and Russell D. Gray. 2014. [The ecology of religious beliefs](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Heather M. Bryan, Judit E. G. Smits, Lee Koren, Paul C. Paquet, Katherine E. Wynne-Edwards and Marco Musiani. 2014. [Heavily hunted wolves have higher stress and reproductive steroids than wolves with lower hunting pressure](#). Functional Ecology. DOI:10.1111/1365-2435.12354

Carmen Teeple Hopkins. 2014. [Introduction: Feminist geographies of social reproduction and race](#). Women's Studies International Forum. DOI:10.1016/j.wsif.2014.06.002

Chunhua Zhang, Dan Walters and John M. Kovacs. 2014. [Applications of low altitude remote sensing in agriculture upon farmers' requests— a case study in northeastern Ontario, Canada](#). PLOS|One. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0112894

Other “Geographical” News

This map shows how climate change will screw the whole world. Some effects of climate change are obvious, such as warming temperatures, melting ice caps, and rising sea levels. But others impacts are more surprising. [Yahoo Finance](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin describes 'the meaning of life' at the 15th Congress of the Russian Geographical Society. “In general, love is the whole meaning of life, of being. Love of family, of children, and of the Motherland. It is such a multifaceted phenomenon that is the basis of all our actions,” he said. Putin is the chairman of the board of trustees of the Russian Geographical Society. [Business Insider](#)

Google satellite tool tracks illegal fishing: Google has taken the battle against illegal fishing online, with the company unveiling a tool in Australia on Friday that harnesses satellite data to track thousands of boats in real time. The tool uses data points from the Automatic Identification System network, which picks up GPS broadcasts of a vessel's location to map movements. The prototype has tracked just over 3,000 fishing vessels, with a public tool set to be released down the track. [DNews](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

“The decline of geography in academia is easy to understand: we live in an age of ever-increasing specialization, and geography is a generalist's discipline. Imagine the poor geographer trying to explain to someone at a campus party (or even to an unsympathetic administrator) exactly what it is he or she studies.

"Geography is Greek for 'writing about the earth.' We study the Earth."

"Right, like geologists."

"Well, yes, but we're interested in the whole world, not just the rocky bits. Geographers also study oceans, lakes, the water cycle..."

"So, it's like oceanography or hydrology."

"And the atmosphere."

"Meteorology, climatology..."

"It's broader than just physical geography. We're also interested in how humans relate to their planet."

"How is that different from ecology or environmental science?"

"Well, it encompasses them. Aspects of them. But we also study the social and economic and cultural and geopolitical sides of--"

"Sociology, economics, cultural studies, poli sci."

"Some geographers specialize in different world regions."

"Ah, right, we have Asian and African and Latin American studies programs here. But I didn't know they were part of the geography department."

"They're not."

(Long pause.)

"So, uh, what is it that do study then?"

— [Ken Jennings](#)



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