



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 334, December 6, 2014
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McMaster U graduate geographers create Bike Library initiative to induce active transportation: Books aren't the only thing you can check out of Mills Library; bikes have just been added to the list. McMaster University Library has partnered with [Start the Cycle](#), a McMaster student start-up initiative, to create the Mills Bike Library, a bike-lending service meant to provide students with equal access to sustainable transportation on campus. Start the Cycle is a social entrepreneurship venture founded by two McMaster geography students – PhD Candidate Charles Burke and Masters of Science Candidate Justin Hall – each with research interests that fall in the field of transportation planning for active mobility. Start the Cycle operates a non-profit 'bike share' program for school aged children between the ages of 5 and 15 based on the same for profit bike share model used to promote bicycle use for transport in cities across Canada and the United States. There are three bikes currently available for checkout at the Mills Library Bike Library, free of charge, as well as a selection of helmets to choose from. Students simply come to the service desk at Mills Library and, using their student card, check out a bike, just as they would sign out a book. "We know not all students can afford to buy or rent a bike. This service provides students with another option," said Anne Pottier, Associate University Librarian. "We are so pleased to support this McMaster start-up initiative and we hope students will take advantage of this unique service." [McMaster Daily News](#)

U Alberta's Morgan Tymko and Damian Collins research backs New Zealand ban on smoking in vehicles carrying children: Breaking research from Canada lends unequivocal weight to calls for New Zealand to ban smoking in vehicles carrying children, says the Smokefree Coalition. "What the new research shows," said Prudence Stone, "is that children are protected from second-hand smoke by international law, but that their right to health is overridden by rhetoric about adults' rights not to have their private lives intruded upon. Dr Damian Collins, one of the study's authors from the Human Geography Program at the University of Alberta, said banning smoking in vehicles would help New Zealand meet its international commitment to protect children, and the Government's Smokefree by 2025 goal. "We can't have a smoke-free nation without smoke-free cars for kids", he said. The research points out that the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every person. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child articulates a commitment to protecting children's right to health. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to which New Zealand is a bound signatory, asserts second-hand smoke is a threat to these health rights, and imposes a duty on governments to protect 'all persons' from second-hand smoke exposure. The Canadian research entitled [Smoking bans for private vehicles: children's rights and children's voices](#) and was authored by Morgan Tymko and Damian Collins from the Human Geography Program at the University of Alberta. nzDoctor.co.nz

Western U geographers at Workshop on Community Engagement in Research: [Hannah Neufeld](#) Banting Post-doctoral Fellow, and Cindy Anne Smithers, PhD Candidate recently spoke to a workshop on Community Engagement in Research that was sponsored by the Student Success Centre and facilitated by Joel R. Burton (Public Humanities at Western). Both Hannah and Cindy are based in the [Indigenous Health Lab](#) that is led by Professor [Chantelle Richmond](#). Hannah gave a summary of the on-going research relationship with Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) that began with the Food Choice Study in 2008. She went on to describe the life history methodology that is currently being utilized to illuminate potential historical and environmental changes impacting traditional food knowledge across generations both on and off-reserve. Cindy discussed the collaborative process with SOAHAC in the context of her own research question which seeks to explore the relationship between thriving health, living in the city, and cultural and gender identity among young First Nations men. Adopting a community-based participatory approach, she described her efforts to included methods congruent with Indigenous research paradigms including conversational method and autoethnography. [Western U Geography](#)

Memorial U MSc student Robert Deering voyages on the *Amundsen*: The Amundsen is an icebreaker operated by The Canadian Coast Guard that works with ArcticNet, doing scientific operations in the Canadian Arctic. This summer it left Quebec City in mid-July headed north. I joined up with Amundsen on September 25 in Kugluktuk, Nunavut, just as it was set to travel back through the Northwest Passage. I spent the next two and a half weeks onboard travelling through the passage, down Baffin Bay (going in and out of fjords along the way), into Frobisher Bay, down the Labrador coast, and up the St. Lawrence River. Along the way we collected samples that I will be analyzing for my masters project, which involves the coring of submerged deltas in order to establish past sea-level history for the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island. [Memorial U Geography](#)

Western U PhD student Siera Vercillo awarded an inaugural MEDA 20 Under 35 Award: Siera Vercillo, a PhD student in Western's Department of Geography was awarded a MEDA ([Mennonite Economic Development Associates](#)) inaugural 20 Under 35 Award. This award honours young professionals who are changing the world and embody the qualities MEDA values – service and an entrepreneurial spirit. Siera is completing her PhD in Geography, focused on gender, food security and smallholder agriculture development. She recently returned from working in Sierra Leone in agriculture cooperative development and has lived in northern Ghana for a year working with Engineers Without Borders Canada to develop the Ministry's extension services for smallholder farmers. [Western U Geography News](#)

Memorial U's Christopher Sharpe receives certificate of appreciation award from NLAA: Dr. Christopher Sharpe was presented with the Certificate of Appreciation Award at the NLAA's 65th Annual General Meeting Dinner. The recipient of this award is an individual who has made a significant contribution to "promoting the ideals of architecture" and the profession in Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Sharpe was also the guest speaker at the event, which was held at the Delta in St. John's. Dr. Sharpe has sustained an interest in urban geography throughout his career. He passed along this interest to countless students during his tenure as Professor with the Geography Department, teaching all levels of geography classes for 39 years. His former student, James Case, nominated him for the award, citing Dr. Sharpe as his "inspiration for entering the profession." Dr. Sharpe developed the English Cultural Landscape Program, based out of MUN's Harlow campus, and taught it twelve times to more than 200 students. As a student in an early offering of the summer program, James described the program as introducing students to the "idea that townscape and architecture – historical and contemporary – are inextricably linked." [Memorial Geography News](#)



Western Geographers give back to community in their own unique way. The Department of Geography showed its unique United Way fundraising skills with their 20th Annual Talent Show. This long standing tradition brings faculty, staff and students together in support of a very worthy cause. Through various activities the department raised \$1460.

U Toronto's Meric Gertler weighs in on question as to whether Toronto is a divided city. "I think Toronto is a remarkably successful and harmonious city, but this status is at risk. I think there are some signs of this: we see increasing income polarization, a growing gap between the rich and the poor. We see the increasing geographical concentration of social and economic deprivation, especially in the inner suburbs of the GTA." [Toronto Star](#)

McMaster U's Darren Scott says generally, Hamilton's road network is well-connected, but the stretch of the 403 where this week's mudslide occurred is highly problematic. "There is no worse place to have this happen." [Hamilton Spectator](#)

York U's Philip Kelly chaired a panel discussion on "Assessing the Changes to the Live-in Caregiver Program". [York Events](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Reiko Obokata. 2014. [Environmental factors and transnational migration. A case study with Filipino newcomers in Ottawa, Canada](#). M.A. thesis. Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Luisa Veronis.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Trevor J. Barnes and Christian Abrahamsson. 2014. [Tangled complicities and moral struggles: the Haushofers, father and son, and the spaces of Nazi geopolitics](#). Journal of Historical Geography. DOI:10.1016/j.jhg.2014.10.002

Nathan J. Bennett and Philip Dearden. 2014. [From measuring outcomes to providing inputs: Governance, management, and local development for more effective marine protected areas](#). Marine Policy 50:96–110.

Anna J. Crawford, Derek R. Mueller, Elyn R. Humphreys, Tom Carrieres and Hai Tran. 2014. [Surface ablation model evaluation on a drifting ice island in the Canadian Arctic](#). Cold Regions Science and Technology. DOI:10.1016/j.coldregions.2014.11.011

Najib Djamai, Ramata Magagi, Kalifa Goïta, Mehdi Hosseini, Michael H. Cosh, Aaron Berg and Brenda Toth. 2014. [Evaluation of SMOS soil moisture products over the CanEx-SM10 area](#). Journal of Hydrology. DOI:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.11.026

Barbara Forbes and Thembela Kepe. 2014. [Smallholder farmers' attitudes toward the provision of drinking water for dairy cows in Kagera, Tanzania](#). Tropical Animal Health and Production. DOI:10.1007/s11250-014-0737-8

B.A. Hook, J. Halfar, Z. Gedalof, J. Bollmann and D. Schulze. 2014. [Stable isotope paleoclimatology of the earliest Eocene using kimberlite-hosted mummified wood from the Canadian Subarctic](#). Biogeosciences Discussions 11:16269–16308.

Charles Z. Levkoe. 2015. [Strategies for forging and sustaining social movement networks: A case study of provincial food networking organizations in Canada](#). Geoforum 58:174-183.

Bárbara de Moura Neves, Evan Edinger, Claude Hillaire-Marcel, Esprit Heestand Saucier, Scott C. France, Margaret A. Treble and Vonda E. Wareham. 2014. [Deep-water bamboo coral forests in a muddy Arctic environment](#). Marine Biodiversity. DOI:10.1007/s12526-014-0291-7

Mir Mustafizur Rahman, Geoffrey J. Hay, Isabelle Couloigner, Bharanidharan Hemachandran and Jeremy Bailin. 2014. [An assessment of polynomial regression techniques for the Relative Radiometric Normalization \(RRN\) of high-resolution multi-temporal airborne Thermal Infrared \(TIR\) Imagery](#). Remote Sensing 6:11810-11828.

Valerie Tarasuk, Naomi Dachner, Anne-Marie Hamelin, Aleck Ostry, Patricia Williams, Elietha Bosckei, Blake Poland and Kim Raine. 2014. [A survey of food bank operations in five Canadian cities](#). BMC Public Health 4:1234. DOI:10.1186/1471-2458-14-1234

Doerthe Tetzlaff, Jim Buttle, Sean K. Carey, Kevin McGuire, Hjalmar Laudon and Chris Soulsby. 2014. [Tracer-based assessment of flow paths, storage and runoff generation in northern catchments: a review](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10412

Blake Byron Walker and Nadine Schuurman. 2014. [The pen or the sword: a situated spatial analysis of graffiti and violent injury in Vancouver, British Columbia](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2014.970843

Jean-Yves Weigel, Kathryn Olivia Mandle, Nathan James Bennett, Eleanor Carter, Lena Westlund, Valerie Burgener, Zachary Hoffman, Alfredo Simão Da Silva, Elimane Abou Kane, Jessica Sanders, Catherine Piante, Sukarno Wagiman and Ashley Hellman. 2014. [Marine protected areas and fisheries: Bridging the divide](#). Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 24(S2):199-215.

H. Zandler, A. Brenning and C. Samimi. 2015. [Quantifying dwarf shrub biomass in an arid environment: comparing empirical methods in a high dimensional setting](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 158:140-155.

Other “Geographical” News

UBC, SFU move to join growing ‘divestment’ campaigns: Groups across the country are pushing for schools to divest their endowments of investments in the oil and gas industry. At UBC, the faculty association has scheduled a referendum for early 2015 to vote on a recommendation for complete divestment. If the referendum passes, the recommendation will then go to the university’s board of governors. UBC’s endowment fund is worth \$1.2 billion, and direct investment in fossil fuel companies is estimated by divestment supporters at \$100 million. [UBC News](#)

The afterlife of America's dead malls: When a mall dies, what happens to its corpse? If the mall failed because of too much competition, renovating the mall space and building a new one doesn't make a whole lot of sense. As America deals with the massive carcasses left over from the heyday of in-person commerce, dead malls are being re-used in many ways: some that you might expect, and others that you might not. [Consumerist](#)

Here's what happens when a dead mall has a fake Facebook account: A dead enclosed mall was demolished and will be replaced with a strip center of big-box stores in Nowheresville, USA: why is that interesting? It gives us an excuse to highlight the mall's very unofficial Facebook account, a funny local prank that transcends its region. [Consumerist](#)

Protect the world's deltas: Extensive areas of the world's deltas -- which accommodate some of the world's major cities -- will be drowned in the next century by rising sea levels, according to new work. A geologist calls for maintenance efforts to be started now to avert the loss of vast expanses of coastline, and the consequent losses of ecological services, economic and social crises, and large-scale migrations. [ScienceDaily](#)

Brock University cancels Wiley-Blackwell subscriptions (publisher of *The Canadian Geographer*): Due to financial constraints Brock librarians have made the difficult decision to cancel our subscription to a package of 1,363 journals from Wiley-Blackwell effective December 31, 2014. The cumulative impact of annual price increases from scholarly publishers, coupled with the higher American dollar, make it impossible for the Library to maintain this subscription. [Brock News around Campus](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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