



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 335, December 11, 2014
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

York U's Valerie Preston look to build healthy lives and communities: York researchers presented their research at the recent Building Healthy Lives and Communities Research Celebration. Geography Professor Valerie Preston spoke about diversity and social justice in Canadian communities. "Social justice," Preston said, "means the needs of everyone are considered." Approximately 46 per cent of Toronto's population is foreign born – more than double that of Montreal – and that most immigrants live in suburbs such as Brampton, Mississauga and Markham rather than in the city. Looking at the demographic breakdown of the City of Toronto, Preston noted that most immigrant communities are living in the inner suburbs of Etobicoke and Scarborough where more poverty is concentrated, versus the more affluent neighbourhoods in central Toronto and along the Lakeshore. Toronto does a good job of social inclusion and has low crime rates but it does a lousy job of economic inclusion, particularly for those who are foreign born, she said. [York U](#).

U Saskatchewan students deliver urban planning ideas: Students from the University of Saskatchewan's Urban Planning Department were in Melfort on December 1 to present a downtown streetscaping project, a Spruce Haven Park recreation area project and a golf course residential project. Professor Bob Patrick was on hand to introduce his 20 students who took part in the project over the last semester of their schooling. The students were split into three groups, each group tackling a separate topic. The Spruce Haven Park project group focused on creating a family friendly, recreation facility for the region. Students visited the site and provided a range of ideas and recommendations. A general overview of a recreation site which would encompass outdoor soccer pitches, an indoor soccer dome, hockey arena, and also including a skating rink and clubhouse. Students also expressed that they felt as though the community needed some sort of a gathering place, and also outlined ideas for community gardens, a spray park, picnic shelters and an outdoor amphitheater. Those in attendance praised the students for their work and forward thinking visions, and the class's professor addressed city staff in order to thank them for their assistance. "I really appreciate this opportunity that you have given our class. We spend time in class during theory and some project work, but never ever something as extensive as this," Robert Patrick said. "There is a real connection I feel now, with our program and the city. What a great place this is," said Patrick. [Melfort Journal](#)

Carleton U's Fran Klodawsky releases evaluation of Ottawa's equity and inclusion lens initiative: Carleton University's Fran Klodawsky, professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, released a recent report about the progress and effectiveness of the [Equity and Inclusion Lens](#) (EI Lens). The EI Lens is an award-winning initiative that has attracted interest across Canada and internationally for its efforts to promote more equitable and inclusive interactions among Ottawa city staff, as well as interactions between city staff and area residents. While recognizing that the work required to build a more equitable city (and society) is long-term and multi-faceted, the report identifies the progress that has been made to promote greater understanding of equity issues and concerns. [Carleton Geography News](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Hilary White writes about climate change and the lakes of Wapusk National Park: Wapusk National Park, a representative portion of the Hudson Bay Lowlands, has an abundance of shallow lakes. This freshwater landscape is a highly productive northern oasis and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. However, the very existence of these lakes may become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Writes Hilary White, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University "Since 2010, researchers at Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo have been conducting a number of studies to determine how the lakes have changed in response to recent warming and what is in store for the future. With the help and guidance of staff from Wapusk National Park, our research group has collected water and sediment samples from ~40 lakes that are located from the boreal forest to the coastal tundra regions in the park. A key focus of our research has been to examine both present and past hydrological conditions of the lakes." [Wapusk News](#)

Community work by Western U's Jason Gilliland and students praised in Ontario Legislative Assembly: At the Ontario Legislative Assembly on November 24, 2014, London West MPP Peggy Sattler highlighted the quality work experience being gained by students in Jason Gilliland's HEALab in the Department of Geography at Western Ontario. She spoke in particular about attending the launch of a new smartphone app (SmartAPPetite) that was developed by Gilliland, in collaboration with a team of students, researchers and community partners, to help improve community well-being and boost Ontario's local food economy.

Carleton U's Jill Rajewicz receives Hamlin Graduate Fellowship: Awarded annually by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research to outstanding students entering or proceeding from one year to another in any graduate program of study at Carleton University. "I am a first year MSc. student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. I study sub-ice shelf hydrology on the Milne Ice Shelf, on the northern coast of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut. Sub-ice freshwater drainage is thought to be implicated in ice shelf stability; the Milne is the only remaining intact ice shelf in the Canadian Arctic and, so, the last chance to study an intact ice shelf system. I did my undergraduate degree in Geography at the University of Calgary, where I really developed my interest in the arctic cryosphere and the impacts of a changing climate on the Arctic. I have been lucky to visit the Arctic several times and I will head north again in July 2015 for my masters fieldwork." [Carleton Geography News](#)



The [Canadian Association of Geographers](#) represents geographers from all areas of geographical practice and scholarship. The CAG works for geographers. To become a CAG member or to renew your membership use the [online application form](#).



U Toronto's James Nugent wins the 2014 Ontario Graduate Policy Research Challenge. His paper was titled: "Building Opportunities through Community Benefits Agreements: Leveraging infrastructure projects to increase training and labour market access for equity-seeking and historically disadvantaged groups in Ontario". [U Toronto Geography News](#)

Geography @GUELPH wins the 2014 Spirit Award for Outstanding Contributions to the United Way through fundraising activities varying from Carol's Card Making class; the Used Book Sale; the baby photo contest, the Wednesday cookie day and The Mapmakers musical group performance in the College Idol contest. [U Guelph News](#)

UBC MA student Sarah Przedpelska and PhD student Alison Cassidy win the 2014 Outstanding TA Awards. [UBC Geography](#)

Memorial U's Trevor Bell named University Research Professor. The title University Research Professor is a designation above the rank of professor and goes to a faculty member who has demonstrated a consistently high level of scholarship and whose research is of a truly international stature. [Today.MUN.ca](#)

McGill U's Nancy Ross and Sarah Turner promoted to rank of full professor. [McGill Reporter](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Guenther Grill. 2014. Challenges and opportunities in large scale river routing: Development and application of a hyper-resolution river routing model to assess anthropogenic impacts on freshwater ecosystems. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Bernhard Lehner.

Sarah Wilson. 2014. Replanting a future: Restoring cloud forests, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods in Andean landscapes. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Oliver Coomes.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Christine Bonnin and Sarah Turner. 2014. ['A good wife stays home': gendered negotiations over state agricultural programmes, upland Vietnam](#). Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography 21:1302-1320.

Emile Cameron, Rebecca Mearns and Janet Tamalik McGrath. 2014. [Translating climate change: adaptation, resilience, and climate politics in Nunavut, Canada](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2014.973006Emilie

Rosemary-Claire Collard, Jessica Dempsey and Juanita Sundberg. 2014. [A manifesto for abundant futures](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2014.973007

Victoria Fast and Claus Rinner. 2014. [A systems perspective on volunteered geographic information](#). ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information 3:1278-1292.

Christopher G. Fletcher, Chad W. Thackeray and Tonya M. Burgers. 2014. [Evaluating biases in simulated snow albedo feedback in two generations of climate models](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres. DOI: 10.1002/2014JD022546

Josh Lepawsky, Grace Akese, Mostaem Billah, Creighton Connolly and Chris McNabb. 2014. [Composing urban orders from rubbish electronics: Cityness and the site multiple](#). Journal of Historical Geography. DOI 10.1111/1468-2427.12142

Qun Miao, Michèle Bouchard, Dongmei Chen, Mark W. Rosenberg and Kristan J. Aronson. 2015. [Commuting behaviors and exposure to air pollution in Montreal, Canada](#). Science of The Total Environment 508:193-198.

P.A. Moore, P.J. Morris and J.M. Waddington. 2014. [Multi-decadal water-table manipulation alters peatland hydraulic structure and moisture retention](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10416

David B. Richardson and L.D.D. Harvey. 2015. [Strategies for correlating solar PV array production with electricity demand](#). Renewable Energy 76:432–440.

Yongming Xu, Anders Knudby and Hung Chak Ho. 2014. [Estimating daily maximum air temperature from MODIS in British Columbia, Canada](#). International Journal of Remote Sensing 35:8108-8121.

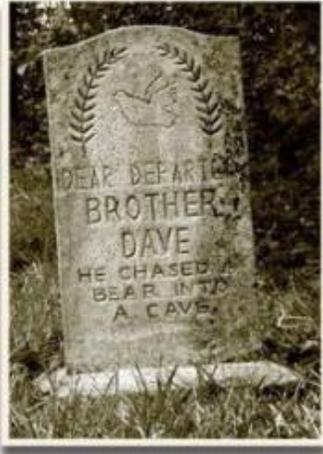
Other “Geographical” News

What’s in a name. Exposing gender bias in student ratings of teaching: Student ratings of teaching play a significant role in career outcomes for higher education instructors. Although instructor gender has been shown to play an important role in influencing student ratings, the extent and nature of that role remains contested. While difficult to separate gender from teaching practices in person, it is possible to disguise an instructor’s gender identity online. In our experiment, assistant instructors in an online class each operated under two different gender identities. Students rated the male identity significantly higher than the female identity, regardless of the instructor’s actual gender, demonstrating gender bias. [Innovative Higher Education](#)

Study of massive preprint archive hints at the geography of plagiarism: New analyses of the hundreds of thousands of technical manuscripts submitted to arXiv, the repository of digital preprint articles, are offering some intriguing insights into the consequences—and geography—of scientific plagiarism. It appears that copying text from other papers is more common in some nations than others, but the outcome is generally the same for authors who copy extensively: Their papers don’t get cited much. [Science](#)

Outcomes of Doctoral program graduates: As the number of graduate students in Ontario increases, so does the desire for reliable data about the experience of these students and their employment outcomes. A new report used surveys to collect outcomes data from graduating doctoral students and recent graduate program alumni. Approximately three quarters of those who completed the survey had already begun a job search while still in their academics program and about 40% had secured employment. Across all disciplines, doctoral alumni indicated that the activities that best prepared them for their careers were presenting seminars or research, writing a major paper or thesis, writing manuscripts, preparing conference presentations, collaborating with faculty members and collaborating as part of a team. [HEQEO Publications](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



Men take idiotic risks, study confirms: The theory that men frequently do stupid things is now supported by the first systematic analysis of sex differences in risk-taking behavior. The study reviews the data on winners of the [Darwin Award](#), given to individuals who perish as a result of their own poor judgment. It emerged that 282 awards were awarded to males and just 36 given to females. Basically, males made up 88.7 per cent of Darwin Award winners. Such a statistically significant gender difference is "entirely consistent with male idiot theory (MIT) and supports the hypothesis that men are idiots and idiots do stupid things". [DNews](#)



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](#)

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

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