

GeogNews



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McGill U's Kevin Manaugh leads study of social equity in urban transportation planning: During the 20th century, urban transportation planning in North America was mainly concerned with easing traffic congestion, improving safety and saving time for motorists. These days, most cities' transportation plans evoke a more complex blend of environmental, economic, and social-equity goals – all aimed at promoting “sustainability.” Yet, many fail to include meaningful measurements of social-equity objectives, such as helping disadvantaged neighborhoods access essential services, according to Kevin Manaugh, lead author of the study and an assistant professor in McGill's Department of Geography and School of Environment. “Many of the plans talk a lot about social-equity goals, but these goals are not translated into clearly specified objectives – and it's not at all clear how the goals are incorporated into decision-making,” says Kevin Manaugh, lead author of the paper and an assistant professor in McGill's Department of Geography and School of Environment. Many plans focus largely on local environmental and congestion-reduction goals. That's partly because traffic speed and certain environmental effects are easier to measure than social-justice considerations, such as access to job opportunities or health care for low-income groups, or balancing the interests of pedestrians and cyclists with those of motorists. At the same time, a few have managed to build in clear, measurable indicators for achieving social-equity goals, says Prof. Manaugh, who co-authored the study with professors Madhav Badami and Ahmed El-Geneidy of McGill's School of Urban Planning. Building such considerations into the process is important, because “these are very long-term decisions,” Manaugh notes. “Once you build a highway, it's there for many decades.” [McGill U News](#)

Carleton U's Blair Rutherford receives SSHRC Insight Grant to study role of women in artisanal and small-scale mining: “An Insight Grant will enable Blair Rutherford, director of the Institute of African Studies [and cross-appointed faculty with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies], to conduct an in-depth study of the role of women in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in three conflict-affected African countries at different stages of rebuilding: Sierra Leone, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Rutherford aims to provide a better understanding of women's economic roles in mining and thus address a significant gap in knowledge about ASM and women as economic actors in post-conflict settings. The study will also consider the impacts of policies aimed at legalizing and regularizing ASM, contributing to policy discussions about strengthening conflict or fragile states and their mining sectors”. [Carleton DGES News](#)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy examining environmental change in Canadian Rockies: The threat of climate change for ski resorts is becoming more real will have major implications. Researchers in Alberta are also studying stream flow, precipitation, snowpack, groundwater, vegetation and mountain meteorology to assess the overall impact of environmental change in the mountains. "They are in a much warmer situation so they are seeing it first," said John Pomeroy, Canada research chair in water resources and climate change at the University of Saskatchewan. "Right now, we don't see a decline in snowpack at high elevations in the Rockies. Not at all but, with continued warming, yes." Pomeroy said it's unknown how quickly it will happen, but he suggests it could be in this lifetime — for some. "With four more degrees of warming in the Rockies at high elevation, the simulations I ran show we would lose half of the high mountain snowpack and we would lose a month-and-a-half of snow cover," he said. "We could have that kind of warming before the end of this century. Say by 2070 or 2080. "People who are alive will see ski resorts in the Canadian Rockies struggle because of a lack of snow and that it's really too warm to ski. Long before then, Colorado resorts and the U.S. Sierras will have lost their snowpack." [Calgary Herald](#)

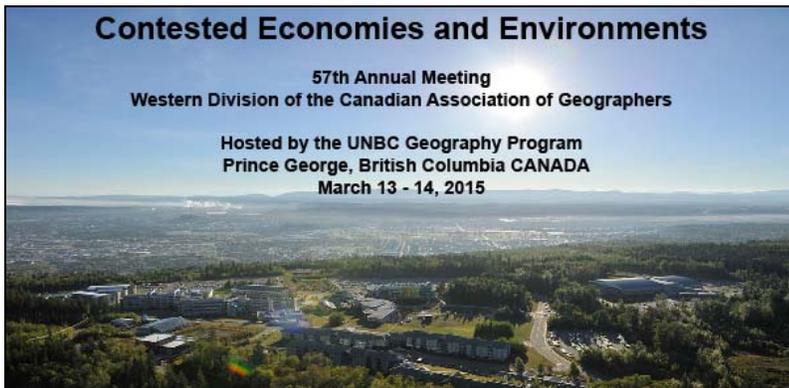
McGill U's Bernhard Lehner and team create new method to estimate the global impacts of dams on river flow and fragmentation: When dams are built they have an impact not only on the flow of water in the river, but also on the people who live downstream and on the surrounding ecosystems. By placing data from close to 6,500 existing large dams on a highly precise map of the world's rivers, an international team led by McGill University researchers has created a new method to estimate the global impacts of dams on river flow and fragmentation. "Over the past 60 years, a myriad of dams have been built either to provide hydroelectric power, or for irrigation purposes, or as flood protection," says Bernhard Lehner, a professor in McGill University's Department of Geography and the research director of the project. "The construction of large dams then slowed down for the last 20 years as we became more aware of their negative effects on people and ecosystems. But now, with fears about how climate change may affect water flows in the future, the goal of creating reservoirs is once more appealing, and dam construction is on the rise." The new research was made possible by the team's development of a global river map with unprecedented resolution and detail, showing all waterways of the world from small creeks to the largest of rivers, accounting for a cumulative river length of 48.3 million km -- and by a new map of future dam locations assembled by colleagues at the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin. The key components of the team's dam assessment method are two indices that describe river fragmentation and river regulation. [McGill U News](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Robert McLeman employs public to track whether climate change impacting backyard rinks: Outdoor skaters saw an early start to the season in Winnipeg before a warm spell in December turned some rinks into splash pads. In 2012, scientists warned conditions like this could become more common. "A few years ago, we were reading reports done by scientists suggesting that with global warming and climate change that the outdoor rink or the backyard rink might become an endangered species in Canada," said Robert McLeman, a geography professor at Ontario's Wilfrid Laurier University. Those reports prompted McLeman and his colleagues to launch a website called [RinkWatch](#). The online tool tracks ice conditions on backyard and community rinks across North America. "The very first winter we did it was a terrible winter for outdoor rinks," McLeman said. "Then, you had last year which was a fantastic winter. Nice and long and cold." McLeman encouraged people from across the continent to sign up for free and share information about ice conditions on their own backyard rink. Backyard rink builders said with recent bitter cold temperatures in Winnipeg, it's hard to imagine building an outdoor rink being an issue. Paul Nairn said it seems to be more of a problem in other parts of the continent. "Maybe in southern Ontario," Nairn said. He said he got his rink going early on in December. "We were able to get it in pretty early this year." The scientists said they'll have a better understanding in 10 years how climate change is affecting outdoor rinks. [CTV News Winnipeg](#)



Brock U's Catherine Jean Nash receives prestigious Australian Endeavour Research Fellowship
[Brock News Around Campus](#)

Catherine Nolin is the New Geography Chair the University of Northern British Columbia. Catherine secured a tenure-track appointment in 2002 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2008. She has teaching awards from UNBC, the [Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#) and the [Canadian Association of Geographers](#). [UNBC News](#)



The [Geography Program](#) at the [University of Northern British Columbia](#) is pleased to extend an invitation to the 57th Annual Meeting of the [Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers \(WD-CAG\)](#). The meeting will be held March 13-14, 2015 at UNBC's Prince George Campus.

Please see the [Circular and Call for Abstracts](#), which includes details for submitting abstracts and a preliminary schedule of events to help in planning your travel to Prince George!

Registration will be done online, and a link is also available on the conference website. Early bird registration rates are \$50 for students and \$75 for faculty (not including GST). The early bird deadline is 30 January 2015. Rates afterwards are \$65 for students and \$90 for faculty. The final deadline for registration is March 7.

Additional information about the conference, including the keynote address, field trips, accommodations and banquet will be available on the [Conference Website](#). The site is still in development and will be updated regularly, so please bookmark it for easy reference.

Please contact Dr. Neil Hanlon (250-960-5881, hanlon@unbc.ca) for additional information.



Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Thomas E. Barchyn and Chris H. Hugenholtz. 2015. [Predictability of dune activity in real dune fields under unidirectional wind regimes](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI:10.1002/2014JF003248

Mathieu L. Bourbonnais, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Marc R. L. Cattet, Chris T. Darimont, Gordon B. Stenhouse and David M. Janz. 2014. [Environmental factors and habitat use influence body condition of individuals in a species at risk, the grizzly bear](#). Conservation Physiology 2. DOI:10.1093/conphys/cou043

Sébastien Breau. 2015. [Rising inequality in Canada: A regional perspective](#). Applied Geography. DOI:10.1016/j.apgeog.2014.11.010

Susan Frohlick. 2015. [Feeling sexual transgression: subjectivity, bodily experience, and non-normative hetero-erotic practices in women's cross-border sex in Costa Rica](#). Gender, Place & Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2014.991696

Stephen M. Gavazzi, Michael Fox and Jeff Martin. 2014. [Understanding campus and community relationships through marriage and family metaphors: a town-gown typology](#). Innovative Higher Education 39:361-374.

Dawn Hoogeveen. 2014. [Sub-surface property, free-entry mineral staking and settler colonialism in Canada](#). Antipode. DOI:10.1111/anti.12095

Katharine N. Rankin and Heather McLean. 2014. [Governing the commercial streets of the city: New terrains of disinvestment and gentrification in Toronto's inner suburbs](#). Antipode. DOI:10.1111/anti.12096

Calvin Lakhan. 2015. [Evaluating the effects of unit based waste disposal schemes on the collection of household recyclables in Ontario, Canada](#). Resources, Conservation and Recycling 95:38–45.

Mingbin Huang, S. Lee Barbour¹ and Sean K. Carey. 2015. [The impact of reclamation cover depth on the performance of reclaimed shale overburden at an oil sands mine in Northern Alberta, Canada](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10229

Youngil Kim, Sami Ullah, Nigel T. Roulet and Tim R. Moore. 2015. [Effect of inundation, oxygen and temperature on carbon mineralization in boreal ecosystems](#). Science of The Total Environment 511:381–392.

Nicole Laliberté and Carolin Schurr. 2015. [The stickiness of emotions in the field: complicating feminist methodologies](#). Gender, Place & Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2014.992117

Jamie Peck. 2014. [Entrepreneurial urbanism: Between uncommon sense and dull compulsion](#). Geografiska Annaler 96B:396–401.

Amanda K. Slaunwhite. 2015. [The role of gender and income in predicting barriers to mental health care in Canada](#). Community Mental Health Journal. DOI:10.1007/s10597-014-9814-8

Lauren Q. Sneyd. 2015. [Zoning in: The contributions of buyam–sellams to constructing Cameroon's wild food zone](#). *Geoforum* 59:73–86.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Theresa Dinh. 2014. [Influence of humans and climatic variability on historic wildfire dynamics in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Ze'ev Gedalof.

Jocelyn Joe-Strack. 2014. Mercury, sulfur-reducing bacteria and organic matter in the subarctic lake sediments of Kusawa Lake, Yukon. MSc thesis. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Petticrew.

Gregory Stephen Oulahan. 2014. [The production of unequal vulnerability to flood hazards in Metro Vancouver, Canada](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography. The University of Western Ontario London, Ontario. Supervisors: Dan Shrubsole and Gordon McBean.

Other “Geographical” News

Happy maps. Mapping apps help us find the fastest route to where we're going. But what if we'd rather wander? Researcher Daniele Quercia demos “happy maps” that take into account not only the route you want to take, but how you want to feel along the way. [TED.com](#)

The geography of plagiarism: New analyses of the hundreds of thousands of manuscripts 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. [Science](#)

Drought led to massive 'dead zone' in Lake Erie: Lake Erie just can't catch a break. The lake has experienced harmful algal blooms and severe oxygen-depleted 'dead zones' for years, but now a team of researchers has shown that the widespread drought in 2012 was associated with the largest dead zone since at least the mid-1980s. [ScienceDaily](#)

What would happen if grant reviews were made public? Many scientists struggle to understand why some grant applications succeed and others fail, perhaps explaining the online popularity of two articles calling for increased transparency in the grant peer-review process. Researchers are also talking about changing peer review at the other end of the research spectrum: after the results are published. [Nature](#)

The frost quakes have returned. What have we learned? It's been a year since mysterious booms echoed across parts of Ontario and Quebec, jolting many of out of their beds. It was just days after an ice storm swept across eastern Canada to the Maritimes. And they're back. [Global News](#)

Great Lakes teeming with tiny plastic fibers: Scientists who have reported that the Great Lakes are awash in tiny bits of plastic are raising new alarms about a little-noticed form of the debris turning up in sampling nets: synthetic fibers from garments, cleaning cloths and other consumer products. They are known as "microfibers" — exceedingly fine filaments made of petroleum-based materials such as polyester and nylon that are woven together into fabrics. [New York Times](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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

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