



GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 345, February 14, 2015
Compiled by Dan Smith [<caq@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)

Queen's U's Mark Rosenberg: studying aging populations in China: Dr. Mark Rosenberg (Geography) holds the Canada Research Chair in Development Studies at Queen's. Collaborating with colleagues from Canada, the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research at Beijing Normal University in Beijing, he studies the effects of social deprivation and access to services in the elderly population and pollution and its effects on health. In late October, Dr. Rosenberg returned to Kingston from Beijing. Every year, he conducts a week-long workshop for PhD students at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research. They focus on strengthening the research skills of the graduate students to tackle health and environmental issues particular to Beijing. "It's a participatory workshop," says Dr. Rosenberg. "They give presentations, team projects, and take part in peer review exercises." He first went to China in 2005. "I went to present my research at a meeting organized by a Chinese colleague and a German colleague as part of the activities of the International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment." "Over a 10-year period, we have developed a research program on the aging of the Chinese population, particularly in Beijing. Since 2005, it has created many two-way opportunities. After my first trip, I had my first PhD student from China come and work with me at Queen's. She is now an associate professor at Beijing Normal University. Much of the current research in the field stems from her thesis." [Queen's Alumni Review](#)

U Toronto's Alan Walks on why home ownership is tough for "Generation Debt" millennials: That group of young people born between 1980 and 2000 is most interested in living in the heart of cities, close to public transit, but is finding it a very difficult proposition. Alan Walks, a professor of geography at the University of Toronto, referred to that demographic as "Generation Debt". The overheated housing market, particularly in cities like Toronto and Vancouver, has created a generational divide, Walks said, with older people reaping a housing bubble windfall if they sell their home and benefit from the high price, and younger buyers finding it harder to get into the housing market. But because housing is different than other consumer products and people will overspend to get shelter, it's becoming clear that young people are taking on a lot more debt: Canadians under age 35 are more than twice as likely as someone over age 50 to have dangerous debt-servicing ratios and also to have much higher debt-to-income ratios, he said. But that's not all: young people aren't benefiting from the higher housing values. From 1999 to 2012, those under 35 saw their net worth increase eight per cent, compared to 70 per cent for those over 50. Those harsh facts, Walks said, "lead not only to income inequality but also wealth inequality." [insideHalton.com](#)

U Waterloo Geography and Environmental Management graduate student Sondra Eger attends World Parks Congress: Sondra Eger recently attended the once-per-decade World Parks Congress as a World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) - "Young Professional." "I was initially drawn to the idea of attending the WPC because I wanted to get more involved with the international conservation community, and to network for potential career opportunities in the future," says Eger. The World Parks Congress is a global forum on protected areas that shares knowledge and innovation while setting the agenda for protected areas conservation. The Congress is run by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the WCPA –YP's were responsible in helping lead Stream 8: Inspiring a New Generation. Eger is working towards her Masters of Environmental Studies – Geography and Environmental Management with a specialization in Integrated Water Management. "I hoped participating in WPC would allow me to also gain up to date information from global experts to integrate wider perspectives into my final thesis," she says. Eger joined 29 other young professionals in the "capacity development workshop," a four-day retreat in the Blue Mountains, a World Heritage Site located near Sydney, which provided a collective space for young leaders to exchange skills and knowledge. The result of the workshop was the development of a draft Young People's Pact and Action Plan for People, Parks and Planet. The pact and the action plan include a framework statement and a schedule of commitments to action on protected areas. The workshop included nature excursions, eco-restoration activities, dialogues with local communities and indigenous peoples, and an innovative session at Google Australia headquarters. [U Waterloo Environment News](#)

Queen's U's Anne Godlewska on the sweeter side of teaching: "What I do is what I like to do with chocolates – provide a lot of variety and then have people take what they like from it and make something of it." That's how Queen's geography professor Anne Godlewska explains her general theory of teaching. The bon-bon analogy may seem a little odd, but it reflects one of her interests. In addition to her academic credentials. Godlewska is also an avid amateur chocolate maker. As pedagogical goals go, plenty of variety and the chance to make something of what you are offered are right up there. But as Godlewska herself discovered in 2010 after returning to teaching undergraduates after several years in administration, providing isn't so easy. Queen's has a strong reputation for quality undergraduate education, but at universities everywhere today there are a lot of pressures that make this difficult to deliver – student enrollments have climbed, and with that their disengagement. The number of instructors has dropped, and professors are under considerable pressure to chase funding for research. "How," Godlewska asks, "can you teach a large number of students in an engaged way" given these competing, sometimes contradictory, forces? Since 2010, Godlewska has been trying to find the answer to that question, by turning her introductory course Geography 101: Human Geography into a virtual pedagogical laboratory. Over the years she has used a spate of teaching techniques in this introductory course – lectures (both live and online), podcasts, peer evaluation, online quizzes, different class sizes and so on – to try to create an environment in which students can be active participants in learning, not merely passive recipients. [Queen's U \(e\)Affect](#)

U Victoria alumni co-chair Marine and Coastal Tourism Conference in Hawaii. Brian Szuster of the University of Hawaii and Mark Needham of Oregon State University are co-chairing the 25 year anniversary [International Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress](#) (CMT 2015) that will be held November 10-13 at Waikoloa on the Big Island of Hawaii. CMT is widely considered the world's foremost gathering of experts focusing on tourism, recreation, and hospitality in coastal and marine environments, and is attended by academics and practitioners from around the world. The conference offers opportunities for the presentation and publication of refereed articles, working papers, and posters, along with additional workshops or training sessions on topics of special interest. The conference could be of particular interest to geographers working in tourism, recreation and coastal/marine resource management. [CMT 2015](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Myda Khatcherian. 2015. Is green the new black? An analysis of sustainable consumer discourses in Elle Canada and Fashion Magazine. MA in Geography Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Supervisor: Mike Ripmeester.

Emmanuel Kyeremeh, 2015. Exploring the discourse of skill/s mismatch in Ghana. MA in Geography Major Research Paper. Department of Geography, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Supervisor: Jeff Boggs.



U Victoria geography student Kaia Bryce comments on how distance education helped prepare her for the academic challenges of university, but the social aspect took a bit of time getting used to. [Peninsula News Review](#)

Saint Mary's U Geography of Manufacturing class is collecting stories of manufacturing expansion and closure on Twitter through the use of #smugeog3321. You can check out the stories that have been shared already by visiting <https://twitter.com/hashtag/smugeog3321>.

UNBC's Greg Halseth co-authors book on northern development. Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North's online publication is timed with the tenth anniversary of the Gargia Conferences, which brings the international community together every year to discuss local and regional development in the circumpolar north. Halseth, a geography professor, is co-director of the Community Development Institute and also the Canada Research Chair in rural and small town studies. [Prince George Citizen](#)

Ottawa U PhD student Robert Way selected as an International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) fellow for the Cryosphere Working Group. [Ottawa Geography News](#)

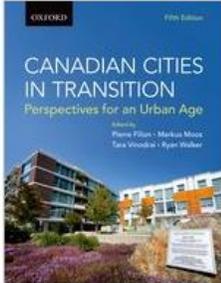
U Victoria's Chris Darimont calls Alberta's wolf cull cruel and unnecessary. What's wrong, said University of Victoria geographer Chris Darimont, is that neither strychnine nor aerial gunning meet Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines, which the province and the University of Alberta support. Shooting from helicopters produces a high number of wounded animals, said Darimont, a co-author of the critical paper. Strychnine kills by stiffening an animal's muscles until it strangles. "Both these techniques are cruel and are specifically forbidden." [Herald News](#)

Memorial U graduate Sarah Chan earned a M.Sc. in Physical Geography with a focus on climatology in 2011. Sarah is now working as an Assessment Officer with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board. [Memorial Geography News](#)

U Saskatchewan's Robert Patrick presents seminar at the University of Northern British Columbia entitled '*Getting from Good to Great: Place-Making for Sustainability in Terrace, BC*'. You can view his presentation on [livestream](#) or on [youtube](#).

New Book

Pierre Filion, Markus Moos, Tara Vinodrai and Ryan Walker. 2015. [Canadian Cities in Transition. Perspectives for an Urban Age, Fifth Edition](#). Oxford University Press.



Canadian Cities in Transition is an unparalleled examination of the critical issues and major transformations taking place in urban Canada. Examining all facets of Canadian cities-including historical evolution, economic dynamics, environmental impacts, and urban lifestyles-this well-balanced resource is crafted to help the next generation address the urban problems they have inherited.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

H. Croft, J.M. Chen, Y. Zhang, A. Simic, T.L. Noland, N. Nesbitt and J. Arabian. 2015. [Evaluating leaf chlorophyll content prediction from multispectral remote sensing data within a physically-based modelling framework](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 102:85–95.

Michael P. Ferber and Randolph Haluza-DeLay. 2015. [Scale-jumping and climate change in the geography of religion](#). In: The Changing World Religion Map. Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics. Stanley D. Brunn (Ed.). Springer Netherlands. 203-215.

Peter Kedron. 2015. [Environmental governance and shifts in Canadian biofuel production and innovation](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2014.983589

Trevor C. Lantz and Kevin W. Turner. 2015. [Changes in lake area in response to thermokarst processes and climate in old crow flats, Yukon](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences. DOI: 10.1002/2014JG002744

Michel Paquette, Daniel Fortier, Derek R. Mueller, Denis Sarrazin and Warwick F. Vincent. 2015. [Rapid disappearance of perennial ice on Canada's most northern lake](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2014GL062960

Jay Sagin, Anton Sizo, Howard Wheeler, Timothy D. Jardine and Karl-Erich Lindenschmidt. 2015. [A water coverage extraction approach to track inundation in the Saskatchewan River Delta, Canada](#). International Journal of Remote Sensing 36. DOI:10.1080/01431161.2014.1001084

Amber Silver and Jason Grek-Martin. 2015. "[Now we understand what community really means](#)": [Reconceptualizing the role of sense of place in the disaster recovery process](#). Journal of Environmental Psychology. DOI:10.1016/j.jenvp.2015.01.004

Johanna Springer, Ralf Ludwig and Stefan W. Kienzle. 2015. [Impacts of forest fires and climate variability on the hydrology of an alpine medium sized catchment in the Canadian Rocky Mountains](#). Hydrology 2:23-47.

Vivian Wasiuta, Melissa J. Lafrenière and Ann-Lise Norman. 2015. [Atmospheric deposition of sulfur and inorganic nitrogen in the Southern Canadian Rocky Mountains from seasonal snowpacks and bulk summer precipitation](#). Journal of Hydrology. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.01.073

Other "Geographical" News

Female academics face huge sexist bias – no wonder there are so few of them: Benjamin Schmidt created an online tool that allows users to compare the frequency of particular words in evaluations of male and female professors. The results are striking. [The Guardian](#)

The failure that is food policy in Nunavut: The Canadian government's food policy is having dire consequences for communities in Nunavut. Aside from being proof of further deterioration of government-Indigenous relations, Canada's food policy has been an illustration of mismanagement and the consequences of what occurs when a program lacks transparency and denies power to those it claims to protect. [Rabble.ca](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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>
