



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Mount Allison U's Zoe Finkel to study effects of Gulf of Mexico oil spill: Mount Allison University geography and environment professor Dr. Zoe Finkel is collaborating with researchers in a multi-university consortium that received \$7.25 million to study the impact of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill on both the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and public health. The spill released approximately 4.1 million barrels of oil into the gulf and another 1.84 million gallons of the chemical Corexit was added to disperse the oil. Finkel, Canada Research Chair in Marine Environmental Ecology and co-ordinator of the environmental science program at Mount Allison, is an expert on the physiology of phytoplankton, the microscopic photosynthetic organisms found in the surface layers of the oceans. She will be investigating how oil and the dispersant Corexit has effected the microbial communities of bacteria and phytoplankton in the Gulf of Mexico and how these communities influence the fate, distribution, and potential effects of oil in the marine ecosystem. "I'm thrilled to be able to join this consortium to study this important environmental problem," says Finkel. "The consortium brings together world-class researchers and will make it possible to tackle much bigger problems than we could work on individually." The consortium, called ADDOMEx for the aggregation and degradation of dispersant and oil by microbial exopolymers, is led by Dr. Antonietta Quigg, professor of Marine Biology and associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M's Galveston campus. It includes eight investigators from six US research institutions and one Canadian institution, Mount Allison. [The Citizen Record](#)

Memorial U MA student Victoria Bailey is passionate about the "role of radio in research: "I feel passionately about the role of radio in research, not only as a means of mobilizing knowledge, but as a way of meaningfully engaging research participants in the process. Traditional research mobilizing has come in the form of written words, theses and journal articles, and these will form the bulk of the research product, but to this I'd like to add more. The spoken word, and aural landscape can be incredibly evocative, and can represent people and places in a way completely different than can be accomplished with a written description. And with the availability of digital handheld audio recording equipment and cheap editing software, coupled with the ease of uploading and sharing audio on the Internet, this format also holds to potential to be incredibly inclusive to researchers looking to integrate new media into their research outputs. [Memorial Geography Department](#)

U Calgary's Brent Else to set up Northwest Passage weather station that will help manage travel risks: Brent Else says he is excited about improving the two-way flow of knowledge between scientists and Inuit communities in the Canadian north. The assistant professor in the Department of Geography has been awarded a grant to install a weather station on a small island in the Northwest Passage by the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) network. Not only will Else's project investigate the surface energy balance of the ice, his main research focus, it will try to determine how the Inuit can make better use of scientific information to manage risks and make informed decisions about travelling on it. "Ice conditions are changing and becoming harder to predict and as a result, travel is becoming more dangerous and we'd like to find out whether this is a concern in this particular community," Else says. The MEOPAR grant, targeted to early career researchers, calls for an interdisciplinary approach. "My research interests in the past have been in the natural sciences," he says. "I work mostly in the Arctic Ocean and I haven't had much opportunity to do social science research. I've been looking for ways to bring that aspect into my research." Else will collaborate with Joe Arvai, a specialist in risk and decision science in the Department of Geography and Maribeth Murray, director of the Arctic Institute of North America, housed at the University of Calgary. The research, aided by two post-graduate students, aims to determine the local community's needs for making decisions about travelling on the ice. "We're also interested in finding out what they know about the ice and when it melts and what factors control its melt, because they have been living there for centuries and know a lot about it." Cambridge Bay is a small settlement on the southeast coast of Victoria Island at the western end of Queen Maud Gulf where it narrows into Dease Strait. The Inuit venture on to sea ice to hunt, fish and travel to the mainland. The weather station will be installed on a small low-lying island in the channel to measure atmospheric conditions directly associated with the ice that forms. [Calgary UToday](#)



Second Call for Abstracts and Special Sessions
9th Symposium of the International Society for Digital Earth

DIGITAL EARTH 2015 "Towards a One-World Vision for the Blue Planet"
Halifax, NS, CANADA, October 5-9

Digital Earth 2015 seeks abstracts describing the state of the art and practice relating to the five conference themes: Digital Earth Theory and Technology; Earth Observation; Applications to Science and Policy; Digital Earth and Citizen Well-Being, and Digital Earth Education and Outreach

Digital Earth concerns the integrated use of digital technologies to monitor, map, model, and manage our planet's environments. At Digital Earth 2015 up to 1,000 scientists, engineers, technologists, and environmental managers from around the world will meet to share concepts, research findings, technologies, and practical applications relating to the Digital Earth vision.

Interested contributors should submit their abstract or proposal for a special session by April 17.

Submission details can be found under the Program menu tab at digitalearth2015.ca. Abstracts and proposals will be promptly considered by the Scientific Program Committee.



UBC Geography alumnus John Thistle (PhD 2009) has just published his first book, [Resettling the Range: Animals, Ecologies, and Human Communities in Early British Columbia](#). The book explores the ecology and history of BC interior's grasslands and the people who lived there in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. [UBC Geography](#)

Queen's U's George Lovell recently launched his co-authored book [Saqueo en el Archivo. El Paradero de los tesoros documentales guatemaltecos](#) (Guatemala, CIRMA/CEUR/PMS, 2014) during the Mundos indígenas na América (séculos XVI-XVIII) Seminário aberto held in Lisbon. [Queen's Geography](#)

New in The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien



Jonathan L. Tanguay and André E. Viau. 2015. [Analyse des perceptions de l'exposition au changement climatique de deux localités canadiennes](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12141

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kimia C. Abhar, Ian J. Walker, Patrick A. Hesp and Paul A. Gares. 2015. [Spatial-temporal evolution of aeolian blowout dunes at Cape Cod](#). Geomorphology. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.02.015

Fougère Augustin, Daniel Houle, Christian Gagnon and François Courchesne. 2015. [Long-term base cation weathering rates in forested catchments of the Canadian Shield](#). Geoderma 247–248:12–23.

Lea Berrang-Ford, Tristan Pearce and James D. Ford. 2015. [Systematic review approaches for climate change adaptation research](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI: 10.1007/s10113-014-0708-7

Chris Burn. 2015. [J. Ross Mackay \(1915–2014\)](#). Arctic 68:129-131.

John Connell and Margaret Walton-Roberts. 2015. [What about the workers? The missing geographies of health care](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132515570513

Heather A. Cray and Wayne H. Pollard. 2015. [Vegetation recovery patterns following permafrost disturbance in a low Arctic setting: Case study of Herschel Island, Yukon, Canada](#). Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research 47:99-113.

Valorie A Crooks, Neville Li, Jeremy Snyder, Shafik Dharamsi, Shelly Benjaminy, Karen J Jacob and Judy Illes. 2015. [“You don’t want to lose that trust that you’ve built with this patient...”: \(Dis\)trust, medical tourism, and the Canadian family physician-patient relationship](#). BMC Family Practice (2015) 16:25.

Mohamed Ramy El-Maarry, Richard Soare and Ákos Kereszturi. 2014. [Crater-floor polygons \(Mars\)](#). Encyclopedia of Planetary Landforms. 1-6.

Alemu Gonsamo, Jingming M. Chen and Petra D'Odorico. 2015. [Underestimated role of East Atlantic-West Russia pattern on Amazon vegetation productivity](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1420834112

Li He, Antonio Páez, Desheng Liu and Shiguo Jiang. 2015. [Temporal stability of model parameters in crime rate analysis: An empirical examination](#). Applied Geography 58:141–152.

Fiona Lawson, Nadine Schuurman, Ofer Amram and Avery B Nathens. 2015. [A geospatial analysis of the relationship between neighbourhood socioeconomic status and adult severe injury in Greater Vancouver](#). Injury Prevention. DOI: 10.1136/injuryprev-2014-041437

Denis Lacelle, Alex Brooker, Robert H. Fraser and Steve V. Kokelj. 2015. [Distribution and growth of thaw slumps in the Richardson Mountains–Peel Plateau region, northwestern Canada](#). Geomorphology 235:40-51.

Nicole Laliberté. 2015. [Geographies of human rights: Mapping responsibility](#). Geography Compass. DOI: 10.1111/gec3.12196

Jed Long and Trisalyn Nelson. 2015. [Home range and habitat analysis using dynamic time geography](#). The Journal of Wildlife Management. DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.845

Natalie Oswin. 2015. [World, city, queer](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/anti.12142

Trina Rytwinski, Rodney van der Ree, Glenn M. Cunnington, Lenore Fahrig, C. Scott Findlay, Jeff Houlahan, Jochen A.G. Jaeger, Kylie Soanes and Edgar A. van der Griff. 2015. [Experimental study designs to improve the evaluation of road mitigation measures for wildlife](#). Journal of Environmental Management 154:48–64.

Other “Geographical” News

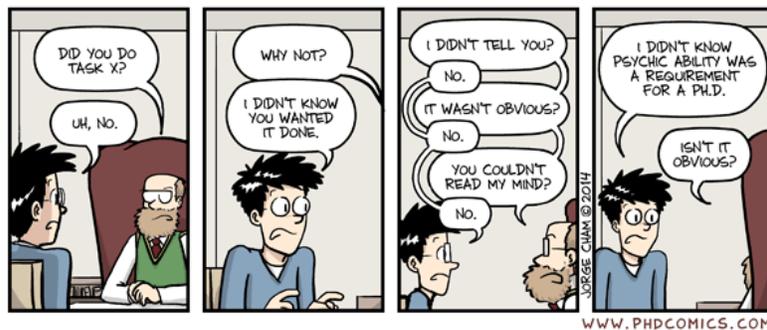
Cyclists help Google make better maps: Cyclists are among the most likely Google Maps users to report problems with the maps, allowing Google to adapt and improve mapping. If a user tells Google that its directions are wrong, a team at Google’s Project Ground Truth will check out the claims and adjust the map. Cyclists produce disproportionately more data adjustments than any other road user, and Google says cyclists are “fanatical” contributors to the system. [Road.cc](#)

The tragedy of Canada's census: The country's political climate led to the switch from a mandatory census form to voluntary one. Here’s the kicker, though: This new survey, the one that provides less data than the one before it and has left academics, government officials, demographers, social planners and businesspeople wondering how to calculate exactly how many people live in Canada, and where, also cost more money. Maclean’s reports that Statistics Canada needed an extra \$22 million to cover the “costs associated with increased questionnaire production and mail-out.” [CityLab](#)

Federal government announces Tri-Council Open Access policy: Research funded by the Canadian government's three major funding agencies will now be made widely available online under a new policy announced February 27. The Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications will require that researchers funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) make the results of their research freely available online within 12 months of publication. Researchers can do this either by publishing in an Open Access journal or depositing their work in an online archive/repository. [Brock News](#)

Nunavut prepares for 'tsunami' of youth: "Today, almost one-third of Nunavummiut are under the age of 15," Nunavut's Finance Minister told the legislature. That's about twice the percentage as the Canadian average and explains why education was the big winner in the budget with a 10-per-cent increase. [Globe and Mail](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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

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