



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Victoria's Chris Darimont asks whether humans unsustainable 'super predators': Want to see what science now calls the world's "super predator"? Look in the mirror. Research published by a team led by Chris Darimont, the Hakai-Raincoast professor of geography at the University of Victoria, looking at the [unique ecology of human predators](#) reveals new insight behind widespread wildlife extinctions, shrinking fish sizes and disruptions to global food chains. "These are extreme outcomes that non-human predators seldom impose," Darimont's team writes. "Our wickedly efficient killing technology, global economic systems and resource management that prioritize short-term benefits to humanity have given rise to the human super predator," says Darimont, also science director for the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. "Our impacts are as extreme as our behaviour and the planet bears the burden of our predatory dominance." The team's global analysis indicates that humans typically exploit adult fish populations at 14 times the rate of marine predators. Humans hunt and kill large land carnivores such as bears, wolves and lions at nine times the rate that these predatory animals kill each other in the wild. Humanity also departs fundamentally from predation in nature by targeting adult quarry. [UVic Media Release](#)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy astonished by proposed location of CalgaryNEXT along Bow River: The Calgary Flames organization has kicked off its \$890-million plan for CalgaryNEXT — a new hockey arena, covered football stadium and multi-sport fieldhouse on the west side of downtown. John Pomeroy, a hydrology professor at the University of Saskatchewan, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, said he's shocked by the proposed location. "The only thing that should be happening in the floodplains in Calgary in terms of development is the development of green spaces," he said. "It's astonishing two years after the flood." In June 2013, massive flooding swept through southern Alberta. It turned creeks into raging rivers and left a swath of damage in its path. Calgary Flames president Ken King dismissed the risk when asked about the new area being built in a floodplain, suggesting it's out of the flood zone. "The preliminary research on it would say it's out of the floodplain," he reiterated. Pomeroy and others say it's a question of when — not if — the proposed location along the Bow River will flood, and there could be major consequences. "There will be extremely extensive damage to the facility, and we have to remember that the flood in Calgary was not even a one-in-50 year event, and so there's a likelihood of another flood that size or larger occurring over the lifetime of the building. "The other thing is we're building for the future now and we're entering a period of climate extremes, including extreme flooding, so it's not reasonable to assume that things will not be any worse than the past." [Calgary Herald](#)

Queen's U M.A. candidate Trevor Wideman receives RCGS Maxwell Studentship: Trevor is in the second of his Master's degree at Queen's University and has received a [Maxwell Studentship](#) to support his investigations of *Toponymic inscription in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*. His research focuses on how place names (toponyms) have been used in urban planning in the Downtown Eastside, and at how naming changes the way people think, feel, and act towards the neighbourhood. I am investigating how the area was labeled historically by reviewing newspaper articles and planning documents, as well as doing a critical examination of a recent Local Area Plan to understand how naming is being used in the present day. Specifically, he is looking at how Japanese Canadian heritage has been used within this recent plan to promote neighbourhood transformations. His research is integrated with the goals of the [Revitalizing Japantown?](#) project under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Masuda at the [Centre for Environmental Health Equity](#) (CEHE). [RCGS Digest](#) | [CEHE](#)

U Ottawa's Barry Wellar on the problem with roundabouts: Halifax's newest roundabout had motorists spinning in circles Monday. "It opened up at 9 a.m. and other than a couple cars that were going in the wrong direction — which we saw at all of the other locations as well when we first opened — it's been relatively smooth sailing," said municipal spokeswoman Jennifer Stairs. The Cogswell roundabout, part of Halifax's North Park intersection redesign, opened to traffic less than a year after the single-lane Cunard roundabout was unveiled last November. The federal department has recommended all towns and cities consider converting signalized intersections to roundabouts wherever appropriate. But Barry Wellar, an urban planning expert and University of Ottawa professor emeritus, said the problem with roundabouts is that they prioritize automobiles. "The aim of traffic engineers is always about moving traffic — and that's four-wheeled traffic," he said. "They don't seem to understand that anything that moves is traffic, including pedestrians, cyclists and transit." While roundabouts are lauded for moving traffic more quickly through intersections and reducing wait times, Wellar said they don't give priority to transit buses and can force pedestrians to walk further out of their way. He also criticized the lack of a bike lane through the roundabout. "The bigger the vehicles, the more you intimidate," Wellar said. "Without a shadow of a doubt vehicles will intimidate bike riders. The driver of the car has a whole pile of steel between him and the front end of the car, the cyclists don't." [Herald News](#)

Ottawa U's Luisa Veronis, Québec bashing, ou réalité? Selon une recherche de terrain effectuée par des chercheurs de l'Université d'Ottawa, il y aurait un fond de vérité dans cette affirmation, du moins aux yeux des principaux concernés, les immigrants eux-mêmes. La géographe Luisa Veronis en est arrivée à cette conclusion après avoir interviewé une centaine d'immigrants réunis en groupes de discussion. Les échanges ont souvent été passionnés pour débattre de la frontière sociale entre les deux rives. Mme Veronis s'est principalement concentrée sur les «Latinos» et les Africains d'expression française, car ils sont répartis plus ou moins équitablement entre le Québec et l'Ontario dans la région de la capitale fédérale. Dans les relations informelles, - au restaurant ou dans la rue - nombre d'immigrants ont noté que le Québécois francophone est plus chaleureux que l'Ontarien, mais moins «respectueux», notamment au volant. «Ils ont trouvé que les anglophones sont plus réservés et plus distants, souligne Mme Veronis. Mais à plus long terme, il est plus facile d'établir une amitié profonde.» Certains participants ont toutefois noté que le «respect» que témoignent les anglophones masque une forme d'«hypocrisie». Étonnamment, pour les «Africains francophones», la langue est perçue comme le premier facteur de discrimination dans leur relation avec les Québécois. Selon l'étude, il ne serait pas suffisant de partager une langue commune, on attend de l'immigrant qu'il adopte la parlure québécoise, sinon, «on leur fait sentir qu'ils ont un accent», précise Mme Veronis. Les Francos-Ontariens qui habitent du côté québécois de la rivière ne sont pas exempts de jugements semblables. «Les Francos-Ontariens ont dit avoir eu l'impression que les Gatinois ne comprenaient pas leur identité», dit Mme Veronis. La chercheuse soutient que l'identité des Gatinois - et plus généralement des Québécois - minoritaires dans l'ensemble canadien, a tendance à se «durcir» pour se «protéger», d'où sa moins grande ouverture à l'Autre. [LeDroit](#)

Memorial U's Carissa Brown wins W.S. Cooper Award from Ecological Society of America: Dr. Carissa Brown, Department of Geography, and co-author Dr. Mark Vellend (Université de Sherbrooke) have won the 2015 W.S. Cooper Award from the Ecological Society of America. This prestigious prize honours an "outstanding contribution to the field of geobotany, physiographic ecology, plant succession or the distribution of plants along environmental gradients". Brown and Vellend's paper, "[Non-climatic constraints on upper elevational plant range expansion under climate change](#)" (Proceedings of the Royal Society B, 2014) summarizes an extensive manipulative field experiment testing interactions between soil, climate, and biotic interactions on the distributional limit of sugar maple in southern Québec. They present some of the first direct experimental evidence revealing that seed predation and soil properties strongly constrain range expansion along an elevational gradient in climate. These data highlight a clear need to incorporate non-climatic factors into predictions of species' range shifts under climate change. They were presented the award by ESA President Dr. David Inouye at ESA's Centennial Meeting in Baltimore, MD in August. [Memorial Geography News](#)

McMaster U's Allison Williams on why employers are caring for the caregivers: Statistics Canada shows that 8.1 million Canadians are caregivers, and of those, 6.1 million are in the work force. Most of the caregivers are aged 45 to 64, a group that also comprises the most experienced workers, says Allison Williams, a professor at McMaster University in Hamilton and research chair for the Canadian Institute of Health Research. Since more than half of caregivers are helping their aging parents, Dr. Williams says the problem is set to worsen as the number of seniors requiring care is projected to double between 2012 and 2031. For workplaces that ignore the needs of the growing contingent of caregivers, the risks are high. "The data we have now suggests that we are losing talented people, some of them senior people with considerable skills and experience. We're seeing absenteeism. We're seeing people reducing to part-time and 'presenteeism' and stress as well," says Donna Lero, a professor at the University of Guelph. Another burden is the personal cost to individual employees who risk burnout, Dr. Williams says. "What usually happens first is fatigue, then mental health issues like depression and anxiety, and then finally physical health issues." While large employers with deeper pockets seem to be leading the charge on official policies, smaller organizations can also take steps. Revisiting start or end times, allowing employees to "bank" hours, and empowering managers to be flexible with their direct reports are common suggestions. "Some are as simple as making sure that the caregiver employee has the parking spot nearest to the exit door so that during their lunch they can take grandma to her specialist appointment," Dr. Williams says. [Globe and Mail](#)



U Waterloo's Derek Robinson explains why location analysis and gis are key in today's market. Think GIS is mostly used for mapping weather patterns and population? Think again. [Derek Robinson](#) explains why GIS tools and spatial analysis are critical to today's retailers. [PiinPoint](#)

Queen's U's Dr. David Gordon has been re-appointed as the Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning for three years, commencing July 1, 2015. He was previously Director and Acting Director of SURP since 2008. [Professor Gordon](#) will also serve on the Executive Committee of the new Department of Geography and Planning. [Queen's University](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Kilian Nasung Atuoye, Jenna Dixon, Andrea Rishworth, Sylvester Zackaria Galaa, Sheila A. Boamah and Isaac Luginaah. 2015. [Can she make it? Transportation barriers to accessing maternal and child health care services in rural Ghana](#). BMC Health Services Research 15:333 doi:10.1186/s12913-015-1005-y

Ian G. Baird and Noah Quastel. 2015. [Rescaling and reordering nature–society relations: The Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Dam and Laos–Thailand Electricity Networks](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2015.1064511

Kin Wing Chan and Byron Miller. 2015. [Capitalist pigs: Governmentality, subjectivities, and the regulation of pig farming in colonial Hong Kong, 1950–1970](#). Environment and Planning D. Society and Space. DOI:10.1177/0263775815598154

Crystal V Filep, Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, Sean Fitzsimons and Sarah Turner. 2015. [Reaching revelatory places: the role of solicited diaries in extending research on emotional geographies into the unfamiliar](#). Area. DOI:10.1111/area.12217

Derek Gregory. 2015. [The natures of war](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/anti.12173

Derek K. Heathfield and Ian J. Walker. 2015. [Evolution of a foredune and backshore river complex on a high-energy, drift-aligned beach](#). Geomorphology 248:440-451.

Marilou B. Montemayor, Jonathan Price and Line Rochefort. 2015. [The importance of pH and sand substrate in the revegetation of saline non-waterlogged peat fields](#). Journal of Environmental Management 163:87–97.

Jonathan Peyton and Aaron Franks. 2015. [The new nature of things? Canada's Conservative Government and the design of the new environmental subject](#). Antipode. DOI:10.1111/anti.12179

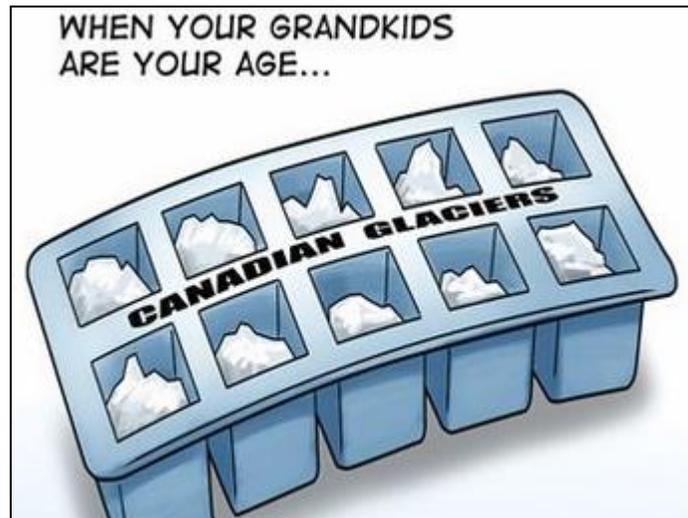
Thomas Richerol, Bianca Fréchette, André Rochon and Reinhard Pienitz. 2015. [Holocene climate history of the Nunatsiavut \(northern Labrador, Canada\) established from pollen and dinoflagellate cyst assemblages covering the past 7000 years](#). The Holocene. DOI: 10.1177/0959683615596823

Crystal Tremblay. 2015. [Community knowledge co-creation through participatory video](#). Action Research. DOI: 10.1177/1476750315572158

Other “Geographical” News

Fracking-induced quakes in B.C. are among largest on record: At least two earthquakes in British Columbia over the past year are among the largest ever caused by natural gas fracking in North America and were both strong enough to force temporary shutdowns of operations. But while the province’s oil and natural gas ministry as well as the shale gas industry have both played down the severity of fracking-induced quakes – insisting they are rare and present no threat to people or buildings – experts caution much is still not known about just how strong a fracking-induced earthquake could be. [Globe and Mail](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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