



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**U British Columbia's Dan Hiebert reports thousands of Metro Vancouver mansion owners avoiding taxes:** Some homeowners in tony parts of the west side of Vancouver and Richmond are claiming to have income as low as people struggling in Vancouver's poor Downtown Eastside. The tax unfairness caused by the growing phenomenon of mansion owners alleging poverty can be traced largely to Canada failing to catch trans-national migrants who refuse to report their total global income at tax times. A study by University of B.C. geographer Dan Hiebert shows the problem is worse in Metro Vancouver than in Montreal and Toronto. It's the unintended consequence of Metro becoming a popular destination for those who gained a Canadian passport through the business-investor immigrant program. The most contradictory-appearing "low-income" area of Metro Vancouver is the elite tree-lined west side neighbourhood of Shaughnessy-Arbutus Ridge. It includes Prince of Wales Secondary School, Quilchena Park and the luxurious hillside houses north of 37th Avenue, which typically sell in the \$2-million to \$6-million range. Hiebert's study, for the Institute for Research on Public Policy, dovetails with the findings of Vancouver mathematician Jens von Bergmann, formerly of The University of Calgary. Von Bergmann found 25,000 households in the city of Vancouver alone, almost one in 10, declare less income than they spent on their housing costs. His maps, published by the South China Morning Post, show most are in the west side. Both Hiebert and Von Bergmann discovered most of the Metro neighbourhoods where residents own expensive houses but many declare low income contain a much higher than Metro average of visible minorities, particularly of Chinese origin. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**U Victoria's Simon Springer interviewed about his entitled "Violent Neoliberalism: Development, Discourse, and Dispossession in Cambodia":** Simon Springer, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, is the author of the book "[Violent Neoliberalism: Development, Discourse, and Dispossession in Cambodia](#)". According to Springer, "Violent Neoliberalism" explores the relationship between neoliberalism and violence through a critical poststructuralist lens. The book seeks to expose the supposed humanitarianism of what has become the world's most dominant political economic model as a process of transformation that is shot through with a significant degree of cruelty. In making this argument he employs a series of theoretical dialogues informed by his ongoing research in Cambodia. In particular he seeks to upset and disturb the 'commonsense' assumptions about development and dispossession in the country by examining the discourses that are being deployed. In looking closely at these processes he argues that the ongoing patterns of neoliberalization have become engrossed with violence, not only in Cambodia, but beyond as well. [Network for Cambodia and SE Asia Studies](#)

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**U British Columbia's Michele Koppes reports that climate change moves mountains — literally:**

Climate change is causing more than just warmer oceans and erratic weather. According to scientists, it also has the capacity to alter the shape of the planet. In [a five-year study](#), Michele Koppes, assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, compared glaciers in Patagonia and in the Antarctic Peninsula. She and her team found that glaciers in warmer Patagonia moved faster and caused more erosion than those in Antarctica, as warmer temperatures and melting ice helped lubricate the bed of the glaciers. "We found that glaciers erode 100 to 1,000 times faster in Patagonia than they do in Antarctica," said Koppes. "Antarctica is warming up, and as it moves to temperatures above 0 degrees Celsius, the glaciers are all going to start moving faster. We are already seeing that the ice sheets are starting to move faster and should become more erosive, digging deeper valleys and shedding more sediment into the oceans." The repercussions of this erosion add to the already complex effects of climate change in the polar regions. Faster moving glaciers deposit more sediment in downstream basins and on the continental shelves, potentially impacting fisheries, dams and access to clean freshwater in mountain communities. "The polar continental margins in particular are hotspots of biodiversity," notes Koppes. "If you're pumping out that much more sediment into the water, you're changing the aquatic habitat." The findings by Koppes and coauthors also settle a scientific debate about when glaciers have the greatest impact on shaping landscapes and creating relief, suggesting that they do the most erosive work near the end of each cycle of glaciation, rather than at the peak of ice cover. [UBC News](#)

**U Waterloo's Sarah Burch appointed as Senior Fellow in CIGI Global Economy Program:** The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) has appointed Sarah Burch as a Senior Fellow with its Global Economy Program. Dr. Burch will concentrate on the area of financing sustainable development, with a focus on multi-level governance of climate change and sustainability challenges. "Sustainability challenges require deep collaboration between practitioners and scholars, which is a fundamental part of CIGI's approach to governance," says Burch. "I look forward to the opportunity to engage with CIGI's diverse network of innovative fellows in this area." Burch is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, where she helped launch a Master of Climate Change Program. Burch holds a Ph.D. in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from the University of British Columbia, a B.A. in International Relations, as well as a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science both from the University of Calgary. [U Waterloo GEM News](#)

**U British Columbia Okanagan's Michael Pidwirny warns ski resorts in Western Canada to brace for warmer temperatures:** Some ski hills in British Columbia could be in for another rocky year thanks to a warmer winter, says a climatologist, but it should be less of a problem for Alberta ski resorts, which tend to sit at higher elevations. "Last year, monthly temperatures were between 3 to 5 C warmer than they should have been," said UBC Okanagan associate professor Michael Pidwirny, who studies how climate change affects ski resorts in North America. This winter, temperatures are expected to be a degree or two above normal, according to Pidwirny. That shouldn't be cause for major concern in Alberta, where "they have cold temperatures to begin with," said Pidwirny. While the forecast is an improvement over last season, which Pidwirny said marked "the warmest year in the climatological records that we have for Western Canada that date back to about 1900," it still has some operators worried about the long-term viability of their snow-dependent businesses. The warmer-than-normal forecast is worrying for B.C. operators, in particular, as it could be part of a larger trend, according to Pidwirny. "For the coastal resorts, by 2050, the winter that we had last year could become the normal," he warned. "Skiing is dependent on climate. It's the canary in the coal mine," he said. "It's going to be one of the first sort of socio-economic activities that humans do that's going to show how climate change can affect it." "What occurred last year will become more frequent, but it's really hard to say how much more frequent." [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

**McMaster U's Richard Harris on impact of Hamilton housing prices for renters:** Housing prices in the Hamilton area have rocketed upwards by 16.6 per cent over the past year, the biggest jump in any real estate market in Canada. Richard Harris, a geography professor at McMaster University, says spiking prices have implications for renters. "In one sense, it's unquestionably good news. But then there's all the people who aren't part of the story," he says. "It's not good for the people trying to get into the market ... and there's no good news for renters at all." As house prices go up, so do rents — taking home ownership that much farther out of reach for many renters, Harris says. The income gap between renters and homeowners has almost doubled today from 50 years ago, he adds. And while there is an indisputable need for more rental units and more affordable housing in general, he says reports like these should also have us questioning our philosophies around home ownership. "The larger problem, I think, is the way that we have always ... promoted home ownership as the be-all and the end-all," he says. "Because almost everyone sees the ultimate goal as owning a home, they fight and work and strive mightily to achieve that. And they bid like crazy and go in over their heads in debt in order to accomplish that ... house-poor is the old phrase, but its truer now than ever." He cites by way of comparison European countries like Germany, "where renting isn't seen as very clearly second best." [Hamilton Spectator](#)

**U Winnipeg's Ian Mauro appointed to Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artist and Scientists:** The Royal Society of Canada has selected The University of Winnipeg's Dr. Ian Mauro as a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, the national community of scholars that embodies the diversity of outstanding intellectual achievement in Canada. As both a community-based researcher and academic filmmaker, Dr. Mauro works in the social and ecological sciences, exploring the human dimensions of environmental change. He collects, conserves and communicates local and Indigenous knowledge, conducting studies about biotechnology, climate change, and industrial development. He mobilizes this knowledge to audiences throughout Canada and beyond. Dr. Mauro was raised in Winnipeg and returned to join UWinnipeg's Department of Geography as an Associate Professor in 2014. His work has been featured globally at The Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, The Royal Ontario Museum, and film festivals and academic conferences. In recent years, he has been developing climate change films across Canada, and has toured them nationally with acclaimed broadcaster and scientist Dr. David Suzuki. [U Winnipeg NewsCentre](#)

**U Toronto PhD student Gwen MacGregor on whether Toronto's Nuit Blanche grown too big for its own good:** Toronto is not the Canadian metropolis with the longest-running Nuit Blanche. That honour is held by Montreal which, inspired by the original Nuit Blanche in Paris, hosted the country's first free "all-night contemporary art thing" and has kept on keeping on ever since. But it's Toronto that is now considered "the mother ship of Nuit Blanche," not just nationally but internationally, observes Gwen MacGregor, a Toronto multidisciplinary artist who, in 2014, published a research paper on Nuit Blanche Toronto as perceived by artists and curators as part of her cultural geography studies at the University of Toronto. MacGregor thinks that the perception in recent years of Nuit Blanche as a boozy bacchanal with a garnish of visual arts "is an indication of a bigger issue." Toronto, to her eyes, is "a pretty regulated city in terms of what we're allowed to do and when we're allowed to do it. One of the great things about Nuit Blanche Toronto is that there seems to be a bit of a relaxing of those things." It more or less gives a once-a-year sanction to moms and dads, brothers and sisters, to roll bleary-eyed into bed at an hour when they would usually be waking up or sound asleep. "People are kind of hungry for that, so why not have more things that are arts-related, not specifically contemporary art, but with another kind of focus that's also a late-night or all-night event?" says MacGregor. "I think it would alleviate a lot of the pressure on Nuit Blanche" while possibly restoring some of the magic of the event's earlier years when you could be "out at 4 in the morning, feeling safe and festive and looking at art and wandering with your friends." [Globe and Mail](#)

**U Victoria's bikemaps.org mapping cycling safety trouble spots in Victoria:** [bikemaps.org](http://bikemaps.org) is studying cycling safety along the [Gallopig Goose and Lochside Regional Trails](#). Data submitted to BikeMaps.org has highlighted trouble spots for people riding regional trails in and around Victoria. Ben Jestico (UVic Geography MSc Student leading the study) has been working with volunteers to survey these and other regional trail road crossings. Students are collecting intersection design characteristics, as well as cycling and vehicle volumes. Ben, who was surveying at Harriet Road this week, said, "That intersection count gave me high blood pressure! There were lots of cars turning off and onto the highway that just didn't see people cycling." Ten incidents have been reported to BikeMaps.org where the Gallopig Goose crosses Harriet Road. [BikeMaps.org](http://BikeMaps.org)

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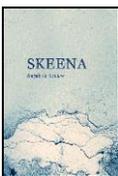
## New Books

Kelly Vodden, Ryan Gibson and Godfrey Baldacchino (Editors). 2015. [Place Peripheral. Place-Based Development in Rural, Island, and Remote Regions](#). ISER Books. 340 pages. ISBN 978-1-894725-25-5



*Place Peripheral* examines community and regional development in rural, island, and remote locales from a place-based approach. This is a timely edited collection, addressing themes that are receiving considerable attention in Canada and internationally as local communities, scholars, researchers and public policy analysts strive to better understand and apply place-based strategies in rural and remote regions. The volume and its contributors examine place-based economic development strategies, recognizing the broader and deeper significance, meanings, and attachments often associated with place and also interrogating such relationships as may exist between sense of place, cultural and social development, and environmental stewardship.

Sarah de Leeuw. 2015. [Skeena](#). Caitlin Press Inc. 96 p. ISBN 978-1-927575-91-8 / 1-927575-91-5



An elegy to and celebration of British Columbia's second-longest river, one at the centre of contemporary conversations about resource extraction and northern geographies, *Skeena* is an assemblage of voices, stories and histories both about the river and from the river's perspective. As a single poetic narrative spanning more than ninety pages, this second collection of poetry by award-winning poet Sarah de Leeuw follows a Canadian tradition of long poems, weaving together poetic rendering of the river's perceptions with archival material that includes highway signs and historical newspapers, scientific reports and local lore, geological surveys and tourist websites. Mirroring a river's complex tributary structure and rendered in highly concentrated imagistic language and experimental description, *Skeena* is a poly-vocal watershed of poetry, a book that unflinchingly demands humans understand the power of a river, the life and world of the Skeena River.

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**Saint Mary U Geography Alumni Celebration.** On November 6-7. The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies with SMU Alumni are hosting an [Alumni Anniversary Event](#) in honor of the department's 40th anniversary at SMU. [Register Now!](#)

**Simon Fraser U undergraduate student David Swanlund** receives Warren Gill Memorial Award. The award recognizes leadership and service within the SFU community and the community at large by a Human Geography student. [SFU Geography](#)

**U Winnipeg's [Weldon Hiebert](#)** awarded the John Welsted Award for Service to Geography in the Western Interior by the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers.

**York U undergraduate student Shivon Yim** receives an undergraduate essay prize from the Association of American Geographers for her paper entitled "*Imaginative Geographies of a Mixed-race Identity: A postcolonial consideration of my colonial past and present*"

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### Recently Completed Theses and Dissertations.

Emily Grise. 2015. A spatial analysis of pedestrian injury in the City of Toronto. MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ontario. Supervisor: Ron Buliung.

Rachel Harris. 2015. We exist. We're not just some fairytale in a book: Migration narratives of LGBTQ2S aboriginal people in Toronto". MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ontario. Supervisor: Kathi Wilson.

Matthew Malone. 2015. Hydrological and biogeochemical fluxes of throughfall and stemflow in temperate swamps. Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ontario. MSc thesis. Supervisor: Tim Duval.

Lea Ravensbergen-Hodgins. 2015. Socioeconomic discrepancies in children's accessibility to health promoting resources: an activity space analysis. Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ontario. MA thesis. Supervisor: Ron Buliung.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Laura Dingle Robertson, Douglas J. King and Chris Davies. 2015. [Assessing land cover change and anthropogenic disturbance in wetlands using vegetation fractions derived from Landsat 5 TM Imagery \(1984–2010\)](#). Wetlands. DOI:10.1007/s13157-015-0696-5

Kirsten von Elverfeldt, Christine Embleton-Hamann and Olav Slaymaker. 2015. [Self-organizing change? On drivers, causes and global environmental change](#). Geomorphology. DOI:10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.09.026

Aaron Franks. 2015. [Kinder cuts and passionate modesties: the complex ecology of the invitation in participatory research](#). Area 47:237-245.

Koos Fransen, Tijs Neutens, Steven Farber, Philippe De Maeyer, Greet Deruyter and Frank Witlox. 2015. [Identifying public transport gaps using time-dependent accessibility levels](#). Journal of Transport Geography 48:176–187.

Camille Garnaud, Stéphane Bélair, Aaron Berg and Tracy Rowlandson. 2015. [Hyper-resolution land surface modelling in the context of SMAP Cal-Val](#). Journal of Hydrometeorology DOI:10.1175/JHM-D-15-0070.1

K.Bruce Newbold and Dylan Simone. 2015. [Comparing disability amongst immigrants and native-born in Canada](#). Social Science & Medicine. DOI:10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.09.035

Johnathan 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.

Renee E. Sieber and Mordechai Haklay. 2015. [The epistemology\(s\) of volunteered geographic information: a critique](#). Geo: Geography and Environment, doi: 10.1002/geo2.10.

Hugh Simpson, Rob de Loë and Jean Andrey. 2015. [Vernacular knowledge and water management – towards the integration of expert science and local knowledge in Ontario, Canada](#). Water Alternatives 8:352-372.

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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