



GeogNews

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U Victoria's Stephen Cross lives next to his aquaculture farm: Stephen Cross has spent his career studying the sea. Sometimes he even sleeps on the water. At his facility off the west coast of Vancouver Island, the researcher regularly stays the night in what one student describes as a “floating house,” as it is too remote for practical commuting. Located in the quiet community of Kyuquot, it takes 3½ hours to reach from Courtenay, where Cross lives. The place has few inhabitants, with an official population of 150. Cross is a researcher at North Island College (NIC), an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria and the operator of a 15-hectare fish farm with a unique setup. “It is the only licensed multi-species farm in Western Canada,” Cross says of his site where finfish live with oysters, mussels, kelp and, at the water’s bed, sea cucumbers. “You have a system that will probably function more like a natural ecosystem.” Cross, who is among the scientists who pioneered the technique, feeds only one of the species: the sablefish, also known as black cod, whose soft flesh is mildly flavoured. The rest practically feed themselves. “They will filter any of the organic waste created by the fish and use that as food,” Cross says. That solves a problem long faced by the aquaculture industry—what to do with the waste of thousands of fish living together in close proximity. “They all have economic value,” Cross says of his non-fish species, which he can grow and sell along with the fish. Cross leads projects such as developing new sea floor and water-monitoring techniques and testing the feasibility of growing kelp at salmon farms around the coast. Cross plans to eventually partner NIC students with graduate students from the UVic. [Macleans Magazine](#)

Recent U Toronto Carolyn Rowan and Chris Hilbrecht win the Cities of Tomorrow Student Ideas Competition – Infrastructure Category: Municipalities face a number of challenges every day from job creation and affordable housing to infrastructure and financing infrastructure. Ontario-based post-secondary students were given the chance to help solve such issues and present innovative proposals to the province’s big city mayors during the Cities of Tomorrow Showcase and Student Ideas Competition. The award went to Carolyn Rowan and Chris Hilbrecht for their concept ArtStall, a place-making project that helps address problems associated with public washrooms and public art alike. The duo noted that Toronto is notorious for not recognizing accessible, 24-hour, free public toilets as valuable infrastructure and has no plan to install more. Meanwhile, the lack of such infrastructure “hits some harder than most,” including families with small children, pregnant women, people with medical conditions and those who can’t access washrooms in the basements and tops of older buildings. Their proposal includes bringing patented Portland Loos—accessible, compact, durable and crime-preventing toilets—to Toronto. These toilets, already installed around Portland, Oregon, would also be colourful and creative, as local artists would be commissioned to decorate them with public art. The sustainable advantage is the washroom can be off-grid and lit entirely by solar-powered LED fixtures. The restroom can be pre-wired for 115 volt AC power or powered by a hybrid system of solar and AC. [REMI Network](#) | [U Toronto Geography & Planning](#)

Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury successfully negotiating fieldwork, writing, and publishing:

Paul Kingsbury is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University. His research uses the social and spatial theories of Jacques Lacan and Friedrich Nietzsche to explore cultural geographies of desire, power, and aesthetics. Paul notes: "During my decade-long career as a faculty member in SFU's Department of Geography, I have observed that one of the biggest challenges facing graduate students is the negotiation of fieldwork, writing, and publishing. Such a negotiation involves not only dealing with the tasks that comprise each activity, but also the task of how to make each activity relate or 'speak' to one another." [SFU Geography](#)



Esri Canada has named the University of New Brunswick and York University to its growing network of GIS Centres of Excellence in Higher Education. The network of Centres increases the opportunity for students and faculty to apply GIS software for research and learning, as well as collaborate with researchers from the seven existing Centres located in British Columbia, Ontario, Québec and Nova Scotia. [Directions Magazine](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Julia Bentz, Fernando Lopes, Helena Calado and Philip Dearden. 2016. [Managing marine wildlife tourism activities: Analysis of motivations and specialization levels of divers and whale watchers](#). *Tourism Management Perspectives* 18:74–83

Ian B. Darke, Ian J. Walker and Patrick A. Hesp. 2016. [Beach-dune sediment budgets and dune morphodynamics following coastal dune restoration, Wickaninnish Dunes, Canada](#). *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. DOI:10.1002/esp.3910

Alberto G. Fairén, James M. Dohm, J. Alexis P. Rodríguez, Esther R. Uceda, Jeffrey Kargel, Richard Soare, H. James Cleaves, Dorothy Oehler, Dirk Schulze-Makuch, Elhoucine Essefi, Maria E. Banks, Goro Komatsu, Wolfgang Fink, Stuart Robbins, Jianguo Yan, Hideaki Miyamoto, Shigenori Maruyama and Victor R. Baker. 2016. [The Argyre Region as a prime target for in situ astrobiological exploration of Mars](#). *Astrobiology*.

Tanya L. Graham, H. Damon Matthews and Sarah E. Turner. 2016. [A global-scale evaluation of primate exposure and vulnerability to climate change](#). *International Journal of Primatology*. DOI:10.1007/s10764-016-9890-4

Alexander F. Legwegoh and Alice J. Hovorka. 2016. [Exploring food choices within the context of nutritional security in Gaborone, Botswana](#). *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 37:76–93.

Pei Hua Lu, Sugandhi del Canto, Nazeem Muhajarine, Peter Kitchen, Bruce Newbold, James Randall, Allison Williams, and Kathi Wilson. [Quality of life of immigrants: Integration experiences among Asian immigrants in Saskatoon](#). *Engaged Scholar Journal: Community-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning* 1:131-148.

D. Nakache, H. Pellerin and Louisa Veronis. 2015. [Migrants' myths and imaginaries: Understanding their role in migration movements and policies](#). Ottawa: University of Ottawa. 28 pages.

Lærke Stewart, Inger G. Alsos, Christian Bay, Amy L. Breen, Christian Brochmann, Noémie Boulanger-Lapointe, Olivier Broennimann, Helga Bültmann, Peder Klith Bøcher, Christian Damgaard, Fred J. A. Daniëls, Dorothee Ehrich, Pernille Bronken Eidesen, Antoine Guisan, Ingibjörg Svala Jónsdóttir, Jonathan Lenoir, Peter C. le Roux, Esther Lévesque, Miska Luoto, Jacob Nabe-Nielsen, Peter Schönswetter, Andreas Tribsch, Liv Unn Tveraabak, Risto Virtanen, Donald A. Walker, Kristine B. Westergaard, Nigel G. Yoccoz, Jens-Christian Svenning, Mary Wisz, Niels Martin Schmidt and Loïc Pellissier. 2016. [The regional species richness and genetic diversity of Arctic vegetation reflect both past glaciations and current climate](#). Global Ecology and Biogeography. DOI:10.1111/geb.12424

Jim Thatcher, Luke Bergmann, Britta Ricker, Reuben Rose-Redwood, David O'Sullivan, Trevor J Barnes, Luke R. Barnesmoore, Laura Beltz Imaoka, Ryan Burns, Jonathan Cinnamon, Craig M. Dalton, Clinton Davis, Stuart Dunn, Francis Harvey, Jin-Kyu Jung, Ellen Kersten, LaDona Knigge, Nick Lally, Wen Lin, Dillon Mahmoudi, Michael Martin, Will Payne, Amir Sheikh, Taylor Shelton, Eric Sheppard, Chris W. Strother, Alexander Tarr, Matthew W. Wilson and Jason C Young. 2016. [Revisiting critical GIS: Reflections from Friday Harbor](#). Environment and Planning A. DOI:10.1177/0308518X15622208

Louisa Veronis. 2015. [Immigrants' narratives of inclusion and belonging in the transborder city of Ottawa-Gatineau, Canada's National Capital Region](#). Canadian Ethnic Studies 47:45-65.

Luisa Veronis and R. Ahmed. 2015. [The role of multicultural media in connecting local municipal governments with ethnocultural communities: The case of Ottawa](#). Global Media Journal – Canadian Edition 8:73-95.

Weifeng Wang, Nigel T. Roulet, Ian B. Strachan and Alain Tremblay. 2016. [Modeling surface energy fluxes and thermal dynamics of a seasonally ice-covered hydroelectric reservoir](#). Science of The Total Environment 550:793–805.

Other “Geographical” News

SFU Faculty members ask why university posted sexist video on website: "Sweater Day" events are designed to encourage people to wear sweaters in colder months, and to set slightly lower thermostat levels than might otherwise be needed for comfort. At Simon Fraser University, a video posted by the university to promote the day stunned faculty members with its sexism. While the origins of the video are under investigation, it was posted to the website of the Canadian university and promoted to faculty members -- leaving many wondering how such a thing could have happened. [Inside Higher ED](#)

Why children still need to read (and draw) maps: In a GPS world, where synthesized voices tell us when to turn to get from point A to point B, do kids really need to learn how to read a map? Absolutely. While many skills have become obsolete in the digital age, map reading remains an important tool for building children's spatial reasoning skills and helping them make sense of our world. In a 2013 report on maps and education, National Geographic concluded, "Spatial thinking is arguably one the most important ways of thinking for a child to develop as he or she grows. ... A student who has acquired robust spatial thinking skills is at an advantage in our increasingly global and technical society." [PBSparents](#)

'Psychogeography' and why it matters for planners: An unfamiliar title for a familiar collection of concepts, psychogeography examines the good and bad effects of environments on the thoughts and feelings of people. The origins of the term were in a French philosophical movement some time ago. It was their intent to make people aware of the extent to which our surroundings, especially in cities, condition the things we do and think – and not necessarily in benevolent ways." Thus psychogeography would certainly be a concern of planners and urban designers of various stripes. As an example of the possible meaning to be drawn from examining places through the lens of psychogeography. [Planetizen](#)

'I am an academic with a disability, not a disabled academic': Ryerson Policy Studies PhD candidate Colin Robert Phillips defended his dissertation about homelessness and affordable housing from an urban policy perspective. Completing a PhD dissertation is an exhausting task even in ideal circumstances; Phillips, who has cerebral palsy, is unable to walk or speak. Phillips has challenged traditional notions of what a PhD student looks like. But with such enormous obstacles to overcome, how has he kept from getting discouraged? Communicating through a word board with the help of an assistant, Phillips replied simply, "I just basically say: 'Screw it!'" For the past two years, Phillips has been working on a study of Toronto's [Streets to Homes](#) program, a homelessness initiative based on a housing-first model. The thesis of the program is that by immediately giving stable housing to the homeless, we can more easily take care of their concurrent issues. Phillips' research examines whether or not the model has been successful. [Ryerson U News & Events](#)

How neighborhood trees improve public health: Researchers collected two large data sets from the city of Toronto. The data were "gathered on a block-by-block level; the first measures the distribution of green space, as determined from satellite imagery and a comprehensive list of all five hundred and thirty thousand trees planted on public land, and the second measures health, as assessed by a detailed survey of ninety-four thousand respondents." The study's findings: "an additional ten trees on a given block corresponded to a one-per-cent increase in how healthy nearby residents felt." 'To get an equivalent increase with money, you'd have to give each household in that neighborhood ten thousand dollars—or make people seven years younger'. [Planetizen](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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