



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
No. 393, February 27, 2016**

Compiled by Dan Smith [cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**Carleton U's Patricia Ballamingie winner of a Faculty Graduate Mentor Award:** Sponsored by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International), these awards recognize faculty who render exceptional service to graduate students as supervisors and research mentors. Patricia Ballamingie of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies was recognized as an exceptional academic mentor. Her nominators applauded her dedication to helping others in their studies, research and writing. "Through her shining example of discipline, rigour and hard work, her positive approach and her genuine caring about each of us – not just as students but as multi-faceted human beings – Trish is uniquely able to motivate and inspire her students." "The only "downside" to having Trish as a supervisor is her popularity among fellow graduate students! She supervises so many students, and is so heavily involved in her department, that it's impressive she can still manage to find the time to do her own research and publish." [Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies](#)

**U Guelph's Kate Parizeau studies garbage to understand what we throw away:** What does your waste say about you? The thought of rummaging through your garbage — or worse — someone else rummaging through your garbage may make you cringe, but that's what geography professor Kate Parizeau has done to understand what we throw away and why as part of her research on waste management. While studying waste patterns in Cambodia, she found that most household waste consisted of food scraps, whereas a food waste research project she did in Guelph with Profs. Mike Von Massow, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Ralph Martin, Department of Plant Agriculture, revealed that a lot of recyclable materials were being thrown out as well as food. "A lot of food waste is avoidable," says Parizeau. "It's food that could have been eaten but we have such a luxurious existence that we're able to throw away edible food." Our attitude toward waste is also reflected in the way we treat waste collectors, who are often viewed as lower class, she says. "There's a lot of stigma attached to waste and that often attaches to people who work with waste," she says. "If we look at the way they're treated in society, it can tell us a lot about who we are in terms of social equity and social justice concerns." Parizeau has also studied informal recyclers in Buenos Aires and Vancouver. Both cities have implemented a "regime of hygiene" that aims to not only clean up garbage from affluent areas and tourist attractions but also remove informal waste collectors through government policies and policing, she says. Although informal waste collectors provide a free service that benefits both society and the environment, they are often regarded as a nuisance to be kept off city streets. Following Argentina's economic collapse in the early 2000s, those who collected recyclables were viewed positively by the government because they were helping to clean up streets while earning a small income. Vancouver followed a similar path with its own informal waste collectors during the 2010 Winter Olympics, first discouraging them and then trying to regulate them by requiring them to wear uniforms and work in certain areas. [U Guelph News](#)

**U British Columbia's geography post-doctoral fellow use PulsePress to encourage student discussion in classes:** There were several reasons I opted to use PulsePress as our discussion board for the Advanced Geographic Information Science course. First, positively reinforce learning in the course by encouraging students to learn how to best frame questions and respond to questions of their peers. Second, practicing GIS professionals and researchers that use Geographic Information Systems know the importance of reaching out for and offering help on online discussion boards (for example, see the very active communities on GIS Stack Exchange and ESRI's GeoNet). I wanted students to gain experience interacting on such discussion boards to encourage them to start to use and contribute to online GIS discussion boards. Third, alleviate instructor and TA email overload! By making my responses to common questions available to the students, this avoids repetitive emails. Moreover, the TA, Emily Acheson has been very active on the board helping student troubleshoot problems. This lets me see what some of the troubles are that occur in our GIS labs. Finally, PulsePress was the main way that we could integrate a discussion board into our course website in WordPress on UBC Blogs. [UBC Geography](#)

**U Alberta's Martin Sharp leads search for funding to house Canada's ice core collection:** The goal of housing Canada's ice core collection at the University of Alberta and turning it into an accessible scientific resource is a big step closer to reality, thanks to a \$2.3-million grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Glaciologist Martin Sharp, Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, has been working tirelessly for nearly two years to turn this vision into a reality, since the announcement that the former federal government wanted to find another home for the collection. "By their nature, the ice cores are a diminishing resource—they are used up as they are analyzed, and the ice caps from which they were retrieved are now changing and shrinking rapidly," says Sharp. "The evidence of climate change is abundantly clear, and there isn't going to be a way to replace some of these cores." He notes one of the most dramatic examples of melting ice caps in the Canadian North, on Meighen Island, where 50 years of ice accumulation disappeared in less than three years. "This is about the most graphic example imaginable of how things have changed in the last decade." Provided through the Exceptional Opportunities Fund, the grant (including operating funds) will facilitate the construction of a new facility for the ice cores—two walk-in freezers to house the thousand-plus metres of core and allow it to be characterized and sampled for analysis, plus an analytical laboratory that is expected to be completed in late 2016. Following that, the ice cores can begin the cross-country trek from their current home in Ottawa. Sharp is hopeful that the cores can be made available to researchers worldwide sometime in 2017. [U Alberta Faculty of Science](#)

---



**U British Columbia's Simon Donner** recognized or having one of the winning ideas of UBC Campus + Community Planning's 5 Climate Action Plan 2020 consultations. His idea is to "decrease GHG emissions from university related air travel. UBC would collect baseline data on air travel emissions from business and research-related travel and use this to create a university air travel action plan." [UBC Geography](#)

**U Guelph's Jen Silver** will be one of 16 fisheries researchers participating in a technical working group on Pacific Herring convened by The Ocean Modelling Forum out of the University of Washington. Over the next year, the group will investigate how to use multiple models to incorporate traditional knowledge and human dimensions into the management of the Pacific Herring ecosystem. [U Guelph Geography](#)

**York U's Steven Tufts** speaks about the process of “gapping” that is causing friction between the city and its inside workers. The union claims the city has failed to fill 2,500 vacant positions. [CBCNews | Toronto](#)

**U Waterloo's Sarah Burch** awarded a Canada Research Chair to examine how cities address climate change and transition toward resilient, low-carbon development while investigating new ways of governing sustainability challenges and studying entrepreneurs as sources of innovation. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

**U Victoria's Maycira Costa** was on CFAX this week, discussing her research into declining salmon stocks in the Salish Sea, which uses new technologies to study changes in the marine environment and includes turning to ferry passengers for help collecting ocean data. [Soundcloud](#)

---

### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Andrew D. Barton, Andrew J. Irwin, Zoe V. Finkel and Charles A. Stock. 2016. [Anthropogenic climate change drives shift and shuffle in North Atlantic phytoplankton communities](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. DOI:10.1073/pnas.1519080113

Andrew Longhurst and Eugene McCann. 2016. [Political struggles on a frontier of harm reduction drug policy: geographies of constrained policy mobility](#). Space and Polity 20:109-123.

Nicholas Lynch. 2016. [Domesticating the church: the reuse of urban churches as loft living in the post-secular city](#). Social & Cultural Geography. DOI:10.1080/14649365.2016.1139167

F. Chantel Nixon, John H. England, Patrick Lajeunesse and Michelle A. Hanson. 2016. [An 11 000-year record of driftwood delivery to the western Queen Elizabeth Islands, Arctic Canada](#). Boreas. DOI:10.1111/bor.12165

Doug Ramsey, Alex Michalos and Derrek Eberts. 2016. [Community changes and growth in small cities: Resident perceptions of growth in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada](#). Growth and Change. DOI:10.1111/grow.12150

C.T. Simmons and H.D. Matthews. 2016. [Assessing the implications of human land-use change for the transient climate response to cumulative carbon emissions](#). Environmental Research Letters. 11.

Sharon L. Smith, Daniel W. Riseborough, Philip P. Bonnaventure and Caroline Duchesne. 2016. [An ecoregional assessment of freezing season air and ground surface temperature in the Mackenzie Valley corridor, NWT, Canada](#). Cold Regions Science and Technology. DOI:10.1016/j.coldregions.2016.02.007

Dale D. Sprague, Frederick A. Michel and Jesse C. Vermaire. 2016. [The effects of migration on ca. 100-year-old arsenic-rich mine tailings in Cobalt, Ontario, Canada](#). Environmental Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1007/s12665-015-4898-1

---

## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Frederick Armah. 2015. [Environment and human health in the Anthropocene: Interaction between natural and social systems in coastal Tanzania](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Isaac Luginaah.

Kilian Atuoye. 2015. [Relationship between household food insecurity and health in the upper west region of Ghana](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Isaac Luginaah.

Amber Gall. 2015. [The effects of warming temperatures, fire, and landscape change on lake production in mountain lakes, Alberta, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Katrina Moser.

Joseph Kangmennaang. 2015. [Impact of agroecology adoption, migration and remittance receipt on household welfare](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Isaac Luginaah.

James Kennedy. 2015. [Evolution towards "housing first": a qualitative analysis of service provider and participant perspectives](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Godwin Arku.

Vincent Kuuire. 2015. [Understanding immigrant housing integration in Canada - the role of transnational engagements](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisors: Godwin Arku and Isaac Luginaah.

David Morimoto. 2015. [Dendroclimatic studies of white spruce in the Yukon Territory, Canada](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Brian Luckman.

Jonathan Raikes. 2015. [Conceptualizing response capacity and flood action in the City of Vancouver and District of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Gordon McBean.

Emmanuel Songsore. 2015. [Wind energy development in Ontario: Factors influencing deployment and policy outcomes](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Michael Buzzelli.

C.K. Weldrick and Dennis E. Jelinski. 2016. [Resource subsidies from multi-trophic aquaculture affect the isotopic niche width in wild blue mussels \(\*Mytilus edulis\*\)](#). Journal of Marine Systems 157:118-123.

---

## Other "Geographical" News

**What passes for a crazy weekend at U of Toronto, Canada's tamest party school:** Maclean's ranked the top party schools in Canada, and the University of Toronto, where students spend a little more than 2 hours on average partying per week (one student reported a high of 40), came dead last. [Maclean's](#)

---

**HarperCollins omits Israel from school atlas:** For months, publishing giant HarperCollins has been selling an atlas that was “developed specifically for schools in the Middle East.” The map looked to be perfectly accurate, except for one glaring omission – the name of Israel was conspicuously absent. This wasn’t a mistake or an oversight. Israel was purposely left off because of “local preferences”. HarperCollins issued regrets about omission of the name Israel from their Collins Middle East Atlas. They have indicated this product has now been removed from sale in all territories and all remaining stock will be pulped. [The Telegraph](#) | [Examiner](#) | [Times of Israel](#) | [Facebook](#)

**How to increase your impact with academic social media:** The rise of social media is viewed by many as yet another means of procrastination. Yet academics are increasingly turning to Twitter, not just for entertainment and networking, but to engage audiences in a new way. As more academics take to social media anonymously, such accounts are allowing a new kind of creative, flexible academic voice to emerge, more closely linked with the public than the ivory towers of the university system. [The Guardian](#)

**Canada’s colleges invest in clean energy:** At Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, B.C., the campus is deeply invested in clean energy. Take the Energy House building, for starters. It boasts both solar and geothermal energy, a wind turbine and a rainwater recovery system. But the clean-tech curriculum is limited to a couple of programs, many of them week-long continuing education courses, because the world hasn’t caught up to its potential. [Macleans](#)

**What do Canadians in every riding believe about climate change?** The Canadian Climate Opinion Maps (CCOM) was created using a statistical model based on over 5,000 responses to national surveys from 2011-2015. It reveals that, nationally, 79% of Canadians believe that Earth is getting warmer, but the new public opinion maps show distinct differences among provinces and ridings. Moreover, about 67% of adults believe Earth is warming in Alberta, for example, whereas 85% believe this in Quebec. Within federal electoral districts, percentages vary from 56% in the Souris-Moose Mountain riding in Saskatchewan, to 91% in the riding of Halifax, Nova Scotia. [ScienceDaily](#)

---

### 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>