



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 394, March 6, 2016**

Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

Vancouver Island U project maps culture attachment in Nanaimo, Courtenay and Port Alberni: A team of students and researchers at Vancouver Island University are about to find out what connects residents to their downtown in three communities on the Island. It's all part of a university-led cultural mapping project dubbed Where Is Here? The project will examine and eventually map the downtown areas of Nanaimo, Courtenay and Port Alberni with the focus being on which areas residents feel the most connected. Nicole Vaugeois, B.C. Regional Innovation chairwoman in tourism and sustainable regional development and project leader, said the project is all about modernizing and understanding people's connection to the places within a city's downtown core. "There are no shortage of maps in the world, but we don't actually understand how people value or make meaning of those places that are on a map," she said. "This project is really about adding a whole other layer for how and why people value the places that they live in." In order to provide an accurate picture of what places are most important to people, the VIU students will head out to each municipality's downtown, where they will ask residents what connects them to downtown and film the responses using an iPhone. Once enough video and data is collected, an online cultural map will be created. Eventually individuals will be able to add to the map by uploading their own photos and videos. "If somebody in downtown Nanaimo really connects with the Bastion, if that is a spot that has a particular value, then there would be a video of them speaking about that and telling a short one-and-a-half minute story about that place," Vaugeois said. Information gleaned from the map could help city planners and downtown business improvement associations better understand their downtown cores, according to Vaugeois, who said Courtenay, Port Alberni and Nanaimo were chosen for the project because they are three mid-sized cities that are trying to improve their downtown space. "We are interested to see if this way of mapping really works and if it is of value to the community stakeholders," Vaugeois said. "The idea is if this model works, we could expand that." [Nanaimo News Bulletin](#)

Simon Fraser U's 2016 ESRI Canada GIS Scholarship Awards go to students in the Department of Geography: Olympia Koziatek (MSc Geography) and Anthony Lee (BA Geography and Environment Co-op Program) are the winners of the SFU 2016 Esri Canada GIS Scholarship Award. The award recognizes excellent achievement in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through the design and implementation of an original and individual project related to the advancement of methods or application in the discipline. Esri Canada is a Canadian company that provides world-class solutions for GIS software and enterprise development. The award applications were evaluated by the following reviewers and members of SFU's Esri Canada Centre of Excellence (ECCE): Drs. Richard Zhang (CS), Nadine Schuurman (Geog) and Pascal Haegeli (REM). [SFU Geography](#)

U Victoria's Ian Walker warns liquefaction danger puts some Victoria region homes at risk: In the wake of news of an Esquimalt backyard slipping into the Gorge Waterway, a University of Victoria geography professor is warning that others are at risk. "There are thousands of houses out there in similar situations," said Ian Walker, a professor of geomorphology, the study of how landscapes change. Walker emphasized that he is not familiar with the Gorge property and can only speak generally about forces at work on shorelines and bluff formations. But he said anyone interested in how the soil under a home might respond to something like an earthquake or a severe El Niño's worth of rainfall can retrieve the information from the B.C. government. "It's kind of buyer beware," said Walker. Walker said soil saturated after heavy rains will become heavier, and if it's along a bluff or cliff, it can slump. If the slope has been subject to heaving wave action, it can also be carved out and weakened further. For example, seaside bluffs along Beacon Hill are losing 15 to 20 centimetres a year, he said. Anyone can do the arithmetic and figure out when the bluffs will meet Dallas Road. Walker said it's important to keep in mind that bluff and cliff erosion rarely happens gradually. More typically, it happens suddenly in large events such as slides. "We don't really monitor erosion well, unlike the way we monitor other things, like river flows or tidal levels," he said. Walker said homeowners or potential buyers can prepare themselves by looking at maps detailing soil types in a particular area. [Victoria Times Colonist](#)



Western U faculty members Mike Buzzelli, Jason Gilliland, Jeff Hopkins, Beth Hundey, Chris Smart, and Jinfei Wang added to University Student Council's Teaching Excellence Honour Roll for 2014-2015. This award recognizes student teaching evaluation scores of 6.3 out of 7 or higher on the 14 questions of the assessment form. [UWO Geography Award Winning Faculty](#)

York U undergraduate student Marissa Chase awarded the Dr. James Wu Prize at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Fair. Marissa's project entitled *In the Aftermath: Detecting Change from Natural Disasters Using Satellite Imagery* was recognized as the Best upper-year project. [York U Geography](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Philip Edward Camp. 2015. [Human-fire interactions in British Columbia: varying constraints of human-caused wildfire occurrence and geography of the wildland-development interface](#). MSc thesis, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisors: Meg Krawchuk and Anders Knudby.

Elizabeta Kjikjerkovska. 2016. [Long-term Hydroclimatic Change and Interannual Variability in Water Sources, Apex River \(Iqaluit\), Baffin Island, Nunavut](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University. Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Dr. Melissa Lafrenière and Dr. Scott Lamoureux.

Michael Ton. 2015. [The effects of disturbance history on the taxonomic and functional composition of ground-layer plant communities](#). MSc thesis, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Meg Krawchuk.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

David Brownstein. 2016. [Spasmodic research as executive duties permit: Space, practice, and the localization of forest management expertise in British Columbia, 1912–1928](#). *Journal of Historical Geography* 52:36-47.

Suzanne de la Barre, Patrick Maher, Jackie Dawson, Kevin Hillmer-Pegram, Edward Huijbens, Machiel Lamers, Daniela Liggett, Dieter Müller, Albina Pashkevich and Emma Stewart. 2016. [Tourism and Arctic Observation Systems: exploring the relationships](#). *Polar Research* 35.

Jason P. Briner, Nicholas P. McKay, Yarrow Axford, Ole Bennike, Raymond S. Bradley, Anne de Vernal, David Fisher, Pierre Francus, Bianca Fréchette, Konrad Gajewski, Anne Jennings, Darrell S. Kaufman, Gifford Miller, Cody Rouston and Bernd Wagner. 2016. [Holocene climate change in Arctic Canada and Greenland](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews*. DOI:10.1016/j.quascirev.2016.02.010

James M. Buttle, Diana M. Allen, Daniel Caissie, Bruce Davison, Masaki Hayashi, Daniel L. Peters, John W. Pomeroy, Slobodan Simonovic, André St-Hilaire and Paul H. Whitfield. 2016. [Flood processes in Canada: Regional and special aspects](#). *Canadian Water Resources Journal*. DOI:10.1080/07011784.2015.1131629

Laura Cameron, Isla Forsyth, Aki Yamamura and André Reyes Novaes. 2016. [Historical geography as an international discipline 1975–2015: responses](#). *The Geographical Journal*. DOI:10.1111/geoj.12170

Piotr Cienciala and Marwan A. Hassan. 2016. [Sampling variability in estimates of flow characteristics in coarse-bed channels: Effects of sample size](#). *Water Resources Research*. DOI:10.1002/2015WR017259

William S. Currie, Sarah Kiger, Joan I. Nassauer, Meghan Hutchins, Lauren L. Marshall, Daniel G. Brown, Rick L. Riolo, Derek T. Robinson and Stephanie K. Hart. 2016. [Multi-Scale heterogeneity in vegetation and soil carbon in exurban residential land of southeastern MI](#). *Ecological Applications*. DOI:10.1890/15-0817

Simon Dalby. 2016. [Framing the Anthropocene: The good, the bad and the ugly](#). *The Anthropocene Review*. DOI:10.1177/2053019615618681

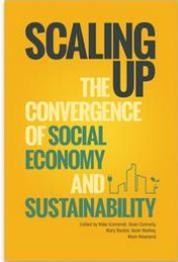
Anthony Jjumb and Suzana Dragičević. 2016. [Towards a voxel-based geographic automata for the simulation of geospatial processes](#). *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*. DOI:10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2016.01.017

E. Kwoil, J.G. Venditti, R.W. Bradley and C. Winter. 2016. [Flow structure and resistance over subaqueous high- and low-angle dunes](#). *Journal of Geophysical Research. Earth Surfaces*. DOI:10.1002/2015JF003637

F. Oliva, A.E. Viau, J. Bjornson, N. Desrochers and M.-A. Bonneau. 2016. [A 1300 year reconstruction of paleofloods using oxbow lake sediments in temperate southwestern Quebec, Canada](#). *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2015-0191

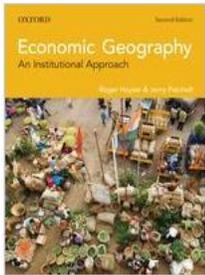
New Books

Mike Gismondi, Sean Connelly, Mary Beckie, Sean Markey and Mark Roseland (Eds.) 2016. [Scaling Up: The convergence of social economy and sustainability](#). Edmonton: Athabasca University Press.



When citizens take collaborative action to meet the needs of their community, they are participating in the social economy. Co-operatives, community-based social services, local non-profit organizations, and charitable foundations are all examples of social economies that emphasize mutual benefit rather than the accumulation of profit. While such groups often participate in market-based activities to achieve their goals, they also pose an alternative to the capitalist market economy. Contributors to *Scaling Up* investigated innovative social economies in British Columbia and Alberta and discovered that achieving a social good through collective, grassroots enterprise resulted in a sustainable way of satisfying human needs that was also, by extension, environmentally responsible. As these case studies illustrate, organizations that are capable of harnessing the power of a social economy generally demonstrate a commitment to three outcomes: greater social justice, financial self-sufficiency, and environmental sustainability. Within the matrix of these three allied principles lie new strategic directions for the politics of sustainability.

Roger Hayter and Jerry Patchell. 2016. [Economic Geography. An Institutional Approach, Second Edition](#). OUP Canada. 480 p.



Economic Geography provides a thoroughly accessible and comprehensive introduction to the study of economic activity in place and across space. Building on the solid foundation laid in the first edition, this second edition features the most up-to-date data available as well as increased coverage of a wide variety of crucial topics--from recent shifts in emerging markets to the growth of transportation and communication networks to the economic ramifications of climate change to the increasing urbanization of economies. Reflecting the most current thinking in the field, *Economic Geography* opens students' eyes to the many ways in which economic, social, and political institutions affect both quality of life for individuals and outcomes for societies around the world.

Other “Geographical” News

Renaming and Rebranding within US and Canadian Geography Departments, 1990–2014:

Between 2000 and 2014, more than thirty geography departments adopted revised or new names, with some entirely dropping geography. Although renaming and rebranding efforts are not new to higher education, the rapid pace at which geography department names have changed raises questions about the discipline's identity and health. We examine the renaming trend within geography programs together with intended and unexpected factors as perceived by faculty. [The Professional Geographer](#)

Cycleangelo: Bike rider uses GPS to 'draw' pictures on street maps, in pictures: This enthusiastic cyclist is a real-life cycleangelo - using a GPS system as his canvas and brush. Stephen Lund would comfortably win the Draw de France title, as he has cycled 3,040 miles creating his intricate-but-giant masterpieces. The works range from simple messages wishing people a Happy Birthday, to intricate drawings of cult characters like Darth Vader. [The Telegraph](#)

Impact of climate change on food production could cause over 500000 extra deaths in 2050:

Climate change could kill more than 500,000 adults in 2050 worldwide due to changes in diets and bodyweight from reduced crop productivity, according to new estimates. The research is the strongest evidence yet that climate change could have damaging consequences for food production and health worldwide. [ScienceDaily](#)

Does academic freedom protect falsehoods? One of the biggest privileges of being a professor -- especially a tenured one -- is having academic freedom. While the real protections offered under the principle vary from campus to campus, faculty work is at least founded on the idea that there's room to express even unpopular ideas or beliefs. But are arguably unacademic opinions -- inflammatory falsehoods that have no apparent basis in fact -- also covered? [Inside Higher Ed](#)

Offshore wind parks: Interactions and local climate: In 2015 alone, more than 500 offshore wind turbines were connected to the grid in Germany. So far, mutual interactions of wind parks and their potential effects on local climate have been approximated with models only. Thanks to their wide installation, however, it is now possible for the first time to study their effects in reality. [ScienceDaily](#)

In Calgary, suburbs' fabric shifts as jobs move away from the downtown core: Too often when we think of the suburbs we think of a sea of single-family homes with front car garages, small front yards, big back yards and six-foot fences. But in reality, the 'burbs are home to tens of thousands of businesses that employ one third of all Calgarians. The thousands of small, medium and large businesses in our northeast and southeast suburbs are just as much Calgary's economic engine as downtown. "In the public's mind the downtown has been the focus of the city's boom and now the current gloom, but there is so much more to understanding Calgary's DNA and it is found in the suburbs," said Harry Hiller, University of Calgary urban sociologist. Calgary is at a tipping point in its evolution. Calgary could become more like New York City or Toronto where people stick to their neighbourhoods, and those neighbourhoods are more likely to form identity because people stick to them. The very nature of the idea of "sprawl" changes when we stop looking at Calgary as seen from the core looking out, and begin to see it from suburbs looking in. Many Calgarians no longer perceive their home as "a long way from downtown" but rather "downtown is long way from home." In the words of Hiller, "It is time we take another look at what makes Calgary tick and realize there is great life to be had in the 'burbs!" [CBC News | Calgary](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

**That awesome moment when your
professor cancels the mid-term
exam**



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>
