



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Western Geography Professor Emeritus Dick Butler receives UNWTO Ulysses Prize for Excellence in the Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge: Professor Richard Butler has had a long-standing interest in tourism from the time he worked on his PhD which focused on the highlands and islands of Scotland. His understanding of tourism, his insights as a geographer and his empirical work in Canada led him to produce one of the most influential theories about tourism – the Tourism Area Life Cycle (TALC). His publication on this in *The Canadian Geographer* in 1980 remains one of the most cited academic papers on tourism and its contents and developments have been massively influential in the development of tourism destinations throughout the world. Apart from his interest in tourism destination development his other main areas of research are tourism in remote areas, seasonality and the sustainability of tourism. Over nearly forty years he has produced some 17 books and more than 100 journal papers and chapters in books on these and related topics. He has also been a regular contributor to conferences, research and consultancy projects, university programmes and international studies throughout the world, including the recent sessions on seasonality for the World Tourism Organization. And he remains highly active in all these fields. He is a founder member and former President of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism and a past President of the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies. [UNWTO Knowledge Network](#)

U Toronto's Deborah Cowen recipient of the 2016 IPS Book Award: [Deborah Cowen](#) of the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto is the recipient of the 2016 Recipient of the 2016 IPS Book Award for [The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade](#). The book is one of the first critical approaches to the logistical industries that are so prevalent throughout the world and that so extensively shape our global economies. It is intensively researched and very compelling in its weaving of political economy and the economies of violence and protest. Writing beautifully and with obvious passion and commitment, Cowen excavates the links between war and trade and capital and coercion, without ever losing sight of the fragile human bodies whose labor and resistance is ultimately the underlying force injecting value into the work of moving cargo across the seas. Drawing on insights from International Political Sociology, Geography, Political Economy, and Security Studies, while simultaneously challenging arbitrary disciplinary boundaries, this unique study carves out a complex and crucial field of research — supply chain security — and makes a unique contribution that powerfully combines theoretical and empirical insights. It will undoubtedly shape future investigations into the complexity of our logistical world. [U Toronto Geography](#)

U British Columbia's Daniel Hiebert shows immigrants have major impact on Canada's housing market: Immigrants have a major impact on fast-rising house prices in Metro Vancouver and Toronto, according to the author of a new study. In a unique research project, UBC geographer Daniel Hiebert discovered that ethnic Chinese and South Asians become homeowners at a much higher rate than other immigrants and the general population. "There is definitely an impact on the housing market," said Hiebert, who believes a key factor behind the phenomenon is many new immigrants arrive in Canada's major cities with a great deal of money. The veteran researcher's exclusive cross-tabulation of housing and immigration data, including between 2006 and 2011, found on average that 53 per cent of immigrants to Metro Vancouver during those five years became homeowners in that period. They bought roughly 100,000 homes in Metro Vancouver during the five years, ranging from suburban condos to ritzy mansions. "New Chinese immigrants were at the top of all this. Kind of incredibly, their rate of home ownership was 73 per cent," said Hiebert. Hiebert, who has published major studies on immigration, housing and ethnic enclaves, believes immigrants are seriously affecting housing affordability at both the high and low ends of the market. Prices of Metro Vancouver's expensive properties, those in the \$4-million-plus range, are being dramatically affected by immigrants, Hiebert said. But, at the low end, so are costs for new Syrian refugee families, who need government subsidies to afford a basic place to live. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

Concordia's Geography, Planning and Environment Department Designs Two Parks for Montreal: The city of Montreal invited a group of Concordia Geography, Planning and Environment students to reimagine existing public spaces in the borough of NDG-Côte-des-Neiges, led by Concordia's urban planning and design professor Silvano De la Llata, in conjunction with Université de Montréal. Their goal is to create two of the same spaces and structures in two different parks—Notre Dame de Grâce Park on Sherbrooke St. W. and Girouard Ave. and Kent Park in Côte-des-Neiges. These structures—which are being fleshed out now—are meant to create a connection between the two areas, as a testament to the culture of the borough. The goal, De la Llata explained, is to have these new parks implemented by July 2017, just in time for Montreal's 375th anniversary. Jasmine Ali, one of the student participants, explained that creating connectivity between neighbourhoods is a daunting, but important task. "Essentially it's one city, not two different neighbourhoods," she said. "We want to bring back that unity." To do so, they're turning to the history books. By focusing on the history of NDG-Côte-des-Neiges, the designers plan to instill a sense of connectivity, despite the 5.5 kilometres and cultural differences separating the two parks. The Concordia organizers thought that this task couldn't weigh only on their shoulders. "We proposed that this should be a community exercise, not just a design exercise," De la Llata said. Enter the concept of the charrette—in this context, a short but intense period of brainstorming in groups, encompassing urban planners, designers and regular park-users. [The Link](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki argues a national infrastructure bank has to offer integrated services: Establishing a Canadian Infrastructure Bank is an idea that's been floating around for some time. It has received renewed life because it has been identified as a key component of the federal government's infrastructure investment program. Once under construction, project delivery has been a problem, with cost overruns and delays plaguing mega-projects across the country. This draws scarce resources away from other priorities and undermines public confidence in government's ability to deliver critical infrastructure. To maximize a CIB's benefit, its mandate should be broadened so that it provides project financing and expert project delivery support under a single roof. This follows the integrated structure of the British Infrastructure and Projects Authority, just launched this year. In this model, the CIB would provide low-cost financing services to large infrastructure projects in priority sectors with capital values of at least \$10-million. As Canada gets set to embark on the largest infrastructure building boom in a generation, success will depend on making sure that sufficient funds are available and that the money is well spent. [Globe and Mail](#)

U British Columbia’s David Ley comments on Vancouver’s housing vacancy study: How could it be that so many Vancouver houses appear to be empty, without neighbours waving hello, or mowing their lawns, or holding block parties, or giving out candy at Halloween? How could so many people be wrong? The response to the city-commissioned study on empty housing was predictably immediate. Some media were quick to use the report’s low numbers as proof that speculative buying with foreign money was a myth. The study, which was intended to finally illuminate both city hall and residents on the extent of empty housing in Vancouver, was anti-climactic, to say the least. It reported that a mere one per cent of single-family homes were empty, a figure that hasn’t budged much since 2002. The overall vacancy rate was at 4.8 per cent. Only condo vacancies raised an eyebrow, at around 10,000 units. So what happened? Academics who’ve done their own research on the topic of affordability and global wealth have also been surprised by both the study, and the media reaction to it. Professors David Ley and Tom Davidoff, both from University of B.C., had participated in the city’s follow-up meeting Wednesday to discuss the findings. “Some of the reactions in the media – for example, this shows foreign investment is a myth – are hopelessly misplaced,” says Prof. Ley. “For a number of us, non-occupancy is a small part of the story, and should not be conflated with foreign investment or housing affordability. These are much bigger and separate issues.” Prof. Ley did wonder about the results, however. “They are surprising, and counter some persistent community perceptions. Are there some hiccups in the methodology?” The numbers are qualified at a rate “higher than one would expect in a report of this kind,” he added. He cites a section of the report, where it recommends placing “less attention to absolute occupancy rates at any given time.” [Globe and Mail](#)

McGill U Geography MA student Melanie Flynn on why monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation projects is important: The Arviat Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, followed consultation with the community during the creation of the plan which identified issues such as shifting porches and housing piles due to permafrost thaw, and concerns about contamination from the sewage lagoon leaking into the surrounding landscape as permafrost becomes more permeable as it melts. Other adaptation actions in Arviat have included the installation of a permafrost monitoring site in the community as part of the Nunavut Permafrost Monitoring Network, as well as ongoing work by researchers from Memorial University who are using ground samples to create maps of the ground types spread across Arviat. Active adaptation projects have resulted from these initiatives, including retrofitting pilings in homes and businesses to account for the shifting ground underfoot. Hazard maps have also been created to guide planners in deciding the best locations for future development, in order to avoid potentially unstable areas and prevent the need for retrofits in the future. While implementation of such projects is key, it must be followed by monitoring and evaluation, according to Melanie Flynn, a Master’s student with the Climate Change Adaptation Research Group (CCARG), housed within the Department of Geography at McGill University. Flynn stresses the importance of following up on adaptation projects to make sure they are doing everything they are intended to do. “Otherwise,” she says, “a project may cause maladaptation—negative impacts instead of positive ones. Through monitoring and evaluation, we can make sure that we learn from our successes and mistakes in adaptation.” [Northern Public Affairs](#)

U Waterloo’s Andrew MacDonald a student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management has been recognized by the University of Waterloo as one of the top co-op students for his contribution to co-operative education and his community. With a passion for the environment and education, MacDonald spent a co-op term at Pinery Provincial Park, delivering educational programs to the public, leading surveys on species at risk, and developing an interactive app for the park. The Explore Pinery app engages visitors by promoting park amenities, and giving them the chance to track and observe the different wildlife and natural beauty of the park. By providing tips on how to avoid poison ivy and other dangers around the park, and having easy access to the emergency contact information in the app, it helps improve customer safety. [U Waterloo Environment](#) | [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)



U Toronto's David Seitz is 2015-2016 recipient of the Superior Graduate Instructor Teaching Award. [U Toronto Geography](#)

Queen's U's Betsy Donald presented with the Julian Szeicz Award for Excellence in Teaching and **Sean Arruda** was awarded the Geography DSC Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance at the DSC Semi-Formal, *The Snow Globe*. [Queen's Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Marta Berbés-Blázquez, José A González and Unai Pascual. 2016. [Towards an ecosystem services approach that addresses social power relations](#). *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 19:134–143.

Suzanne Biro, Tyler Williamson, Jannet Ann Leggett, David Barber, Rachael Morkem, Kieran Moore, Paul Belanger, Brian Mosley and Ian Janssen. 2016. [Utility of linking primary care electronic medical records with Canadian census data to study the determinants of chronic disease: an example based on socioeconomic status and obesity](#). *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making* 16:32. DOI:10.1186/s12911-016-0272-9

Jutta Gutberlet, Jaan-Henrik Kain, Belinda Nyakinda, Dickens H. Ochieng, Nicholas Odhiambo, Michael Oloko, John Omolo, Elvis Omondi, Silas Otieno, Patrik Zapata and María José Zapata Campos. 2016. [Socio-environmental entrepreneurship and the provision of critical services in informal settlements](#). *Environment & Urbanization*. DOI:10.1177/0956247815623772

Joseph Kangmennaang, Lydia Osei, Frederick A. Armah and Isaac Luginaah. 2016. [Genetically modified organisms and the age of \(un\) reason? A critical examination of the rhetoric in the GMO public policy debates in Ghana](#). *Futures*. DOI:10.1016/j.futures.2016.03.002

Victoria Kyeyune and Sarah Turner. 2016. [Yielding to high yields? Critiquing food security definitions and policy implications for ethnic minority livelihoods in upland Vietnam](#). *Geoforum* 71:33–43.

Bram Noble and Kelechi Nwanekezie. 2016. [Conceptualizing strategic environmental assessment: Principles, approaches and research directions](#). *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*. DOI:10.1016/j.eiar.2016.03.005

Mallik Sezan Mahmud, Stephen E.L. Howell, Torsten Geldsetzer and John Yackel. 2016. [Detection of melt onset over the northern Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice from RADARSAT, 1997–2014](#). *Remote Sensing of Environment* Volume 178:59–69.

James B. Thayer, Roger T.J. Phillips and Joseph R. Desloges. 2016. [Downstream channel adjustment in a low-relief, glacially conditioned watershed](#). *Geomorphology*. DOI:10.1016/j.geomorph.2016.03.019

Nancy Worth. 2016. [Who we are at work: millennial women, everyday inequalities and insecure work](#). *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2016.1160037

Other “Geographical” News

Laurentian University accused of violating academic freedom: The Canadian Association of University Teachers says an investigation into Laurentian University in Sudbury found senior officials have routinely violated academic freedom. David Robinson is the executive director at CAUT and based in Ottawa. He said the committee began to investigate in January, 2015. "Most of our investigations have been around one specific incident," he explained. "In this case, it was a whole series of incidents that led to a number of allegations coming forward that involved academic freedom complaints, complaints that normal procedures and policies within the institutions weren't being followed, that some people were being targeted through quasi-disciplinary mechanisms, that grades were being changed without the approval of instructors — a whole litany of things." He said (one) example that was 'troubling' were complaints about the hiring procedures. "In this case, we had an incident or cases where the university contracted with an outside consultant for a faculty position hiring," he said. "This is pretty much unheard of across the country. Consultants are often used to look for senior administrators, vice-presidents or deans, but for faculty members, relatively unheard of." He said in one particular case, the consultant vetted all the applicants and recommended one to the hiring committee. Robinson said the hiring committee voted against the appointment, and then the dean overruled the decision. [CBCNews | Sudbury](#)

The outdoor retail oligopolies. The outdoor industry has an environmental image problem: The outdoor retail industry isn't as diverse in big brands names as you might think. One parent company you might not have heard of is VF Corporations, whose own daughter companies include Timberland, The North Face and Smartwool, amongst other apparel brands. So what are the outdoor oligopolies colluding to do to our environment? Simply put, they have been putting sustainability in the back seat to profits. GreenPeace recently called out manufactures of outdoor garments that use Per-fluorinated compounds (PFCs) in their report “Chemistry for any weather,” which summarizes the findings of two independent laboratories it commissioned to evaluate the chemical content of specific pieces of outdoor waterproof clothing. [RCE Tantramar](#)

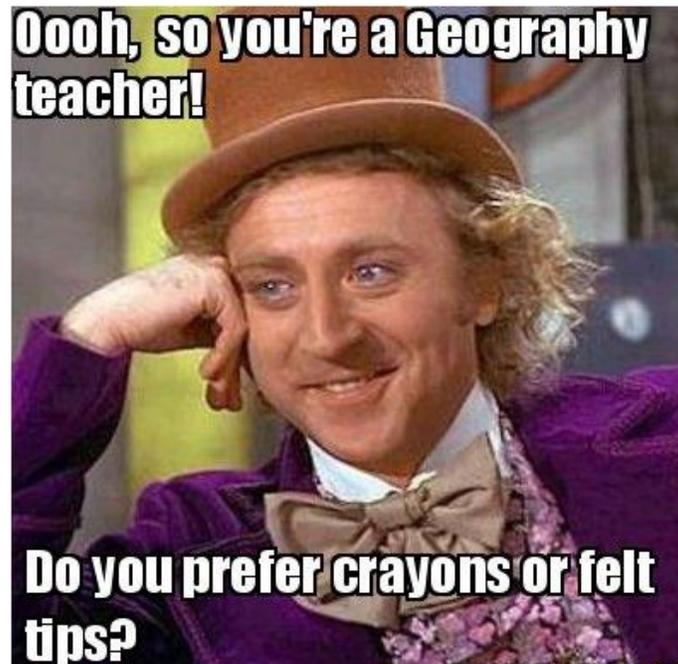
Proposed U.S. Beaufort Sea drilling leases infringe on Canada's sovereignty: A proposal for new oil and gas drilling leases in the Beaufort Sea could re-ignite a long-simmering border dispute between the United States and Canada. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management issued a proposal for new leases off the coast of Alaska. The map of the area that could be opened to drilling includes offshore territory Canada claims. For decades, the U.S and Canada have disagreed about the offshore boundary in the Beaufort. Canada claims it runs due North following the land border between Yukon and Alaska's North Slope. The difference is a wedge-shaped, 21,000-square-kilometre area about the size of Lake Ontario. The Yukon government is not happy with the proposal for oil and gas leases in the disputed area. Brad Cathers, the territory's justice minister, called the move "a violation of Canada's Arctic sovereignty." [CBCNews | North](#)

Was I selfish to study for my PhD? Last year I finally completed my doctorate. I was 48 years old. I started it because I was looking for an intellectual challenge while bringing up my children in a remote area. I had been feeling disconnected and my research gave me a focus. But the impact on my family, both financial and emotional, is something that I'm still trying to reconcile. [The Guardian](#)

European clean air policies unmask Arctic warming by greenhouse gases: The drastic cut in sulfate particle emissions in Europe partly explains the amplified Arctic warming since the 1980s. Sulfate emissions, which cause, for example, acid rain, peaked in the 1980s in Europe and North America, which led to the implementation of strict regulations to reduce them. The new study shows that these policies had a profound effect on the Arctic. [ScienceDaily](#)

Map animation shows raids on occupied Europe from 1943 to 1945: Interactive map shows the place and time of Royal Air Force and US Eighth Air Force raids on occupied Europe launched from Britain from 1943 to 1945. [MailOnline](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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