



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McGill U's @re_sieber thinks Pokemon Go shows how technology reflects real-world biases:

This summer's craze features cartoon characters, smartphones and crowds of people roaming the streets staring at their phone screens. Pokemon Go is a game and a popular one. But critics say it isn't just fun and games — it's discriminatory and reflects a player bias that shows up in the algorithms. Earlier this week, Kendra James, a writer from New Jersey, observed that there were fewer Pokemon in her primarily black neighbourhood compared to the majority white neighbourhoods beside it. This doesn't surprise [Renee Sieber](#), a [geography professor at McGill University](#). She thinks real-world biases are reflected in the augmented reality of Pokemon Go and other interactive map-based games. "Technology is not neutral, it's not objective. The data is not objective. The algorithms are not objective. They are built by humans, they embed the biases of humans and it's always important for us to understand that." On a positive note, Sieber tells Lynch that Pokemon Go can be an opportunity of discovery if you look up to see what's around you. "We should still enjoy the game but we should be cognizant that first of all there are biases, and second of all, look around you — learn something about where you are more than what the game is showing you." [CBCRadio | The Current](#)

UAV pilot training to become part of studies for geography students at U Calgary: From monitoring glaciers in the high Arctic or surveying the impact of floods here in Calgary, the use of drones — also called unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) — in geographical research has grown significantly in recent years. In the [University of Calgary's geography department](#), the use of small drone aircraft for mapping and measuring changes of the Earth's surface and atmosphere are the driving force behind a number of research and applied projects. To ensure this technology is incorporated appropriately — and safely — in their research, a group of geography graduate students completed a four-day professional ground school course this summer so that their drone research skills are balanced with a detailed knowledge of airspace rules, regulations, and best practices for drone piloting. "Small drones are becoming key tools in our research and teaching programs in geography, and it's incumbent on us to balance cutting edge R&D with safe and responsible piloting skills," says [Chris Hugenholz](#), associate professor and drone researcher in the Department of Geography. "Drones are transforming a number of research and commercial sectors across Canada and contributing to the economy so, in addition to the research and applied training experience our students receive, we believe it's also important that they become capable and certified drone operators," he adds. [UCalgary Today](#)

Fall 2016 – Divisional Meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers

September 23-25, 2016: Annual Meeting of the Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers-Ontario Division will be hosted by the University of Saskatchewan. Details at: [PCAG 2016](#)

October 28-29, 2016: Annual Meeting of the Ontario Division, Canadian Association of Geographers-Ontario Division will be hosted by the University of Waterloo. Details at: [CAGONT 2016](#)

November 4-6, 2016: Annual Meeting of the Atlantic, Canadian Association of Geographers will be hosted by the Mount Allison University. Details at: [ACAG 2016](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Gavin J. Andrews. 2016. [From post-game to play-by-play. Animating sports movement-space](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132516660207

Talaat Bakri, Peter Jackson and Ford Doherty. 2016. [A synoptic climatology of strong along-channel winds on the Coast of British Columbia, Canada](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI:10.1002/joc.4853

Tyler R. Bonnell, Ria R. Ghai, Tony L. Goldberg, Raja Sengupta and Colin A. Chapman. 2016. [Spatial patterns of persistence for environmentally transmitted parasites: Effects of regional climate and local landscape](#). Ecological Modelling 338:78–89.

Michael Classens. 2016. [The transformation of the Holland Marsh and the dynamics of wetland loss: a historical political ecological approach](#). Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences. DOI:10.1007/s13412-016-0407-4

Simon Dalby. 2016. [Geopolitics, ecology and Stephen Harper's reinvention of Canada](#). In: Handbook on Sustainability Transition and Sustainable Peace. Volume 10, Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace. Springer International Publishing. 493-504.

Oumarou Daouda and Christopher R. Bryant. 2016. [Analysis of power relations among actors and institutions in the process of agricultural adaptation to climate change and variability from the diffusion of innovations perspective](#). Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change, C.R. Bryant et al. (eds.). Springer International Publishing Switzerland. 27-51.

Marcus J. Dostie, David Lusseau, Tyler Bonnell, Parry M.R. Clarke, George Chapline, Stefan Kienzle, Louise Barrett and S. Peter Henzi. 2016. [Proof of principle: The adaptive geometry of social foragers](#). Animal Behaviour. DOI:10.1016/j.anbehav.2016.07.011

K. Wayne Forsythe, Chris H. Marvin, Danielle E. Mitchell, Joseph M. Aversa, Stephen J. Swales, Debbie A. Burniston, James P. Watt, Daniel J. Jakubek, Meghan H. McHenry and Richard R. Shaker. 2016. [Utilization of bathymetry data to examine lead sediment contamination distributions in Lake Ontario](#). AIMS Environmental Science 3:347-361.

Melissa Giesbrecht, Valorie A. Crooks, Heather Castleden, Nadine Schuurman, Mark W. Skinner and Allison M. Williams. 2016. [Revisiting the use of 'place' as an analytic tool for elucidating geographic issues central to Canadian rural palliative care](#). Health & Place 41:19–23.

Christopher S. Greene and Andrew A. Millward. 2016. [Getting closure: The role of urban forest canopy density in moderating summer surface temperatures in a large city](#). Urban Ecosystems. DOI:10.1007/s11252-016-0586-5

R.V. Herron, M.W. Rosenberg and M.W. Skinner. 2016. [The dynamics of voluntarism in rural dementia care](#). Health & Place 41:34–41.

Kersty Hobson and Nicholas Lynch. 2016. [Diversifying and de-growing the circular economy: Radical social transformation in a resource-scarce world](#). Futures 82:15–25.

Chris H. Hugenholtz and Thomas E. Barchyn. 2016. [A terrestrial analog for transverse aeolian ridges \(TARs\): Environment, morphometry, and recent dynamics](#). Icarus. DOI:10.1016/j.icarus.2016.08.010

Treena Orchard, Jennifer Vale, Susan Macphail, Cass Wender and Tor Oiamo. 2016. ['You just have to be smart': spatial practices and subjectivity among women in sex work in London, Ontario](#). Gender, Place & Culture. DOI: 10.1080/0966369X.2016.1219328

Maria Strack, Kisa Mwakanyamale, Golnoush Hassanpour Fard, Melanie Bird, Vicky Bérubé and Line Rochefort. 2016. [Effect of plant functional type on methane dynamics in a restored minerotrophic peatland](#). Plant Soil. DOI:10.1007/s11104-016-2999-6

Alan Trenhaile. 2016. [Rocky coasts — their role as depositional environments](#). Earth-Science Reviews 159:1–13.



Mount Allison's Michael Fox reports that one of his students, Tyler Trenholm, graduated in the spring and has received an award toward further studies to become a teacher. He has chosen to enter the Bachelor of Education program at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The Royal Canadian Geographical Society has created the Stuart Semple Scholarship for Atlantic Canada. One scholarship of \$1,000 is available each year, in sequence, to the university departments of geography in Atlantic Canada. This year it was Mount Allison's turn to nominate, and Tyler was chosen. It is a condition of the award that on graduating he will be expected to present a paper on geographical education at the annual meeting of ACAG. The scholarship is dedicated to improving geographical education in Atlantic Canada by working in the school-university interface to do it, a task of great concern to Fox.

@UBCGeog professor Karen Bakker offers a free online course called “*Urban Water: Innovations for Sustainability*.” The class covers innovative urban solutions to the global water crisis, with examples from architects, engineers, planners, ecologists, and artists. Covered in the course are core concepts such as the “water nexus” and “regenerative sustainability”, blue-green building design, eco-health and the role of water in environmentally-sensitive urban planning, urban stream regeneration, and water ethics. [EdX](#) | [CityLab](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Arctic cruises for the wealthy could fuel a climate change ‘feedback loop’: A luxury cruise ship carrying more than 1,000 moneyed passengers and a crew of 600-plus has kicked off a voyage that will take it through the Arctic’s Northwest Passage, which was once thought impassable. Climate change has freed the strait of much of the ice that would have made the massive ship’s journey an impossibility in the past. A tour through landscapes and indigenous communities actively being disrupted by climate change could be called “ecotourism,” but critics have another word for the US-based Crystal Serenity’s voyage: extinction tourism. By actually going on this cruise, the passengers will accelerate the process of extinction,” said Michael Byers, a professor of international affairs at the University of British Columbia who researches Arctic sovereignty and the environment. The fear is that future Arctic cruises may form a kind of climate change “feedback loop”—while these trips may allow wealthy passengers to appreciate the beauty of the regions and peoples negatively affected by climate change, such voyages contribute to the environmental degradation of the same places. [Motherboard](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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