



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**U Toronto's Deborah Cowen appointed a Trudeau Fellow:** [Deborah Cowen](#), a University of Toronto scholar whose work spans urban planning and politics, citizenship, contested spaces and social justice, has been selected for a prestigious Trudeau Fellowship. The \$225,000 fellowships, awarded by The Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation to up to five individuals each year, recognizes and supports the work of humanists and social scientists who venture beyond the boundaries of their disciplines to find new solutions to complex issues of major importance to Canadians. An associate professor in the Department of Geography & Planning in the Faculty of Arts & Science, Cowen looks at how conflicts over infrastructure have come to define our political landscape. She will use the fellowship to pursue an ambitious three-year project entitled Reassembling the Infrastructures of Citizenship. "Infrastructure is arguably at the centre of political life today," says Cowen. "When they work, infrastructures bring us food, water, power, resources, consumer goods, information, security, and connections to loved ones. But the same structures and systems that enable greater mobility for some also often disconnect and dispossess others." One clear example is the Alberta tar sands. Industry pressure to get bitumen to transnational markets has provoked controversial pipeline construction with social, environmental and Indigenous groups fighting the projects. At the centre of these struggles are questions of competing sovereignties on lands that remain unceded or contested. With an ultimate goal of finding ways toward a more just and sustainable future, Cowen's project aims to rethink policy and political community from precisely the points of conflict, injury, and difference that lie at the heart of infrastructure crises in Canada. Central to her approach is engagement and learning from the communities whose lives are profoundly affected by infrastructure decisions but who are often at the margins of contemporary political life. [U Toronto News](#)

**Queen's U's Joan Schwartz elected as fellow to the Royal Society of Canada:** Recognized internationally for her pioneering work as a photographic historian, archival theorist, and historical geographer, Dr. Schwartz has made distinctive, original contributions to scholarship in the history of photography in Canada and professional practice in the management of archives. "Of course, it's enormously rewarding to be recognized in this way, especially since my work straddles three fields, my career path has been far from traditional, and my field of inquiry is taught in so few places," says Dr. Schwartz. Her multi-disciplinary perspective has challenged long-standing assumptions and forged new understandings about the role of photographs in society, their preservation in archives, and their place in Canadian historiography. [Queen's Gazette](#)

**U Regina’s David Sauchyn finds climate change answers with farmers:** A lot has changed over the years in farming. The equipment that producers use and the crops they plant are different. Even the weather has changed, and a recent study completed at the University of Regina looked into exactly what effect that is having on the agricultural industry. David Sauchyn, a geography professor at the university and researcher with the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, was chosen to be one of the project leads for the five-year international climate change study. Sauchyn worked with researchers and students from Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Lethbridge, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Columbia. Rural agricultural communities in countries where the researchers were from were chosen for the study. In Saskatchewan, an area around Swift Current was studied. Researchers then went out to the communities and talked to the farmers to see what was actually affecting them. “We did systematic social surveys, it wasn’t just conversation. It was actually a questionnaire that was approved by the university and so these students spent anywhere between a couple of hours and half a day on these farms,” Sauchyn said. These interviews revealed that winters are getting warmer, which is extending the growing season for producers. “The frost-free season is longer, and you can talk to anybody that’s been on the land for a long time and they’ll tell you for sure that their seeding and things are germinating earlier in the year than they used to,” Sauchyn said. There are positives to this, Sauchyn says, as it can lead to more productivity in the fields and pastures. However there are also drawbacks. With the warmer weather, new pests and weeds are making their way north from the U.S. Also the warm weather can equal more extreme weather events happening. With the weather heating up, it does give opportunities to producers for new crops to be grown further north. “There’s opportunities there for increased production and also greater diversity of crops. But in order to achieve that increased productivity and increased diversity, the ag sector is going to have to deal with these pests and pathogens and also with these extreme events,” Sauchyn said. [Regina Leader Post](#) | [Calgary Herald](#)

**U Toronto’s Matti Siemiatycki on infrastructure spending in Ontario:** Ontario has launched an ambitious \$130 billion infrastructure spending program. The Agenda talks to University of Toronto professor Matt Siemiatycki about how the money will be spent and what benefits and pitfalls may lie ahead. [TVO](#)

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### [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Andrew S. Goudie. 2016. [The integration of Human and Physical Geography revisited](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12315

Dipto Sarkar, Colin A. Chapman, Wilson Kagoro and Raja Sengupta. 2016. [Countering elephant raiding with Short Message Service: Challenges of deploying public participation-based systems in a setting with sparse Information Communication Technologies resources](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12314

Marc Tadaki. 2016. [Rethinking the role of critique in physical geography](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12299

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

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* 147:340–364.

B. Chaplignin, B. Narancic, H. Meyer and R. Pienitz. 2016. [Paleo-environmental gateways in the eastern Canadian arctic – Recent isotope hydrology and diatom oxygen isotopes from Nettilling Lake, Baffin Island, Canada](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 147:379–390.

Dylan G. Clark, James D. Ford, Tristan Pearce and Berrang-Ford. 2016. [Vulnerability to unintentional injuries associated with land-use activities and search and rescue in Nunavut, Canada](#). *Social Science & Medicine* 169:18–26.

Darrell S. Kaufman, Yarrow L. Axford, Andrew C.G. Henderson, Nicholas P. McKay, W. Wyatt Oswald, Casey Saenger, R. Scott Anderson, Hannah L. Bailey, Benjamin Clegg, Konrad Gajewski, Feng Sheng Hu, Miriam C. Jones, Charly Massa, Cody C. Routson, Al Werner, Matthew J. Wooller and Zicheng Yu. 2016. [Holocene climate changes in eastern Beringia \(NW North America\) – A systematic review of multi-proxy evidence](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 147:312–339.

D. Lacelle, A. Davila, B., Faucher, D. Fisher, A. Jackson, C. Lapalme, W. Pollard and C.P. McKay. 2016. [Distribution, origin, stability and habitability of ground ice in University Valley, Dry Valleys of Antarctica: Analogue to ground ice conditions on Mars](#). Sixth Mars Polar Science Conference.

Sophie Anna Nitoslawski, Peter N Duinker and Peter G. Bush. 2016. [A review of drivers of tree diversity in suburban areas: Research needs for North American cities](#). *Environmental Reviews*. DOI:10.1139/er-2016-0027

Jean-Sébastien Landry, Lael Parrott, David T. Price, Navin Ramankutty and H. Damon Matthews. 2016. [Modelling long-term impacts of mountain pine beetle outbreaks on merchantable biomass, ecosystem carbon, albedo, and radiative forcing](#). *Biogeosciences* 13:5277-5295.

Megan Sheremata, Leonard J.S. Tsuji and William A. Gough. 2016. Chapter 8. [Collaborative uses of geospatial technology to support climate change adaptation in indigenous communities of the Circumpolar North](#). In: *Geospatial Technology - Environmental and Social Applications*. Edited by Pasquale Imperatore and Antonio Pepe. InTech. 197-215.

Jeremy Snyder, Annalise Mathers and Valorie A. Crooks. 2016. [Fund my treatment!: A call for ethics-focused social science research into the use of crowdfunding for medical care](#). *Social Science & Medicine* 169:27–30.

Simon Springer and Philippe Le Billon. 2016. Violence and space: An introduction to the geographies of violence. *Political Geography* 52:1–3.

Olena Volik, Francine M.G. McCarthy and Nicholas L. Riddick. 2016. [Insights from pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs and testate amoebae into the evolution of Lake Simcoe](#). *Journal of Paleolimnology* 56:137–152.

## Canadian Association of Geographers Ontario Division Annual Meeting:

The University of Waterloo, Ontario welcomes participants to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers – Ontario Division (CAGONT), Oct 28th & 29th 2016 in the UW Environment buildings.

Click for Conference Information at [CAGONT 2016](#)

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## Other “Geographical” News

**This is how a geography department dies:** Did you know that Columbia once had a geography department? I had no idea that a fully operational department—with tenure-track professors and course listings and both undergraduate and graduate students—had once existed. And the loss of the department extends beyond the loss of a few faculty positions and classes: When you search for “geography” in the Columbia library system, this is the message that greets you: “Because Columbia does not have a geography department, it does not collect geography materials generally. It does collect specific geography titles needed to support other disciplines, e.g., economics, government, area studies programs, history, etc.” Why did the geography department die? Who let it disappear? [The Eye](#)

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## 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>

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