



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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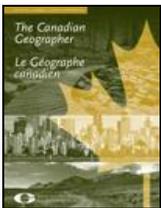
Concordia U's Rosemary Collard on trade in exotic animals: How do exotic animals go from living in the wild to sitting in a cage or tank in someone's living room halfway around the world? Rosemary Collard, an assistant professor of geography at Montreal's Concordia University, spent four years investigating the trade in live exotic animals, travelling to the Maya forest region to research animal capture, to exotic animal auctions in the U.S. and to animal rehabilitation centres in Guatemala and British Columbia. When asked about the size and scope of the trade, Rosemary said "It depends on whose estimates you listen to. But it's thought to be at least multiple billions a year, basically these massive flows of money and animals zooming around the world as we speak. Because so much of the trade, even the legal trade, so much of it is clandestine in a lot of cases, or the legality is ambiguous. And you have to be a real expert to even tell whether a species is labelled properly as it's crossing borders. It makes it this incredibly murky economy". When asked what "makes them valued by the average person and who wants exotics?", she reports that at "animal auctions, there would be these very distinct groups of people — wealthier ranch owners would be buying zebras, camels giraffes for use on private ranches where they offer a sort of safari experience without having to leave the U.S. Then you have people buying snakes and reptiles and there's more of an element of danger involved. And then you have private pet owners who are more interested in the cuddly creatures. And then there's a lot of petting zoos. But the thing I observed at the auction was that docility, individuality and rarity were the things that were emphasized the most continuously and really did seem to bump up the price." thestar.com

Memorial U geography professor Rodolphe Devillers named president of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG): Dr. Devillers leads the Marine Geomatics Research Lab at Memorial, a team exploring the use of geographic information sciences and spatial analysis for improving our understanding of the marine environment. "It is an honour to take the lead of an institute that has represented the field of surveying and mapping, and then geomatics, for over 130 years," said Dr. Devillers. "The institute involves hundreds of people across the country, organizes conferences and other events and has many other activities. Some of our focus this year will be to better engage students and young professionals. I am fortunate to have a great team working with me, so I am looking forward to an exciting year!" The Canadian Institute of Geomatics is the Canadian association that represents the interests of all groups in the geomatics community and is the Canadian member to the International Federation of Surveying, the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the International Cartographic Association and is a founding member of GeoAlliance Canada. [Memorial University Gazette](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Gail Fondahl returns to Russia to update Indigenous rights research: In the 1990s, UNBC Geography Professor Gail Fondahl studied the legal reforms guiding indigenous territorial rights at the federal and sub-federal (regional) level in the Russian Federation. Indigenous communities continue to face increasing pressures from resource extraction and industrial development projects. Dr. Fondahl has just received a federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant to update and expand on her earlier research. "We intend our research to be of use to indigenous leaders and decision-makers and to community makers who may experience similar experiences in engaging with the law and would benefit from sharing and learning from each other's understandings and practices," said Dr. Fondahl. "This research will make an important contribution to the academic literature on indigenous rights and territorialities, about an area not extensively covered, especially outside of Russian-language literature." With Fondahl as the principal investigator, the SSHRC team involves researchers from Northeast Federal University (Russian Federation), University of Lapland (Finland), Vilnius University (Lithuania) and the Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North (Russian Federation). At least two graduate students will be recruited to UNBC on this project. [UNBC News](#)

Saskatchewan U's John Pomeroy says rebuilding Fort McMurray homes on flood plain a 'poor decision': John Pomeroy says it may seem compassionate to allow people in the Waterways subdivision to rebuild, but he stresses it really isn't. "True compassion would be to keep people's homes out of flood plains," says Pomeroy, director of the Centre for Hydrology at the University of Saskatchewan and Canada's research chair in water resources and climate change. "It is not only property damage but loss of life and health that result from floods, so avoidance is the best policy," Waterways, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Fort McMurray, was devastated by May's fire. More than half of the properties destroyed were located in a flood hazard zone, which is why in the aftermath of the disaster there was uncertainty about whether residents would be able to rebuild. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo commissioned a survey asking residents what they wanted to do. There was talk of a land swap, where people would be given another lot in a different part of the city, but the majority who responded said they wanted to rebuild in the same location. At a recent council meeting, municipal officials confirmed that residents would be able to rebuild using the same construction standards that their homes met before. Pomeroy sees that as a very poor decision, given that the area is already prone to flooding, and climate change means there will be more extreme weather events. "We have had the science to back this up for half a century in Canada. It takes political will to make the difficult, but in the end, wise decision to stay out of the flood plains." [CBCNews | Edmonton](#)

New in The Canadian Geographer



Julia Brassolotto and Tamara Daly. 2016. [Domesticating dialysis: A feminist political economy analysis of informal renal care in rural British Columbia](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12319



McGill U's Renee Sieber honoured by the [Canadian Association of Geographers GIS Study Group](#) at the recent GIScience 2016 conference with its Lifetime Achievement and GIScience Excellence award.

U Waterloo's Jean Andrey recognized at the annual K-W Oktoberfest Women of the Year event. Jean was nominated in the Professional category, which recognizes women for dedicating themselves to the pursuit of excellence in their chosen careers. [UWaterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

New York Times Magazine highlights UNBC Geography partner Fredy Peccerelli, Guatemala's foremost forensic anthropologist. UNBC appointed Fredy as an Adjunct Professor in the Geography Program and the Governor General of Canada travelled to Guatemala to award Fredy with a Special Honours Award in recognition of continued and exceptional service for the promotion of relations between Guatemala and Canada. [UNBC Geography News](#)

Western Geography Research Funding exceeded \$1.7 million in 2015-2016. This reflects the continues high level of research activity within the Department. Over the last 3 years, the Department's funding has exceeded \$1.7 million, and the total funds since 2007 is in excess of \$12 million. Information on the Department's research labs can be found at: http://geography.uwo.ca/research/research_labs.html

U Northern British Columbia researchers, including Geography Professor Greg Halseth, have published a new book that explores the cumulative impacts of resource development. Titled "*The Integration Imperative: Cumulative Environmental, Community and Health Effects of Multiple Natural Resource Developments*". [UNBC News](#)

Simon Fraser U geographers reflect upon the character of SFU's Geography Department during the "radical days" of the newly established university. Listen at [Radio 98.3 Vancouver](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Ellen Petticrew and Phil Owens have secured nearly \$800,000 in funding from the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) to continue their research into the impacts on the Quesnel Lake ecosystem after the breach of the Mount Polley Mine tailings storage facility in 2014. [UNBC News](#)

Special edition of the [British Journal of Canadian Studies](#) focused on *Canadian Cities: Past and Present*. The issue contains papers entitled: "[You might understand Toronto': tracing the histories of writing on Toronto writing](#)" by Will Smith; "[Forgotten pasts and contested futures in Vancouver](#)" by Nicolas Kenny; "[Contradictory mobility: child self-protection and automobiles in interwar Toronto's Globe](#)" by Phillip Gordon Mackintosh; "[Lives of their own, a place of their own? The living arrangements of 'business girls' in early twentieth-century Canadian cities](#)" by Damaris Rose, Lisa Dillon and Marianne Caron; and, "[Apartment housing then and now: vignettes from Toronto and Montreal](#)" by Richard Dennis.

McGill U's James Ford and Sarah Turner received Partnership Development Grants from SSHRC. James's proposal was on: "*A partnership to develop tools and approaches for tracking progress on climate change adaptation across nations: the Adaptation Tracking Collaborative (ATC)*" and Sarah's was on "*The price of spice: Non-timber forest products and indigenous minority livelihoods in the Southeast Asian Massif*".

U Guelph's Kirby Calvert and Kate Parizeau receive SSHRC funding. Kirby was awarded a 3-year grant to study community energy planning and Kate was awarded support to study waste reduction in Ontario. [U Guelph News](#)

U Guelph doctoral candidate Neal Pilger attended the "Farm of the Future" event at Niagara College Oct. 12, and in conjunction with Dr. Mike Duncan, they demonstrated some of the emergent technologies for precision agriculture that are being developed. [UGuelph Geography News](#)

Western Geography Professor Jinfei Wang and Dr. Xiaodong Huang won the 2015 Best Paper Award on Theoretical Innovation in SPIE society for their paper "[Simplified adaptive volume scattering model and scattering analysis of crops over agricultural fields using the RADARSAT-2 polarimetric synthetic aperture radar imagery](#)". This paper developed a simplified adaptive volume scattering model to describe the scattering from the crop canopy to monitor the crop growth by the Polarimetric Synthetic Aperture Radar (PolSAR) imagery collected by Canadian RADARSAT-2 satellite.

New Book

Valerie Zink and Emily Eaton. [Fault Lines. Life and Landscape in Saskatchewan's Oil Economy.](#) University of Manitoba Press.



Oil is not new to Saskatchewan. Many of the wells found on farmland across the province date back to the 1950s when the industry began to spread. But there is little doubt that the recent boom (2006–2014) and subsequent downturn in unconventional oil production has reshaped rural lives and landscapes. While many small towns were suffering from depopulation and decline, others reoriented themselves around a booming oil industry.

In place of the abandoned houses and shuttered shops found in many small towns in Saskatchewan, housing developments sprang up with new trucks and boats parked in driveways. Yet people in oil-producing areas also lived amid flare stacks that made them ill, had trouble finding housing due to vacancy rates that were among the lowest in the country, suffered through family breakdown because of long working hours and time spent away from home, and endured spills and leaks that contaminated their land.

In the summer of 2014, at the height of the boom, geographer Emily Eaton and photographer Valerie Zink travelled to oil towns across the province, from the sea-can motel built from shipping containers on the outskirts of Estevan to seismic testing sites on Thunderchild First Nation's Sundance grounds. In text and photographs, *Fault Lines* captures the complexities of engagement, ambivalence, and resistance in communities living amid oil.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Philippe Apparicio, Mathieu Carrier, Jérémy Gelb, Anne-Marie Séguin and Simon Kingham. 2016. [Cyclists' exposure to air pollution and road traffic noise in central city neighbourhoods of Montreal](#). *Journal of Transport Geography* 57:63–69.

Tabassum Firoz, Marianne Vidler, Prestige Tatenda Makanga, Helena Boene, Rogério Chiaú, Esperança Sevene, Laura A. Magee, Peter von Dadelszen, Khátia Munguambe and the CLIP Working Group. 2016. [Community perspectives on the determinants of maternal health in rural southern Mozambique: a qualitative study](#). *Reproductive Health* 113:112.

Joanna M. Nield, Cheryl McKenna Neuman, Patrick O'Brien, Robert G. Bryant and Giles F.S. Wiggs. 2016. [Evaporative sodium salt crust development and its wind tunnel derived transport dynamics under variable climatic conditions](#). *Aeolian Research* 23A:51–62.

B.W. Newton, T.D. Prowse and L.P. de Rham. 2016. [Hydro-climatic drivers of mid-winter break-up of river ice in western Canada and Alaska](#). *Hydrology Research*. DOI:10.2166/nh.2016.358

Mark Rosenberg. 2016. [Health geography III. Old ideas, new ideas or new determinisms?](#) *Progress in Human Geography*. DOI:10.1177/0309132516670054

Stephen A Wolfe, Olav B Lian, Christopher H Hugenholtz and Justine R Riches. 2016. [Holocene eolian sand deposition linked to climatic variability, Northern Great Plains, Canada](#). *The Holocene*. DOI:10.1177/0959683616670223

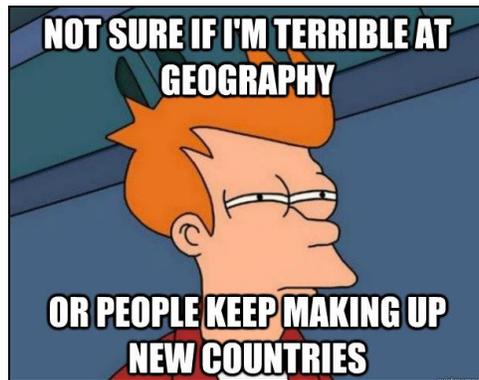
Other “Geographical” News

Archeologists find proof of China's Great Flood: The 4,000-year-old flood on the Yellow River, which would have been among the largest since the last Ice Age, could be linked to the rise of China's fabled first dynasty. [thestar.com](#)

'It just got much more complicated': Why the discovery of HMS Terror only raises more questions: Even though HMS Terror has been found, the wreck's discovery in no way marks the end of the mystery surrounding how the Franklin Expedition met its grim demise in the mid-19th century in the icy waters of what is now Nunavut. As much as its location had been long sought, the wreck's revelation last month only serves up more questions about the ill-fated British polar mission led by John Franklin in search of the elusive Northwest Passage. "It's not like it's a solution," says Russell Potter, author of the recently released *Finding Franklin, The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search*. "It's like it just got much more complicated. Somebody dropped a huge bag of evidence that you have to wait to open." [CBCNews | North](#)

The 'Big One' near Vancouver you may not know about: We all know about the "Big One": the magnitude 9.0 earthquake that is expected to hit the B.C. coast someday. But did you know there are other earthquakes waiting to strike that could be even more damaging for Metro Vancouver? The real Big One — the one that keeps engineers awake at night — is actually a magnitude 7.0 crustal earthquake, with an epicentre close to Victoria and Vancouver. And there's a one in five chance it could hit in the next 50 years. [CBCNews | Vancouver](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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