



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

No. 424, December 2, 2016

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U British Columbia's David Edgington on rebuilding and recovering from a major earthquake in B.C.: A large B.C. earthquake could trigger years of national economic loss, according to a new report. The Conference Board states there is a one-in-three chance a 9.0 magnitude earthquake could hit B.C. in the next 50 years. Given current levels of preparedness, that earthquake could cause stock markets to tumble and lead to long-term economic downturn, warned Antunes. The report calls this phenomenon financial contagion. But at least one earthquake expert calls the Conference Board's estimate "pessimistic." David Edgington studies the rebuilding process after major earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, and says one earthquake, although deadly, would not affect Canada's whole economy. "I've been in Japan, looking at the reconstruction after the 2011 tsunami and the 1995 earthquake in Kobe. The markets thought just one part of the country going under wasn't the end of the world," said the UBC human geography professor. Edgington was quick to add the report is a good reminder that governments need to invest more in earthquake preparedness. It's a problem B.C. – a region that does not experience earthquakes often – struggles with, he said. "It's a social problem for how you prepare for a low frequency but very high impact disaster." Basic things like upgrading building codes and seismic regulations would go a long way to saving lives, he said. "We need to do much more seismic evaluation of our public infrastructure – electricity, sewage, hospitals, schools, other public institutions," he said. "We're not doing okay." [Metro News](#)

U Victoria's David Atkinson on impact of climate change on towns and cities in Alaska: With its proximity to the Arctic, Alaska is warming about twice as fast as the rest of the United States and the state is heading for the warmest year on record. The government has identified at least 31 Alaskan towns and cities at imminent risk of destruction. Some villages, climate change experts predict, will be uninhabitable by 2050, their residents joining a flow of climate refugees around the globe, in Bolivia, China, Niger and other countries. These endangered Alaskan communities face a choice. They could move to higher ground, a wrenching prospect that for a small village could cost as much as \$200 million. Or they could stand their ground and hope to find money to fortify their buildings and shore up their coastline. Some residents here say that the storms are becoming more frequent and more intense, although scientists do not have data to confirm this. But there is no question that higher ocean temperatures have resulted in less offshore ice, allowing storm surges and waves to hit with greater force and bringing more flooding and erosion. The loss of sea ice, said David Atkinson, a climate scientist at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, is "undeniably linked" to a warming climate, as is the rising level of the sea as a result of melting glaciers, the increased volume of water lending even more strength to the ocean's assault. [The New York Times](#)

U British Columbia's Daniel Hiebert concerned by reports that money set aside to resettle Syrians remains unspent: Canada expects to welcome 44,000 Syrian refugees by year-end, four times the total refugees in 2014. Ottawa pays the equivalent of welfare for each refugee for one year; then refugees without work land on provincial welfare rolls. For most jobs, refugees must learn English or French; refugee advocates across Canada report long waiting lists for language classes. "The federal government can't just snap their fingers and have twice as many classrooms or instructors," says Dan Hiebert, a geography professor at the University of British Columbia who researches the impact of refugee populations on cities. Still, he is troubled by reports that money set aside to resettle Syrians remains unspent. "What's the bottleneck?" he asks. "We are talking a full year since the resettling began." [National Post](#)

U Waterloo Geography alumnus Douglas Koegler receives lifetime teaching award: Douglas Koegler whose 42-year career in geography education was recently crowned with the [2016 Canadian Geographic Literacy Award](#) from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Considered one of the founding fathers of modern geographic education in Canada, Koegler helped develop the Canadian Council for Geographic Education, now called Canadian Geographic Education, an organization that aims to strengthen geographic education in the classroom by providing teaching resources to its 18,000 members across the country. He has taught students from elementary school through teachers' college and also spent ten years as a curriculum consultant. Although recently retired, Koegler remains a strong advocate for geography literacy. "Geography opens you up to the world," he says. "And allows you to see the bigger picture." In a world of increasing specialization, Koegler calls geography "the opposite of a funnel." And he says, it makes students more employable. "Even if you don't go on to work in geography," he explains, "you're able to take in a variety of different aspects and see the patterns that exist in the world around you. To me, that's what geography has that most subjects don't have." [U Waterloo Environment](#)

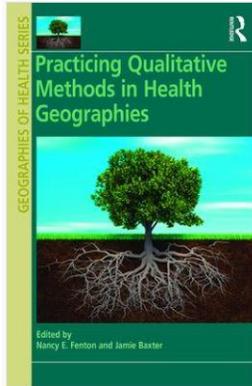
U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki on Toronto Mayor John Tory's 'bold step' towards road tolls: John Tory's plan for road tolls on the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway is exactly the kind of fresh, forward-thinking vision Toronto needs, city-building experts say. Tory outlined his pitch to the Toronto Board of Trade on Thursday as part of a larger strategy to bring in urgently needed revenue and pay for \$33 billion worth of projects, such as transit extensions, over the next 20 years. "This is a defining moment for the mayor and this is a defining moment for the city," said Matti Siemiatycki, a University of Toronto geography and planning professor. It's a "bold step" that matches "general consensus in the region that we have to invest and we have to invest big," he added. But the devil will be in the details, and, of course, not everyone's happy. Early opposition to the plan sprung largely from politicians and commuters in the suburbs. [Metro News](#)

Memorial U Geography Department publishes third annual Research Report. The Geography Research Group pulled together the projects and talent featured in the report. Five research clusters are represented by faculty-led research projects: Yolande Pottie-Sherman's work in urban immigration; Nick Lynch's research with the Circular Economy; Norm Catto's focus on natural hazards; Dean Bavington's research into the scientific management of Newfoundland and Labrador's cod fisheries; and Alister Bath's work with wildlife resource management. [Memorial U Geography](#)

Queen's U's Beverley Mullings recognized with 2017 AAG Susan Hardwick Excellence in Mentoring Award. This prestigious award is given annually, and recognizes extraordinary leadership in building supportive academic and professional environments which support the growth of their students and junior colleagues. [Queen's U Geography](#)

New Book

Nancy E. Fenton and Jamie Baxter (Editors). 2016. [Practicing Qualitative Methods in Health Geographies](#). Routledge. 266 pages



Health geographers are increasingly turning to a diverse range of interpretative methodologies to explore the complexities of health, illness, space and place to gain more comprehensive understandings of well-being and broader social models of health and health care. Drawing upon postmodernism, many health geographers are concerned with issues of representation, the body and health care policy. Also related to an emphasis on the body is the growing literature in feminist health geography that investigates the metaphorical, physical and emotional challenges of the body and disease.

Reflecting these interests, the chapters in this book set out the host of creative qualitative methods being used to explore the psychosocial experiences of individuals more directly, using such traditional methods as in-depth interviews and group discussions, participant observation, diaries and discourse analysis, but also more novel techniques such as 'go-along interviews', reflexive writing, illustrations, and photographic techniques. There are several areas of qualitative research unique to geographers which figure prominently in this volume including: health and place, comparative case study analysis, and qualitative approaches to the use of geographic information systems (GIS). This collection brings together a wide range of empirical concerns related to questions of health and shines a light on the diversity of qualitative methods in practice. Illustrating how qualitative methodologies are used in diverse health contexts this book fills an important niche for health geographers but will have wide appeal to health and geographic researchers.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Maciej Jamrozik. 2016. Effects of bigleaf maple on the growth and morphology of mature conifers in the southern coastal forests of British Columbia. MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Margaret Schmidt.

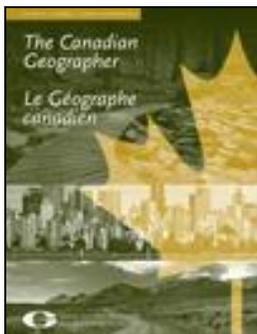
Blake Byron Walker. 2016. Towards a suburban spatial epidemiology: differentiating geographical patterns of cancer incidence, patient access, and surgical treatment in Canada's urban fringe. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.



Canada's First Social Innovation Lab on Food Waste and Food Insecurity launched at UofT's Department of Geography and Planning. The Food Systems Lab is a one-year project which will be piloted in the City of Toronto. It has the potential to be replicated in other municipalities across Canada. [UToronto Geography & Planning](#)

Carleton U offers Northern Studies Program as an interdisciplinary graduate program hosted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. The purpose of the Northern Studies programs is to provide opportunities for students to learn how to recognize and support wise public and private-sector decision making in the dynamic North. The program is interdisciplinary and rooted in analysis of real-world problems. The program emphasizes the biophysical, social, and policy environments of northern Canada. It recognizes the impacts of climate change on northern ecosystems and on the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities that depend on renewable resources. It acknowledges the stresses of cultural transition and evolving governance as land claims and self-government agreements are completed and implemented. It appreciates the importance of functional bureaucracies and practices that reflect the aspirations of northerners. It apprehends the changes to the Arctic Ocean that will facilitate shipping and bring many visitors to the North. [Carleton U Geography and Environmental Studies](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Stuart N. Lane. 2016. [Slow science, the geographical expedition, and Critical Physical Geography](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12329

Jamey Essex and Logan Carmichael. 2016. [Restructuring development expertise and labour in the CIDA-DFAIT merger](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12328

Ian M. Picketts, Margot W. Parkes and Stephen J. Déry. 2016. [Climate change and resource development impacts in watersheds: Insights from the Nechako River Basin, Canada](#). DOI:10.1111/cag.12327

Patricia Burke Wood and David A. Rossiter. 2016. [The politics of refusal: Aboriginal sovereignty and the Northern Gateway pipeline](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12325

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Frédéric Bouchard, Lauren A. MacDonald, Kevin W. Turner, Joshua R. Thienpont, Andrew S. Medeiros, Boris K. Biskaborn, Jennifer Korosi, Roland I. Hall, Reinhard Pienitz and Brent B. Wolfe. 2016. [Paleolimnology of thermokarst lakes: a window into permafrost landscape evolution](#). Arctic Science.

I.J. Bye, P.R.J. North, S.O. Los, N. Kljun, J.A.B. Rosette, C. Hopkinson, L. Chasmer and C. Mahoney. 2017. [Estimating forest canopy parameters from satellite waveform LiDAR by inversion of the FLIGHT three-dimensional radiative transfer model](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 188:177–189.

Denise S. Cloutier and Margaret J. Penning. 2016. [Janus at the crossroads: Perspectives on long-term care trajectories for older women with dementia in a Canadian context](#). The Gerontologist. DOI:10.1093/geront/gnw158

Creighton Connolly. 2016. ['A Place for Everything': Moral landscapes of 'Swiftlet Farming' in George Town, Malaysia](#). Geoforum 77:182-191.

Andréanne Couture, Najat Bhiry and James Woollett. 2016. [Micromorphological analyses of Inuit communal sod houses in northern Labrador, Canada](#). Geoarchaeology. DOI:10.1002/gea.21595

Jackie Dawson, Margaret Johnston and Emma Stewart. 2017. [The unintended consequences of regulatory complexity: The case of cruise tourism in Arctic Canada](#). Marine Policy 76:71–78.

Hyung-II Eum, Yonas Dibike and Terry Prowse. 2016. [Climate-induced alteration of hydrologic indicators in the Athabasca River basin, Alberta, Canada](#). Journal of Hydrology. DOI.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.11.034

Saskia Foerster, Véronique Carrère, Michael Rast and Karl Staenz. 2016. Preface: [The Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program \(EnMAP\) mission: Preparing for its scientific exploitation](#). Remote Sensing 8:957.

Rory Johnston, Valorie A. Crooks, Alejandro Cerón, Ronald Labonté, Jeremy Snyder, Emanuel O. Núñez and Walter G. Flores. 2016. [Providers' perspectives on inbound medical tourism in Central America and the Caribbean: factors driving and inhibiting sector development and their health equity implications](#). Global Health Action 9: 32760.

Yvonne E. Martin, E.A. Johnson and Olga Chaikina. 2016. [Gully recharge rates and debris flows: A combined numerical modeling and field-based investigation, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2016.11.012

Biljana Narancic, Brent B. Wolfe, Reinhard Pienitz, Hanno Meyer and Daniel Lamhonwah. 2016. [Landscape-gradient assessment of thermokarst lake hydrology using water isotope tracers](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.11.028

Wiebe Nijland, Luba Y. Reshitnyk, Brian M. Starzomski, John D. Reynolds, Chris T. Darimont and Trisalyn A. Nelson. 2016. [Deriving rich coastal morphology and shore zone classification from LIDAR terrain models](#). Journal of Coastal Research. DOI.org/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-16-00109.1

Yi Niu, M. Clara Castro, Chris M. Hall, Sarah M. Aciego and Carli A. Arendt. 2016. [Characterizing glacial meltwater sources in the Athabasca Glacier, Canada, using noble gases as tracers](#). Applied Geochemistry. DOI.org/10.1016/j.apgeochem.2016.11.015

Bram Noble, Jialang Liu and Paul Hackett. 2016. [The contribution of project environmental assessment to assessing and managing cumulative effects: Individually and collectively insignificant?](#) Environmental Management. DOI:10.1007/s00267-016-0799-7

P.M. Outridge, H. Sanej, C.J. Courtney Mustaphi and K. Gajewski. 2016. [Holocene climate change influences on trace metal and organic matter geochemistry in the sediments of an Arctic lake over 7,000 years](#). Applied Geochemistry. doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeochem.2016.11.018

Joseph M. Piwowar, Beyhan Y. Amichev and Ken van Rees. 2016. [The Saskatchewan shelterbelt inventory](#). Canadian Journal of Soil Science. DOI:10.1139/CJSS-2016-0098

Dipto Sakar, Renee Sieber, and Raja Sengupta. 2016. [GIScience considerations in spatial social networks](#). Lecture Notes in Computer Science 9927. Geographic Information Science. 9th International Conference, GIScience 2016 Montreal, QC, Canada, September 27–30, 2016. Edited by Jennifer A. Miller, David O’Sullivan and Nancy Wiegand. 85-98.

Ahmad Shakibaenia, Yonas B. Dibike, Shalini Kashyap, Terry D. Prowse and Ian G. Droppo. 2016. [A numerical framework for modelling sediment and chemical constituents transport in the Lower Athabasca River](#). Journal of Soils and Sediments. DOI:10.1007/s11368-016-1601-4

Other “Geographical” News

Academia is now incompatible with family life: I have just returned from my last conference of the season where one theme kept cropping up in conversations with fellow attendees: job insecurity, and the impact it is having on our families and lives. When I finished my PhD, I expected to complete one post-doctoral fellowship then move into a permanent post. I had every expectation of this career path, because that is the route that most of the researchers around me had taken. Quite a few had moved into a permanent post straight from their PhD studies. When I try to talk about job insecurity with senior researchers, they brush it off. They tell me I will be fine in a few years. They had permanent posts before they were my age. They had free education, great pension plans, and affordable housing costs. They don’t understand that this is not just about me. It is endemic. Almost everyone else I know at my level, and below, is in the same situation. Don’t get me wrong, academia isn’t all negative. I love my job. I love what I do. But I don’t know what the solution is. [The Guardian](#)

Study suggests training for department chairs is woefully inadequate at most institutions: Being a department chair can feel like running a small business, yet most professors aren’t trained for that kind of work. Initial data from a new study of department chairs suggest that most don’t even receive training for their role. The average term as chair is about four years, according to the new study. Yet 67 percent of chairs receive no formal training from their institutions. Most of those who do receive training get 10 hours or fewer. Moreover, when professors do receive training to be chairs, advice centers on hard skills that may or may not be relevant rather than on interpersonal and other soft skills that can make or break a departmental climate. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

New forecast tool helps ships avoid blue whale hotspots off West Coast: Scientists have long used satellite tags to track blue whales along the West Coast, learning how the largest animals on the planet find enough small krill to feed on to support their enormous size. Now researchers have

combined that trove of tracking data with satellite observations of ocean conditions to develop the first system for predicting locations of blue whales off the West Coast. The system, called WhaleWatch, produces monthly maps of blue whale "hotspots" to alert ships where there may be an increased risk of encountering these endangered whales. [ScienceDaily](#)

New cohort of Canada Research Chairs to include 38 per cent women: One of the government's most prestigious research programs is set to unveil one of its largest cohorts of women ever. The Liberal government will announce funding of \$173-million for a group of 203 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs. The federal program, which hands out lucrative awards to more than 1,600 researchers in a wide variety of fields across the country, said last month it was a high priority to close the equity gaps that see women, visible minorities and other diverse groups underrepresented in the award's ranks. The program is one of the federal government's most prominent tools to attract and retain top academic talent in Canada. [Globe and Mail](#)

Some Not So "Geographical" News



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