



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Wilfrid Laurier U's Alison Mountz receives extension of CRC in Global Migration: Alison Mountz, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, is exploring Canada's role as safe haven for American war resisters. The project builds on Mountz's previous work studying the global search for asylum among migrants detained on islands off the shores of Australia, Europe and the United States. Mountz will be collecting the oral histories of Americans who sought protection in Canada during the Vietnam War and more recently, during conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Studying the two cohorts will challenge conventional thinking about migration and refugee status. "We are seeing a shift in the way people view migration around the world and in Canada," said Mountz. "Having this CRC renewal will allow me to devote more time to this research that is relevant and urgent for policy makers and Canadians." [WLU News](#)

McMaster U SGES' 4GT3 students win at ESRI's Global Content Challenge: This past term in Special Topics in GIS (4GT3), McMaster U students participated in ESRI's Global Content Challenge as part of their course work. The challenge was to use ESRI's premier content which consists of a wide variety of data products, for their own geographic analyses, visualizations and predictive models. They had to communicate their results with a Story Map Journal, which is a type of web application. There were 3 categories that students could submit to, LAND, OCEAN and POPULATION, and each category had three cash prizes (\$10 000, \$5000, \$2000 USD). They received to nearly 550 registrations from nearly 60 countries, with 70 people successfully submitting their projects. Five SGES students received awards, and one received honourable mention.

Land Category:

Second Place: Karl Chastko, [Food, Water & 7 Billion People: Improving Water Efficiency in Agriculture](#)
Third Place: Kayla Wong, [Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential Based on Soil Properties](#)

Ocean Category:

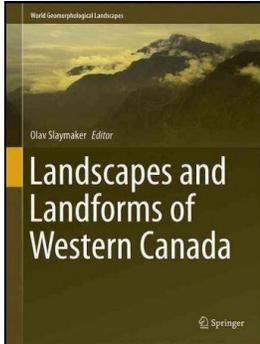
Third Place: Kevin Yang, [Climate Change in Earth's Polar Regions](#)

Population Category:

Second Place: Michael Kirchin, [The American People](#)
Third Place: Spencer Elford, [Concrete Jungle: Urban Expansion and the Rise of the Megacity](#)
Honourable Mention: Christopher Koido-Bunt, [Volcanic Hazard Risk in East and South East Asia](#)

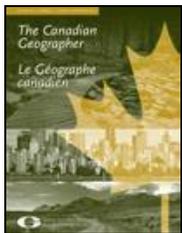
New Book

Olav Slaymaker (Editor). 2017. [Landscapes and Landforms of Western Canada](#). Springer International Publishing. ISBN 978-3-319-44595-3



This is the only book to focus on the geomorphological landscapes of Canada West. It outlines the little-appreciated diversity of Canada's landscapes, and the nature of the geomorphological landscape, which deserves wider publicity. Three of the most important geomorphological facts related to Canada are that 90% of its total area emerged from ice-sheet cover relatively recently, from a geological perspective; permafrost underlies 50% of its landmass and the country enjoys the benefits of having three oceans as its borders: the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Canada West is a land of extreme contrasts — from the rugged Cordillera to the wide open spaces of the Prairies; from the humid west-coast forests to the semi-desert in the interior of British Columbia and from the vast Mackenzie river system of the to small, steep, cascading streams on Vancouver Island. The thickest Canadian permafrost is found in the Yukon and extensive areas of the Cordillera are underlain by sporadic permafrost side-by-side with the never-glaciated plateaus of the Yukon. One of the curiosities of Canada West is the presence of volcanic landforms, extruded through the ice cover of the late Pleistocene and Holocene epochs, which have also left a strong imprint on the landscape. The Mackenzie and Fraser deltas provide the contrast of large river deltas, debouching respectively into the Arctic and Pacific oceans.

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Thomas Spencer and Stuart N. Lane. 2016. [Reflections on the IPCC and global change science: Time for a more \(physical\) geographical tradition](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12332



Simon Fraser U's Geoff Mann recently participated as part of a panel of artists working on questions of finance and capitalism at the UBC art gallery in November with Goldin+Senneby and Marianne Nicolson; moderated by Jaleh Mansoor. [SFU Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathan J. Bennett, Robin Roth, Sarah C. Klain, Kai Chan, Patrick Christie, Douglas A. Clark, Georgina Cullman, Deborah Curran, Trevor J. Durbin, Graham Epstein, Alison Greenberg, Michael P Nelson, John Sandlos, Richard Stedman, Tara L Teel, Rebecca Thomas, Diogo Veríssimo and Carina Wyborn. 2016. [Conservation social science: Understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation](#). Biological Conservation. doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2016.10.006

Alexandre Bevington, John J. Clague, Thomas Millard, Ian J. Walker and Marten Geertsema. 2017. [The Diverse Landscapes of Haida Gwaii](#). In: Landscapes and Landforms of Western Canada. Edited by Olav Slaymaker. Springer International Publishing. 291-302.

Gregory R. Brooks. 2017. [Red River Valley, Manitoba: The Geomorphology of a Low-Relief, Flood-Prone Prairie Landscape](#). In: Landscapes and Landforms of Western Canada. Edited by Olav Slaymaker. Springer International Publishing. 143-155.

Guido Cervone, Emily Schnebele, Nigel Waters, Martina Moccaldi and Ross Sicignano. 2017. Chapter 24. [Using social media and satellite data for damage assessment in urban areas during emergencies](#). In: Seeing Cities Through Big Data: Research, Methods and Applications in Urban Informatics. Edited by: Piyushimita Thakuria and Nebiyou Tilahun. Springer, New York. 443-457.

R.V. Herron and M.W. Rosenberg. 2017. [“Not there yet”: Examining community support from the perspective of people with dementia and their partners in care](#). Social Science & Medicine 173:81–87.

Julia M.L. Laforge, Colin R. Anderson and Stéphane M. McLachlan. 2016. [Governments, grassroots, and the struggle for local food systems: containing, coopting, contesting and collaborating](#). Agriculture and Human Values. DOI:10.1007/s10460-016-9765-5

Brian Henry Luckman. 2017. [Glacier Landscapes in the Canadian Rockies](#). In: Landscapes and Landforms of Western Canada. Edited by Olav Slaymaker. Springer International Publishing. 241-255.

Olav Slaymaker, John J. Clague, Robert Gilbert, Pierre A. Friele, Peter Jordan, Brian Menounos and Erik Schiefer. 2016. [Lillooet-Harrison Drainage Basin: Variable Landscapes Within the Coast Mountains](#). In: Landscapes and Landforms of Western Canada. Edited by Olav Slaymaker. Springer International Publishing. 303-320.

Vikki M. St-Hilaire and Dan J. Smith. 2016. [Holocene glacier history of Frank Mackie Glacier, northern British Columbia Coast Mountains](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2015-0236

Support Canada's Biosphere Reserves: Get your [Striking Balance](#) DVDs

Most of the time when Canadians think about nature, we think about far off places - wilderness areas, untouched by humans. But the reality is, those places don't exist. People have been a part of nearly every Canadian landscape for thousands of years, so what if our concept of nature included people? UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are a way to think about nature that includes people as part of the environment. For those living in Canada's Biosphere Reserves, the environment is only healthy if human communities and the ecosystems that sustain them are both thriving - today, and for hundreds of years to come. Narrated by Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy, [Striking Balance](#) is an 8x50 minute documentary series that goes coast to coast in cinematic 4K - combining aerial, motion capture time-lapse, and nature photography to create a stunning picture of Canada's Biosphere Reserves.

Striking Balance Episodes:

1. [Long Point Biosphere Reserve, Ontario](#)
2. [Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, British Columbia](#)
3. [Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve, Quebec](#)
4. [Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve, Nova Scotia](#)
5. [Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Ontario](#)
6. [Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, Saskatchewan](#)
7. [Fundy Biosphere Reserve, New Brunswick](#)
8. [Waterton Biosphere Reserve, Alberta](#)

[Sustaining Home. Canadian Biosphere Reserves in Action - A Companion to Striking Balance](#)



[Sustaining Home](#) is the companion eBook for Striking Balance— an 8x50 minute documentary series that goes coast to coast — combining aerial, motion capture time-lapse, and nature photography to create a stunning picture of Canada's biosphere reserves. Sustaining Home delves even deeper into our biosphere reserves - getting at the heart of what biosphere reserves are, and the principles and people that guide them. You'll also be introduced to ten additional Canadian biosphere reserves, and gain more insight into some of your favourite characters from Striking Balance. Sustaining Home continues the journey of discovery that just might change the way you think about the natural world, and our place in it.



[Watch the Striking Balance Trailer](#). Exploring Canada's Biosphere Reserves

Other “Geographical” News

Harper government obstructed scientists, study finds: The media didn't exaggerate the previous Harper government's suppression of scientific information, says the author of a study on "un-muzzling" the science community. Talia Wells said she expected to find that media overstated the extent to which the previous government stonewalled findings by taxpayer-funded scientists. I have yet to encounter a federal scientist who said that it was any way other than that," Wells said in an interview at the Arctic Net conference in Winnipeg, where she presented some of her preliminary findings. The situation has changed with the new federal government, she said. "The unmuzzling seems to be quite significant. There was just all of a sudden a relaxation of the rules, and scientists understood they could speak to media the way they had before," said Wells. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Lies, damned lies, statistics and university performance targets: The signs are everywhere – targets (and “stretch” targets) for organisations and performance management of individuals. Not surprisingly, institutions and individuals focus on what is measured. The speed of student feedback becomes more important than its quality, or usefulness to students. The only solution is to try to measure everything. But that is plainly impossible, because some very important things are difficult to measure (and these include some of the most fundamental qualities of a university education and ground-breaking research), and also because even the most pumped up managerialists accept there must be a limit to the time and effort spent on measuring things. The second problem with performance is that it is often just that: a performance. Just as efforts to measure performance are an active intervention that changes the rules of the game, so they encourage an ingenuity – to put it at its mildest – in packaging the results. Lies, damned lies, statistics and, we can now add, performance indicators. The harder we try to measure performance, the more we may undermine true worth. [The Guardian](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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