



GeogNews

**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 426, December 14, 2016**

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U Calgary welcomes Marit Rosol to new Canada Research Chair in Global Urban Studies: Marit Rosol, joins the Department of Geography in the Faculty of Arts to continue her research into social inequality, affordable housing and food justice. Recruited from the Department of Human Geography in Goethe University in Frankfurt, Rosol brings a well-rounded academic background to her research at the University of Calgary, including an MA in urban and regional planning, a year of graduate studies in Madrid, Spain, a PhD in geography from her studies in Berlin as well as a German Advanced Postdoctoral Degree from the University of Frankfurt. Among her many academic achievements, she was also awarded a German Academic Exchange Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at British Columbia's Simon Fraser University and served as a Visiting Scholar at both the University of California Berkeley and the University of California Santa Cruz. As a human geographer, Rosol seeks to better understand global connections and uneven development in urban areas. For this, she draws from other social sciences such as economics, sociology and political science, but also enhances these disciplines by situating analysis within a geographic context. "I am interested in the ways in which global trends — such as the ongoing economic and ecological crises, the restructuring of the welfare state and general globalization — impact social equality in urban communities," says Rosol. "And the two areas of social welfare which I emphasize and also want to bring into conversation with one another are housing and food justice." [Calgary UToday](#)

U Victoria's Phil Dearden writes that Trudeau missed an opportunity to stand tall: "Trudeau missed another opportunity to demonstrate that we have to do things differently ... in his recent approval of two pipelines." "Since the decision, there has been talk of "balancing" the economy and the environment. Allowing tanker traffic to increase dramatically through the Salish Sea would be an example. The government feels that with improved measures, accidents will not occur, and if they do, then cleanup will be swift and effective. I disagree, but accept that this is the kind of "balance" that governments seek. However, the decision to add 28 million tonnes of greenhouse gases every year is fundamentally different. This decision is not just about us, it's about the whole world and future generations. It's not about an isolated environmental "problem," but about a phenomenon so severe and irreversible that to get it wrong would be catastrophic for generations to come. It's about making a statement about the right things to do. The major global problem is climate change, and instead of addressing the problem, Canada is making it worse... The choice for Trudeau should have been framed first in terms of the environmentally sound choice — dismantle existing oil infrastructure and invest in clean-energy alternatives." [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

U Alberta's John England has hope we can turn corner on climate change: John England, the Canadian scientist who this week won the \$50,000 Weston Family prize for northern research, compares the Arctic to a "great behavioural bath" — in which immersion can help one shed the accumulated "barnacles" of modern life. "You get out on the land, into that simplicity, and what really matters comes into focus so sharply and so cleanly, in that silence," he said. England, who's based in Edmonton, has been regularly immersing himself in that "silence and simplicity" for six decades now, and in the process he's helped bring the real impacts of climate change into focus. His research work has largely focused on the history of ancient ice sheets, ocean and lake sediment, ocean currents and sea levels, and has helped provide a long-term perspective on changing global climate. England admits to being alarmed by Donald Trump's election in the U.S. ("disturbing in the extreme"), fearing what it might mean for climate research and environmental initiatives, but he's not a pessimist by nature. "It's one thing to be civil, and listening, and fair," he said, but "when push comes to shove, you've got to have that — you think of Bob Dylan's song Hurricane — you've got to have that willingness to stand up, roll up your sleeves and say, 'I've had enough, we have to insist on this.'" For England, that means insisting that ice sheets are melting at an alarming and unprecedented rate, and the end results — particularly with respect to rising sea levels — are likely to be catastrophic. [CBCNews | North](#)

Queen's U's John Andrew discusses possible impacts of a court ruling in ongoing battle between the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) and Canada's Competition Bureau: In April, the Competition Tribunal ruled that TREB was stifling competition by limiting access to information — including a home's final selling price. Currently, Toronto real estate agents — and most agents across the country — control and provide this information to clients at their discretion. In its submission to the Federal Court of Appeal, CREA sided with TREB's position. It also repeated its argument that if the tribunal's ruling stands, it should be limited to the Toronto area. Regardless of the arguments, real estate expert John Andrew believes the Competition Bureau will eventually get its way — and the effects will be widespread. "The writing's on the wall," the Queen's University professor says. "It will be difficult to overturn the Competition Tribunal's decision." Andrew also believes the tribunal's ruling will have a domino effect across Canada, with other real estate boards starting to voluntarily release once-guarded sales data. "Toronto will be precedent-setting — no question about it," Andrew says. 'Evolve or get left behind' Even with more access to information, Andrew believes many people will still opt to hire an agent. "Most Canadians really want an experienced person to hold their hand and guide them through the process," he says. [CBCNews:Business](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Alison Mountz to study Canada's role as safe haven for American war resisters: How people move around the world, how politics controls borders and the public perception of refugees and asylum seekers has never been a more urgent and relevant topic for Canadians and policy makers. Alison Mountz, professor in Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Canada Research Chair in Global Migration, is a leading researcher on the topic of refuge and asylum in Canada. Her current research takes a unique perspective on asylum, exploring the stories of American refugees in Canada — a topic that has garnered much publicity during the U.S. presidential election, if a little tongue-in-cheek. "There was an ongoing joke in the media about Americans moving to Canada if someone they didn't like was elected as president. But in reality, there is a history of Americans seeking a safe haven in Canada during the Vietnam War and more recently, during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Mountz. This history challenges conventional thinking about refugee status and also sheds light on how the relations between countries can politicize the refugee process. "If Canada grants refugee status to an American, Canada is basically saying that America is unsafe," said Mountz. "The refugee process doesn't just look at the individual case as it technically should, it is also about politics. This can make it very difficult for people who feel persecuted or vulnerable in the U.S., particularly in the military, to find a safe haven in Canada." [WLU News](#)

Grenfell geography students pitch their ideas for Corner Brook's downtown: In September a group of students from Grenfell Campus started a course that incorporated learning the theory of planning with the practice of planning. Through CityStudio, a project between the university and the City of Corner Brook, the Geography 3350 students undertook to develop three projects related to the city's downtown. At the beginning of the course the students were tasked with identifying public spaces that were important to the city and that needed a bit of work. Smithville — the Brook Street/Commercial Street area — was one that came up fairly consistently. Andrew King's group tackled that area in terms of addressing the esthetics. While they had a lot of ideas to add parks and recreational areas, King said they realized a lot of these things are long-term projects. "So that's why we looked at turning a grey kind of bleak area into a more vibrant, colourful part of the community." The group says the open grey walls on many of the buildings would provide the perfect canvas for murals and public art focused on the heritage of the area. While this would be somewhat regulated in terms of what goes in the space, the aim would be to also provide a space for the public to be creative. [The Western Star](#)



SmartICE, led by Trevor Bell of MUN Geography, was one of three projects awarded the Arctic Inspiration Prize at the ArcticNET meeting in Winnipeg. SmartICE involves the cooperative efforts of a large team of Arctic residents and researchers, integrating Inuit Quajimajatuqangit traditional knowledge and ongoing observation for sea-ice monitoring and forecasting. In accepting the award, Trevor noted that "SmartICE will be a catalyst for a different way to do research in the North." [Memorial U Gazette](#)

Rizwan Shahid, a Geographic Information Scientist with Alberta Health Services, recently present his research on childhood obesity and environment at neighborhood level at the forum of O'Brien Institute for Public Health & the Department of Community Health Sciences. [Enter as Guest O'Brien Institute & CHS Department Seminar](#)

Volume 18 (2016) of Prairie Perspectives: Geographical Essays is now online and available for [download](#). In publication since 1998, Prairie Perspectives is the annual peer-reviewed journal of the [Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers \(PCAG\)](#). It features original research on the geography of the interior plains and work produced by scholars located in the region.

Simon Fraser U's B-Jae Kelly receives staff achievement award for work performance. B-Jae Kelly, who was a Resource Specialist of 9 years before becoming Manager of Logistical and Technical Operations in 2013, received this year's award for work performance. [SFU Geography News](#)

Western U's geography student team wins Western's Challenge. Geography student Robert Celik, together with Linta Mustafa and Anisha Khanna, both in Health Sciences, won this year's World's Challenge Challenge competition with their proposal Addressing the sustainability of contemporary agricultural food systems. [Western News](#)

U Waterloo geography students present GEM Indonesia fieldcourse research results at CRHnet 2016 conference: Five undergraduate and three graduate students recently attended the annual Canadian Risks and Hazards network (CRHnet) symposium. Students presented results from research carried out as part of the "Indonesia field course" (Geog 430C/692) run by Dr. Brent Doberstein in May 2016. [UW Geography News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Margot Charette, Lea Berrang-Ford, Elmer Alejandro Llanos-Cuentas, César Cárcamo and Manisha Kulkarni. 2016. [What caused the 2012 dengue outbreak in Pucallpa, Peru? A socio-ecological autopsy](#). Social Science & Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.12.010

Evan Cleave, Godwin Arku, Richard Sadler and Emmanuel Kyeremeh. 2016. [Place marketing, place branding, and social media: Perspectives of municipal practitioners](#). Growth and Change. DOI:10.1111/grow.12189

Michelle Fortin, Yvan Bédard, Sonia Rivest, Tania Roy and Suzie Larrivée. 2016. [A tessellation-based methodology for an interactive analysis of the Arctic ice dynamic phenomenon with spatial online analytical processing](#). Cartographica.

D. Lamhonwah, M.J. Lafrenière, S.F. Lamoureux and B.B. Wolfe. 2016. [Multi-year impacts of permafrost disturbance and thermal perturbation on High Arctic stream chemistry](#). Arctic Science.

Meghan McHenry and Claus Rinner. 2016. [The impact of multi-criteria decision analysis parameters on an urban deprivation index](#). Cartographica.

D. Michael Ray and Ian MacLachlan. 2016. [Economic shock and regional resilience: Continuity and change in Canada's regional employment structure, 1987–2012](#). Environment and Planning A. DOI:10.1177/0308518X16681788

Lorena Laura Musotto, Ana María Borrromei, María Virginia Bianchinotti, Andrea Coronato, Brian Menounos, Gerald Osborn and Robert Marr. 2016. [Postglacial environments in the southern coast of Lago Fagnano, central Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, based on pollen and fungal microfossils analyses](#). Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology. doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2016.11.016

Adam J. Wicks and David E. Atkinson. 2016. [Identification and classification of storm surge events at Red Dog Dock, Alaska, 2004–2014](#). Natural Hazards. DOI:10.1007/s11069-016-2722-1

Erin K. Wilson, Paul S. Hill, Danika van Proosdij and Monique Ruhl. 2016. [Coastal retreat rates and sediment input in the Minas Basin, Nova Scotia](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2016-0177

Other “Geographical” News

94% of Ontario university grads have well-paying jobs two years after graduation: University-educated graduates are using the advanced skills they learn at university to secure good, well-paying jobs soon after graduation, with 87 per cent employed within six months of graduation, and almost 94 per cent within two years. The latest survey of graduates of Ontario undergraduate programs conducted for Ontario’s Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development shows that university graduates in full-time jobs earn an average salary of almost \$42,000 six months after graduation. The average salary after two years is more than \$49,000. Employment rates and earnings for university undergraduates are higher than any other level of education. [McMaster Daily News](#)

Toronto group wants to save science and climate change data from Trump with internet archiving: As the world prepares for a Donald Trump presidency, a group of concerned Torontonians

are doing their part to stop crucial scientific and environmental information from disappearing into a black hole during his administration. The University of Toronto's Technoscience Salon and Research Unit, a forum for untangling tough questions related to science, is hosting a "guerrilla archiving" event this weekend to "save environmental data from Trump." [Metro News Toronto](#)

Some Not So "Geographical" News



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