



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U British Columbia's Simon Donner on plan to build a city of floating islands in the South Pacific: Recent climate models predict that the world's oceans could rise five to six feet by 2100, roughly twice the increase reported as a plausible worst-case scenario by a United Nations panel in 2013. Atoll nations in the Pacific are seen as uniquely vulnerable to sea level rise because they are often low-lying and extremely narrow. An audacious plan to respond to climate change by building a city of floating islands in the South Pacific is moving forward, with the government of French Polynesia agreeing to consider hosting the islands in a tropical lagoon. Simon Donner, a geography professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver who studies the effects of climate change in the Pacific Islands, said that the French Polynesia project looked intriguing and that he had no reason to doubt that its backers were well intentioned. But he said the project reflected a cruel reality: The developed world is both responsible for climate change and better able to cope with it. The French Polynesia project would effectively be a "cruise ship," Professor Donner said. "Meanwhile, the other actual islands in the Pacific are stuck with the impacts of climate change." [The New York Times](#) | [Seattle Times](#) | [Maly Mail Online](#)

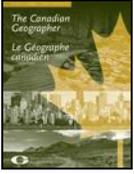
Simon Fraser U's Kirsten Zickfeld paper concerning the long-lasting effect of methane on rising sea levels: Kirsten Zickfeld, associate professor of the Department of Geography, has published an important paper on the effect of short-lived greenhouse gases on sea level rise, done in collaboration with Susan Solomon at MIT, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The study found that short-lived greenhouse gases contribute to sea level rise through thermal expansion (TSLR) over longer timescales than their atmospheric lifetime. Through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, humans have warmed the Earth's atmosphere and oceans and caused sea levels to rise. However, some GHGs, like methane, remain in the atmosphere for a decade or less, while others, like carbon dioxide, stay in the atmosphere for more than centuries. Kirsten Zickfeld and colleagues used a climate model to examine the effects of different GHGs on TSLR. The model showed that the impact of short-lived anthropogenic GHGs on sea level is far longer lasting than their atmospheric lifetime. Even if the production of short-lived GHGs ceases, centuries of TSLR should be expected. For example, 75% of TSLR due to methane emissions could persist 100 years after emissions cease, according to the model. Furthermore, under the Montreal Protocol, signatories agreed to phase out chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons during the 21st century. However, if the Montreal Protocol had not been enacted until 2050, the model estimates up to an additional 14 centimeters of TSLR would have occurred before the end of the 21st century. [SFU Geography](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser collaborate on book examining transition and change in resource-dependent communities: A new book edited by UNBC Geography Professor Dr. Greg Halseth describes the multi-faceted process of transition and change in resource-dependent rural and small town regions since the end of the Second World War. Titled [Transformation of Resource Towns and Peripheries: Political Economy Perspectives](#), the book incorporates international case studies from Australia, Canada, Finland, and New Zealand. It highlights similarities and differences in patterns and practices in each country. Chapters explore three main themes: how corporate ties and trade linkages are changing and impacting rural communities and regions; how resource industry employment is changing in these small communities; and how local community capacity and leadership are working to mitigate challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. "As many rural and small town places work through processes of change, it is important to recognize that they are responding to common pressures and can learn much from one another about how to successfully navigate transition," said Halseth, who is also a Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies. "The context of today is unlike the context of 50 years ago when many resource-dependent places established their economic and community foundations. By sharing the stories from four countries, this book highlights the new and innovative ways by which they must respond." Halseth along with Laura Ryser, the Research Manager with the Rural and Small Town Studies program and Sean Markey from Simon Fraser University, collaborated on writing three chapters in the book. [UNBC News](#) | [Prince George Citizen](#)

Western U's Phil Stooke book named as Outstanding Academic Title: [The International Atlas of Mars Exploration, Volume 2, 2004 to 2014: From Spirit to Curiosity](#), by Phil Stooke has been included on the Association of College & Research Libraries annual list of Outstanding Academic Titles. Phil Stooke is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, cross-appointed in Physics and Astronomy. The book focuses on the exploration of the planet, mapping the paths of rovers and other exploration efforts, including some coverage of ideas of how human landing on Mars may be undertaken. Stooke has been interested in space since he was a teenager, growing up when the Apollo astronauts were active. For Stooke, the thrill of space exploration comes from "seeing new landscapes and discovering what's beyond the next ridge, seeing a new world for the first time." Stooke's PhD focused on mapping irregular shaped objects, which he regularly uses to map asteroids. He had previously completed an atlas of the exploration of the moon, and is working on a third volume of Mars exploration. Stooke also maintains online maps of Mars exploration, updating whenever rovers move. At Western, Stooke teaches others how to make maps, through cartography classes. Each year the ACRL reviews thousands of books and publishes a short list of the outstanding academic titles. [Western Social Science](#)

York U's Tricia Wood offers reasons to look forward to York University's new subway: "One of the most exciting things about the new line is its original purpose: it will connect post-secondary institutions serving over 60,000 students to the city and the region above it. York University and Seneca at York share a campus that overwhelmingly serves commuters. Only a few thousand live in campus residence. On any given day, that campus is the single-largest commuter destination in the city. Improving access to it from both north and south is great for pragmatic reasons alone. The particular purpose of the place, however, is what really matters. Access to education improves lives. It improves self-knowledge, the capacity to participate in civic life, and employment opportunities." "It doesn't take that long to get up to York from downtown, but it feels like it does. When you can jump on a subway train and arrive directly on campus in 20 minutes or so, you might be more likely to come up for an event some afternoon or evening. More exchange with and among post-secondary institutions is one of the most fruitful ways we can improve mobility in the Toronto area. The entire city and surrounding region will benefit from it. This subway extension is just the first step of a network that will connect Humber College when the LRT is built. These are positive, enriching transit developments. They are worth getting excited about. Raise that glass—it's half full after all. [Torontoist](#)

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



Marie-Françoise André. 2017. [From physical geography to environmental geography: Bridges and gaps \(a French perspective\)](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12335View

Tenley M. Conway. 2017. [Conceptual pathways and institutional barriers for urban physical geography: A response to Ashmore and Dodson](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12343

Sarah de Leeuw, Margot W. Parkes, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, Julia Christensen, Nicole Lindsay, Kendra Mitchell-Foster and Julia Russell Jozkow. 2017. [Going unscripted: A call to critically engage storytelling methods and methodologies in geography and the medical-health sciences](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12337

Robert Oliver. 2017. [Sport mega event planning in Toronto: From a democratic demand to a democratic demise](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12336
Can big data tame a “naughty” world?

Jennifer Ann Salmond, Marc Tadaki and Mark Dickson. 2017. [Can big data tame a “naughty” world?](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12338

New Book

Jessica Dempsey. [Enterprising Nature: Economics, Markets, and Finance in Global Biodiversity Politics](#). Wiley Blackwell.



[Jessica Dempsey](#) (Assistant Professor, UBC Geography) has just published her first book, in the [Antipode book series](#) with Wiley-Blackwell. *Enterprising Nature* tracks the rise of a powerful idea in global biodiversity conservation. Many ecologists, bureaucrats, and activists now believe that the only way to slow the decimation of nonhuman life on earth is to translate conservation into an economically rational—even profitable—set of policies and practices. “In order to make live,” goes the ascending mantra, “one must make economic.” *Enterprising Nature* analyses this mantra’s origins and the international alliances that enable it to spread. Crucially, the book focuses not only the smooth ascent of enterprising nature, but rather on the enormous challenges the project faces: technical, scientific, economic, and political. *Enterprising nature* seems like an “easy fix” to ecological degradation, tailor-made for our austerity bound, market-governance times, and yet it remains marginal.



U Western's [Jamie Voogt](#) is the new Chair of Department of Geography. Voogt, an Associate Professor, is the new Chair of the Department of Geography, starting his five year appointment in January 2017. Voogt earned his PhD from the University of British Columbia, focusing on climatology and atmospheric science. He joined the Department of Geography at Western in 1995. Voogt feels Geography as a discipline faces some image and recognition issues. While Geography is the original discipline that focused on studying the environment, Voogt said there is now some question into how Geography fits into how environment is taught. "Increasingly, we are seeing undergraduates come in who may not have taken Geography in a while, or who may associate the study of it with different areas or different terms," he said. Along with these challenges, the Department of Geography could see a change of about a quarter of its core faculty over the next four years. [Western Social Science](#)

U Victoria **geography students** offer their insights on how geography impacts, and are impacted by, the natural world. [YouTube](#)

U Waterloo's **Sarah Burch** on bringing the country to the city. As an increasing number of people move from rural to urban environments, human civilization must adapt. As part of their Orange Chair Series Research2Reality (R2R) sat down with Geography and Environmental Management professor and Canada Research Chair in Sustainability Governance and Innovation, Sarah Burch to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing sustainable cities of the future. [YouTube](#)

U Guelph Doctoral student **Abhi Kantamneni** (advisor Kirby Calvert) has won a 'Career and Teaching Development Fellowship' for the 2017 – 2018 academic year. The fellowship, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, provides doctoral students with the opportunity to design and deliver a First-Year Seminar. The First-Year Seminar Program provides first year undergraduate students with small courses centered on interdisciplinary, collaborative and experiential learning. Abhi developed a course titled 'How to do good in communities: the case of energy sustainability'. The aim of the course is to provide students with the conceptual foundation, theoretical tools, and community connections through which to become engaged citizens and champions of sustainability. Abhi will be teaching the course in Winter 2018. [U Guelph Geography](#)

Nathan Einbinder (MA NRES Geography, UNBC '10), now a PhD candidate at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Chiapas, Mexico) has a newly published book based on his graduate research at UNBC (Supervisor: Catherine Nolin). [Dams, displacement and development: Perceptions from Río Negro, Guatemala](#). **Catherine Nolin** wrote the foreword to the book (*To Witness the Rage & Silence of Genocide in Río Negro and Pacux*) and **Grahame Russell** (UNBC Geography adjunct faculty member) wrote the Epilogue (*There is No Means by Which to Quantify What Was Lost Here, in Río Negro*).

U Northern British Columbia's **Brian Menounos** has a favourite mountain. Check out this video to see which one it is. [YouTube](#)

Queen's U geographers recipients of awards. **Ryan Danby** (School of Environmental Studies Students' Choice Professor of the Year); **Betsy Donald** (Julian Szeicz Award for Excellence in Teaching); **Alice Hovorka** (Principal's Dream Course Award); **Ajay Agarwal** (2016 Principal's Teaching Award for International Education Innovation). [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Janice Brahney, Brian Menounos, Adam Wei and Paul Jefferson Curtis. 2017. [Determining annual cryosphere storage contributions to streamflow using historical hydrometric records](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11128

José de Anda and Harvey Shear. 2017. [Potential of vertical hydroponic agriculture in Mexico](#). Sustainability 9:140. DOI:10.3390/su9010140

Roger Hayter and Klaus Edenhofer. 2016. [Evolutionary geography of a mature resource sector: Shakeouts and Shakeins in British Columbia's Forest Industries 1980 to 2008](#). Growth and Change 47:497-519.

Heidi Karst. 2016. ["This is a holy place of Ama Jomo": Buen vivir, indigenous voices and ecotourism development in a protected area of Bhutan](#). Journal of Sustainable Tourism. DOI:10.1080/09669582.2016.1236802

Bart Makaske, Eva Lavooi, Tjalling De Haas, Maarten G. Kleinhans and Derald G. Smith. 2017. [Upstream control of river anastomosis by sediment overloading, upper Columbia River, British Columbia, Canada](#). Sedimentology. DOI:10.1111/sed.12361

Antonin Montané, Thomas Buffin-Bélanger, Freddy Vinet and Olivier Vento. 2017. [Mappings extreme floods with numerical floodplain models \(NFM\) in France](#). Applied Geography 80:15–22.

Sarah E. Nelson and Kathi Wilson. 2017. [The mental health of Indigenous peoples in Canada: A critical review of research](#). Social Science & Medicine 176:93–112.

Jean-Sébastien Landry, Antti-Ilari Partanen and H. Damon Matthews. 2017. [Carbon cycle and climate effects of forcing from fire-emitted aerosols](#). Environmental Research Letters 12:025002

Other "Geographical" News

High-tech maps of tropical forest diversity identify new conservation targets: New remote sensing maps of the forest canopy in Peru identify new regions for conservation effort. Scientists used airborne laser-guided imaging spectroscopy, to identify preservation targets by undertaking a new approach to study global ecology. [ScienceDaily](#)

UBC researchers search NASA data for migration and land use patterns in the Himalayas: UBC researchers received funding to investigate how social change and natural disasters affect patterns of mobility and urbanization in Bhutan, India and Nepal. They will use satellite images to track land use change and impact of natural disasters in the seismically active zone over the last 32 years. [UBC News](#)

Study finds quality of research and teaching are not related: Skilled researchers and effective teachers are neither substitutes nor complements for each other -- in fact, they have no relationship at all, according to a recent study. Their research adds another perspective to a conversation that has troubled research universities for years: whether an emphasis on scholarship comes at a cost to quality instruction. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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[@CanGeographers Weekly](#): <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
