



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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SFU geography co-op student Vienna Watt finds family connection, guides Canadian veterans at 100-year anniversary of Vimy Ridge: Simon Fraser University student Vienna Watt knows what it's like to work in the trenches. This spring, she's completing a co-op term with Veteran Affairs Canada at the Canadian National Vimy Ridge memorial in France. Her co-op term also happens to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge—a gruesome battle in the First World War that resulted in more than 11,000 Canadian soldier casualties. Watt is working as a tour guide who educates visitors about the memorial and takes them through preserved Canadian and German trenches and bunkers. “I have an interest in human and population geography,” says Watt. “With my co-op, I’m able to look at the displacement of populations due to the war in 1917 and the effect that it had on the town that I’m now living in.” Watt says that while most Canadians have a difficult time remembering a war in a place thousands of kilometers away, she sees the effects every day. Watt has also had the chance to do personal research during her co-op term. Last year, she learned that her great-grandfather fought in the battle near Vimy Ridge. “Thankfully, he did survive the war and when I returned home I spoke to my grandmother about her father’s experience and I could really see the effect the war had on my own family,” she says. The memorial itself commemorates the death of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who died on the battlefield in 1917. The battle was the first time four Canadian divisions fought together for a significant strategic victory. [SFU News](#)

McMaster U Grad Jeremy Parsons mapping a career that preserves Hamilton’s heritage:

Researching 19th-century maps while a grad student helped Jeremy Parsons '15 chart his path to a career as a cultural heritage planner. “I’ve always been fascinated by the idea of making a difference on the landscape,” says Parsons. “That’s what drew me to urban planning.” When he came to McMaster in 2012 to work on his master’s, he specialized in urban historical geography. His supervisor was geographer Richard Harris, a professor in McMaster’s School of Geography and Earth Sciences. Parsons wrote his thesis on the development history of Ancaster and served as a research assistant in urban geography. Parsons also worked for two years as a student assistant in the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of Mills Memorial Library. He was tasked with researching the correct geography and historical significance of McMaster’s entire collection of original survey plans of the local Hamilton area. “These are really fascinating maps,” says Parsons. “It’s quite a snapshot of what Hamilton used to be like.” “Jeremy’s research and visual identification skills, coupled with his knowledge and love of both geography and history, were indispensable to our 19th Century Maps of Hamilton project,” says Gord

Beck, Map Specialist in the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection. Beck notes these maps are available online to the general public. Parsons' duties included digging up long-lost background information and pinpointing locations for original surveys and plans that dated back to the early 1800s. The task was made all the more challenging, given that many street and place names had changed since those bygone days. He even discovered a lost village that had been planned, but never saw the light of day. "A bit of forgotten history." Parsons also worked with maps in a rather more 21st-century context at the Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship, also located at Mills Library. The recipient of a Sherman Centre Graduate Fellowship in 2014/15, he explored digital technology as it applied to his master's research on neighbourhood change over time. [McMaster Daily News](#)

U Victoria undergraduate student Levi Hildebrand calls out paper coffee cups with online video:

When filmmaker and University of Victoria geography student Levi Hildebrand joked about it, he didn't think people would actually pour dirty coffee cups on his head. But when the idea gained traction with other students he agreed to take part in the [video stunt](#) to draw attention to the number of paper coffee cups that are used and tossed away on campus. "I sort of had to follow through," Hildebrand said. "This kind of video just says look at the stupidity of what we are doing here. There is a solution." The student-led University of Victoria Sustainability Project is behind the campaign. It notes that more than 3,000 paper coffee cups are thrown out every day on campus, although there are programs in place to recycle or compost many of those cups. The video is also part of a petition aimed at pushing the university to do more to reduce paper cup use. The petition says coffee outlets at UVic could start by simply offering mugs as an alternative for people who don't need to take their coffee to go. The petition also provides other options, including the possibility of a reusable cup share program that would allow people to borrow a travel mug. A similar program is being tested out at other universities, including UBC, Hildebrand said. "We are not saying that coffee cups need to disappear completely. That would be crazy because everyone at some point forgets their travel mug or is in a rush," he said. "We are just saying that providing them as the sole option implies that that is normal, implies that is the standard we should all live at." CBC News interviewed Hildebrand and reported that the video ([watch on Youtube](#)) has been viewed tens of thousands of times on several social media sites. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)



U Northern British Columbia geography student Melanie Stammler for placed first in the Undergraduate Student Presentation category at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers conference in Abbotsford. Stammler, an exchange student from Germany, presented on work that stemmed from the Political Ecology course she took in the fall semester with Dr. Zoë Meletis. [UNBC News](#)

U Northern British Columbia Sarah de Leeuw has made available the author interviews that accompany her 2015 book [Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada - Beyond the Social](#). The contributors interviewed share a common concern with improving the health of Indigenous peoples in Canada and beyond. All eleven videos are available on the NCCAH Vimeo or SoundCloud channel.

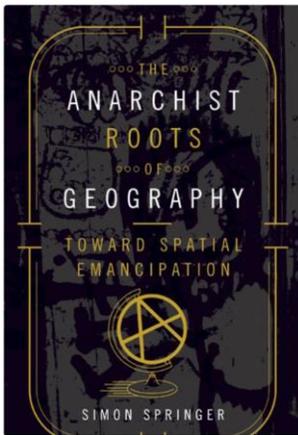
Recent Theses and Dissertations

Alan Jon Grove. 2017. [Icebergs dead ahead: anticipating increased maritime shipping in the Canadian Arctic](#). MA thesis, Department of Geography. University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Supervisors: Merje Kuus and Matthew Evenden.

Erica Henderson 2017. [Seeking justice in Guatemala: Dignifying the 'Disappeared' in a context of impunity](#). MA thesis, Interdisciplinary Studies. University of Northern British Columbia. Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin.

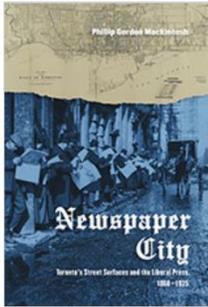
New Books

Simon Springer. 2016. [The Anarchist Roots of Geography. Toward Spatial Emancipation](#). University Of Minnesota Press. 240 p.



The Anarchist Roots of Geography sets the stage for a radical politics of possibility and freedom through a discussion of the insurrectionary geographies that suffuse our daily experiences. By embracing anarchist geographies as kaleidoscopic spatialities that allow for nonhierarchical connections between autonomous entities, Simon Springer configures a new political imagination. Experimentation in and through space is the story of humanity's place on the planet, and the stasis and control that now supersede ongoing organizing experiments are an affront to our survival. Singular ontological modes that favor one particular way of doing things disavow geography by failing to understand the spatial as a mutable assemblage intimately bound to temporality. Even worse, such stagnant ideas often align to the parochial interests of an elite minority and thereby threaten to be our collective undoing. What is needed is the development of new relationships with our world and, crucially, with each other. By infusing our geographies with anarchism we unleash a spirit of rebellion that foregoes a politics of waiting for change to come at the behest of elected leaders and instead engages new possibilities of mutual aid through direct action now. We can no longer accept the decaying, archaic geographies of hierarchy that chain us to statism, capitalism, gender domination, racial oppression, and imperialism. We must reorient geographical thinking towards anarchist horizons of possibility. Geography must become beautiful, wherein the entirety of its embrace is aligned to emancipation.

Phillip Gordon Mackintosh. 2017. [Newspaper City: Toronto's Street Surfaces and the Liberal Press, 1860-1935](#). University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division. ISBN 9781442646797



In *Newspaper City*, Phillip Gordon Mackintosh scrutinizes the reluctance of early Torontonians to pave their streets. He demonstrates how Toronto's two liberal newspapers, the *Toronto Globe* and *Toronto Daily Star*, nevertheless campaigned for surface infrastructure as the leading expression of modern urbanity, despite the broad resistance of property owners to pay for infrastructure improvements under local improvements by-laws. To boost paving, newspapers used their broadsheets to fashion two imagined cities for their readers: one overrun with animals, dirt, and marginal people, the other civilized, modern, and crowned with clean streets. However, the employment of capitalism to generate traditional public goods, such as concrete sidewalks, asphalt roads, regulated pedestrianism, and efficient automobilism, is complicated. Thus, the liberal newspapers' promotion of a city of orderly infrastructure and contented people in actual Toronto proved strikingly illiberal. Consequently, Mackintosh's study reveals the contradictory nature of newspapers and the historiographical complexities of newspaper research.

Sarah de Leeuw. 2017. *Where it hurts*. NeWest Press: Edmonton, Alberta. 128 p. ISBN: 978-1-926455-84-6



Where It Hurts is a highly charged collection of personal essays, haunted by loss, evoking turbulent physical and emotional Canadian landscapes. Sarah de Leeuw's creative non-fiction captures strange inconsistencies and aberrations of human behaviour, urging us to be observant and aware. The essays are wide in scope and expose what—and who—goes missing. With staggering insight, Sarah de Leeuw reflects on missing geographies and people, including missing women, both those she has known and those whom she will never get to know. The writing is courageously focused, juxtaposing places and things that can be touched and known—emotionally, physically, psychologically—with what has become intangible, unnoticed, or actively ignored. Throughout these essays, de Leeuw's imagistic memories are layered with meaning, providing a survival guide for the present, including a survival that comes with the profound responsibility to bear witness.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Conor I. Anderson and William A. Gough. 2017. [Evolution of winter temperature in Toronto, Ontario, Canada: A case study of winters 2013-14 and 2014-15](#). Journal of Climate. doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-16-0562.1

Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi and Michael F.J. Pisaric. 2017. [Forest vegetation change and disturbance interactions over the past 7500 years at Sasquatch Lake, Columbia Mountains, western Canada](#). Quaternary International. doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2017.03.045

Marc O. Brault, L.A. Mysak and H.D. Matthews. 2017. [Carbon cycle implications of terrestrial weathering changes since the last glacial maximum](#). Facets. DOI10.1139/facets-2016-0040

Evan Cleave, Godwin Arku and Merlin Chatwin. 2017. [Cities' economic development efforts in a changing global economy: content analysis of economic development plans in Ontario, Canada](#). Area. DOI:10.1111/area.12335

Taly Dawn Drezner. 2017. [Shade, reproductive effort and growth of the endangered native cactus, Opuntia humifusa, in Point Pelee National Park, Canada](#). The Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society 144:179-190.

Jessie R. Furze, Adam R. Martin, Joshua Nasielski, Naresh V. Thevathasan, Andrew M. Gordon and Marney E. Isaac. 2017. [Resistance and resilience of root fungal communities to water limitation in a temperate agroecosystem](#). Ecology and Evolution. DOI:10.1002/ece3.2900

J.A. Leach and R.D. Moore. 2017. [Insights on stream temperature processes through development of a coupled hydrologic and stream temperature model for forested coastal headwater catchments](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11190

Nathan McClintock and Michael Simpson. 2017. [Stacking functions: identifying motivational frames guiding urban agriculture organizations and businesses in the United States and Canada](#). Agriculture and Human Values. DOI:10.1007/s10460-017-9784-x

Robert Newell, Rosaline Canessa and Tara Sharma. 2017. [Modeling both the space and place of coastal environments: Exploring an approach for developing realistic geovisualizations of coastal places](#). Frontiers in Marine Science. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00087

Matthew L. Richardson, Benjamin A. Wilson, Daniel A.S. Aiuto, Jonquil E. Crosby, Alfonso Alonso, Francisco Dallmeier, and G. Karen Golinski. 2017. [A review of the impact of pipelines and power lines on biodiversity and strategies for mitigation](#). Biodiversity and Conservation. DOI:10.1007/s10531-017-1341-9

Emily Elizabeth Smenderovac, Kara Webster, John Peter Caspersen, Paul Hazlett, Dave M. Morris and Nathan Basiliko. 2017. [Does intensified boreal forest harvesting impact soil microbial community structure and function?](#) Canadian Journal of Forest Research DOI:10.1139/cjfr-2016-0468

Eric Vaz, Sina Tehranchi and Michael Cusimano. 2017. [Spatial assessment of road traffic injuries in the Greater Toronto Area \(GTA\): Spatial analysis framework](#). Journal of Spatial and Organizational Dynamics 1:37-55.

Eric Vaz, Jessica Miki, Teresa de Noronha and Michael Cusimano. 2017. [New methods for resilient societies: the geographical analysis of injury data](#). Journal of Spatial and Organizational Dynamics 1:12-26.

Michael J. Widener, Leia Minaker, Steven Farber, Jeff Allen, Brigitte Vitali, Paul C. Coleman and Brian Cook. 2017. [How do changes in the daily food and transportation environments affect grocery store accessibility?](#) Applied Geography 83:46–62.

Other “Geographical” News

Internet atlas maps the physical internet to enhance security: Despite the internet-dependent nature of our world, a thorough understanding of the internet’s physical makeup has only recently emerged. [ScienceDaily](#)

Atlantic fishermen not hooked on idea of marine protection areas: A federal government plan to speed up the creation of more marine protected areas in Canada is getting pushback from some Atlantic Canadian fisheries groups. Marine protected areas are established to protect species at risk or unique species from human interference. These areas can close designated ocean and coastal areas to economic activities like offshore energy development and fishing. [CBCNews | Nova Scotia](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
