



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Calgary's Chris Hugenholtz co-authors study showing unlicensed operators responsible for more near misses involving drones: A new study says there are more drones in the air than piloted aircraft and the numbers of close calls between the two continue to rise. "They clearly show in the last several years that incidents involving drone use in Canada has been on the rise," said associate professor Chris Hugenholtz, who co-authored the study with Paul Nesbit and Thomas Barchyn. The data shows there were 355 drone incidents reported in Canadian airspace between November 2005 and December 2016. The numbers rose substantially after 2013 when drone technology became more readily available. "Drone use has skyrocketed, and with that comes new potential safety concerns," said Nesbit, who led the study. Of the reported incidents, 66.5 per cent were drone sightings with 22.3 per cent involving close encounters between drones and piloted aircraft. "We are very concerned that just based on probability with more incidents occurring, the chances for something far more severe start to rise," Hugenholtz said. Hobbyists have been flying model aircraft safely in Canadian airspace for decades, he said. But in recent years, drones requiring substantially less skill to operate have integrated into the airspace. Hugenholtz said many drone operators are licensed by Transport Canada. "Those people would know all the rules and would be following the conditions," he said. "We surmise that the vast majority of these incidents are people who are unaware or are choosing to ignore rules and don't have certification." Hugenholtz said there is no simple solution. He said Transport Canada has legislated guidelines that clarify drone regulations and brought in fines. It is also possible to anonymously report unsafe drone activity. Technology may also offer a way to deal with the problem. "There's a technology called geo-fencing and what that does is look at the GPS of the drone and will prevent the drone from either taking off or entering airspace where it shouldn't be," Hugenholtz said.

[CTV News](#)



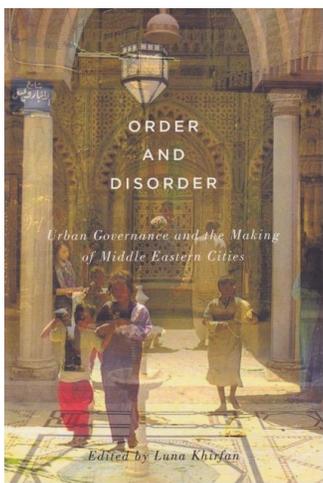
U British Columbia's Tom Koch suggests that when Canada confronts a bully, tit-for-tat is the best response. It seems to be the idea behind Canada's increasingly strong reaction to U.S. tariffs and "Buy American" policies. In the past, Canada has been content to play the long game of adjudication rather than rapid response. But in aerospace and lumber disputes, tit-for-tat is the new Canadian order of the day. [Globe and Mail](#)

McMaster U's Sean Carey and Mike Waddington to tackle Canada's pressing water-related issues:

Two McMaster researchers have been tapped to head up multidisciplinary and multi-institutional projects to tackle some of Canada's most pressing water-related issues. Professors Sean Carey and Mike Waddington, both from the department of geography and earth sciences, were awarded more than \$3.4 million combined from the Global Water Futures (GWF) Program. Carey's project, Mountain Water Futures, received more than \$1.8 million, while Waddington's project, Canada's Boreal Wildlands-Society-Water Nexus, received nearly \$1.6 million. [McMaster Daily News](#)

New Book

Luna Khirfan (Editor). 2017. [Order and Disorder: Urban Governance and the Making of Middle Eastern Cities](#). McGill-Queen's University Press. ISBN: 9780773549753



As Middle Eastern cities enter the second decade of the twenty-first century, they face a number of challenges to their economic resilience, competitiveness, and internal stability. In this uniquely tense realm for the urban public, an understanding of the dynamics of decision-making processes, citizen power, and the rule of law is critical to the direction of policy in the future.

In *Order and Disorder*, Luna Khirfan weaves a cross-national comparison of Amman and Cairo that dissects the many layers and complexities of urban governance. Through case studies on a diverse array of development projects and their associated challenges, Khirfan demonstrates how three actors – the state, the market, and civil society – interact with each other within the same urban political space. First, she argues that interplay between the state and civil society reveals the potential of urban majorities and the discords within current participatory planning. She then delves into the neoliberal dynamics between the state and the market, stressing the impact of economic push and pull factors on urban landscapes. Lastly, she explains why the market's relationship with civil society oscillates between exclusion and alienation. Throughout the book, Khirfan identifies the role of an authoritarian bargain in governing every one of these interactions. In light of current regional political instability in the Middle East and North Africa, *Order and Disorder* offers an arena for extrapolating lessons from urban governance to the wider political sphere.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Emmanuelle Arnaud, Michael McGill, Andrew Trapp and James E. Smith. 2017. [Subsurface heterogeneity in the geological and hydraulic properties of the hummocky Paris Moraine, Guelph, Ontario](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. doi.org/10.1139/cjes-2016-0161

Shannon Black. 2017. [KNIT + RESIST: placing the Pussyhat Project in the context of craft activism](#). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1335292

Piers Evans and Carissa D. Brown. 2017. [The boreal-temperate forest ecotone response to climate change](#). Environmental Reviews. doi.org/10.1139/er-2017-0009

Stéphanie Gamache, Francois Routhier, Ernesto Morales, Marie-Hélène Vandersmissen, Jean Leblond, Normand Boucher, Bradford James McFadyen and Luc Noreau. 2017. [Municipal practices and needs regarding accessibility of pedestrian infrastructures for individuals with physical disabilities in Québec, Canada](#). Journal of Accessibility and Design for All.

L.D. Danny Harvey. 2017. [Implications for the floor price of oil of aggressive climate policies](#). Energy Policy 108:143–153.

Caitlin M. Lapalme, Denis Lacelle, Wayne Pollard, Daniel Fortier, Alfonso Davila and Christopher P. McKay. 2017. [Cryostratigraphy and the sublimation unconformity in permafrost from an ultraxerous environment, University Valley, McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1948

Weeberb J. Requía, Matthew D. Adams, Altaf Arain, Petros Koutrakis and Mark Ferguson. 2017. [Carbon dioxide emissions of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles: A life-cycle analysis in eight Canadian cities](#). Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 78:1390–1396.

S.A. Villeneuve, S.L. Barbour, M.J. Hendry and S.K. Carey. 2017. [Estimates of water and solute release from a coal waste rock dump in the Elk Valley, British Columbia, Canada](#). Science of The Total Environment 601–602:543–555.

Other “Geographical” News

Vancouver becoming 'apartheid city' in housing crisis, says former UN rep: Vancouver is becoming an "apartheid city" in terms of the divide between rich and poor, said Miloon Kothari, the former UN special rapporteur for housing. He was referring to the steep increase in homelessness in the city and region, alongside "unbridled speculation" of land and property. Kothari said it was "shocking" that welfare rates haven't changed over the 10 years. "It's sheer neglect," said Kothari. [CBCNews | Vancouver](#)

What makes a great PhD supervisor? What do you think makes outstanding doctoral supervision? Is it cold, hard academic expertise, or something softer and more human, like people skills and the ability to build relationships? The reality is probably somewhere in between, and impossible to define precisely, since every supervisory relationship will be different. But there are certainly attributes that the best supervisors share. [The Guardian](#)

Should ageing academics be forced to quit? Increasing diversity in academic science is a thorny issue that has exercised its practitioners for more than a generation. There is one inequality that is so conspicuous that many of us don't even see it. And that is the ageing population of (largely white, male) professors, who, since the 2011 law abolishing a mandatory retirement age, are holding onto their posts for longer than ever before. This is a problem because there are a limited number of professorships, and there is an ever swelling glut of PhD students and trainees looking to make a career in science. [The Guardian](#)

Canadian universities battle to retain top spots in global rankings: Canadian universities have dropped on a world rankings table, with a decline in academic reputation for most schools driving this year's results lower, according to a key global survey. The share of Canadian universities in the Top 200 globally dropped from nine to seven this year, as 23 of 26 Canadian universities scored lower on their academic renown, according to the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings. The results echo similar findings from last year, which found that investment in higher education by Asian countries was making some Canadian institutions less competitive internationally. [Globe and Mail](#)

Some Not So "Geographical" News



Only in Canada



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