



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 454, September 23, 2017**

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U Calgary's Shelley Alexander on managing Calgary's urban coyote population: After a summer spike in aggressive coyote incidents, the city is now looking to hammer out a strategy that will allow Calgarians to better coexist with the crafty predators. Chris Manderson, urban conservation lead with the city, said officials have seen a marked rise in summer coyote calls in recent years, and this year has seen spikes not only in sightings but in run-ins deemed to be threatening as well. "It's becoming pretty clear they've lost their fear of humans and they're starting to associate us with food," he said. "Coyotes have expanded their range incredibly and cities are starting to report they're showing up in places they never were before." "We need to be more proactive in coyote issues — they're wild animals and they're going to behave like wild animals do," Manderson said. Shelley Alexander, a University of Calgary geography professor who's been monitoring the city's urban coyote population for more than a decade, said in most cases of human-coyote conflict, it's the actions of humans that are primarily the root cause. But the fact the city is looking to find ways to coexist will be good for both two-legged and four-legged residents. "We've probably always needed a management plan for coyotes," Alexander said. "There's been a need for quite some time to help people understand how to live with coyotes. I'm really excited and thrilled the city is being proactive in this. "Coexistence is possible and lethal means are not a solution." [Calgary Herald](#)

U Alberta's Theresa Garvin on rethinking the classroom: Human geography professor [Theresa Garvin](#) is revamping her classroom, alongside her colleagues in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. "There are a variety of learning styles—from auditory to kinesthetic to visual," Garvin explains. "Even in a class of 100 to 200 students, we're trying to incorporate content for each style." For the last four years, Garvin and her colleagues have developed and implemented a fully-blended course: Introduction to Human Geography & Planning, or HGP 100. The course is commonly taken by science, education, and arts undergraduate students, with a focus on geography and planning students. Together with her colleague, assistant professor [Leith Deacon](#), Garvin has developed a course delivered in three ways: lecture, seminar, and online learning. "The lecture is still important," says Garvin. "There needs to be an opportunity for everyone to be together in the same room. But it's also important for students to have the opportunity for hands-on work in small groups, and independent learning." "Our students receive more hands-on class time, with the opportunity to explore concepts in a deeper and more meaningful way," Garvin says. [U Alberta Faculty of Science](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki's argues evidence-based planning in Toronto is dead: Have we reached the death knell for evidence-based planning in Toronto? The question arises from recent reports in the Star that Metrolinx was pressed by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to approve two new GO stations, one in the minister's own riding. This despite technical evidence that the stations will not provide value for money. This is just the latest example in a long litany of recent cases where political expedience has mingled uncomfortably with evidence-based planning in the selection of transportation mega-projects costing billions of dollars of public funds. It wasn't supposed to be this way. It is bad enough that public money is being spent on wasteful mega-projects. But the studies themselves are costing millions of dollars, which is wasted if the reports are not being used to inform decisions. So, what to do? At the very least, all of the technical studies that form the evidence base for a mega-project should be publicly available for review and scrutiny at the time the approval decision is made. An expert panel could also be struck to provide a peer review of the quality of evidence in the business cases produced. Prof. Bent Flyvbjerg at Oxford University has a more radical solution: make it a criminal offence to knowingly manipulate the technical studies analyzing the merits of a mega-project. This may sound harsh, but these studies are being used to justify decisions that will have financial and planning implications for generations to come. Short of a radical intervention, evidence-based planning in Toronto is dead. Long live evidence-based planning. [Toronto Star](#)

U British Columbia's James Rhatigan winner of the CSN-RÉC Prize for the Best MA Thesis or Major Research Paper in Canadian Studies. The jury adjudicating the competition wrote this about the thesis: "*Afterlife of a Mine: The Tangled Legacies of the Britannia Mine*" examines the complicated environmental and social legacy of the Britannia copper mine and examines efforts to remediate the space polluted by the mine and to commemorate the history of mining in the area. Drawing on a wide range of theoretical approaches and grounded in a variety of primary sources, this thesis is an impressive piece of work, one that all committee members agreed was a pleasure to read." [Canadian Studies Network](#)

U Toronto's Rick DiFrancesco on the downsides of Amazon choosing a Canadian city for its second headquarters: City leaders across North America are frantically trying to woo Amazon into selecting their cities as the home of its new \$5-billion, 50,000-employee mega complex — though winning such a lucrative bid could have its own negative impacts for smaller Canadian cities. "The city would have a right to be concerned and intimately involved in the process of planning where such a complex should go," explains Richard DiFrancesco, an associate professor with the University of Toronto's Geography and Planning department. While he explains that bringing in a company like Amazon would have a plethora of positive impacts, it would require a great deal of planning, flexibility, and ultimately money from the municipality. DiFrancesco explains that beyond the lush tax incentives any city courting the e-commerce king would need to offer, Amazon would need to build its giant complex on a wide berth of open space. "The city would ultimately have to pay to link infrastructure to it and taxpayers would potentially pay very dearly. It amounts to, I'm sure, millions of dollars per kilometre." [Global News](#)

Carleton U MSc graduate student Emily Lindsay maps Alberta grassland: Mapping of Canada's range and forage lands by satellite has always been a goal of mine but it's extremely difficult. Unlike crops, which show up as different colours in near infra-red spectrum, forages don't, at least not yet. Emily Lindsay, an MSc student in the department of geography and environmental studies at Carleton University, is working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to find a methodology for distinguishing between rangeland and forage land cover classes in the Prairie provinces using satellite data. [Canadian Catterman](#)

U Ottawa's Michelle Chaput and Konrad Gajewski helping build world's largest database of archaeological radiocarbon dates: Archaeological radiocarbon dates are obtained by measuring the carbon-14 age of fossilized organic materials excavated during archaeological digs. These dates are increasingly being used as a proxy for studying population change and are helping scientists estimate not only when and where ancient populations lived, but also how many people there could have been in the past. Michelle Chaput, a PhD student in the physical geography program, and Konrad Gajewski, professor and director of the Laboratory for Paleoclimatology and Climatology, have been working with North American radiocarbon data to understand past changes in population density. Chaput and Gajewski, in partnership with archaeologists Andrew Martindale (University of British Columbia), Michael Blake (UBC), Andrew Mason (UBC), Matthew Betts (Canadian Museum of History) and Pierre Vermeersch (University of Leuven), are now working on building the world's largest online database of archaeological radiocarbon dates (www.canadianarchaeology.ca). The database is being populated by radiocarbon measurements from around the world (and in some cases measurements obtained via potassium argon, uranium-lead and thermoluminescence methods) which range from the recent past to 40,000, and even 60,000 years, before present. Some parts of the world, including North America and Australia, are well represented. However, many dates have not yet been digitized and exist only in the grey literature, which makes this project challenging. Currently, there are over 70,000 dates available in the database with new dates being added regularly. Users are invited to upload their own data or download the existing data for research purposes. [U Ottawa Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics](#)



McGill U Geography welcomes Yann le Polain de Waroux as member. [Yann le Polain de Waroux](#) studies the role of people's livelihood and land use choices as a nexus between social and environmental, and global and local dynamics in rural areas of the Global South, and holds a joint appointment with the Institute for the Study of International Development. [McGill Geography](#)

U Victoria Geography welcomes two new faculty members - Eva Kwoil and Chris Bone. [Eva](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography whose research interests include the (eco-) geomorphology of coastal landscapes. Broadly, she is interested in how flow and sediment transport processes shape the Earth's surface. Recent research has examined turbulent flow in bedrock canyons, where little mobile sediment is available and the flow is severely constricted by the presence of steep canyon walls. [Chris](#) is an Assistant Professor in Geography whose teaching and research focus on the use of spatial data science for exploring climate and human-driven natural disturbances and their impacts on diverse human populations. He has been he has been involved in interdisciplinary efforts across the social, natural, and computational sciences that examine how climate change and forest policies have influenced large scale forest insect outbreaks, and how governance structures respond and adapt to such environmental events.

U British Columbia's Karen Bakker from the Department of Geography has won the SSHRC Connection Award. It recognizes the highest achievements in SSHRC-funded research, knowledge mobilization and scholarship, as well as the highest achievements resulting from a SSHRC fellowship awarded. [UBC Geography](#)

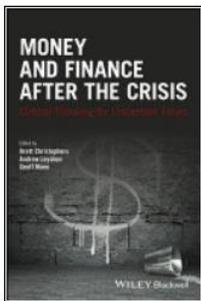
McGill U's Kevin Manaugh and Brian Robinson who received funding from McGill's Sustainability Sciences and Technologies Initiative. Prof. Manaugh will co-lead "Adapting Cities for the Future" and Prof. Robinson will co-lead "Sustaining Landscapes for the Future." [SSTI](#)

The Canadian Association of Geographers-Ontario Division annual meeting will be hosted by Queen's University on **October 20-21, 2017**. The theme of the conference is Geographical Perspectives: Approaching a Complex World.

Please see the [conference website](#) for more details

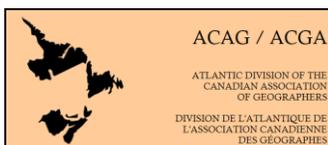
New Book

Brett Christophers, Andrew Leyshon and Geoff Mann (Editors). 2017. [Money and Finance After the Crisis: Critical Thinking for Uncertain Times](#). Wiley-Blackwell. 272 pages. ISBN: 978-1-119-05143-5



Money and Finance After the Crisis provides a critical multi-disciplinary perspective on the post-crisis financial world in all its complexity, dynamism and unpredictability. Contributions illuminate the diversity of ways in which money and finance continue to shape global political economy and society.

- A multidisciplinary collection of essays that study the geographies of money and finance that have unfolded in the wake of the financial crisis
 - Contributions discuss a wide range of contemporary social formations, including the complexities of modern debt-driven financial markets
 - Chapters critically explore proliferating forms and spaces of financial power, from the realms of orthodox finance capital to biodiversity conservation
 - Contributions demonstrate the centrality of money and finance to contemporary capitalism and its political and cultural economies
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[ACAG / ACGA 28th Annual Meeting](#), October 27-29, 2017. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS. Further details TBA

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Geoffrey A. Battista and Kevin Manaugh. 2017. [Using embodied videos of walking interviews in walkability assessment](#). Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board. doi.org/10.3141/2661-02

Ryan Bullock, Kathryn Jastremsky and Maureen G. Reed. 2017. [Canada's Model Forests 20 years on: Towards forest and community sustainability?](#) Natural Resources Forum 41:156-166.

Dan Cohen. 2017. [Between perfection and damnation. The emerging geography of markets](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi.org/10.1177/0309132517729769

Taylor Hainstock, Denise Cloutier and Margaret Penning. 2017. [From home to 'home': Mapping the caregiver journey in the transition from home care into residential care](#). Journal of Aging Studies 43:32-39.

Marit Heideman, Brian Menounos and John J. Clague. 2017. [A multi-century estimate of suspended sediment yield from Lillooet Lake, Southern Coast Mountains, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. doi.org/10.1139/cjes-2017-0025

Nicholas A. Howell, Steven Farbercd, Michael J. Widenerd and Gillian L. Booth. 2017. [Residential or activity space walkability: What drives transportation physical activity?](#) Journal of Transport & Health. doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2017.08.011

Erica Oberndorfer, Nellie Winters, Carol Gear, Gita Ljubicic and Jeremy Lundholm. 2017. [Plants in a "Sea of Relationships": Networks of plants and fishing in Makkovik, Nunatsiavut \(Labrador, Canada\)](#). Journal of Ethnobiology 37:458-477.

Diane M. Orihel, Helen M. Baulch, Nora J. Casson, Rebecca L. North, Chris T. Parsons, Dalila C.M. Seckar and Jason J. Venkiteswaran. 2017. [Internal phosphorus loading in Canadian fresh waters: a critical review and data analysis](#). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2016-0500

MáriaPotterf and Christopher Bone. 2017. [Simulating bark beetle population dynamics in response to windthrow events](#). Ecological Complexity 32A:21-30.

Amir Sadeghian, Dirk de Boer and Karl-Erich Lindenschmidt. 2017. [Sedimentation and erosion in Lake Diefenbaker, Canada: solutions for shoreline retreat monitoring](#). Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. doi.org/10.1007/s10661-017-6217-7

Simon Springer, 2017. [Property is the mother of famine: On dispossession, wages, and the threat of hunger](#). Political Geography. doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2017.09.007

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Joshua MacDougall. 2017. [Evaluating the affect of seasonal soil moisture and vegetation change on C-Band SAR backscatter over corn fields in SW Ontario](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Aaron Berg.

Trevor Robinson. 2017. Public project, private developer: Understanding the impact of local policy frameworks on the public-private housing redevelopment of Regent Park, in Toronto, Ontario. Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Dr. Betsy Donald and Dr. Marcus Letourneau.

Sarah Rotz. 2017. [Digging into industrial food systems: a study of socioecological diversity in conventional agriculture](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Evan D.G. Fraser.

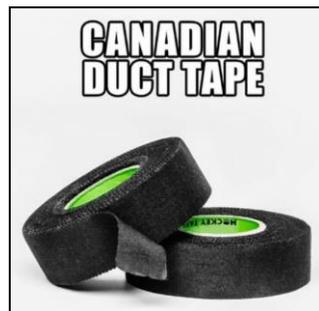
Other “Geographical” News

Cover letter required. Nine guidelines to follow if you want your application to remain on top of the pile: From no cover letter at all, to illegible cover letters in 6-point yellow Comic Sans type, I remain baffled by the overwhelmingly poor quality of applicant materials. Why are the cover letter and resume — the dynamic duo of making a great first impression — treated with disdain by so many communicators looking for their next hot job? [HigherEd Live](#)

End-of-summer Arctic sea ice extent is eighth lowest on record: Arctic sea ice appeared to have reached its yearly lowest extent on Sept. 13, scientists have reported. Analysis of satellite data showed that at 1.79 million square miles (4.64 million square kilometers), this year's Arctic sea ice minimum extent is the eighth lowest in the consistent long-term satellite record, which began in 1978. [ScienceDaily](#)

'It's not just add Indigenous and stir': U of Saskatchewan's indigenization approach raising questions: Some University of Saskatchewan members are raising questions about the school's efforts to "indigenize," especially how it will tackle its goal of making Indigenous content mandatory of all students. "It's not just 'add Indigenous and stir,'" said longtime U of S Indigenous studies professor Priscilla Settee. "It's a world view and it takes a long time to learn how to do it respectfully, even for those of us that are Indigenous." [CBCNews | Saskatoon](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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