



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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Compiled by Dan Smith [cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

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**York U's Joseph Mensah uncovers how racism boomerangs back to harm all in society:**

*Boomerang Ethics: How Racism Affects Us All* is Geography Professor Joseph Mensah's new book on racism's concealed costs and consequences. Mensah co-wrote the book with Christopher J. Williams, senior research adviser at the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate. "That racism has adverse effects on ethno-racial minorities is self-evident, but not-so-self-evident are the hidden impacts of racism on all members of society," said Mensah, who serves as a member of York University's Senate and is the chair of the Department of Geography. "This book examines the causes and characteristics of racism in Canada, paying special attention to how it affects not only racial minorities, but also how it curves back, like a boomerang, to hurt the majority and, indeed, Canadian society as a whole." Mensah and Williams' intellectual partnership drew them to issues of racism in Canada and how to best rectify these issues. "The inspiration for this book comes from a deep-rooted desire to think outside the proverbial box for creative ways to redress the enduring problems of racism in society," says Mensah. "Chris and I have taken on a number of trailblazing scholarly projects in the past, but this is, undoubtedly, our most ambitious, enjoyable project and, yet, tasking in its originality." The book is designed to be an invaluable asset for social science students who seek to comprehend the complex issues surrounding race and racism, as well as serve as reference material for teachers and anti-racist advocates who seek to find imaginative ways to combat racism in Canada. "Until now, most scholars, policymakers, and advocates seeking to alleviate racism have relied mainly on the ethics of altruism and social justice to help curb it. It is our contention that such an approach is narrow, since it neglects the self-interest of members of the majority, who ultimately have the power to alleviate racism," says Mensah. [York yFile](#)

**Vancouver Island U's Pamela Shaw received the PIBC 2017 award for Distinguished**

**Professional Achievement:** The Planning Institute of British Columbia describes Pamela Shaw's "approach to planning and the development of new planners is best described as innovative, passionate, enthusiastic, and tireless. This award focuses on the last 15 years of her career, when she has worked tirelessly to create the new, recently accredited Master of Community Planning Program at VIU". "Under Pam's leadership, the school focuses on small communities, the urban/rural interface, First Nation planning issues for communities on Vancouver Island and surrounding the Salish Sea, and issues relating to island and coastal communities. The first cohort of students will graduate in Spring 2017 with numerous professional contacts, a mentorship relationship, and experience in a wide range of applied, professional planning activities. All of these take enormous effort to organize and keep in motion: without Pam's unending enthusiasm for students and her belief in the importance of an accredited planning designation, the school would not exist. As one colleague notes, Pam has one direction - and that is forward." [PIBC 2017](#)

**U Regina's Emily Eaton has asked what is going on with H2S in Saskatchewan:** "The Corporate Mapping Project shines a bright light on the fossil fuel industry by investigating the ways corporate power is organized and exercised." That Saskatchewan was targeted for this project can be directly attributed to the impetus provided by University of Regina geography professor Dr. Emily Eaton. Corporate Mapping Project for making this happen. No communities should be expected to live under these conditions. *Pipeline News* spoke to Doug MacKnight, assistant deputy minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas Division, Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy. The position is a key regulatory role for upstream oil and gas. Their questions focused on broad concerns mentioned in the Facebook post by the instigator behind the stories, Emily Eaton. Eaton said that from seven years of research, the regulations are not enforced, the ministry is horribly understaffed and does not properly inspect industry practices. On the question of regulation enforcement, MacKnight said, "We, of course, do enforce the regulations. We have an extensive inspection program. We think our regulations are solid and comparable to other jurisdictions. "Sour gas is not new to southern Saskatchewan, as you well know. So we fully believe we have the regulatory systems we need to manage it. We have people doing inspections. I do want to emphasize, since 2012, when some of these compliance issues started to emerge, there's been some significant changes. We put more inspection staff into our Estevan field offices. We bought new H2S detectors which can get us down to parts per billion, so allow us to identify sources. We acquired FLIR (infrared) cameras to look for venting. And, of course, we've done some fairly extensive sweeps in the area to assess levels of compliance. As for Eaton's assertion that the ministry does not properly inspect industry practices, MacKnight said, "We inspect wells and facilities against the regulator standards. That's the benchmark we're applying against. Assuming the industry practice aligns with our regulatory practice, that's what our inspection will focus on." [Pipeline \(1\) News](#) | [Pipeline \(2\) News](#)

**UBC-Okanagan's Shelley Cook to receive Dr. Alexander Aylett Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation:** Shelley Cook, a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of British Columbia (UBC)-Okanagan, will be the recipient of Geothink's first Dr. Alexander Aylett Scholarship in Urban Sustainability and Innovation. Her project empowers homeless populations in the city of Kelowna by building new connections with homeless service providers such as community housing organizations. Cook's work addresses an important issue faced by many communities where homeless populations are not able to efficiently locate suitable temporary shelter. Housing seekers and service providers have often lacked access to centralised, searchable information on gender-specific services, housing location and capacity. To confront this problem, Cook developed the [i-Search Kelowna](#) web map application (app). Supervised by Geothink Co-Applicant Jon Corbett, an associate professor in Community, Culture and Global Studies at UBC-Okanagan, Cook's work is also supported by a team of researchers, funders and partners. Via the app, individuals seeking low-income rentals, emergency shelter and drop-in services are able to search for live, user-specific information about resource availability within the city of Kelowna. Cook's research was recognized because it closely aligns with the late Dr. Aylett's vision for urban sustainability. His legacy for creative and durable solutions to social justice issues in cities lives on in Cook's work.

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Lucas Bramberger. 2017. [Understanding Labour and Production in Alternative Agriculture: Requirements, variability and perceptions of labour on certified organic farms in Ontario, Canada](#). MA thesis, Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Evan Fraser.

Kristine Marie Haynes. 2017. [Climate change impacts on mercury cycling in peatlands](#). PhD thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Carl Mitchell.



**U Victoria's Larry McCann** named Honourary Member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia at the PIBC Meeting. [PIBC](#)

**Queen's U's Warren Mabee** noted in an interview with DeSmog Canada that he sees the carbon price as setting a floor. A minimum price of sorts. But he says the Clean Fuel Standard will accelerate emissions reductions in certain sectors, especially where there are cleaner technologies and fuels already available. Mabee actually described the standard as essentially "setting an alternative price for carbon." [DeSmogCanada](#)

**U Victoria's Chris Darimont** was interviewed for an article entitled '[Death of a Modern Wolf](#)' in *Hakai Magazine* about Vancouver Island's gray wolf population, in particular increasing human-wolf conflicts.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Daniel Bégin, Rodolphe Devillers and Stéphane Roche. 2017. [Contributors' withdrawal from online collaborative communities: The case of Open Street Map](#). International Journal of Geo-Information 6. DOI:10.3390/ijgi6110340

Jonaki Bhattacharyya and Scott Slocombe. 2017. [Animal agency: wildlife management from a kincentric perspective](#). Ecosphere. DOI:10.1002/ecs2.1978

Jeffrey Brubacher, Herbert Chan, Shannon Erdelyi, Mark Asbridge and Nadine Schuurman. 2017. [Factors predicting local effectiveness of impaired driving laws, British Columbia, Canada](#). Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs 78:899–909.

Tyson Carswell, Maycira Costa, Erika Young, Nicholas Komick, Jim Gower and Ruston Sweeting. 2017. [Evaluation of MODIS-Aqua atmospheric correction and chlorophyll products of western North American coastal waters based on 13 years of data](#). Remote Sensing. 9, 1063.

Ryan Clark, Iuliia Andreichuk, David Sauchyn and Dena W. McMartin. 2017. [Incorporating climate change scenarios and water-balance approach to cumulative assessment models of solution potash Mining in the Canadian Prairies](#). Climatic Change. doi.org/10.1007/s10584-017-2099-5

Simon Springer. 2017. [The limits to Marx. David Harvey and the condition of postfraternity](#). Dialogues in Human Geography 7:80-294.

Stephanie E. Coen, Mark W. Rosenberg and Joyce Davidson. 2017. ["It's gym, like g-y-m not J-i-m:" exploring the role of place in the gendering of physical activity](#). Social Science & Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.10.036

Jim Glassman. 2017. [Geopolitical economies of development and democratization in East Asia: Themes, concepts, and geographies](#). Environment and Planning A. doi.org/10.1177/0308518X17737170

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- 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
- Peter Holland, Sherry Olson and Chris Garden. 2017. [Agents of landscape change in southern New Zealand, 1896–1920](#). New Zealand Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/nzg.12174
- Felipe De Lucia Lobo, Maycira Costa, Evlyn Novo and Kevin Telmer. 2017. [Effects of small-scale gold mining tailings on the underwater light field in the Tapajos River Basin, Brazilian Amazon](#). Remote Sensing 9:861. DOI:10.3390/rs908086
- Clare J.A. Mitchell and Meghan Shannon. 2017. [Establishing the routes to rural in-migrant proprietorship in a Canadian tourism region: A mobilities perspective](#). Population, Space and Place. DOI:10.1002/psp.2095
- Brandi W. Newton, Terry D. Prowse and Laurent P. de Rham. 2017. [Hydro-climatic drivers of mid-winter break-up of river ice in western Canada and Alaska](#). Hydrology Research 48:945-956.
- Stephen R. Phillips and Maycira Costa. 2017. [Spatial-temporal bio-optical classification of dynamic semiestuarine waters in Western North America](#). Estuarine, Coastal, and Shelf Science 199:35-48.
- Mária Potterf and Christopher Bone. 2017. [Simulating bark beetle population dynamics in response to windthrow events](#). Ecological Complexity 32A:21-30.
- Damaris Rose and Alexandra Charette. 2017. [Finding housing for the Syrian refugee newcomers in Canadian cities: challenges, initiatives and policy implications. Synthesis report](#). Institut national de la recherche scientifique Centre Urbanisation Culture Société.
- A.C.A. Rudy, S.F. Lamoureux, S.V. Kokelj, I.R. Smith and J.H. England. 2017. [Accelerating thermokarst transforms ice-cored terrain triggering a downstream cascade to the ocean](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2017GL074912
- Brian Slack, Claude Comtois, Bart Wiegmans and Patricia A. Witte. 2018. [Ships time in port](#). International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics 10:45-62.
- Madeleine Steinmetz-Wood, Thierry Gagné, Marie-Pierre Sylvestre and Katherine Frohlich. 2017. [Do social characteristics influence smoking uptake and cessation during young adulthood?](#) International Journal of Public Health. doi.org/10.1007/s00038-017-1044-8
- Laura Tozer and Nicole Klenk. 2017. [Discourses of carbon neutrality and imaginaries of urban futures](#). Energy Research & Social Science. doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2017.10.017
- Olena Volik, Richard M. Petrone, Roland I. Hall, Merrin L. Macrae, Corey M. Wells, Matthew C. Elmes and Jonathan S. Price. 2017. [Long-term precipitation-driven salinity change in a saline, peat-forming wetland in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region, Canada: a diatom-based paleolimnological study](#). Journal of Paleolimnology 58:533–550.
- Patricia Burke Wood. 2017. [Questioning authority](#). Dialogues in Human Geography 7:274-279.

## Other “Geographical” News

### **Frostburg State U geographer exploring accessibility of French books across Saskatchewan:**

Books in English are easy enough to find on a whim, depending where you are. Books in French, less so. That’s what Richard Russo is finding as he researches the Fransaskois community’s access to books. A geographer from Maryland’s Frostburg State University and a Fulbright Scholar, Russo has travelled thousands of kilometres across Saskatchewan to explore communities’ access to French books. “How an anglophone can use a library, they can just go into a library and not know what they want and maybe come out with a life-changing book,” said Russo. “But that experience isn’t available necessarily to francophones. ... You have to know what you want and order it. That’s a different kind of experience than libraries as a place of discovery.” This research relates to Russo’s work as a cultural geographer, exploring cultural spaces. [Regina Leader-Post](#)

### **'A disaster in slow-mo': See how vulnerable Vancouver, Halifax and other areas are to rising seas:**

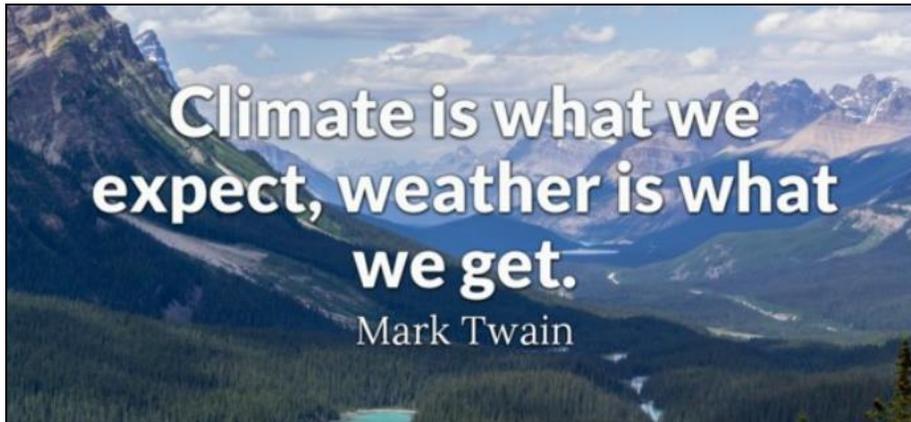
From the slow-paced, tree-lined streets of downtown Charlottetown to the modern, western architecture of metro Vancouver, Canada’s urban waterfronts are a beacon for condo developers, tourists and everyone in between. But even in best-case scenarios for global warming, a new series of interactive maps that illustrate the impact of rising sea levels suggest Canada is facing a mind-boggling challenge to keep such popular and often historic neighbourhoods from becoming lost at sea. The U.S.-based organization Climate Central has created interactive maps that show how Canadian cities could look if the average global temperature rises between one and four degrees Celsius by 2100. All of the scenarios are based on no mitigation efforts taking place, although some areas do already have existing dikes or protections. The Climate Central maps show that in Charlottetown, the harbourfront will be at risk at two degrees. At four degrees, homes several blocks from the waterfront would become oceanfront properties. Lennox Island, a First Nations community off the northwest coast of P.E.I., could lose its bridge to the mainland in the best case scenario. At worst, the entire island disappears beneath the sea. In Halifax, the harbourfront, port and rail lines could all be submerged. The problem could well be most dire in Vancouver, said Clague. “Metro Vancouver is the most vulnerable urban area in Canada to sea level rise,” he said. “We have about 250,000 people living within about a metre of mean sea level.” At two degrees, hundreds of homes and businesses in North Vancouver would be underwater, as would large parts of the False Creek waterfront. At four degrees, famed Stanley Park becomes an island and the Vancouver neighbourhoods of Mount Pleasant and Fairview become a sea of blue. [National Post](#)

**Academic job interviews - How to handle those tricky questions:** It’s amazing how many people struggle to give sensible answers, which creates a dreadful impression. Prepare your responses, which need to be confident, specific, and well structured. Interviewers don’t recruit candidates who see themselves in solipsistic isolation. So, based on all your preparatory research into this employer, identify the specific ways that your work aligns with their needs and priorities. [SAS Confidential](#)

### **Study finds male Ph.D. candidates submit and publish papers at significantly higher rates than female peers on the same campus:**

Numerous studies have found that men in the sciences publish at higher rates than women. But the designs of some of those studies make it difficult to isolate the possible origins of that gap. Women are less likely than men to attend prestigious doctoral programs, complicating any study of gendered publication rates among researchers with different educational backgrounds, for example, as journals favor prestige. A [new study](#) sought to level the contributing factor field, as it were, by considering researchers -- Ph.D. candidates -- in the same academic stage at the same institution. The authors wanted to know, specifically, how the number of scholarly works submitted for publication, first authored and published, differed between male and female students. They also asked how those differences varied by field, both within and outside the sciences. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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