

GeogNews

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Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

U Winnipeg's Ryan Bullock appointed as Canada Research Chair in Human-Environment Interactions:

The federal government has announced the appointment of Dr. Ryan Bullock as Canada Research Chair in Human-Environment Interactions. Using a transdisciplinary approach, Bullock's team aims to better understand the dynamics of environmental resource governance systems — particularly how societies prepare for and respond to social-ecological crises, economic transition, and environmental change. By examining how Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, governments, and firms perceive, innovate, and adapt to social-ecological changes, the research will help develop policy and train local leaders to sustainably co-manage Canada's northern regions. "My research leadership goal has always been to build knowledge and relationships for societal benefit, and conducting applied research to support northern and Indigenous adaptation to environmental and social disturbances addresses a sure and current need," said Bullock, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences. "I am very privileged to have this opportunity to continue working with our community partners, and I am proud to represent UWinnipeg." Alongside the chair, UWinnipeg received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Research Manitoba to open the Environment and Society Collaborative Laboratory (ENSO Co-Lab). This new learning space is designed to support research and knowledge mobilization in environmental and social change, and will include a project room with smart technologies, six workstations, and a resource centre. [UWinnipeg NewsCentre](#)

U Calgary's Vishnu Nandan and John Yackel co-author study suggesting Arctic sea ice thickness lower than previously thought:

A recent study by the University of Calgary's Cryosphere Climate Research Group found that estimates of seasonal Arctic sea ice thickness are likely much lower than previously thought. According to the study, measurements made by the European Space Agency (ESA) with their CryoSat 2 satellite may be off by a substantial amount. "The estimates that have been made to date perhaps 10–20 per cent overestimated ice thickness," said John Yackel, co-author of the study and geography professor at the U of C. "It's not necessarily that the melting has occurred faster, it's simply that the satellite has likely been distinctly overestimating the thickness of the ice." Fourth-year geography PhD student and lead author of the study Vishnu Nandan said the reason the ESA estimates are off is because it did not take into account the amount of salt in the snow. "From my previous publications, we realized that salt on snow is a big problem," Nandan said. "[The ESA] know that snow salinity is a factor but they never knew, or might have underestimated, the impact of snow salinity affecting the ice thickness estimates." The study used 53,000 measurements collected over 15 years to calculate its findings. The study has received widespread attention since its publication, including being mentioned in the *New York Times*. [UCalgary Gauntlet](#) | [New Delhi Times](#)

York U's Trisha Wood explains why more public transit in Toronto will help everyone breathe easier: There is no question that climate change is one of the most urgent reasons we need to reduce the use of private automobiles. But there are other urgent reasons for switching to public transit too. One of them is air pollution and its exacerbation of asthma. We don't talk about air pollution in Toronto as much as we used to. The hotspot for terrible air pollution is China, where it reduces life expectancy in some regions by three years—seven years in some cities. India is now another focus, where air pollution has recently been measured at what can only be seen as catastrophic levels. It's never been that bad here, but we used to have "smog days" in Toronto too. There were 16 smog days in 2012; 48 in 2005. The end of smog days reduced the anxiety, for some, about air pollution. But we cannot afford to be complacent. In 2000, the chief medical officer for the province of Ontario acknowledged that outdoor air pollution, including "industrial, vehicular, and photochemical smog" was a trigger of asthma, the incidence of which was steadily rising. In Ontario, asthma is the leading reason for the hospitalization of children. It causes high rates of school absenteeism and is the direct cause of death for about 200 people a year. How much of a difference could a switch from private automobiles to public transit make? Lucky for us, some scholars took advantage of a small window of opportunity to study a live experiment. Reducing traffic by about a fifth chopped asthma-related doctor and hospital visits almost in half. That is a huge result. And the effect was immediate. The costs of driving to our physical well-being are high for drivers, passengers, vulnerable road users, and everyone who breathes the air. It is time to get much more serious about public transit—not just the big, shiny projects but the more ordinary, local ones too. [Torontoist](#)

Memorial University Grenfell Campus geography students propose ways to enhance Corner Brook's waterfront: The area where Griffin Drive meets the Lewin Parkway doesn't have to be just a boring old parking lot. If one group of geography students at Memorial University's Grenfell Campus had their druthers, the area would be transformed into a community garden. The idea was one of four projects presented by this year's Geography 3350: Community and Regional Development and Planning class. It's the second year for the course, taught by Roza Tchoukaleyska, using the City Studio concept of collaborating with various community groups to come up with community planning ideas. All four of the groups from the class concentrated on projects that would revitalize the Corner Brook waterfront. Dennis Wass was in the group that proposed the community garden concept, which would feature raised garden plots, a community toolshed, decorative art pieces, benches and interpretive and directional signage near the entrance to the nearby section of Newfoundland T'Railway. Wass said the plan was inspired by the vision outlined by the City of Corner Brook in its Integrated Municipal Sustainability Plan. That vision, he said, includes improving local food production, education, environmental protection and climate change and redeveloping the city's waterfront to make it more accessible and attractive. Tchoukaleyska, whose 2016 class focused on projects to improve other public spaces in Corner Brook, was impressed with the ideas fleshed out by this year's class. "At the beginning of the course, the students didn't know what community planning was," she said. "It is incredible to see the transformation to a point where they can effectively speak about this as a discipline and have the vocabulary and capacity to present ideas." She said the students have been so eager about the practicality of their projects that she hopes some of them will continue pursuing the ideas after the class is over. "It's wonderful to see them engaged," she said. "They're really enthusiastic about their projects and want to see them come to fruition." [The Western Star](#)

Health GIS Day: STAR (Spatial Thinking in Applied Research). "Perhaps not many in Calgary are aware of Geography Awareness Week, yet there was no shortage of events celebrating GIS day throughout our city, that Wednesday. For the first time, Calgary had a [Health GIS Day: STAR \(Spatial Thinking in Applied Research\)](#), organized by [GOH, the Geography of Health and GIS Analysis Study Group](#), with the [O'Brien Institute of Public Health](#). In its sixth year of activity, GOH has become recognized as a hub where geography and GIS expertise meet with health research and practice. Together, they endeavor to address the growing number of questions that involve health, space, and

place. The success of the first Health GIS day in Calgary surpassed everyone's expectation. It brought together over 50 participants from industry, government, and academia. Keynote addresses from University, Alberta Health Services, and ESRI emphasized the breadth of field and the benefits of a geospatial analytical approach. [Lightening talks and posters](#) presented a variety of applications, in Calgary, Alberta, and internationally, ranging from public health to epidemiology and environmental health; from stroke to cancer screening and mental health. [Health GIS Day](#) was featured in the [OIPH daily](#). With its dynamic and growing membership, [GOH](#) will continue acting as a catalyst, practicing and promoting spatial thinking in health."

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



Kathleen Kinsella. 2017. [Enumerating informal housing: A field method for identifying secondary units](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12429

This study developed and tested an initial tool for the systematic observation of secondary units at the neighbourhood scale by utilizing an inventory checklist method inspired by studies in the fields of health geography and criminology. Single-family dwellings with secondary units were found to have one or more of 18 visual characteristics as outlined in the proposed tool. In the neighbourhoods where the tool was applied it was found that, within the Canadian context, urban neighbourhoods contain a higher proportion and density of secondary units than newer, suburban areas. Indicators that emerged as most prevalent included more than one mailbox per dwelling, unit numbers on single-family dwellings, more than one electric meter, and lawns converted for parking of multiple vehicles. Local and regional variations in housing stock characteristics and local housing markets make the standardization of such a tool problematic. However, this method does present a place-based approach that provides a subtle means of understanding the unique attributes, and distribution, of this type of housing at a scale relevant to municipal planning decisions.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Lori Stahlbrand 2017. ["Going the distance so our food doesn't have to": Case studies of creative public procurement at Canadian and UK universities](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Alison Blay-Palmer.



WLU's Lori Stahlbrand was awarded the Medal of Academic Excellence - Doctoral Level and the Governor General's Academic Medal from Wilfrid Laurier University. Lori recently took a position as a Health Policy Specialist with the City of Toronto, responsible for the Toronto Food Policy Council.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jennifer Dean. 2017. [Imagining body size over time: Adolescents' relational perspectives on body weight and place](https://doi.org/10.1080/21604851.2017.1372994). *Fat Studies*. doi.org/10.1080/21604851.2017.1372994

Jeffrey Morgan, Valorie A. Crooks and Jeremy Snyder. 2017. ["We have been forced to move away from home": print news coverage of Canadians studying abroad at Caribbean offshore medical schools](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-017-0828-9). *BMC Medical Education* 17:228.

David Lieske, Megan MacIntosh, Lee Millet, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, J. Bruce Pollard, Glen Parsons, Nic R. McLellan, G. Randy Milton, Frances MacKinnon, Kevin Connor and Lauren Banks. 2017. [Modelling the impacts of agriculture in mixed-use landscapes: a review and case study involving two species of dabbling ducks](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-017-0579-7). *Landscape Ecology*. doi.org/10.1007/s10980-017-0579-7

Carolyn Prouse. 2017. [Autoconstruction 2.0: Social media contestations of racialized violence in Complexo do Alemão](https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12370). *Antipode*. DOI:10.1111/anti.12370

Dana Reite, Wayne Meyer, Lael Parrott, Douglas Baker and Peter Grace. 2017. [Increasing the effectiveness of environmental decision support systems: lessons from climate change adaptation projects in Canada and Australia](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1255-9). *Regional Environmental Change*. doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1255-9

Simon Springer, Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch, Claudia Villegas and Levi Gahman. 2017. [Say 'Yes!' to peer review: Open Access publishing and the need for mutual aid in academia](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1255-9). *Fennia* 195,

Lori Stahlbrandi. 2017. [Can values-based food chains advance local and sustainable food systems? Evidence from case studies of University procurement in Canada and the UK](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1255-9). *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 24:77–95.

Olena Volik, Richard M. Petrone, Corey M. Wells and Jonathan S. Price. 2017. [Impact of salinity, hydrology and vegetation on long-term carbon accumulation in a saline boreal peatland and its implication for peatland reclamation in the Athabasca Oil Sands region](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13157-017-0974-5). *Wetlands*. doi.org/10.1007/s13157-017-0974-5

Ryan T. Walker, Mauro A. Werder, Christine F. Dow and Sophie Nowicki. 2017. [Determining ice-sheet uplift surrounding subglacial lakes with a viscous plate model](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13157-017-0974-5). *Frontiers in Earth Science | Cryospheric Sciences*. DOI:10.3389/feart.2017.00103

Other “Geographical” News

'Conduct not becoming of the honour of the Crown': The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled in favour of Yukon First Nations in their fight to protect the Peel watershed region, overturning a decision that rolled back years of planning and ordering the government to consider a final recommended plan proposed by an independent commission. The unanimous ruling ends a 5-year legal battle between the Yukon government and a group of First Nations and environmental groups. [CBCNews | North](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/yukon/supreme-court-ruling-1.4111111)

As a young academic, I was repeatedly sexually harassed at conferences: The combination of power and vulnerability, where stakes are highest for the women, reminds me of a four- to five-year period in my life as a young scholar at academic conferences. Academia has its own allure and power, seasoned as it is with the glitter of impact factors, fellowships, citations and tenure. I haven't thought about that phase of my life for more than 10 years now, but the "open secret" nature of the Weinstein story, and ensuing #MeToo campaign, got me thinking. Why did I never confide in a senior mentor-like figure about my experiences? Should I have warned other young women? Most importantly, does it still happen? How would we ever know if we are not talking about it? So here's what it feels like to be a PhD student or a young scholar, travelling alone and staying in unusual locations. [The Guardian](#)

Gender gap in STEM fields persists in Canada, census shows: More than four in 10 Canadian women aged 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016, compared with less than 33 per cent in 2006, according to the latest batch of census numbers released Wednesday by Statistics Canada. However, of those women with an earned doctorate, only about one-quarter opted for architecture, engineering and related technologies, the numbers show. And among those younger Canadians with bachelor's degrees or higher, five times as many men as women opted to follow a path towards science, technology, engineering or math. Considering the fact that overall, fewer than 20 per cent of working-age Canadians with post-secondary degrees, men and women alike, chose the STEM path, the female ranks are small indeed. [Maclean's](#)

Some Not So "Geographical" News



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