U British Columbia's David Ley comments on how income disparities are reshaping Vancouver:
The maps are dramatic, and show a remarkable trend under way: A landslide of wealth is flowing eastward across Vancouver, pushing low-income groups to the fringes of the city and into the suburbs. Burnaby, Richmond and Surrey – places that used to symbolize a comfortable, middle class existence – now show the highest concentrations of low-income households**.** "If you look at the city itself, you actually see that every inner city neighbourhood is trending upwards [in incomes], including the downtown eastside," says University of B.C. geography professor David Ley, an expert in immigration and housing markets. He heads up the Vancouver research team, and he focused on 35 years back to 1980, when the region started to rapidly change, with condos replacing rental apartments, and the first wave of wealthy Asian migrants started to move into the housing market. "Because every time redevelopment occurs you get a substantial increase in the socio economic status of occupants … [market-rate] supply is only for high-income people. So, whenever redevelopment occurs, it means higher income people are occupying the space," says Dr. Ley. "Two things are happening: there is gentrification in the inner city, but then there's what I call 'capital deepening,' which is an area that is becoming richer." Dr. Ley says the trend of gentrification started around 1970, in Kitsilano and the West End, and has worked its way downtown, into Strathcona and the downtown eastside. Residents of traditionally low-income industrial areas are pushed outside the city. The Globe and Mail

U of Calgary's Mryka Hall-Beyer helps judge annual undergraduate research symposium:
Winners for this year's Undergraduate Research Symposium were announced on Dec. 7. The annual event, hosted by the Students' Union, took place in MacHall on Nov. 30 and featured research by undergraduate students in seven faculties. Posters presented at the symposium focused on a wide array of topics, such as the relationship between the knowledge of ADHD and parental stress, as well as the motor function of patients after experiencing a stroke. Awards are selected by the URS Working Group based on feedback by panels of judges made up of faculty members experienced in academic research. According to the SU, 95 undergraduate researchers participated in this year's symposium. Associate geography professor Mryka Hall-Beyer has judged the URS for several years. She said the conference teaches a lot to undergraduate students. "For the students, particularly since this is undergraduate, it's really important that they learn to communicate their research," she said. "This symposium forces students to take responsibility for this by demonstrating how their research is relevant to people from all backgrounds. When I'm judging, I don't necessarily know anything about these fields, but I do know how the scientific method works and I can tell if their analysis is logical." Gauntlet

Carleton U PhD candidate Tara Carter writes about multiple temporalities and social reproduction in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut: Meehan and Strauss (2015) assert, "For many working class individuals, households, and communities, …the line between work and life becomes sharpened, not blurred, as people are forced to navigate different, sometimes conflicting, geographies and temporalities embedded in the social organization of employment…" (105). My research explores how Inuit (northern Indigenous) fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers and their families in the central Canadian subarctic are constantly negotiating and making manifest, in spatial and temporal terms, the daily activities required for participation in fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) work practices at remote mine sites. FIFO as a form of employment-related mobility is defined as "circumstances of work where the place of work is sufficiently isolated from the workers' place of residence to make daily commute impractical" (Watts, 2004: 26). Participation in FIFO work requires cyclical periods of mobility and multilocality that are dependent on social institutions and networks in sending communities. In this paper, I will critique this separation between wage work at FIFO mine sites and subsistence activities by exploring the multiple temporalities that exist for FIFO workers, their families, and communities focusing on three local temporalities: industrial time, shared social times, and caribou/more-than-human time. My objective is to illustrate the multiplicity of these local temporalities and to show how they are partially connected, and not fully separate. [Society and Space](#)

McGill U Geography GeoThink team looks at open data standards: The open data movement – in which governments make data publically available in machine-readable format –can not only increase transparency and accountability, but boost creative public participation. The city of Montreal's Portail données ouvertes, for example, has resulted in citizen-coded apps that turn reams of government-generated data into tools that improve urban life. Want to know the ice quality of your local outdoor skating rink before pouring the kids into snowsuits? Wondering whether that vacant parking spot still has money on the meter? Thanks to open data, there are apps for that. But not all data is formatted equally. Ergo the need for open data standards, which allow a data set – be it about public transit or road construction, budgets or building permits – to be more readily put to use. To this end, McGill's [GeoThink](#) research group collaborated to build a data standards directory. McGill undergrads Rachel Bloom, Julia Conzon, and Nicolas Levy were part of the team that compiled more than 60 standards from around the world. "There's a serious need for coordination on how governments at all levels classify different types of open data," said [Renee Sieber](#), an associate professor in McGill's Department of Geography and School of Environment and the founder of GeoThink. She believes that the directory will allow "evaluation of different standards to help guide governments in choosing the most useful ones," and in doing so will help increase data interoperability. [McGill Reporter](#)

U Guelph's Noella Gray joins in call for large ocean sanctuaries to benefit both sea life and people: There is growing concern that the world's oceans are in crisis because of climate change, overfishing, pollution and other stresses. One response is creating marine protected areas, or ocean parks, to conserve sea life and key habitats that support it, such as coral reefs. Our research seeks to inform conservation policies that are effective, equitable and socially just. In our new study of established or proposed large marine protected areas, we show that efforts to protect even remote sites can generate important outcomes for local residents that they may view as positive or negative. They can increase national pride and political leverage for indigenous populations, for example. They can also complicate international conservation negotiations or cause broad shifts in national economies. [Los Angles Times](#)

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

Robert C. Corry. 2017. [Recent losses of perennial cover in a Great Lakes agricultural region](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12431

Landscape composition is consequential to ecological functions, and in agricultural regions a simple descriptor of composition is whether the growing habit of vegetation is annual or perennial. Annual vegetation includes most of the crop species grown in central North America (e.g., corn, soybeans, cereal grains, canola), and perennial vegetation includes hay and forage crops (e.g., alfalfa) and most non-crop land covers (e.g., woodlands, grasslands, wetlands). Recent data show that in farmlands perennial cover is converting to annual cover. Using new remotely sensed annual crop layer spatial data for an intensively farmed region (1,700 km2) of the Lake Huron watershed in Southern Ontario, Canada, this paper describes changes in farmland composition and which transitions are occurring, with suggestions for why the changes are occurring. Perennial cover has rapidly been converted to annual cover in the past five years, with working-lands perennial cover types identified as the most vulnerable to conversion. Other land cover types are relatively static. Implications for agricultural land conservation and stewardship require attention to this rapid change for conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity in the Great Lakes basin.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Drew Bush. 2017. Student climate change education: The role of scientific technologies in improving public geoscience understandings. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervised by Renee Sieber.

Daniel Haught. 2017. [Acoustically derived suspended sediment concentrations and flux: Fraser River, Canada](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Jeremy Venditti.

Michael Martin. 2017. A qualitative GIS for big data and social media. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.

Andrew McMillan. 2017. Regional classification using gradients of marine species assemblages: a data-driven approach to modelling marine ecosystems. MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.

Nazie Naraghi. 2017. The aesthetic unconscious and post-migrant Iranian subjectivity in Los Angeles. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Paul Kingsbury.

Aateka Shashank. 2017. Walkability and connectivity: unpacking measures of the built environment. MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.

David Swanlund. 2017. Geosurveillance, biometrics, and resistance. MA thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.

Jin Xing. 2017. Scale handling for land use/cover change in an era of big data. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervised by Renee Sieber and Margaret Kalacska.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Adrian J.R. Gaanderse, Stephen A. Wolfe and C.R. Burn. 2017. Composition and origin of a lithalsa related to lake-level recession and Holocene terrestrial emergence, Northwest Territories, Canada. Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI:10.1002/esp.4302

Edgar Baculi, Victoria Fast, and Claus Rinner. 2017. The geospatial contents of municipal and regional open data catalogs in Canada. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:39-48.

Julia Christensen, Steven Arnfjord, Sally Carraher, S. and Travis Hedwig. 2017. Homelessness across Alaska, the Canadian North and Greenland: A review of the literature on a developing social phenomenon in the Circumpolar North. Arctic 70:349-364.

Simon Dalby, Daniel Scott, Clay Dasilva and Alex Suen. 2017. Canada in a climate disrupted world. Report for the Social Science and Humanities Research Council "Imagining Canada's Future Initiative" Ottawa. October, 2017.

Victoria Fast and Claus Rinner. 2017. Mediating open data: providers, portals, and platforms. 2017. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:7-8.

Mark Gill, Jon Corbett, and Renée Sieber. 2017. Exploring open data perspectives from government providers in western Canada. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:19-30.

Samantha Hajna, Nancy A. Ross, Simon J. Griffin and Kaberi Dasgupta. 2017. Lexical neutrality in environmental health research: Reflections on the term walkability. BMC Public Health. 17:940.

Peter A. Johnson and Sarah Greene. 2017. Who are government opendata infomediaries? A preliminary scan and classification of open data users and products. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:9-18.

Carrie L. Mitchell and Alexandra Graham. 2017. Evidence-based advocacy for municipal climate change action. Journal of Planning Education and Research. doi.org/10.1177/0739456X17740939

Jed Long and Colin Robertson. 2017. Comparing spatial patterns. Geography Compass. DOI:10.1111/gec3.12356

Pamela Robinson and Lisa Ward Mather. 2017. Open data community maturity: Libraries as civic infomediaries. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:31-38.

Suthee Sangiambut and Renée Sieber. 2017. The civic open data and crowdsourcing app ecosystem: Actors, materials, and interventions. Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association 28:49-62.

Rongxu Qiu, Wei Xu, John Zhang and Karl Staenz. 2017. Modelling and simulating urban residential land development in Jiading New City, Shanghai. Applied Spatial Analysis. doi.org/10.1007/s12061-017-9244-4

W.J. Requia, C.D. Higgins, M.D. Adams, M. Mohamed and P. Koutrakis. 2017. The health impacts of weekday traffic: A health risk assessment of PM2.5 emissions during congested periods. Environment International 111:164-176.

Other "Geographical" News

'Right in their own backyard': New Google Earth project maps Canada's residential schools: A new learning tool is moving beyond the textbook to show Canadians the impact of residential schools. The Google Earth Voyager residential school story uses more than 100 markers to geographically show Canada's residential school sites and gives first-hand stories from survivors — including accounts of abuse — and how those people and their families are working to move forward. Voyager is a collection of map-based stories written by Google Earth partners that's updated weekly. The residential schools story project, which launched Monday, is a partnership between the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, based at the University of Manitoba, and Canadian Geographic Education. The Voyager story and maps are available to all Canadians, but targeted toward elementary and secondary schools. The project is just one piece in the bigger picture of reconciliation, said John Thompson, a high school geography teacher at Winnipeg's Kildonan-East Collegiate and part of the Canadian Geographic education committee. CBCNews | Manitoba

How place shapes our politics - geography can sharpen political conflicts: Geography has always factored heavily into politics and human behavior more generally. Part of this comes from the nature of politics, that it is a contest over who gets what. The what is often tied to location and becomes a contest over who controls where. On a deeper level, geography is one of the fundamental ways we understand the world: We define locations, good or bad, by who lives there, by asking, "Are they one of us?" We treat places where the people are not like us—cities versus suburbs, red state versus blue—as different than places that are like us. This creates political conflict. Digging deeper on that, what do you mean by "the space between us," or what you call "socio-geographic space"? How do these quintessentially geographically factors matter to our politics and society? CityLab

Surveying the fury: drones count the costs of the 2017 B.C. wildfires: "Currently, we are testing the use of drones for various forestry applications, including fire burn assessment following the 2017 wildfires," said Nicholas Coops, Canada Research Chair in Remote Sensing and professor in forest resources management at UBC. Coops and his students have partnered with a B.C.-based drone company, FYBR, on the project. "We are working on a range of sites in B.C. that address the needs of the forest industry. We have some spots on the coast where we're going to be taking inventory of high-value timber, and in the Interior where we are capturing the 2017 fires." Besides providing basic information like how big the fire was, the images acquired from the drones can also be converted into detailed 3D models. The 3D models provide information on the centimetre scale – a level of detail that cannot be obtained with traditional fire survey methods, such as satellite imagery. UBC News

Some Not So "Geographical" News

canadian problem #167

if you pronounce
the second 't' in
toronto,
you obviously dont
live in toronto

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