



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury to receive new President's media award: A geography professor whose paranormal research attracts national and international media is being recognized with a new SFU award. The award recognizes an SFU expert who has outstanding results in working with the media to promote research or to comment on current events. Kingsbury's research focuses on the recent growth of beliefs, practices and experiences related to the paranormal. His media relations efforts led to more than 250 articles, including front page stories in the *Vancouver Sun* and other media, as well as numerous radio and TV spots, including North America's most popular late-night show, Coast to Coast AM, with a reach of nearly three million weekly listeners. His November article on crop circles published in *The Conversation* went on to be re-published by *Newsweek* and *Live Science*. "It's important that we connect with the media because it not only dispels the dangerous myth that academics work in "ivory towers," it also shows the power of our research to explain fundamental processes that shape the world around us," says Kingsbury. "In my case, as a social scientist, I hope my interviews with the media help to illustrate the 'everydayness' of people's paranormal beliefs and experiences, as well as the recent growth of paranormal investigation cultures, such as ghost investigators, that aim to give clients peace of mind—and UFO and Sasquatch conferences that resemble conventional academic sites of learning and teaching." [SFU News](#)

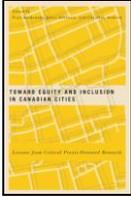
Simon Fraser U's Nicholas Blomley and Natalia Perez co-author study of rising rental anxiety in Metro Vancouver: Renter anxiety is on the rise in Metro Vancouver, with eviction-related disputes and concerns spread throughout the region. Researchers analyzed data from the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) and the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC) to try to gauge the impact of the region's housing affordability crisis on renters in the private rental sector — an under-studied demographic despite making up one third of all households in Metro Vancouver. The data used in the pilot study is "just the tip of the iceberg," said SFU geography professor Nicholas Blomley, who co-authored the report with SFU professor Andy Yan and graduate research assistant Natalia Perez. "This doesn't tell us about all the evictions happening in Metro Vancouver. This is just the stuff that gets disputed." The study found that the proportion of calls regarding evictions made to TRAC has increased from 19% in 2010 to 26% in 2016. Residential Tenancy Branch data from 2006 to 2017 showed that Maple Ridge has the region's highest number of eviction-related disputes per renter households, with an average of 66 disputes per 1,000 renter households. The Metro average is 32. "It does speak to the suburbanization of poverty that academics and policy-makers have talked about," said Blomley, adding that not only are people getting priced out of Vancouver, they're also struggling in the suburbs. [Vancouver Sun](#) | [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Lethbridge U's Maura Hanrahan discusses the impact of Canada's decentralized water governance system: The University of Lethbridge took some time this month to talk about water governance in Canada. Maura Hanrahan, professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Lethbridge, discussed with interested students and members of the public the impact of Canada's decentralized water governance system for residents across the country. Touching on everything from the policy itself, to case studies, boil advisories and how the current system correlates with the United Nations declaration that recognized water as a human right. "We have water injustice in Canada and water poverty," explained Hanrahan. "But we're such a rich country and we can do better than that. There's no reason we couldn't live up to the UN declaration that water is a human right." Starting her lecture, Hanrahan discussed the state of the current water governance system which she noted is one of the most decentralized policies in the world, before touching on the current model that sees Canada having no national standard to be enforced, meaning each province is responsible for their own water reserves. This in turn sees many water responsibilities falling to junior governments with limited capacities, which means that many small, remote and indigenous communities across the country as a result, experience an array of water security challenges of different extremes. "Reserves often aren't given enough funding to reserve and maintain adequate water systems," said Hanrahan. "There's a big problem of underfunding, as well as the added problem that some places are too big and complex and are too hard for the municipality to manage." However, this isn't the only problem with water across the province. As Hanrahan also took some time to speak on the fact that there is also a consistent problem of lack of education on this issue for many Canadians. "Most of the time, people in Canada tend to think you turn on the tap and you can have as much water as you want – unless you live in rural remote communities or reserves. "Most of the water in southern Canada is quite safe to drink and I think that's why we kind of assume that we all have this access," Hanrahan added. Yet some places in the country see less knowledge and reckless use more than others. Lethbridge sees some of the highest rate of water usage per person across the entire country. With the Prairie deserts sitting on the region's doorstep, Hanrahan also says that using water at such high rates could be detrimental to lands in the future. With low conservation rates, Hanrahan added Lethbridge and surrounding areas could look into better and less expensive ways to use lower volumes of water than their current treated water usage rate such as collecting rainwater and washing their cars in a facility rather than at home. During her lecture, Hanrahan also took some time to discuss her studies on areas within Newfoundland and Labrador that see extended boil-water advisories as well as extremely tough water conditions throughout most of the year. "Most water boil advisories last only a day or so in southern Alberta, however, in rural and remote places, there's some that have been going on for almost 28 years," she added. [Lethbridge Herald](#)

Simon Fraser U's Kirsten Zickfeld warns that proposed Pacific NorthWest LNG plant near Prince Rupert would emit 360 million metric tonnes of CO2: An environmental protection group fighting to overturn federal approval of a \$36-billion LNG project in B.C. says it will hurt Canada's chance of hitting climate change targets far more than forecast, with a 360 million metric tonnes of CO2 emissions over its lifetime. In a Vancouver federal courtroom the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust said the PacificNorthWest LNG's (PNW LNG) proposal to build a natural gas liquefaction and export terminal on Lelu Island near Prince Rupert B.C., not only failed to assess salmon habitat but ignored the real impact on climate over a 30-year span. PNW LNG says the facility would be one of the "world's cleanest." But Dr. Kirsten Zickfeld, an associate professor of geography at Simon Fraser University, who has worked on carbon budgets and studied climate change irreversibility worldwide, says the cumulative effects of the project's greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, were underestimated. She calculates emissions of CO2 will hit 360-million metric tonnes, using up "between 2.5 per cent and 11 per cent of Canada's all time carbon budget, designed to limit warming to 2 C." The carbon budget is the amount of CO2 that can be emitted by Canada to keep the global temperature rise below 2 C. If Canada were to emit a half-billion tonnes each year, the country's budget would run out in about seven years. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

New Book

Fran Klodawsky, Janet Siltanen and Caroline Andrew. 2018. [Toward Equity and Inclusion in Canadian Cities Lessons from Critical Praxis-Oriented Research](#). McGill-Queen's University Press. 368 p.



Housing insecurity, intensified employment anxiety, access to adequate services, and fear of personal and structural violence are some of the issues troubling today's cities and municipalities. Often, these conditions most affect residents whose place in the social hierarchy makes them particularly susceptible to exclusion. Seeking to redress these trends and guide research to facilitate meaningful local action, *Toward Equity and Inclusion in Canadian Cities* promotes more inclusive urban environments by highlighting and comparing theoretical and practice-based insights. Building on feminist, anti-racist, and anti-colonialist arguments to offer action-oriented solutions to inequalities and exclusions, the contributors to this volume tackle themes such as LGBTQ inclusion, health disparities, diversity initiatives, and urban planning dilemmas. Through a lens of critical praxis the book explores the challenges of collaborations, the negotiations required to reconceptualize research relations, and the ways in which values and practices inform one another. In light of the growing complexity, interrelations, and interactions of our world, *Toward Equity and Inclusion in Canadian Cities* is a timely work that speaks to a diverse audience of activists, policy makers, community organizations, and researchers of various disciplines.

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



Mark H. Palmer and Anna Feyerherm. 2018. [Visual convincing of intangible cultural relationships using maps: A case study of the Tongariro National Park World Heritage nomination dossier](#). *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien*. DOI:10.1111/cag.12439

UNESCO World Heritage site nominations require the use and presence of maps and GIS to demarcate potential heritage property boundaries. UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee provided specific cartographic guidelines and standards for the inclusion of maps within the nominations. The New Zealand government used maps and GIS to visually convince UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, the International Union on the Conservation of Nature, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites of intangible cultural relationships at Tongariro National Park. More specifically, New Zealand combined scientific maps, Māori language narratives, and symbols to make the intangible tangible and geographically visible. Maps and GIS images that accompanied World Heritage nomination dossiers were housed at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Council on Monuments and Sites in Paris, France. The first section of the paper introduces the data sources and methods used in our archival research.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Christopher Bolduc, Scott F. Lamoureux and Jan Franssen. 2018. [Thermal and isotopic evidence for surface and subsurface water contributions to baseflow in a high Arctic river](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11427

Anca Hienola, Antti-Ilari Partanen, Joni-Pekka Pietikainen, Declan O'Donnell, Hannele Korhonen, H. Damon Matthews and Ari Laaksonen. 2018. [The impact of aerosol emissions on the 1.5°C pathways](#). Environmental Research Letters.

Yi Huang, Mark Rosenberg and Yingli Wang. 2018. [Is extreme climate or moderate climate more conducive to longevity in China?](#) International Journal of Biometeorology. doi.org/10.1007/s00484-018-1499-1

Stuart W. Livingstone, Marc W. Cadotte and Marney E. Isaac. 2018. [Ecological engagement determines ecosystem service valuation: A case study from Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto, Canada](#). Ecosystem Services 30A:86–97.

Gabriel Magnan, Simon van Bellen, Lauren Davies, Duane Froese, Michelle Garneau, Gillian Mullan-Boudreau, Claudio Zaccone and William Shotyk. 2018. [Impact of the Little Ice Age cooling and 20th century climate change on peatland vegetation dynamics in central and northern Alberta using a multi-proxy approach and high-resolution peat chronologies](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 185:230–243.

Matthew A. Mumma, Michael P. Gillingham, Chris J. Johnson and Katherine L. Parker. 2018. [Where beavers \(*Castor canadensis*\) build: testing the influence of habitat quality, predation risk, and anthropogenic disturbance on colony occurrence](#). Canadian Journal of Zoology. doi.org/10.1139/cjz-2017-0327

Robert Newell and Rosaline Canessa. 2018. [From sense of place to visualization of place: examining people-place relationships for insight on developing geovisualizations](#). Heliyon 4. doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2018.e00547

Casey R. Remmer, Wynona H. Klemt, Brent B. Wolfe and Roland I. Hall. 2018. [Inconsequential effects of flooding in 2014 on lakes in the Peace-Athabasca Delta \(Canada\) due to long-term drying](#). Limnology and Oceans. DOI:10.1002/lno.10787

Richard Ross Shaker. 2018. [A mega-index for the Americas and its underlying sustainable development correlations](#). Ecological Indicators 89:466–479.

Crystal Tremblay and Leila Harris. 2018. [Critical video engagements: Empathy, subjectivity and changing narratives of water resources through participatory video](#). Geoforum 90:174–182.

Other “Geographical” News

Ceremonial spoons repatriated to B.C.'s Nass Valley in celebration of Nisga'a lunar new year: To mark the Nisga'a lunar new year celebration Hoobiyee, ceremonial spoons more than 100 years old have been repatriated from the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa to the Nass Valley in northwest B.C. The artifacts will now be displayed at the Nisga'a Museum in the village of Laxgalts'ap. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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