



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 484, March 25, 2018**

Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

U Lethbridge's Chris Hopkinson and research group part of documentary work on avalanche slope: The University of Lethbridge's ARTeMiS (advanced-resolution terradynamic monitoring system) Lab will be featured as part of a science documentary recently filmed by the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Public Broadcasting System. Chris Hopkinson, Chair in Terrestrial Ecosystem Remote Sensing in Department of Geography, was asked to join a group of as they examined an avalanche slope on Fortress Mountain in Kananaskis Country. Hopkinson agreed to take part if he could also include some of his students in the work. "Zhouxin Xi, Celeste Barnes and Thomas Porter all joined me and did an excellent job representing the U of L in a very professional manner," says Hopkinson. "Over a period of four days, we collected a lot of 3D data over the avalanche slope and were able to estimate avalanche volumes before the avalanche was triggered," says Hopkinson. "McElwaine modelled the avalanche behaviour using slope morphology and snow density data. He used our initial laser scan to assist in training the model, and then we scanned again after the avalanche to estimate the volume of snow in the avalanche to partially validate the model." "Over a period of four days, we collected a lot of 3D data over the avalanche slope and were able to estimate avalanche volumes before the avalanche was triggered," says Hopkinson. "McElwaine modelled the avalanche behaviour using slope morphology and snow density data. He used our initial laser scan to assist in training the model, and then we scanned again after the avalanche to estimate the volume of snow in the avalanche to partially validate the model." [U Lethbridge Research](#)

U Calgary's Shawn Marshall on why Alberta's water levels at risk: In the past, melt from glaciers would have helped make up for shortages that arose during dry years on the prairies, getting the arid region through the dog days of summer. But climate change means that this bank of extra water from glaciers has mostly been spent, and the balance is shrinking quickly. Shawn Marshall, who studies glaciers at the University of Calgary's geography department, says the giant glaciers of the past are quickly disappearing. "The estimates right now are that about 80 per cent of the ice will be gone by 2100." Marshall says that as the population grows and the climate continues to warm on Canada's prairies, trouble is brewing. Water shortages are likely the next time a multi-year drought hits Western Canada. And that's something that may already be underway, according to Marshall. "It might have started last year, actually. You know, we had the beginnings of a drought last year, and it's just a question of if we get a few more summers in a row like that." [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

Queen's U's John Holmes on Google plans to transform Toronto from Hogtown to Tech Town: Automakers, technology companies and futurists have been telling people for years that autonomous cars could transform the way they live. A Google-affiliated company wants to put that theory to the test on Toronto's waterfront. Sidewalk Labs, owned by Google parent Alphabet Inc., plans to build a high-tech "smart neighbourhood" near downtown Toronto that would rely on autonomous vehicles to transport people. Questions abound regarding how Sidewalk Labs can ensure the privacy and security of residents and workers in the neighbourhood when collecting data on them on a scale never before seen in a city, and how government policy might be designed to react to it. While still years away from development, the neighbourhood could be the first real-world showcase for how self-driving vehicles can radically change street design and urban planning. John Holmes, professor emeritus at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., said any privacy concerns would need to be overcome for autonomous vehicles and projects such as Sidewalk Toronto to catch on. "At the heart of it is data collection," he said. "It's partly surveillance, but it's collection on enormous amounts of data on people's behaviour. And [autonomous vehicles] can be looked at from that kind of perspective." [Automotive News Canada](#)

Mount Allison U's Brad Walters answers 5Qs: 1. *Your human environment research is based in the Caribbean. What made you decide to work in this geographic area?* I have some history there. When I was finishing my master's degree back in 1990, I got an internship with an environmental NGO based in Saint Lucia. I spent eight months working there and really loved being in the region. After that I didn't go back for 15 years, but when I finally did in 2005, I discovered that the difference from when I was last there was huge. There was massive spread of residential development along the coast and inland along the watersheds on the one hand and extensive decline of agriculture and reforestation in the uplands on the other. When I was there in 1990, banana farming was at its historical peak. People were farming deep into the mountains and there were widespread problems with deforestation, pesticide contamination, and soil erosion. By 2005, many of these problems were no longer present. Understanding these dramatic changes presented itself as a really cool research project. 2- *Your approach to this research is innovative. Can you describe it?* I am trying to resolve some of the analytical challenges of doing human environment research where one is faced with integrating social and natural science information. Lots of people have been wrestling with how to do that in different ways. Working with a colleague from Rutgers University, Pete Vayda, we developed a somewhat novel approach to doing this. I say somewhat novel because what we are doing borrows heavily from writings in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of history. In short, we have developed a methodology for analyzing human environment issues using a 'causal-historical' approach. [Mount Allison U News](#)



Canadian Association of Geographers – Ontario Division (CAGONT) is pleased to announce that our annual meeting - CAGONT 2018 will be hosted by the [Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto \(St. George campus\)](#) in Toronto from October 19-20, 2018. Please mark your calendars.

Memorial U's Faith Ford is this year's recipient of the James Cook scholarship. The scholarship was established in 1979 by members of the Department of Geography to honor the memory of Captain James Cook (1728-1779), explorer, navigator and cartographer, whose years of painstaking mapping of the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador laid the basis for a comprehensive scientific knowledge of the province. At least one scholarship is awarded annually on the recommendation of the Department of Geography to a student demonstrating particular merit in geography. [Memorial U Geography](#).

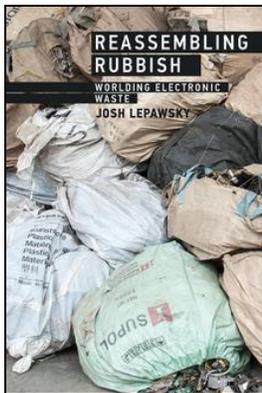
U Guelph's Kirby Calvert recognized with Ontario Early Researcher Award. ERA recipients must be full-time faculty members or principal investigators at universities, colleges, research hospitals and research institutes who started their academic career within the past five years. [UGuelph News](#)

Queen's U's Leela Viswanathan and Paul Treitz awarded the Julian Szeicz Award for Excellence in Teaching. **Alexandra Pedersen** was awarded the Geography DSC Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance. [Queen's U Geography & Planning](#)

McGill U's Benjamin Forest interviewed by Global News for a story about the vandalism of two statues of Queen Victoria in Montreal by a group claiming they represent racism and oppression. [Global News](#)

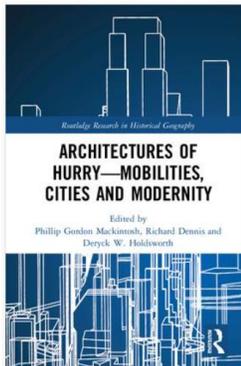
New Books

Josh Lepawsky. 2018. [Reassembling Rubbish. Worlding Electronic Waste](#). The MIT Press. 240 p.



The prevailing storyline about the problem of electronic waste frames e-waste as generated by consumers in developed countries and dumped on people and places in developing countries. In *Reassembling Rubbish*, Josh Lepawsky offers a different view. In an innovative analysis of the global trade and traffic in discarded electronics, Lepawsky reframes the question of the “right” thing to do with e-waste, mapping the complex flows of electronic materials. He counters the assumption that e-waste is a post-consumer problem, pointing out that waste occurs at all stages of electronic materials’ existence, and calls attention to the under-researched world of reuse and repair. Lepawsky explains that there are conflicting legal distinctions between electronic waste and non-waste, and examines a legal case that illustrates the consequences. He shows that patterns of trade do not support the dominant narrative of e-waste dumping but rather represent the dynamic ecologies of repair, refurbishment, and materials recovery. He asks how we know waste, how we measure it, and how we construe it, and how this affects our efforts to mitigate it. We might not put so much faith in household recycling if we counted the more massive amounts of pre-consumer electronic waste as official e-waste. Lepawsky charts the “minescapes,” “productionscapes,” and “clickscapes” of electronics, and the uneven “discardscapes” they produce. Finally, he considers both conventional and unconventional e-waste solutions, including decriminalizing export for reuse, repair, and upgrade; enabling ethical trade in electronics reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling; implementing extended producer responsibility; and instituting robust forms of public oversight.

Phillip Gordon Mackintosh, Richard Dennis and Deryck W. Holdsworth (Editors). 2018. [Architectures of Hurry—Mobilities, Cities and Modernity](#). Routledge. 248 p.



'Hurry' is an intrinsic component of modernity. It exists not only in tandem with modern constructions of mobility, speed, rhythm, and time-space compression, but also with infrastructures, technologies, practices, and emotions associated with the experience of the 'mobilizing modern'. 'Hurry' is not simply speed. It may result in congestion, slowing-down or inaction in the face of over-stimulus. Speeding-up is often competitive: faster traffic on better roads made it harder for pedestrians to cross, or for horse-drawn vehicles and cyclists to share the carriageway with motorised vehicles. Focussing on the cultural and material manifestations of 'hurry', the book's contributors analyse the complexities, tensions and contradictions inherent in the impulse to higher rates of circulation in modernizing cities. The collection includes but also goes beyond accounts of new forms of mobility (bicycles, buses, underground trains) and infrastructure (street layouts and surfaces, business exchanges, and hotels) to show how modernity's 'architectures of hurry' have been experienced, represented, and practised since the mid-nineteenth century. Ten case studies explore different expressions of 'hurry' across cities and urban regions in Asia, Europe, and North and South America, while substantial introductory and concluding chapters situate 'hurry' in the wider context of modernity and mobility studies and reflect on the future of 'hurry' in an ever-accelerating world.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Julien Arsenault, Julie Talbot and Tim R. Moore. 2018. [Environmental controls of C, N and P biogeochemistry in peatland pools](#). *Science of The Total Environment* 631–632:714–722.

Rosemary-Claire Collard. 2018. [Disaster capitalism and the quick, quick, slow unravelling of animal life](#). *Antipode*. doi.org/10.1111/anti.12389.

Junyan Ding, Edward A. Johnson and Yvonne E. Martin. 2018. [Linking soil moisture variation and abundance of plants to geomorphic processes: a generalized model for erosion-uplifting landscapes](#). *Journal of Geophysical Research. Biogeosciences*. doi.org/10.1002/2017JG004244

Stéphanie Gamache, François Routhier, Ernesto Morales, Marie-Hélène Vandersmissen and Normand Boucher. 2018. [Mapping review of accessible pedestrian infrastructures for individuals with physical disabilities](#). *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2018.1449018

Christine Gibb. 2018. [Doing and writing an accompanied feminist geography research project](#). Gender, Place and Culture. DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2018.1445618

David R. Horton, Eugene Miliczky, Tamera M. Lewis, W. Rodney Cooper, Timothy D. Waters, Carrie H. Wohleb, Richard S. Zack, Daniel L. Johnson and Andrew S. Jensen. 2018. [New North American records for the Old World Psyllid *Heterotrioza chenopodii* \(Reuter\) \(Hemiptera: Psylloidea: Triozidae\) with biological observations](#). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 120:134-152.

Ziti Jiao, Yadong Dong, Crystal B. Schaaf, Jing M. Chen, Miguel Román, Zhuosen Wang, Hu Zhang, Anxin Ding, Angela Erb, Michael J. Hill, Xiaoning Zhang and Alan Strahler. 2018. [An algorithm for the retrieval of the clumping index \(CI\) from the MODIS BRDF product using an adjusted version of the kernel-driven BRDF model](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 209:594–611.

Nick Kerman. John Sylvestre, Tim Aubry and Jino Distasio. 2018. [The effects of housing stability on service use among homeless adults with mental illness in a randomized controlled trial of housing first](#). BMC Health Services Research 18:190. doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3028-7

Christoph Nolte, Beatriz Gobbi, Yann le Polain de Waroux, María Piquer-Rodríguez, Van Butsic and Eric F. Lambin. 2018. [Challenges in attributing avoided deforestation to policies and actors: lessons from provincial forest zoning in the Argentine Dry Chaco](#). Ecological Economics. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2018.03.010

John Pickering, Valorie A. Crooks, Jeremy Snyder and Jeffery Morgan. 2018. [What is known about the factors motivating short-term international retirement migration? A scoping review](#). Journal of Population Ageing. doi.org/10.1007/s12062-018-9221-y

Antoine G. Poiré, Patrick Lajeunesse, Alexandre Normandeau, Pierre Francus, Guillaume St-Onge and Obinna P. Nzekwe. 2018. [Late-Quaternary glacial to postglacial sedimentation in three adjacent fjord-lakes of the Québec North Shore \(eastern Canadian Shield\)](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 186:91–110.

David Roberts, Simone Ciuti, Quinn E. Barber, Caitlin Willier and Scott E. Nielsen. 2018. [Accelerated seed dispersal along linear disturbances in the Canadian oil sands region](#). Nature Scientific Reports 8(4828). DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-22678-y

Samuel Robinson and Greg Henry. 2018. [High Arctic plants show independent responses to pollination and experimental warming](#). Botany. doi.org/10.1139/cjb-2017-0200

James T. Teller, Roderick A. McGinn, Haresh M. Rajapara and Anil D. Shukla. 2018. [Optically stimulated luminescence ages from the Lake Agassiz basin in Manitoba](#). Quaternary Research. doi.org/10.1017/qua.2017.107

Xiaoyue Wang, Chaoyang Wu, Dailiang Peng, Alemu Gonsamo and Zhengjia Liu. 2018. [Snow cover phenology affects alpine vegetation growth dynamics on the Tibetan Plateau: Satellite observed evidence, impacts of different biomes, and climate drivers](#). Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 256–257:61–74.

Stephen A. Wolfe, Peter D. Morse, Christina M. Neudorf, Steven V. Kokelj, Olav B. Lian and H. Brendan O'Neill. 2018. [Contemporary sand wedge development in seasonally frozen ground and paleoenvironmental implications](#). Geomorphology 308:215-229.

Other “Geographical” News

Tsilhqot'in First Nation in British Columbia closes fishery, forgoes Aboriginal right to steelhead:

The Tsilhqot'in National Government has closed its steelhead fishery and relinquished its Aboriginal right to fish local steelhead due to a low return in the Chilcotin River last fall. The Chilcotin River steelhead population has declined by 80 per cent over the past three generations — only 58 steelhead returned to the river last year. "That's very alarming," said Tl'etinqox First Nation Chief Joe Alphonse. "That's on the brink of extinction." [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

In defense of late papers: It's that time of year again, when panicked students start asking for extensions. They will send desperate emails and come knocking with trepidation on our office doors. They will arrive with excuses and cite extenuating circumstances, and faculty far and wide will have to make tough decisions about whether or not to accept late work. Most professors find this ritual frustrating. We want to enforce the rules and maintain high standards, but how are we to stand fast against this tidal wave of human drama? Every year, the high-minded rules and regulations laid out in our syllabi are tested by the sheer plurality of the student experience. At the risk of seeming “soft,” I want to make a case here for academic mercy. Professors can't grant every extension request, that is clear. But, when confronted by overwhelmed students, we should not be ashamed to lighten their burdens. While we want to instil discipline and responsibility in our students, there is also pedagogical value in compassion. Many professors will find this idea laughable. Haven't millennial students already been coddled enough? [University Affairs](#)

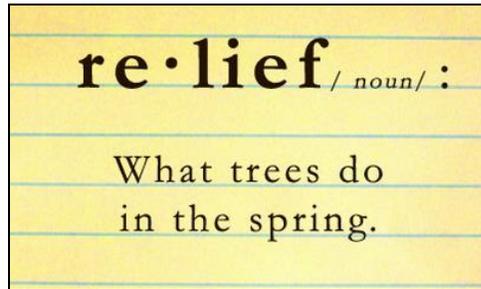
Montreal's first ever "Vegan Map" of the city: Montreal's Vegetarian Association has just released a new flyer with over 240 vegan restaurants, grocery stores, cafes, you name it! It's called "Live and eat vegetarian and vegan", and it's awesome! All of the locations are numbered and colored coated and organized in this map of the city. [MTL Blog](#)

Canadian teen tells UN to 'warrior up,' that water should have the same rights as humans: It's time to "warrior up," stop polluting the planet and give water the same rights and protections as human beings. That's the message Autumn Peltier, a 13-year-old Canadian, delivered personally to the United Nations General Assembly. "Many people don't think water is alive or has a spirit," the Anishinaabe girl from Wikwemikong First Nation told the diplomats gathered in New York City in her speech on World Water Day. "My people believe this to be true. [CBCNews | Canada](#)

Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization: Announcing publication of *Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization*; inspired by a 2016 speaking tour by Arthur Manuel, less than a year before his untimely passing in January 2017. The book contains two essays from Manuel, described as the Nelson Mandela of Canada, and essays from renowned Indigenous writers Taiaiake Alfred, Glen Coulthard, Russell Diabo, Beverly Jacobs, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Kanahus Manuel, Jeffrey McNeil-Seymour, Pamela Palmater, Shiri Pasternak, Nicole Schabus, Senator Murray Sinclair, and Sharon Venne. FPSE is honoured to support this publication. *Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization* will be available free to the public as an e-book. [Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC](#).

Landslides are Canada's forgotten menace: Canada is one of the safest countries in the world, where millions are invested each year to predict and prevent the better-known dangers of floods, forest fires and the weather. But landslides are a peril that gains little notice. Landslides have killed more Canadians than floods, hurricanes and tornadoes since 1900, according to the Canadian Disaster Database kept by Public Safety Canada. At least 654 Canadians have died in landslides going back to the 18th century, according to Natural Resources Canada, and landslides cause \$200-million to \$400-million in damage annually. [Globe and Mail](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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