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U Saskatchewan's Maureen Reed and James Robson to share UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal: The Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the University of Saskatchewan have announced the creation of a UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal. The U of S chair joins an international network of 700 chairs related to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The UNESCO chair will work in partnership with international organizations and communities across Canada, Latin America and South Africa to effectively combine Indigenous and western knowledge to promote productive and biodiverse landscapes and territories. The chair is held jointly by professor Maureen Reed and assistant professor James Robson, two faculty members in the School of Environment and Sustainability. They are both recognized as distinguished scholars in the fields of environmental governance and sustainability and in fostering relationships with Indigenous peoples to advance sustainability. Since 2010, Reed has helped lead the Canadian Man and the Biosphere Committee—which advises the CCUNESCO on managing the 18 biosphere reserves designated by UNESCO in Canada. "The work of our co-chair is rooted in 'action research'. This type of research is purpose-led, with the desire to put results to work immediately," said Reed. "We are working closely with our partners, who include First Nations, biosphere reserves and model forest communities to ask relevant questions, implement projects and determine how, and by whom, research outcomes will be used." Robson brings expertise and experience in Indigenous community engagement in Mexico, other parts of Latin America and Canada. His work strives to understand how communities respond to global change through adaptation and innovation in systems of governance and resource use. Research themes of the chair include engaging youth and women more effectively in governance about environment and sustainability in rural and Indigenous communities, and identifying innovative strategies to provide livelihood opportunities for people in their communities. Reconciliation and renewal are pillars of the work of the chair. The UNESCO chairs program builds connections among universities, civil society, local communities, researchers and policy-makers. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO facilitates a Canadian network of 23 chairs in 17 post-secondary institutions. U Saskatchewan News

Research from York U's Philip Kelly prompts new school curriculum that engages Filipino-Canadian students: Taking Grade 8 geography has become that much more interesting and engaging for Chanelle Cabrera and Vincent Austria, both students at St. Ursula Catholic School in Scarborough. The geography curriculum is one of three new educational programs developed by the PASSOC Project, a joint initiative by Toronto Catholic District School Board and York University staff, which also includes teaching materials for Grade 6 social sciences and Grade 6 to 8 dance courses. The 285,000-strong Filipino community in Greater Toronto is among the fastest growing immigrant communities here. PASSOC stands for Philippine Arts and Social Studies in the Ontario Curriculum and is

pronounced “pasok,” which means pathway, gate and entry in Tagalog. The effort was prompted by research from York University geography professor Philip Kelly, who found children of Filipino immigrants often had lower education attainment and less upward mobility than their peers in Canada, especially other Asian students, even though their parents were among the most educated compared to other immigrant groups. “This project grew out of our attempt to address the root causes behind these youths’ abnormally lower education achievements among immigrant youth,” said Kelly, adding that seeing the “deprofessionalization” of their parents into manual jobs in Canada is a big disincentive for Filipino youth. “Kids in school are disengaged because they don’t have any role model and they don’t see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Because of the jobs their parents are in, they don’t have the networks to the labour market and education.” However, instead of trying to make the learning just “a cultural celebration moment,” Kelly said, the goal is to turn the Filipino-centric experience into something that’s part of the mainstream curriculum, not only speaking to Filipino students but also resonating with students from other immigrant communities. Toronto Star.

U Victoria’s David Atkinson leads research team collaborating with Northerners to create more accurate forecasts for the North: Researchers have been coming to communities in the Beaufort Delta since 2013, asking residents one question: "How does weather affect what you are doing?" They are trying to come up with a better way to predict weather in these communities, because research shows northern weather forecasts are not detailed enough. The University of Victoria project is focusing on the N.W.T. communities of Sachs Harbor, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok.
David Atkinson, associate professor in the department of geography at the University of Victoria, said community knowledge is key to their research since community members "have a culture of observing." He said the project has been driven by the people in the communities. The researchers have also teamed up with Environment and Climate Change Canada. They are choosing a local research assistant from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation as well as from each of the three communities. The assistants will go to Edmonton and Victoria in December to learn more about weather forecasts. "People from the communities will see how the forecasts are being done and we'll establish that two-way linkage between the communities and met(eorological) service of Canada," said Atkinson.
CBCNews | North

Simon Fraser U’s Kirsten Zickfeld says there is evidence the world remains on an inevitable path to a low-carbon economy: A recent report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that not only did U.S. coal exports rise by 61 per cent in the past year, exports to Asia doubled. In the face of such figures you might imagine those who fear the effects of a warming planet are throwing up their hands in despair. That's certainly not the case for Kirsten Zickfeld, a climate change scientist and professor at B.C.'s Simon Fraser University. She says the increasing number of events such as last year's costly and devastating Hurricane Harvey in Berman's home town, Houston, have convinced well informed people around the world that something needs to be done. And she says there is evidence the world remains on an inevitable path to a low-carbon economy. "What we see very clearly is actually a decoupling between economic activity as measured by GDP and carbon emissions," says Zickfeld. "Our economies are growing but they need much less carbon in order to actually do that." While countries such as China and India continue to increase coal consumption, she insists they are strongly motivated to either invent or adopt lower-carbon methods developed elsewhere, especially as the cost of that technology falls. Hot countries suffer more from more deadly heat waves, and the large and growing middle class in Asia's biggest cities is insisting their governments cut the medical and social costs of air pollution. She is convinced all those factors mean companies and economies hoping to profit from long-term growth in oil consumption will be disappointed. "As long as the rest of the world moves toward decarbonizing the energy sector and other sectors, these countries and these provinces that bet on use of oil increasing will have a very hard time," says Zickfeld. "I think at some point the economics is not going to work out for them."
CBCNews | Business

U Waterloo's Sarah Burch on triggering sustainability transformations in Corporate Knights: April saw the publishing of a landmark study by Sarah Burch and her research group showing that Canada's small businesses are important- and often overlooked- drivers of sustainability and the green economy. Burch followed up on this study with an editorial in Corporate Knights Magazine on the, "the untapped potential of small businesses across Canada." "The caricature of the reactive, conservative SME misses a key opportunity for engagement: Is it possible that when some SMEs tackle sustainability, they can do it with greater agility, ambition and creativity than is possible in a larger firm shackled by complex organizational hierarchy and shareholder demands? Rather than dwelling on the evidence that SMEs give short shrift to sustainability, municipal, provincial and federal policymakers would benefit from a better understanding of the tools at their disposal that could both build a business case for sustainability among SMEs while strengthening the resilience and prosperity of communities." U Waterloo Environment

Simon Fraser U's Geography Department featured as one of SFU's Standout Programs by MACLEAN'S Magazine: Since opening its doors in 1965, Simon Fraser University has spread to the downtown core of Vancouver, as well as the suburb of Surrey. All three campuses have developed strong ties with their local communities. "SFU has become internationally recognized for the quality of its educational programs and research, and we're committed to building on these strengths as we continue to engage the world," says president Andrew Petter. As a standout program, the Department of Geography was recognized for "aking an interdisciplinary approach, students learn how issues such as environmental problems, resource management, regional development, cultural differences and globalization are interrelated and must be addressed holistically." MACLEAN'S Magazine

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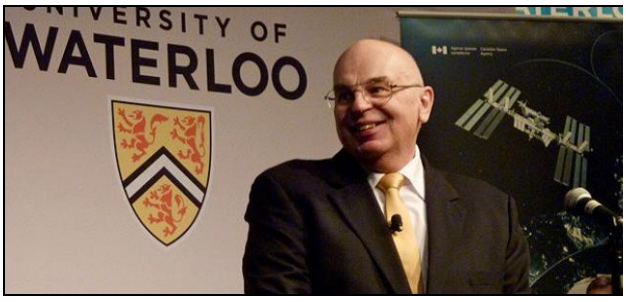
GeogNews Bites

U Victoria post-doctoral fellow Kyle Artelle wrote about his concerns with wildlife management practices in Canada and the US with regards to hunting. The article was shared online by the *National Post*.

McGill U's alumna Nicole Couture and Prof. Wayne Pollard co-author paper that was recently featured as a Research Spotlight in the EOS newsletter.



U Waterloo's Ian McKenzie was recognized for his 45 years of outstanding service. Over those many years Ian inspired and mentored generations of geographers, and many in our community can't even begin to imagine a Waterloo geography department without him.

New Theses and Dissertations

Andrew Spring. 2018. Capitals, climate change and food security: Building sustainable food systems in northern Canadian Indigenous communities. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Alison Blay-Palmer.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jacob M. Bailey, Matthew W. Reudink, Stefanie E. LaZerte, Mark Paetkau, Chris J. Johnson, David J. Hill and Ken A. Otter. 2018. Using radio frequency identification (RFID) to investigate the gap-crossing decisions of Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*). The Auk 135:449-460.

Eunji Byun, Sarah A. Finkelstein, Sharon A. Cowling and Pascal Badiou. 2018. Potential carbon loss associated with post-settlement wetland conversion in southern Ontario, Canada. Carbon Balance and Management 13:6. doi.org/10.1186/s13021-018-0094-4

Yasmin Khan, Garvin J. Leung, Paul Belanger, Effie Gournis, David L. Buckeridge, Li Liu, Ye Li and Ian L. Johnson. 2018. Comparing Twitter data to routine data sources in public health surveillance for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games: an ecological study. Canadian Journal of Public Health. doi.org/10.17269/s41997-018-0059-0

Leonora King, Lucy MacKenzie, Marc Tadaki, Sara Cannon, Kiely McFarlane, David Reid and Michele Koppes. 2018. Diversity in geoscience: Participation, behaviour, and the division of scientific labour at a Canadian geoscience conference. Facets. doi.org/10.1139/facets-2017-0111

Other "Geographical" News

Women not getting a fair say at academic conferences: Women get fewer chances than men to speak about their work at scientific conferences, largely because those in the upper echelons of academia are male, research has revealed. While speaking at conferences is a key part of academic life, not only raising the profile of researchers but helping them to share ideas and find job and funding opportunities, the latest study confirms what many scientists have long suspected to be true: men are more likely to give a talk than women. "Women are concentrated in these student and early careers stages and there are just fewer speaking opportunities at those career stages," said Heather Ford, first author of the research. Writing in Nature Communications, Ford and colleagues examined the numbers of male and female scientists giving talks at the world's largest geophysical conference: the American Geophysical Union Fall meeting. The team scrutinised lists detailing short summaries of research submitted by scientists for meetings between 2014 and 2016. The team looked at whether the a scientist had been invited to provide an abstract, which often means the scientist will also be asked to give a talk, or whether instead the scientist had submitted an abstract and asked conference organisers to assign them either a talk or the chance to showcase their research with a poster of their results. The team also took note of the gender and career stage of the first author of the work – who is most likely to be giving the presentation – and, in the case of invited authors, who was issuing the invitations. The results reveal, overall, women spoke less than men, accounting for 29% of talks that had been assigned, and 27% of invited speakers. Indeed just over 41% of women who asked convenors to assign them either a talk or the chance to display a poster were asked to speak, compared to almost 45% of men. The Guardian

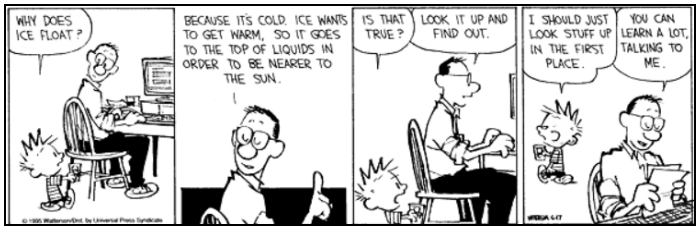
Potential gender bias against female researchers in peer review of research grants: Female health researchers who applied for grants from Canada's major health research funder were funded less often than male counterparts because of potential bias, and characteristics of peer reviewers can also affect the result, found a study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Applicants who had not been previously funded also received lower scores, making them less likely to be funded. Between 2012 and 2014, 11 624 applications were submitted to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) open operating grant competitions. Two-thirds (66%) of applicants were male and 69% were aged 40 years or older. Almost two-thirds of applications (64%) were in basic science, with the remainder from applied science (16.6% clinical, 8.1% health services and 11.3% in population health). The researchers also found that reviewer expertise influenced the application rating, as reviewers with high expertise rated previously successful applicants higher than less experienced applicants. "We found lower scores for applied science applications, gender inequities in application scores that favoured male applicants who had past funding success rates equivalent to female applicants, particularly in the applied sciences," write the authors. "Conflicts on the panel, male reviewers only, reviewers with all high expertise, and those whose own research was exclusively in the same scientific domain as the applicant's conferred positive benefits in application rating." They suggest that training of reviewers, policy change and monitoring may help address these biases. McGill | Channels

For 50 years, deep-water trawls likely caught more fish than anyone thought: But recent research suggests that millions of tons of fish caught in deep-water trawl nets have gone unreported in the last 50 years. FAO data shows that deep-sea bottom trawls — fishing 1,300 feet below the ocean's surface and deeper — caught 14 million tons of fish between 1950 and 2015. Meanwhile, during the same time period, reconstructed data shows "an estimated 25 million tons of fish that were extracted, but not included in any of the fisheries statistics," says Maria Palomares, a researcher at Sea Around Us, a research initiative at the University of British Columbia. That's almost double the amount actually reported. NPR

As Seattle struggles with bike lanes, Vancouver, B.C., has won the battle: Seattle bike advocates gaze longingly at Vancouver. In Seattle, every bike lane, whether it's just a painted white line or a fully separated, landscaped bikeway, seems to be fought tooth and nail, in a never-ending battle over precious street space. North of the border, the battle has, if not disappeared, at least faded. Former foes have become allies. In less than a decade the city has stitched together a network of bike lanes, mostly separate from traffic, that lets cyclists navigate downtown and beyond without going shoulder-to-shoulder with cars. Downtown Vancouver is peppered with interconnected bike infrastructure. Bike lanes aren't painted or marked with pylons; they're separated from traffic with planter boxes or other solid dividers. There are bright-green crossings, special bike traffic signals, turn restrictions for cars and all manner of textured pavement, sidewalk bulbs and signage. Bike trips have steadily increased, while driving has decreased. More than 10 percent of commutes are now made by bicycle in Vancouver, an increase of 60 percent over 2013, according to city data. The Seattle Times

How citizen scientists are helping to protect migratory birds: Hundreds of migratory bird species arrive in Canada each spring. They come from all over the world, and nany of them are endangered. How can researchers collect enough information about migratory birds to effectively plan continental-scale conservation? We use the largest biodiversity-related "citizen science" project in the world. It all started with a simple idea: there are millions of individual birdwatchers across the world, each with unique knowledge and experience. They make exactly the kind of observations that researchers need to understand where migratory songbirds live and move. But without a way to harness all their observations, the information can't be used to study or conserve birds. There needed to be a simple, free way for birders to collect, archive, and publicly share the information they were collecting. Enter "eBird," developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Canadian Geographic

Some Not So "Geographical" News



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