



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Memorial University PhD candidate Monica Engel examines Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans' attitude to ocean:** With bleak reports of fish stocks, and underwater footage from around the province's coast showing a littered ocean floor, one woman's research is particularly timely. [Monica Engel](#)'s "People and Ocean" study of marine values asks, do we care about the ocean as we care about the land? "Historically, people here, I believe, have a deeper connection with the sea because people here depend on the sea for transportation, for food, for income, for recreation, for spiritual reasons," Engel says. "So, I think it's a special place to start this kind of research, to see how people who live on a small island in the ocean that depends so deeply on the ocean, how do we relate to the ocean here? "We have the history of fish collapse as well, and seal hunting, which around the world is a big thing, is a controversial thing, so I believe that we can learn a lot from Newfoundland and from Newfoundlanders especially." Engel's research is receiving national attention, even perking the ears of *National Geographic*, which just last month awarded her its competitive [Early Career Research Grant](#), which gives funds to scientists in the early stages of their career. Moreover, according to the National Geographic website, the grant "focuses on learning more about who we are and what our future will be on this planet." Brazilian-born Engel is a biologist, but is currently completing her PhD studies in the human dimensions field of geography at Memorial University. Engel says further understanding of the human-sea relationship is required to guarantee the sustainability of coastal communities and the ocean. "Without a full understanding of individual and collective behaviours, efforts to conserve the marine biodiversity are likely to fail, as people ultimately hold responsibility for both the causes and solutions to environmental problems." The National Geographic grant will help pay for Engel's research, which involves travelling from Bonavista to Fogo and communities in between, as well as some places on the Avalon Peninsula, asking people of all backgrounds about their relationship with the sea. "We can see that there is a decline not only in fish, but in all marine biodiversity as a whole, and everything is changing — climate change, and so on," says Engel. "Do we care? How do we care? And when you talk about care, it reflects not only our values, but our moral beliefs and our sense of responsibility." Engel's goal is to have a better understanding of how people relate to the ocean. She says this information would be a valuable consideration for future ocean management strategies and policies, and she hopes the government pays attention to the outcomes of her research. Engel passionately speaks about her desire to "tell the story of people and ocean here in Newfoundland" and says the project is not for herself, but rather "to do something meaningful." [The Telegram](#)

**McMaster's U's Sang-Tae Kim and Henry Schwarcz find Green Sahara allowed for ancient human movement – three different times:** The Sahara Desert has long been considered a forbidding and impenetrable barrier to human migration from southern Africa, but new evidence suggests there were three brief intervals of time when it transformed into a vast green savannah which provided the ideal conditions for the early movement of ancient humans. According to Sang-Tae Kim and Henry Schwarcz, both from McMaster's School of Geography & Earth Sciences, with Mohammed El-Shenawy, an assistant professor at Beni Suef University, one of those intervals coincides precisely with the age of the oldest known remains of modern humans—roughly 315,000 yrs ago. The findings help to explain how humans emerged from southern Africa and eventually travelled to Asia and the rest of the world. They studied a stalagmite from a cave in Egypt and found geochemical evidence of changes in climate in the past that caused rain to fall on this now arid region that match a part of the earth's past history when glaciers had retreated from the northern continents. "This study ties together many earlier indications that the Sahara had periodically turned green and shows how these events were connected to global cycles of climate change," says Schwarcz. One of these periods, dating back 335,000 years ago, match closely with dates for the Moroccan site. The two other 'green' periods were also found to coincide in time with periods of archaeological change in the Middle East. [McMaster U News](#)

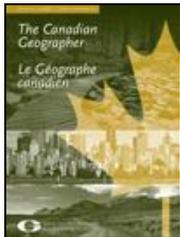
**U Toronto's Deborah Cowan co-authors a op-ed arguing against the Trans Mountain project:** Kinder Morgan is nothing less than reconciliation on trial. The company's recent claims to the "untenable" economics of the Trans Mountain pipeline may derail the project for now, but there will be other pipelines, and the problem of jurisdiction will not go away. Today, Justin Trudeau fights tirelessly to assert national jurisdiction to see the planned pipeline to completion. In the face of extraordinary Indigenous resistance to the Trans Mountain project, and without a trace of the tears that fell for reconciliation, Trudeau asserts that this infrastructure is "in the national interest and it will get built." Those who work in the construction sector rely on this "colonial infrastructure" to survive. But these jobs are short-lived and pit the vulnerability of resource sector workers against Indigenous peoples in a tradition of Canadian economic policy that fails to reconcile profit with ecological integrity and respect for Indigenous governance over their lands, territories, and resources. One of the more creative efforts to stop the pipeline unfolds in the Secwepemc's Tiny House Warriors: Our Land is Home project. Building on long histories of resistance, land and water defenders are constructing tiny houses and placing them along the pipeline route on their territory, "to assert Secwepemc Law and jurisdiction and block access to this pipeline." Here we see precisely the refusal of settler colonial infrastructures, but also the realization of Indigenous sovereign acts of jurisdiction. Will Canada cling to this 150-plus-year-old strategy of asserting jurisdiction over Indigenous lands through the making of infrastructure, or will we honour the promises of reconciliation and shared decision-making? The time for real reparations is at hand. [Toronto Star](#)

**U Toronto's Paul Hess comments on methods cities can use to prevent use of vehicles as weapons of mass killings:** Some security experts have said that vehicle attacks are an unpreventable form of terrorism. Others are looking for ways to stop further attacks. Paul Hess, an associate professor of geography and planning at the University of Toronto, says there are several methods cities can use to prevent these attacks, and in some cases, bigger cities are already doing them. These include putting up bollards or other barriers in areas with many pedestrians, and using large vehicles like garbage or fire trucks to block access to areas that experience heavy temporarily heavy pedestrian traffic. Hess said that the latter occurred in Toronto the day of the attack near the Rogers Centre, as the Leafs took on the Bruins. Hess pointed out that urban planners are mostly focused on making cyclists and pedestrians safer from average drivers. "The main thing is to try create barriers between vehicles and pedestrians," said Hess. "You probably can't protect every street, it would take more time and money than we have." If someone is truly determined to carry out an attack, he added, only so much can be done to stop them. [Vice](#)

**U Saskatchewan alumnus Adam Csank named by National Geographic as Geography Steward for Nevada:** "I guess part of [the reason] why I got into this field of study in the first place was having a subscription to National Geographic when I was a kid," University Associate Professor of Geography [Adam Csank](#) said. Now, Csank is the [National Geographic Geography Steward](#) for the state of Nevada, a prospect that will usher in new geography opportunities to teach and inspire students throughout Nevada. After completing his bachelors in earth sciences at Dalhousie University, he went on to do a Master of Science at the University of Saskatchewan. Ultimately drawn to the geography program at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Geography Steward will encourage students toward geography interests before college by providing a connection between National Geographic Explorers and Nevada classrooms. Explorers could be geographers, scientists or other academics, such as the University's Zeb Hogan, a research assistant professor in the College of Science, who also partners with National Geographic documenting his travels and research on the Nat Geo Wild television show, Monster Fish. Hogan is also a National Geographic Explorer and Fellow. In his role as Steward, Csank will be working on starting a state advisory standard for geography curriculum as well as organizing a statewide geography trivia contest, where the winner gets to travel to Washington, D.C. He will also help teachers have access to National Geographic online tools to teach and inspire students in the class. "Dr. Csank's appointment as the National Geographic Nevada Geography Steward is a critical step forward for K-12 geography education opportunities in the state of Nevada," Chair of the Department of Geography Jill Heaton said. "Currently, geography is only taught as part of the social sciences curriculum in K-12 in Nevada, but this is just half of what geographers do." [NevadaToday](#)

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



Melissa Marschke, Courtney Kehoe and Peter Vandergeest. 2018. [Migrant worker experiences in Atlantic Canadian fish processing plants](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. doi.org/10.1111/cag.12466

Low-skilled migrant workers provide an important labour source in Atlantic Canada's seafood industry. This research unpacks the experiences of 22 workers from Thailand and the Philippines working in one Atlantic Canadian seafood processing company. We pay particular attention to migration routes, labour conditions, and worker mobility, along with worker reflections on their experiences landing a Canadian job. We also consider the perceptions of migrant workers among company staff. We argue that despite the various unfreedoms associated with migrant worker programs, migrant workers in this particular facility have demonstrated agency in negotiating the program to their advantages. The success of the workers, however, is contingent on a conjuncture of elements that are not necessarily found elsewhere in the seafood processing industry. Worker experiences, both with other Canadian employers and elsewhere, offer a stark contrast to their current situation: migrant workers often experience significant unfreedoms to gain relatively free working conditions.

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Alina Ristea, Martin A. Andresen and Michael Leitner. 2018. [Using tweets to understand changes in the spatial crime distribution for hockey events in Vancouver](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. doi.org/10.1111/cag.12463

The use of social media data for the spatial analysis of crime patterns during social events has proven to be instructive. This study analyzes the geography of crime considering hockey game days, criminal behaviour, and Twitter activity. Specifically, we consider the relationship between geolocated crime-related Twitter activity and crime. We analyze six property crime types that are aggregated to the dissemination area base unit in Vancouver, for two hockey seasons through a game and non-game temporal resolution. Using the same method, geolocated Twitter messages and environmental variables are aggregated to dissemination areas. We employ spatial clustering, dictionary-based mining for tweets, spatial autocorrelation, and global and local regression models (spatial lag and geographically weighted regression). Findings show an important influence of Twitter data for theft-from-vehicle and mischief, mostly on hockey game days. Relationships from the geographically weighted regression models indicate that tweets are a valuable independent variable that can be used in explaining and understanding crime patterns.

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### 2018 Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) Annual Meeting

The Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting. September 28-30, 2018 at Lakeview Hecla Resort, Hecla, Manitoba. [U Saskatchewan News & Events](#)

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#### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Janine A. Baijnath-Rodino, Claude R. Duguay and Ellsworth LeDrew. 2018. [Climatological trends of snowfall over the Laurentian Great Lakes Basin](#). International Journal of Climatology. doi.org/10.1002/joc.5546

Joannie Beaulne, Gabriel Magnan and Michelle Garneau. 2018. [Evaluating the potential of testate amoebae as indicators of hydrological conditions in boreal forested peatlands](#). Ecological Indicators 91:386–394.

Edward A. Cloutis, Vishnu Reddy and David T. Blewett. 2018. [The ungrouped achondrite Northwest Africa \(NWA\) 7325: Spectral reflectance properties and implications for parent body identification](#). Icarus. doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2018.04.027

Amy DeLorenzo, Kate Parizeau and Mike von Massow. 2018. [Regulating Ontario's circular economy through food waste legislation](#). Society and Business Review. doi.org/10.1108/SBR-12-2017-0115

Dasvinder Kambo and Ryan K. Danby. 2018. [Factors influencing the establishment and growth of tree seedlings at Subarctic alpine treelines](#). Ecosphere 9(4):e02176.10.1002/ecs2.2176

Michael J. Grilliot, Ian J. Walker and Bernard O. Bauer. 2018. [Airflow dynamics over a beach and foredune system with large woody debris](#). Geosciences 8:147. DOI:10.3390/geosciences8050147

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Jed Long, Colin Robertson and Trisalyn Nelson. 2018. [stamp: Spatial-temporal analysis of moving polygons in R](#). Journal of Statistical Software 84. doi: 10.18637/jss.v084.c01

Orly Linovski. 2018. [Shifting agendas: Private consultants and public planning policy](#). Urban Affairs Review. doi.org/10.1177/1078087417752475

Eun G. Park, Gordon Burr, Victoria Slonosky, Renee Sieber and Lori Podolsky. 2018. [Data rescue archive weather \(DRAW\): Preserving the complexity of historical climate data](#). Journal of Documentation. doi.org/10.1108/JD-10-2017-0150

Sarah Peirce, Peter Ashmore and Pauline Leduc. 2018. [The variability in the morphological active width: Results from physical models of gravel-bed braided rivers](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. doi.org/10.1002/esp.4400

Brittney L Roughan, Lisa Kellman, Erin Smith and Gail L Chmura. 2018. [Nitrous oxide emissions could reduce the blue carbon value of marshes on eutrophic estuaries](#). Environmental Research Letters 13. doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aab63c

H.M. Tuihedur Rahmana, Brian E. Robinson, James D. Ford and Gordon M. Hickey. 2018. [How do capital asset interactions affect livelihood sensitivity to climatic stresses? Insights from the northeastern floodplains of Bangladesh](#). Ecological Economics 150:165–176.

Linda Westman and Vanesa Castán Broto. 2018. [Climate governance through partnerships: A study of 150 urban initiatives in China](#). Global Environmental Change 50:212–221.

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## Other “Geographical” News

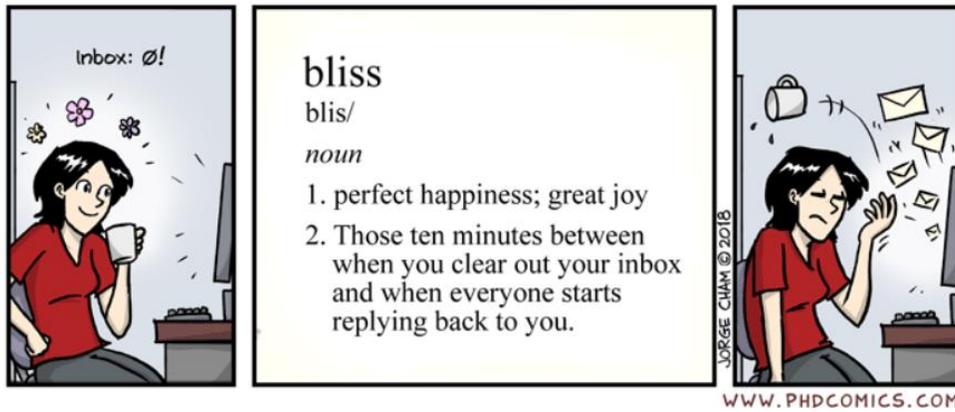
**Discovery of map made by Native American reshaping thinking about the Lewis & Clark expedition:** An important historical map drawn by a Native American leader for Meriwether Lewis and William Clark was recently discovered in the Bibliotheque Nationale de France. “Monumental doesn’t fully cover the importance of this discovery,” says historian Clay Jenkinson. Discovered by a University of New Mexico graduate student who was working on Native American cartography, the map was drawn by an Arikara leader named Too Né, whom Lewis and Clark met on October 8, 1804. “This map deepens our understanding of how dependent Lewis and Clark were on Native American geographers,” says Jenkinson. “We tend to think that they were traveling blind into terra incognita. That is simply not true. Too Né’s map proves that individuals like Too Né were as important to the success of the expedition as, say, Sacagawea.” [History News Network](#)

### **Our home on Native-Land.ca: website lets users explore Indigenous ancestral territories:**

A website attempting to outline the boundaries of Indigenous ancestral territories in North America, and the world over, could become a valuable educational resource, says its self-described “settler” web developer. Vancouver-based web freelancer Victor Temprano says his interactive mapping website [Native-Land.ca](#) is his “dearest” project. He’s logged thousands of hours developing it, and says he’s working to turn it into an Indigenous-led non-for-profit organization and educational tool. “The site wasn’t built so Indigenous people know their territories better — they know them plenty well,” said Temprano, who described himself as a settler in Canada. “A lot of settlers are not really aware of the situation with the land, and a lot of people are vaguely interested in it, but there aren’t many resources to explore it. I’m really happy to see that it’s becoming useful to Indigenous Peoples themselves.” [CBCNews | Indigenous](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](#)  
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>  
@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>

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