



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McMaster U's Richard Harris looks at gentrification, what it is, what causes it and what it all means for Hamilton: Back in the mid-1970s, when I was a young and impressionable graduate student, I decided that I was going to study a topic that was just beginning to attract attention: gentrification. When I proposed this to my academic supervisor he asked "Is that a word? I mean, do people say that?" With my fingers crossed, I assured him that they did. Today, no one would ask that question. It is the subject of a minor academic industry. Even in Hamilton, it seems, everyone is talking about it, and plenty of them reckon it's a problem. A big problem. Is that true? Different people will give you different answers. In fact, they will even use a different language. There are those who talk about gentrification, and there are others who speak about renewal and revitalization. They are talking about the same thing, or at least different aspects of the same process: upgraded homes and stores, new businesses, rising prices, and higher tax revenues. But the labels matter. In Hamilton we know all about the importance of language. We used to be Steel City, a brand that didn't sell well in Toronto. More recently we became the City of Waterfalls, which sold better but created its own problems. And for some, including some gentrifiers in the Lower City, we became the Hammer: gritty, resilient, and authentic. Like all of those words, 'gentrification' has its own connotations, mostly bad. It would be difficult to find any published commentary about gentrification which doesn't mention the 'd' word. But how big an issue is displacement? The short answer is: we really have no idea. And that is true for any city, not just Hamilton. [Hamilton Spectator \(April 14\)](#).

Hamilton and Toronto used to be separate, physically and psychically. They looked down on us; we raised a finger. Slowly but surely this changed. Hamilton has always been the cheaper place to live. Suburban growth in Ancaster and Flamborough enabled people who worked on the west side of Toronto — from Mississauga through Burlington — to move here, save money, and commute. But in the last decade or so this trend became a thing. Hamilton has become part of what planners now talk about as the GTHA. [Hamilton Spectator \(April 21\)](#)

Gentrification in Hamilton poses challenges that the City can address. For example, as more lower-income households are pushed onto, or kept on, the Mountain, it can try to ensure that public transit and social services follow. But the gentrification of Hamilton, and with it the growth of income inequality, is something that no-one in Hamilton alone can prevent. At best, we can deal with the fallout. That may sound like a counsel of despair. It shouldn't. The important message is that if we hope to do anything useful about a problem we need to understand its causes. That goes for gentrification, and also for the militant opposition that it has aroused. [Hamilton Spectator \(April 28\)](#).

U Saskatchewan graduate Kevin Dunn lands one of the most coveted travel jobs in the province: the Saskatchewanderer: Like many university graduates, Kevin Dunn only had a vague notion of where his career path might lead him—he had no idea that his U of S degree in geography would help land him one of the most coveted travel jobs in the province: the Saskatchewanderer. “I knew I was interested in dealing with environment and human interactions, but I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do with it when I was finished,” said Dunn, who graduated five years ago from the U of S. “Many of the classes I took looked at the perspectives of urban and rural life, along with urban planning. There were ties with community development and Indigenous studies. And I knew this was something I wanted to explore, but wasn’t sure how.” After working for the City of Saskatoon for several years, Dunn set his sights on becoming the next ambassador for the province. And, much to his own surprise, he was accepted as the newest Saskatchewanderer, a position supported by the Government of Saskatchewan and other partners since 2011, to bring profile to the province. Now he gets paid to travel and meet people—a natural extension of his studies at the U of S. Each year, a different Saskatchewanderer is hired to travel throughout the province and record their journey. The previous wanderer logged 46,000 kilometres, and Dunn said he is excited to hit that same mark, especially given that he admittedly didn’t get to travel much when he was a student. “It took a year or two after convocation before I got to start exploring the province, and visit the destinations I had heard so much about,” said Dunn. “Diefenbaker Dam is so close to Saskatoon, and there is so much to see in-between here and there.” While the Saskatchewanderer position is limited to a year-long contract, Dunn hopes that the experience will help him transition into his next dream job. [U Saskatchewan News](#)

University of Toronto’s School of Cities to take urban research and collaboration to new height: University of Toronto researchers have started to look for ways to leverage the School of Cities to connect with colleagues across the university to approach urban issues from multiple angles. There are a number of School of Cities initiatives in the works that will help to make those connections. The School of Cities will also be a hub for U of T’s urban-focused scholars to collaborate and add new dimensions to their current research. Matti Siemiatycki, an associate professor in the department of geography & planning in the Faculty of Arts & Science, is researching buildings that have multiple uses – public and private. They include a building currently under construction that integrates a women and children’s homeless shelter with a condo building and Maple Leaf Gardens, which houses an athletic centre and a grocery store. “Folks who understand the architecture side of this can provide insight on how in the future we might design these buildings differently, people from the business school can help with the economics of these types of arrangements,” he says. “People in engineering, public health and medicine who have extensive experience in implementation studies can try to evaluate, work and collaborate on how to understand the success of these types of initiatives.” These collaborative research projects will explore urban issues within Toronto and the wider GTA, utilizing the expertise of urban scholars at the downtown Toronto campus, as well as U of T Mississauga and U of T Scarborough. [University of Toronto News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Dawn Dietrich. 2018. [‘MAN’aging Nature: A Historical Feminist Political Ecology of Eastern Ontario’s Forests, 1849 – 2013](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Alice J. Hovorka.

Yaqiong Wang. 2018. [Statistical homogenization of undocumented monthly temperature data in British Columbia for trend analysis](#). MSc thesis. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. Supervisors: Francis Zwiers and David Atkinson.

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

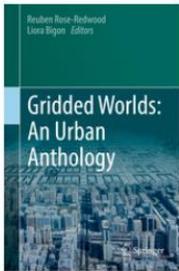


Anthony Piscitelli and Sean Doherty. 2018. [Connecting social disorganization to broken windows and routine activities](#). *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien*. doi.org/10.1111/cag.12468

Routine Activity Theory, Broken Windows Theory, and Social Disorganization Theory each attempt to explain the spatial distribution of neighbourhood crime. This paper explores how these theories relate to neighbourhood crime. A concept map integrating key concepts from the theories comprehensively describes the causes of neighbourhood crime. In particular, the map highlights the concept of Ecological (Dis)advantage as a key link between Routine Activity Theory and Social Disorganization Theory. Combining these theories explains more about the causes of neighbourhood crime than any one individual theory acting alone.

New Book

Reuben Rose-Redwood and Liora Bigon (Editors). 2018. [Gridded Worlds: An Urban Anthology](#). Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-76489-4. ISBN 978-3-319-76490-0 (eBook)



This book is the first edited collection to bring together classic and contemporary writings on the urban grid in a single volume. The contributions showcased in this book examine the spatial histories of the grid from multiple perspectives in a variety of urban contexts. They explore the grid as both an indigenous urban form and a colonial imposition, a symbol of Confucian ideals and a spatial manifestation of the Protestant ethic, a replicable model for real estate speculation within capitalist societies and a spatial framework for the design of socialist cities. By examining the entangled histories of the grid, *Gridded Worlds* considers the variegated associations of gridded urban space with different political ideologies, economic systems, and cosmological orientations in comparative historical perspective. In doing so, this interdisciplinary anthology seeks to inspire new avenues of research on the past, present, and future of the gridded worlds of urban life.

Gridded Worlds is primarily tailored to scholars working in the fields of urban history, world history, urban historical geography, architectural history, urban design, and the history of urban planning, and it will also be of interest to art historians, area studies scholars, and the urban studies community more generally.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Catherine M. DuBreck, Richard C. Sadler, Godwin Arku and Jason A. Gillilanda. 2018. [Examining community and consumer food environments for children: An urban-suburban-rural comparison in Southwestern Ontario](#). *Social Science & Medicine*. doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.05.004

Colleen A. Haddad, Stephen F. Cross, Hailey L. Davies, Stefanie D. Duff, Angela C. Fortune and Christopher M. Pearce. 2018. [Assessing natural substrates for restricting movement of California sea cucumbers \(*Parastichopus californicus*\)](#). *North American Journal of Aquaculture*.

Hung Chak Ho, Anders Knudby, Guangqing Chi, Mehdi Aminipouri and Derrick Yuk-Fo Lai. 2018. [Spatiotemporal analysis of regional socio-economic vulnerability change associated with heat risks in Canada](#). *Applied Geography* 95:61–70.

Michael Lait. 2018. [The paradox of nature and second homes: A case study of the eco-social impacts of an elite cottage community in Gatineau Park, Québec](#). *Annals of Leisure Research* 21:302-323.

Justina C. Ray, Lucy G. Poley, Audrey J. Magoun, Cheryl-Lesley B. Chetkiewicz, F. Meg Southee, F. Neil Dawson and Chris Chenier. 2018. [Modelling broad-scale wolverine occupancy in a remote boreal region using multi-year aerial survey data](#). *Journal of Biogeography*. doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13240

Reuben Rose-Redwood. 2018. [Genealogies of the grid: revisiting Stanislawski's search for the origin of the grid-pattern town](#). In: Rose-Redwood R., Bigon L. (eds) *Gridded Worlds: An Urban Anthology*. Springer, Cham. 37-54.

Jeremy Snyder, Leigh Turner and Valorie A. Crooks. 2018. [Crowdfunding for unproven stem cell-based interventions](#). *JAMA* 319:1935-1936. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.3057

David Swanlund and Nadine Schuurman. 2018. [Resisting geosurveillance. A survey of tactics and strategies for spatial privacy](#). *Progress in Human Geography*. doi.org/10.1177/0309132518772661

Maddy Thompson and Margaret Walton-Roberts. 2018. [International nurse migration from India and the Philippines: the challenge of meeting the sustainable development goals in training, orderly migration, and healthcare worker retention](#). *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456748

Taiyang Zhong, Zhenzhong Si, Jonathan Crush, Zhiying Xu, Xianjin Huang, Steffanie Scott, Shuangshuang Tang and Xiang Zhang. 2018. [The impact of proximity to wet markets and supermarkets on household dietary diversity in Nanjing City, China](#). *Sustainability, MDPI, Open Access Journal* 10(5):1-18.

Other “Geographical” News

Global tourism carbon footprint quantified in world first: The world's tourism footprint has been quantified across the supply chain, with the carbon-intensive industry revealed as a significant and growing contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Small islands attract a disproportionate share of GHG emissions per capita, through international arrivals, while the US is responsible for the majority of tourism-generated emissions overall. The research fills a gap noted by United Nations bodies and notes that carbon-intensive air-travel is not included in international climate commitments. [ScienceDaily](#)

Montreal, one of the ten best cities in the world to be a student in 2018: What's your ideal city to study in? University experts QS have released their annual student cities rankings, based on criteria including affordability, student experience, job prospects and friendliness to international students. [The Guardian](#)

More institutions consider ending their 'big deals' with publishers: In recent years, there has been an uptick in the number of reports of libraries dropping their bundled journal deals with big publishers, which can cost upward of \$1 million annually. Rather than subscribing to a large volume of journals in a publisher's collection, often at a substantial discount off the individual list price, some institutions are choosing to pay only for the journals they determine they need the most. [Inside Higher ED](#)

Climate change threatens Marine Protected Areas: New research found that most marine life in Marine Protected Areas will not be able to tolerate warming ocean temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions. The study found that with continued 'business-as-usual' emissions, the protections currently in place won't matter, because by 2100, warming and reduced oxygen concentration will make Marine Protected Areas uninhabitable by most species currently residing in those areas. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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