



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Simon Fraser U's Jeremy Venditti on why this year's flood conditions in British Columbia aren't unusual: The widespread flooding in British Columbia that has threatened communities from the Interior to the Vancouver region is the result of a worst-case scenario of a snowy winter followed by a hot, wet spring, experts say. And while very little can be done to prevent such flooding, they say this year's floods underscore the need to better prepare for such natural disasters. While emergency officials have described this year's flood conditions as the worst in decades, Jeremy Venditti, the director of environmental science at Simon Fraser University, said what's happening actually isn't that unusual. "This happens every year," Dr. Venditti said, referring to the spring runoff. "The flooding this year is typical." What isn't typical is the rate at which the snow is melting. Dr. Venditti said spring temperatures usually fluctuate, with hot periods broken up by chilly weather. This steady increase in temperatures usual leads to a gradual – and manageable – trickling of snow melt into river systems. He said the difference this year is that B.C. has seen a prolonged period of hot weather. Although high temperatures are to blame, Dr. Venditti urges people to exercise caution when making parallels between the current floods and climate change. "There's been a lot of people drawing a link between climate change and what's happening this year," he said. "[Scientists] are looking at that and saying, 'that's not right, that's not correct. This could be related to climate change, but it's going to take a while before we actually know.'" [Globe and Mail](#)

Simon Fraser U's mapit.space team win first place in the 2018 Esri Canada App Challenge competition: Alysha van Duynhoven (Computing Science), Anthony Lee (Geography) and Chris Yee (Geography) won the first place in the Esri Canada GIS Centers of Excellence (ECCE) in GIS 2018 App Challenge. During the week-long competition, teams combined geographic information systems (GIS) skills with computer programming, software tools, geospatial analysis and data handling to develop innovative spatial solutions to selected societal problems. The three students are enrolled in the Spatial Information Systems (SIS) Certificate program in the Department of Geography. The mapit.space team designed and developed GoElectric as [an interactive geospatial online GeoApp](#) that compares savings in terms of fuel costs and carbon emissions for typical travel routes of a select set of electric and conventional vehicles for the City of Vancouver as the study area of focus and with publicly available data. The mapit.space team was coordinated by SFU's Esri Canada Centre of Excellence (ECCE) in GIS within the Faculty of Environment and Geography Department, and managed by Suzana Dragicevic and Shiv Balram. As winners of the competition, the mapit.space team members will each receive a fully-paid trip to the July 2018 Esri International User Conference in San Diego, USA. [SFU Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Daniel Banoub. 2018. [Buying vitamins: Newfoundland cod liver oil and the real subsumption of nature, 1919–1939](#). *Geoforum* 92:1-8.
- Ratana Chuenpagdee and Svein Jentoft. 2018. [Transforming the governance of small-scale fisheries](#). *Marine Studies*. doi.org/10.1007/s40152-018-0087-7
- Tim P. Duval. 2018. [Effect of residential development on stream phosphorus dynamics in headwater suburbanizing watersheds of southern Ontario, Canada](#). *Science of The Total Environment* 637–638:1241–1251.
- Kieran M. Findlater, Terre Satterfield, Milind Kandlikar and Simon D. Donner. 2018. [Six languages for a risky climate: how farmers react to weather and climate change](#). *Climatic Change*. doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2217-z
- Hung Chak Ho, Anders Knudby, Guangqing Chi, Mehdi Aminipouri and Derrick Yuk-FoLai. 2018. [Spatiotemporal analysis of regional socio-economic vulnerability change associated with heat risks in Canada](#). *Applied Geography* 95:61-70.
- Alice J. Hovorka. 2018. [Animal geographies III. Species relations of power](#). *Progress in Human Geography*. doi.org/10.1177/0309132518775837
- Nia King, Rachael Vriezen, Victoria L. Edge, James Ford, Michele Wood, IHACC Research Team, Rigolet Inuit Community Government and Sherilee Harper. 2018. [The hidden costs: Identification of indirect costs associated with acute gastrointestinal illness in an Inuit community](#). *PLOS|One*. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196990
- Kelly McLean, Micheal Stone, Ian G. Droppo and Ralph Smith. 2018. [Erodibility and transport behavior of dreissenid mussel deposits in an annular flume](#). *Journal of Soils and Sediments*. doi.org/10.1007/s1136
- Nicholas J. Roberts, René W. Barendregt and John J. Clague. 2018. [Pliocene and Pleistocene chronostratigraphy of continental sediments underlying the Altiplano at La Paz, Bolivia](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 189:105-126.
- Nicholas J. Roberts, René W. Barendregt and John J. Clague. 2018. [Lithostratigraphic and magnetostratigraphic data from late Cenozoic glacial and proglacial sequences underlying the Altiplano at La Paz, Bolivia](#). *Data in Brief*. doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.05.038
- Krystelle Shaughnessy, Rebeca Reyes, Ketan Shankardass, Martin Sykora, Rob Feick, Haydn Lawrence and Colin Robertson. 2018. [Using geolocated social media for ecological momentary assessments of emotion: Innovative opportunities in psychology science and practice](#). *Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne* 59:47-53.
- Xiuying Zhang, Wuting Zhang, Xuehe Lu, Xuejun Liu, Dongmei Chen, Lei Liu and Xianjin Huang. 2018. [Long-term trends in NO₂ columns related to economic developments and air quality policies from 1997 to 2016 in China](#). *Science of The Total Environment* 639:146–155.
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U British Columbia's David Ley comments on how trading tax info with China will allow Canada to monitor tax evasion among foreign-property owners. [Globe and Mail](#).

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Monica Allaby. 2018. [Growing pains: The relationships between commercial rooftop greenhouses and small-scale organic farms in Montreal, Quebec](#). BA Honours thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisors: Graham MacDonald and Sarah Turner.

Dorothy Frances Heinrich. 2018. [Science and Good Manners– investigating the integration and value placed on Inuit traditional ecological knowledge within Qallunaat scientific enquiry](#). BA Honours thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: George Wenzel.

Madeleine Hykes. 2018. [Youth perspectives: Navigating and negotiation top-down urban change in Hanoi, Vietnam](#). BA Honours thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Sarah Turner.

Hannah Ker. 2018. [The legibility of Montreal's urban landscapes through Google Street View](#). BA Honours thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisors: Raja Sengupta and Renee Sieber.

Hannah Rebentisch. 2018. [A policy and spatial analysis of vision zero: Process and equity in three U.S. cities](#). Supervisors: Kevin Manaugh.

Brian Toy. 2018. [An exploration of middle class dynamics in Canadian cities](#). BA Honours thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Sébastien Breau.

Other “Geographical” News

Scientists should be solving problems, not struggling to access journals: At any given moment, 10 million academic researchers around the world are working to push the boundaries of human knowledge. You would think they have access to the best available tools to help them in their quest for knowledge. In reality the opposite is often true: the research tools at our disposal are so substandard that we are forced to use unofficial and often illegal alternatives. Most research journeys begin with a literature review, consulting hundreds of journal articles, analysing the data within, and formulating a hypothesis to test in the lab. [The Guardian](#)

Climate change broadens threat of emerald ash borer: More Canadian cities will experience damage from the emerald ash borer than previously thought. So far, the wood-boring beetle has wiped out tens of millions of ash trees and will likely cost municipalities \$2 billion. Still, everyone expected the species' rapid migration would be stopped by Canada's extremely cold temperatures. As a result of climate change and fewer days of extreme cold, the beetle may eat its way further north than originally estimated. [ScienceDaily](#)

Why few things upset Calgarians more than change in their neighbourhood: Calgarians have a lot of complicated feelings bound up with our notions of dwellings. Some of these extend from our self-mythologizing about the Alberta way; others contradict it entirely. Who lives where and how is a fraught concept, at once simple and complex, fundamental and frivolous, nobody else's business yet irretrievably tangled in our social framework. It touches on divisive issues, some of which we'd rather not talk about. It informs our sense of ourselves — and of others. Housing and its adjacent questions are often among the third rails of our public discourse. From secondary suites and alternative housing to infills and fear of change, we have no shortage of tension in our city around the questions of housing. [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

Most institutions say they value teaching. But how they assess it tells a different story:

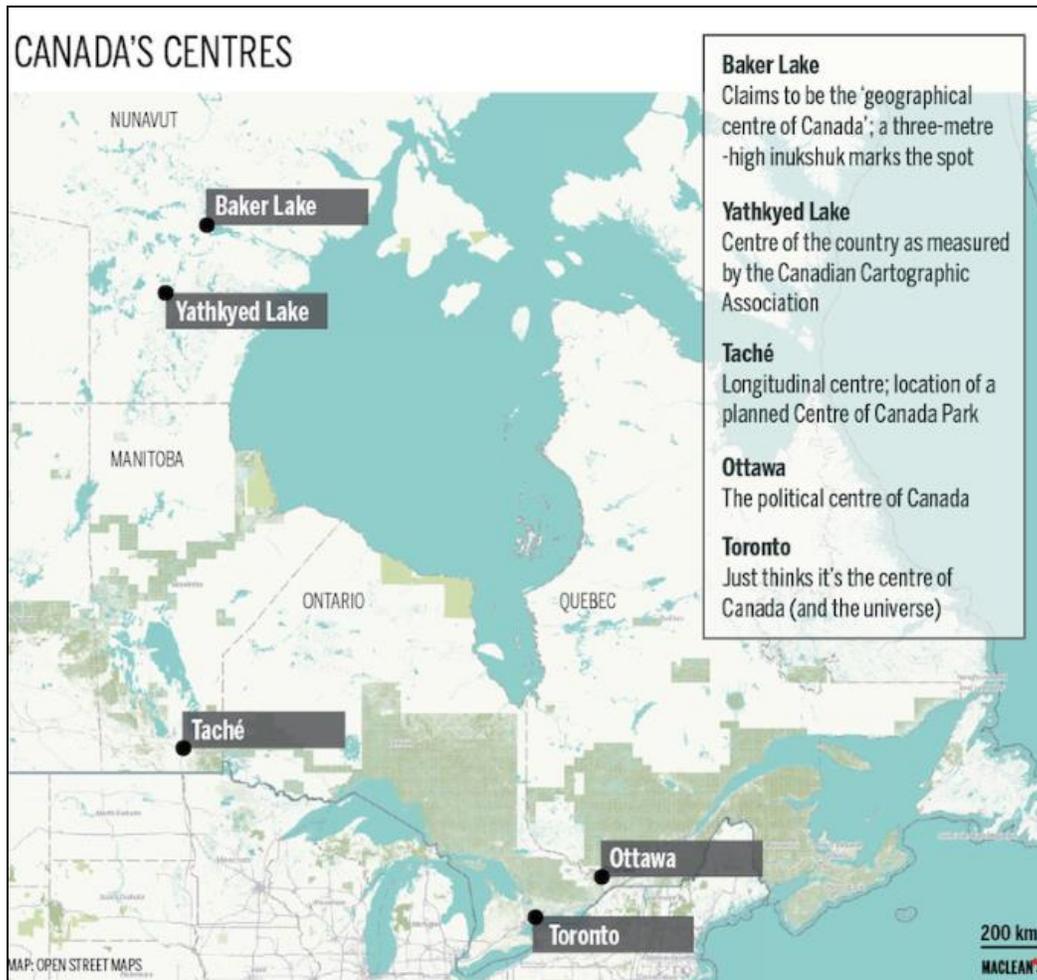
Research is reviewed in a rigorous manner, by expert peers. Yet teaching is often reviewed only or mostly by pedagogical non-experts: students. There's also mounting evidence of bias in student evaluations of teaching, or SETs -- against female and minority instructors in particular. And teacher ratings aren't necessarily correlated with learning outcomes. All that was enough for the University of Southern California to do away with SETs in tenure and promotion decisions this spring. Students will still evaluate their professors, with some adjustments -- including a new focus on students' own engagement in a course. But those ratings will not be used in high-stakes personnel decisions. [Inside Higher ED](#)

People who live in small towns and rural areas are happier than everyone else: Heaven is wide open spaces — at least, it is for most people, according to a massive new data set of happiness in Canada. A team of happiness researchers at the Vancouver School of Economics and McGill University recently published a working paper on the geography of well-being in Canada. They compiled 400,000 responses to a pair of national Canadian surveys, allowing them to parse out distinctions in well-being at the level of more than 1,200 communities representing the country's entire geography. [McGill Channels](#)

B.C. drone schools expect surge in enrolment with proposed law changes: Drone schools in B.C. are expecting to see an increase in enrolment as the federal government prepares to unveil new laws governing drone flights later this year. Drones are a hot market in the province, where everyone from realtors to wedding video companies are looking for people to capture picturesque, sweeping aerial shots. According to Transport Canada, the proposed rules will divide drone users into categories based on the size of the aircraft, and where they plan to fly their drones. The rules will also require commercial users to take knowledge tests with the agency in order to receive permits, which would allow them do things like fly over crowds of people and near buildings—both of which are currently illegal in Canada without site-specific permission. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

Surtax on \$3-million homes doesn't go far enough, argues UBC prof: As the debate over a tax increase for homes worth over \$3 million continues to rage in Vancouver's Westside neighbourhoods, a lobby group for young people is arguing Canada should go further in taxing property wealth while reducing income taxes. Paul Kershaw, a UBC professor and founder of Generation Squeeze, has launched a campaign calling for a "tax shift" from incomes to property wealth. He argues the \$3-million threshold is actually too high; instead, he says, a one per cent surtax should be charged on all homes valued above \$1 million, meaning the owner of a \$1.25 million home would pay an extra \$2,500 a year. That new tax could raise \$3 billion a year, money that could be used to cut income or sales taxes or spent on more social services, Kershaw argues. He calculates that the tax would apply to 20 per cent of B.C. homeowners. [The Star Vancouver](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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