

GEOGRAPHY AND TOURISM STUDIES

2018 ANNUAL REVIEW





Dear Reader,

In 2018, our Department saw changes in leadership, created new partnerships, participated in new events, and experienced exciting opportunities for growth and change. This newsletter is our opportunity to reflect on some of the great things that happened over the past year.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of our yearly review.

Wishing you all the best in 2019!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MICHAEL PISARIC, Professor and Department Chair

The Department of Geography at Brock University was established with the University in 1964. The Geography Department was one of the original units serving Brock's first cohort of 127 students. We have since grown in recent years to become the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies in 2016, bringing together two closely aligned units under a single academic umbrella. With that history, I was honoured that my fellow colleagues entrusted me with the opportunity to become the most recent Chair of the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies in July 2018. I was fortunate to take on the position of Chair following the successful term of my predecessor Dr. Christopher Fullerton. The Department of Geography and Tourism Studies owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Chris for his tireless work during his tenure as Chair. Most importantly, Chris navigated us through our merger, which is one of the most important milestones in our Department's history.

The 2018-2019 academic year continues to bring change and development within our Department. Important work by the Strategic Planning Committee will lead to the development of the first-ever Strategic Plan for the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, which will map our direction for the next five years. The Curriculum Committee is now embarking on a program of curriculum development that will see new concentrations in Geography and Tourism Studies added to our programs that will better align with societal demands. These new concentrations will also be more familiar to high school students that participate in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, especially those in the Environment, Hospitality and Tourism, and Information and Communications Technology streams. We are also in the process of developing a Minor in Geomatics that will be available to students across the University and a concentration in Spatial Analysis that will be available to our students in Geography and Tourism Studies. These new programs will provide exciting opportunities for growth within our Department.

Although there is a lot of "new" on the horizon within the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, our focus as a student-centred unit continues to shape who we are as a Department. The time and energy expended by all of the Faculty and staff in the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies on course and program development, student engagement, and creating an atmosphere of excellence and discovery for our students makes my position as Chair one of the most fulfilling and exciting periods of my academic career. New courses on the Canadian Census, Business Analytics for the Tourism Industry, Climate Change and Movement, Mobilities, and Environment, will offer further intellectual development for our students in 2019-2020. Some of these courses will provide our students with applied skills employers are seeking, while others will further inform our students about some of the most pressing environmental and social issues impacting people around the world. This is the aspect of Geography and Tourism Studies we should all be so proud to be a part of. We are applied skills development; we are thought-provoking; we are high-stakes, big-picture questions; we are critical thinking. We are all of these and more.

As we embark on the 55th year of Geography (and now Geography and Tourism Studies) at Brock University, I hope you will join all of the current faculty and staff members in celebrating the many accomplishments and developments that have occurred over the past year. Finally, as a Department, we are much more effective if we hear from you. It is our priority to make the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for everyone. Whether you are a current student or an alumnus, we would love to hear from you! You can contact me at mpisaric@brocku.ca.

All the best for 2019 and beyond!



MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

DAVID BUTZ, Professor and Graduate Program Director

In September 2018 the MA Program in Geography welcomed its 12th class of students: Philip Dwomo, Lisa Mercier, Nicholas Mindorff, Aaron Nartey, Lauren Peddle, Alex Perna, and Iris Yap. Philemon Coffie joined the cohort in January 2019. We have admitted 81 graduate masters students since the program launched in 2007; 47 have graduated, 13 left the program to pursue other challenges, and 21 are presently enrolled. It has been my pleasure to supervise 11 of these students, and teach more than 60 of them. I especially enjoyed teaching SP02 (a core methodology course) in Fall 2018, a course I last taught in 2011. As Graduate Program Director and course instructor I am lucky to be working with such an engaged, collegial and diligent group of graduate students.

Four students completed their degrees in 2018: Emmanuel Akowuah ("Farmers' Access to Agricultural Information and its Impact on Smallholder Agriculture: A Case Study of the Asante Akim North Municipality, Ghana," supervised by Dr. Chris Fullerton); Adam Fischer ("A Domestic Geography of Money: How Mortgage Debt, Home Prices and Toronto's condominiums 'Prop Up' the Canadian Economy," supervised by Dr. Phil Mackintosh); Marina Nikolovski ("Examining Governance, Risks and Human Rights of Water in Canada," supervised by Ebru Ustundag); and Daniel Amoak ("Combating Desertification in Semi-Arid Ghana: An Analysis of Rainfall Trends and Resilience in the Upper East Region," supervised by Dr. Tony Shaw). Daniel has the distinction of being the last student Dr. Shaw supervised before his recent retirement. Tony was a stalwart supporter of our MA program, who taught and supervised many students on a variety of topics; we will miss his important contributions. The program will also miss

Dr. Ebru Ustundag's thoughtful and compassionate oversight as Graduate Program Director. Ebru's three-year term ended in June 2018. Since then she has been a tremendous source of guidance to me as I attempt to fill her shoes, and of course she continues to supervise, teach and mentor in the program. Thank you, Ebru.

As a result of the recent merger between Geography and Tourism Management, the MA in Geography has four new affiliated faculty, who bring important additional areas of supervisory and teaching competence. We are happy to have these new colleagues aboard. One of them – Dr. David Brown – led off 2018/19's Geography MA Speakers Series, the first of eight Speaker Series presentations for this academic year. We have been running the series since 2009/2010, during which time faculty and students have welcomed approximately 60 guest speakers from within the university and beyond. This winter the series will feature four speakers; see the MA Geography Facebook page for details (@Brock Geography MA Program).

In the past year several students have gained recognition beyond the Department for the significance of their research and the quality of their writing. Stephanie Murray's research on American vandwellers was featured in the Toronto Star and the Hamilton Spectator, and Lauren Peddle's co-authored report (with Dr. Jeff Boggs) on Brock University's economic impacts gained much attention in The Brock News and among the wider Niagara community. Philip Dwomo, Senanu Kutor, Jerin Lubna, and Alex Perna received Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS) Student Research Awards. Emmanuel Akowuah won the FOSS Best Major Research Award, as well as the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Graduate Student Award. Jennica Giesbrecht was recipient of the FOSS Best Graduate Course Paper Award, an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and an American Association of Geographers conference paper award. Adam Fischer was awarded the Faculty of Graduate Studies Fall 2018 Distinguished Graduate Student Award. Students have presented their work at several conferences and workshops, including, for example, the Feminist Geographies In/During Troubled Times conference, and the annual conferences of the American Association of Geographers, the Canadian Association of Geographers, and the Canadian Association of Geographers Ontario Division.

2019 promises to be a busy and exciting year for the MA Program. At least seven students will complete their degrees in the coming term, and we are about to head into another admissions season. First-year students are busy with thesis or major paper proposals, and in a few months they will be heading to the field or library to immerse themselves in their research projects. Good luck to all our students, and thanks to students, faculty and staff for your continuing commitment to the success of the program.





IN THIS ISSUE

Brock News: Retiring cartographer celebrates 40 years at Brock.....	6
Tony Shaw retires	7
Kevin Turner promoted to associate professor.....	7
Student research.....	8
Brock News: Employees, students and research add up to Brock's significant impact on Niagara.....	9
Brock News: Event offers students insider tips on tourism industry.....	10
Master of arts in geography speaker series	11
Books and book chapters	12
Toronto Star: Policy-makers tune out Toronto's human roadkill.....	13
Brock News: Learning from Vancouver landscapes	14
Experiential learning.....	15
Graduate student awards.....	16
Toronto Star: Brock student studies why some people live on the road	17
New book builds bridge between mobility and social justice.....	18
2018 faculty and alumni research.....	19
Faculty awards	20
Brock hosts 'smart cities' discussion.....	21
Geography and Tourism Studies hosts Saint Francis Secondary School	21
Mapping wins and losses on the rink: A GIS approach to ice hockey analytics	22-23
Alumni news	24-25
Brock News: Groundhog Day highlights the challenges facing those who rely on consistent weather.....	25
Undergraduate course guests.....	26
Brock News: Geography and tourism students put skills to the test in central Ontario	27
Student news	28
The Madawaska Valley Current: Neighbours seek economic and tourism development.....	29
Conferences.....	30
Brock News: Brock family's music tradition grows into Cicada Festival	31

RETIRING CARTOGRAPHER CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT BROCK



Throughout his 40-year career, Loris Gasparotto has worked to help put Brock University on the map.

A cartographer in the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, he was often relied upon to create maps of the ever-evolving campus, among his many other projects.

At the end of 2017, three months after marking four decades with the University, Gasparotto entered the next chapter of his life: retirement.

To recognize his contributions to Brock, the Department hosted an open house in his honour on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018.

Reflecting on his career, Gasparotto said a lot has changed on campus since he first began in his role in September 1977.

"The biggest difference between now and when I started is the size of the University," he said. At that time, Brock had about 3,000 students — a size similar to Gasparotto's Toronto high school.

When he retired, the student population was approaching 19,000.

Gasparotto helped document the growth of campus through the creation of a timeline using aerial photography, which can still be viewed on the walls of the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies in Mackenzie Chown's C-Block.

The University wasn't alone in its evolution over the years; Gasparotto's role as cartographer also changed a great deal over time.

When he began his career, his tools included pens and ink for manual drafting, which was done in an office with a drafting table, a light table and map cabinets for storage.

By the late 1980s, however, manual work began to go digital.

Gasparotto recalls the initial challenges of new software and small computer screens. He pushed through the transition and ultimately found that technology made it easier to edit and make changes to his maps.

No matter the method, he always found a way to support faculty in his department, creating maps and images for teaching, research and publications. He also sometimes did work for faculty members outside the department and for administrative units, producing official and unofficial campus maps.

His talents were recognized in 1988, when the maps produced by Gasparotto, Professor Alun Hughes and Peter Brown, then the cartographer in Earth Sciences, for Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book won an award for excellence in cartography and design from the British Cartographic Society.

Then, in 2003, Gasparotto received a Brock Distinguished Service Award — an honour he considers a career highlight.

"It was the cherry on top of the cake," he said.

A photo from the occasion of Mackenzie

Chown architect Raymond Moriyama, Gasparotto and former Brock University President David Atkinson hung in his office until he packed it up in December.

"Loris was a very important part of our team over his 40 years at Brock," said Chris Fullerton, Chair of the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies. "I don't think a single one of our faculty members, myself included, doesn't have something — from a handful to a full portfolio of maps and other illustrative work — created by Loris for inclusion in our journal articles, books and book chapters, government reports and other publications."

"Loris showed impeccable attention to detail in his work, and the results were consistently wonderful."

Gasparotto's favourite part of the job was the people. He speaks proudly of his staff and faculty colleagues, from whom he learned a great deal.

"It was a great environment," Gasparotto said. "How can you beat having information given to you, one on one? It's amazing, the knowledge they have and share. It gives you a different perspective on things."

Beyond his cartographical skills, Gasparotto was also a "key part of our staff in a number of other ways," Fullerton said. "His dedication to our department's success was incredible. It's going to take some getting used to, not having him around."

Gasparotto is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren — though he may still stop by campus for a game of euchre at lunch from time to time.

- Story from The Brock News



TONY SHAW RETIRES

By: Hugh Gayler, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Tourism Studies

Tony Shaw retired from Brock University last summer, but since there was no retirement party, there was no opportunity at that time to thank him for the contributions he made in teaching and research in the 35 years he was a member of the Brock faculty. I was on the appointments committee at the time Tony replaced Professor B.W. Thompson, and I'm pleased that history has proved that we made the right choice. As a climatologist and meteorologist, Tony has been an essential player in the development of the BSc program in Geography. He was a good and caring teacher and always there for his students. His teaching at all levels was stimulating and innovative, and he demanded high standards in



his students' work. The courses Tony taught were made more relevant by the on-going research programs he was engaged in. Of note here is the considerable research he undertook for the grape and wine industry in Ontario, and his involvement from the very beginning in Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute. For example, Tony's work contributed to Niagara being divided into sub appellations or wine regions, where differences in various environmental conditions could be equated to greater efficiencies in the type of grape grown and wine produced. Another important area of research was the development of wind machines in vineyards to reduce the risk of frost damage during the critical spring budding season. Finally, Tony was a great colleague to have around and contributed to the smooth running of the Department. He never shirked from the various administrative tasks and did his turn, so to speak, of being the Departmental Chair. His valuable contributions to the academy were reflected in his promotion to Full Professor.

**KEVIN TURNER PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Sustainability Research Centre, and co-founded Brock's Water and Environmental Laboratory.

Kevin's research focuses on identifying the impacts of climate and landscape changes on the hydrology and chemistry of lakes and rivers in northern Canada.

In 2016 Kevin was awarded federal research funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's Discovery Grant and Northern Research Supplement and in 2017 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

His commitment to northern research has led him to serve as a board member for the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies since 2010 and the Chair of the Brock University Northern Studies Committee since 2013. In addition to these roles, Kevin is also an affiliate of the NASA-ABOVE program.

On July 31, Dr. Kevin Turner was promoted to Associate Professor.

"It is exciting to see Kevin reach this milestone in his career," said Department of Geography and Tourism Studies Chair, Michael Pisaric. "His research program has blossomed during the past five years and he has contributed significantly to the Department and the University through his numerous service and teaching assignments. This is well deserved, and we look forward to his continued contributions."

Kevin holds a PhD in Geography from Wilfrid Laurier University and a post-graduate certificate in GIS (Application Specialist) from Sir Sandford Fleming College. He joined Brock's Department of Geography in 2013 as an Assistant Professor. Since then, he has become a member of the Department of Earth Sciences and the Environmental

STUDENT RESEARCH

UNDERGRADUATE THESES

Inclusive space creates room for community: Community development and revitalization in downtown Niagara Falls, Ontario

Hannah Andres, BA Geography

Supervisor: Mike Ripmeester
Second reader: Ebru Ustundag

Reconstructing fire history and assessing changes in fire frequency in southern Northwest Territories

Mackenzie Ceci, BSc Geography

Supervisor: Mike Pisaric
Second reader: Kevin Turner

Moral aestheticism to urban financialization: The failure of North American liberal urbanism

Nicholas Mindorff, BA Geography

Supervisor: Phillip Mackintosh
Second reader: Chris Fullerton

An analysis of the role of rural tourism development in meeting the goals and strategies of the Chinese Dream

Samuel Olson, BA Tourism and Environment

Supervisor: David Telfer
Second reader: Charles Burton

Revitalization of the Queen Street District, Niagara Falls: A study of tourism business operators' perspectives

Dustin Oostendarp, BA Tourism Management

Supervisor: David Telfer
Second reader: Chris Fullerton

MASTER'S THESES

A domestic geography of money: How mortgage debt, home prices, and Toronto's condominiums "prop up" the Canadian economy

Adam Fischer, MA in Geography

Supervisor: Philip Mackintosh
Committee members: Jeffrey Boggs and Chris Fullerton
External examiner: Alan Walks

MASTER'S MAJOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Farmers access to agricultural information and its impact on smallholder agriculture: A case study of the Asante Akim North Municipality, Ghana

Emmanuel Akowuah, MA in Geography

Supervisor: Chris Fullerton
Committee member: David Butz

Combating desertification in Semi-Arid Ghana: An analysis of rainfall trends and resilience in the Upper East Region

Daniel Amoak, MA in Geography

Supervisor: Anthony Shaw
Committee member: Jeff Boggs

Examining governance, risks and human rights of water in Canada

Marina Nikolovski, MA in Geography

Supervisor: Ebru Ustundag
Committee member: Chris Fullerton

EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS AND RESEARCH ADD UP TO BROCK'S SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NIAGARA

Nearly half a billion dollars. Even on the conservative end of the measurement scale, that's the economic impact Brock University has on the Niagara region each year.

It comes in the form of Brock's 19,000 students living in the region and spending their money here. It comes from hundreds of millions of dollars in capital and operational expenditures. And it comes from Brock's 4,800 part- and full-time employees receiving more than \$200 million in payroll each year.

"I encourage you to look beyond the numbers," said Brock University President Gervan Fearon. "There are individuals directly tied to each of those dollar values. The values reflect the outstanding work our staff, faculty, researchers, students and partners are doing in contributing to economic and community activities across the region and province."

A new policy brief released by the Niagara Community Observatory (NCO) Wednesday, Oct. 10 gives an updated snapshot of the University's economic impact locally and beyond. The brief is a pilot project that will lead to more wholesome economic impact studies, as well as research examining Brock's social and community engagement impact.

"One of the things this paper does is show how the University can be a catalyst and a partner in Niagara," Fearon said.

"Brock is a community-based university

and what we're celebrating here is not just our achievements, but the achievements of the entire community."

Brock Associate Professor of Geography and Tourism Studies Jeff Boggs and master's student Lauren Peddle (BA '18) co-authored the report after spending months researching and poring through data using two separate accepted methodologies.

Using conservative assumptions as the basis, one method estimates Brock's impact in Niagara to be more than \$436 million and the other more than \$450 million. When student and related spending are considered, this number jumps to nearly \$640 million.

Brock has an annual operating budget of \$320 million and a payroll of more than \$212 million. It's one of Niagara's biggest employers, and nearly 80 per cent of its employees live in the region.

Brock Vice-President, Research Tim Kenyon said measuring and characterizing a post-secondary institution's impact on its community is a "ferociously difficult challenge." But Brock's decision to take it on shows the University's commitment to being a community partner.

"What we learned is that the University affects the community, but the community also affects the University," he said.

He added that Brock's more than \$15 million in research grants received in the past year translates into equipment purchases, new hires and



the enabling of research that positively impacts the community.

The policy brief will become a foundation for future research and planning, said Fearon.

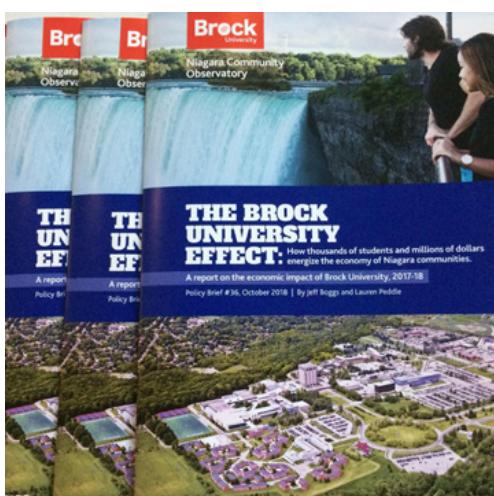
"We'll now be able to look at the numbers to say 'how can we have the greatest financial impact at a regional level?'"

Deputy St. Catharines CAO David Oakes, one of the panelists at Wednesday's NCO event, said Brock's impact on municipalities in the region is immense.

"Brock is critical to the St. Catharines economy," he said. "You look at something like the Steel Blade hockey game, where you have 5,000 students coming downtown — that has a direct impact on the downtown core that wouldn't have been there otherwise."

Other panelists reflecting on the important role played by the University and the value added to Niagara communities included Mishka Balsom from the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, Rino Mostacci from the Niagara Region and Peter Tiidus, Dean of Brock's Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.

- Story from *The Brock News*





EVENT OFFERS STUDENTS INSIDER TIPS ON TOURISM INDUSTRY

When Becky White (BA '15, MS '16) returned to her alma mater last week, she came prepared with industry insight and key tips to pass along to the next generation of tourism professionals.

The sales and membership co-ordinator at Niagara Falls Tourism was a guest speaker at Brock's inaugural Tourism Networking Event, held April 10 in Pond Inlet.

Hosted by the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, in partnership with Co-op, Careers and Experiential Education, the event offered students the chance to mingle with and learn from industry professionals, several of whom were Brock alumni.

For White, the day was an opportunity to open the eyes of students to the careers that exist within tourism.

"I hope that people will see that tourism isn't just tour guides and travel agents," she said. "It is a vibrant and engaging industry."

The event's guests and sponsors helped to affirm that sentiment as they spent time speaking with the roughly 30 students in attendance.

Representatives from the City of St. Catharines, the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario, Venture Niagara, Vineland Estates Winery, CERF Niagara, Cycle-Logical Rentals, Destination Ontario Travel Information Centres, the Skylon Tower, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Mortgage Intelligence, and Hostelling International's Niagara Falls Hostel showed the breadth and scope of the field, in addition to offering a showcase of some of Niagara's top tourism employers.

Chris Fullerton, Chair of the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, was pleased to see the event come together so well, and to receive positive feedback from both tourism industry professionals and students.

"Since this was our first time doing this, we really weren't sure what to expect. But by all accounts, the evening was a great success," he said.

"Our students got to meet with numerous tourism employers to talk about career opportunities and to get some useful career planning advice, while the employers got to learn a lot more about our programs, our experiential learning opportunities and the broad range of knowledge and skills that our students obtain while studying here at Brock."

The April 10 event was the first of many that the department hopes to offer.

"For our students, making connections in the industry, learning from alumni and gaining networking experience are important factors for their successful transition into life after university," said Samantha Morris, the department's Academic Advisor and Communications Co-ordinator, and one of the evening's organizers. "We look forward to working with industry partners to continue to develop opportunities to help our students and alumni thrive."

White's presentation, "My Life in Ten Minutes," offered students an example of how their education and on-campus experiences can help them succeed.

She first came to Brock as a mature student studying Tourism and Environment, but then stayed to complete a master's degree in Sustainability. She also worked as a career assistant and credits the on-campus job with having an enormous impact on her career.

White's talk was part of a concerted effort on the part of organizers to help students and industry professionals connect the dots between the theory and practice of tourism, one of Niagara's leading industries.

"We wanted to create an interactive experience for students to engage in meaningful career conversations with industry professionals, and to provide a venue to assist students with their career decision-making," says Kara Renaud, Supervisor of Career Education.

"The setup of the event gave students a chance to ask their career questions, make connections and leverage the expertise of those who were once students themselves."

- Story from *The Brock News*



MASTER OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY SPEAKER SERIES



Transnational Alternative Economies in Theory and Practice

Dr. Philip Kelly from the Department of Geography, York University



Mapping the Historic Welland Canals one Lock at a Time – My Story

Colleen Beard from the Maps, Data and GIS Library, Brock University



The Social Life of Food Waste

Dr. Kate Parizeau from the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Guelph



Black Continental Africans in Canada: Exploring the Intersections of Culture, Identity, and Immigrant Transnationalism

Dr. Joseph Mensah from the Department of Geography, York University



Understanding the Relationships Between Wellbeing And Mobility in the Unequal City: The Case of Community Initiatives Promoting Cycling and Walking in São Paulo And London

Dr. Denver Nixon from the Transport Studies Unit, The University of Oxford



The Implications of Renewable Energy Development on Landscapes and Land-use Systems: An Exploration of Energy Transitions In Bermuda

Dr. Kirby Calvert from the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, Environment, University of Guelph



The Dark Side of Transformation: Latent Risks in Contemporary Sustainability Discourse

Dr. Jessica Blythe from the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, Brock University



Digital Discoveries and Electronic Explorations: Interpreting Heritage with a Smartphone

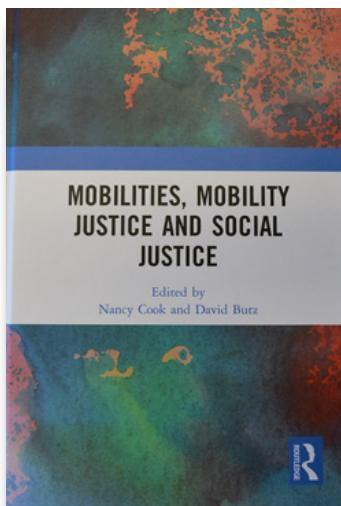
Dr. Dave Brown from the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, Brock University

DID YOU KNOW?

The Master of Arts in Geography Speaker Series is open to the public!

Visit our website or follow us on social media for a list of our upcoming seminars.

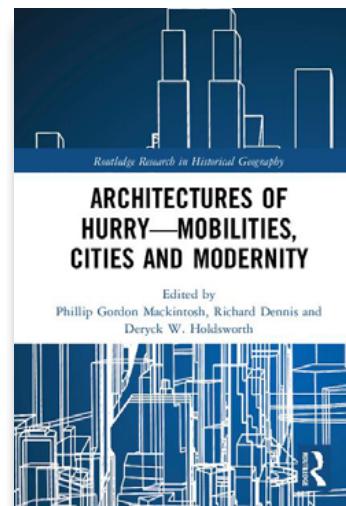
BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS



Mobilities, Mobility Justice
and Social Justice

Nancy Cook and David
Butz (Editors)

Routledge, 2018



Architectures of Hurry
— Mobilities, Cities and
Modernity

Phillip Gordon
Mackintosh, Richard
Dennis and Deryck
Holdsworth (Editors)

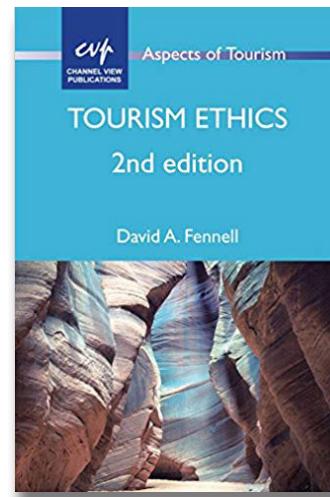
Routledge, 2018



Past Glacial Environments

John Menzies and Jaap van
der Meer (Editors).

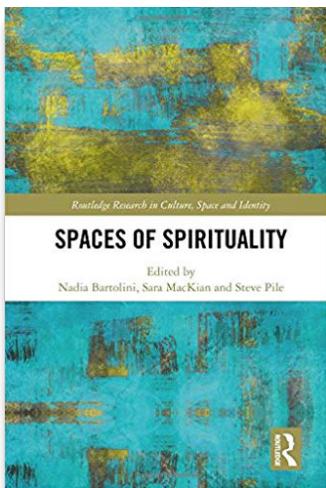
Second Edition, Elsevier,
2018



Tourism Ethics

David Fennell

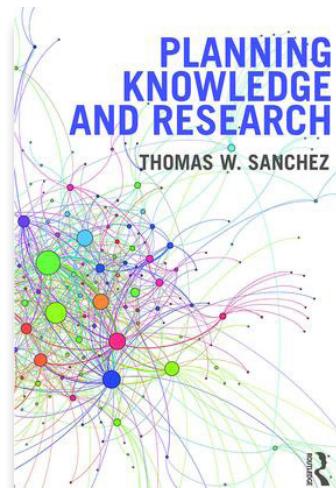
Second Edition, Channel
View Publications, 2018



Resisting marriage
equalities: The
complexities of religious
opposition to same sex
marriage. *Chapter in
Spaces of Spirituality.*
(Edited by N. Bartolini, S.
Mackian, and S. Pile)

Kath Browne and
Catherine Jean Nash

Routledge, 2018



The relationship of green
places and urban society:
Understanding the
evolution and integration
of city planning with
the ecological sciences.
*Chapter in Planning
Knowledge and Research.*
(Edited by T.W. Sanchez)

Charles Hostovsky

Routledge, 2018

TORONTO STAR: POLICY-MAKERS TUNE OUT TORONTO'S HUMAN ROADKILL

By: Phillip Gordon Mackintosh

To read relentless news of pedestrian and cyclist deaths and injuries in Toronto is to relive the city's early 20th century past.

We see the same cause of the tragedy (motor vehicles), hear the same heartfelt condolences, and note the same bromide from constable, politician or lobbyist: cyclists and pedestrians must attend vigorously to their self-interest on hazardous streets.

It never occurs to anyone that such platitudes have been rehearsed by civic leaders for over a century.

To be fair, they have no other words. Automobilization in Toronto since the 1910s has rendered the city's community leaders virtually speechless. Why? Because there is only one — impossible — public policy to effect pedestrian and cyclist safety on streets dominated by motor vehicles: automobile prohibition. With prohibition as a workable policy left permanently "off the table," what else can our leaders say?

Torontonians have long felt the threat posed by automobilization, watching the slaughter on roadways and sidewalks. A century ago, children died by the dozens at the wheels of motorists (90 were killed between 1919 and 1921).

The pedestrian and cyclist carnage continued through the 1920s and 1930s. Children especially were imperiled. City newspapers gruesomely described how motor vehicles flayed, crushed and dragged children to death.

It wasn't always thus. Before the First World War, street traffic consisted primarily of walkers, slow-moving streetcars and horse traffic. Yet, by the end of the war, as motor vehicle ownership increased, collision statistics had risen precipitously.

Drivers ran through intersections, failed to yield to streetcars and riders, jumped curbs, drove on both sides of the road and cut off or bumped cyclists. Importantly, pedestrians could not yet accurately assess the time and space compression of fast-moving cars, or the emerging danger of an automobilizing environment.

Throughout the 1920s, the city's irresistible opportunities for work attracted migrants, further swelling the numbers of pedestrians on the streets. Alas, pedestrian populations and automobile ownership ballooned simultaneously, neither constrained by countervailing public policy.

Compounding the situation, the automobile was seen as an excellent "vehicle" (as it were) for economic prosperity, enlivening the urban imaginations of Toronto's politicians and business people.

Newspapers promoted it as the "perfect machine" and "the chariot of prosperity." The car "had achieved its rightful prerogative over all other methods of transportation." Such hyperbole propelled the automobile into an actual, lethal conflict with traditional street users, including carefree children on their ancestral playground.

So, what did policy-makers do to stop cars from killing children

on the streets? Nothing, despite deputations to City Council by the Toronto Playground Association in 1920, and a 1928 motion by Alderman Pearce to ban automobiles from streets where children played. In every year between 1927 and 1934, dozens of toddlers died horribly in the streets.

The closest that leaders came to policy was encouraging drivers to be careful, and admonishing pedestrians that "The Game of Walking Has Been Speeded Up." This meant persuading children (including preschoolers who simply strayed onto streets chasing butterflies, blowing whistles or pushing doll prams) of "the necessity of guarding against accidents by abstaining from contributory negligence," as the Ontario Safety League put it.

This is why we look both ways before crossing the road — a solitary "policy" legacy of a history that systematically privileged automobiles above pedestrians and cyclists in the urban hierarchy.

Closely connected to looking "up and down before crossing the road" is an official predilection to blame pedestrians, cyclists and children for the horrors that befall them. To blame automobiles would be to confront them in policy. That won't happen.

Call this what it is: political negligence. Any pedestrian or cyclist can tell you how to save lives in Toronto. Put severe restrictions on automobile use in pedestrian- and bicycle-heavy city neighbourhoods. This won't happen, either.

A century ago, Toronto wouldn't enact policy to prevent "the needless mangling of little ones," those innocent "little tots of the streets" who died by the hundreds. Don't expect policy-makers in 2018 to protect our adult bicyclists and pedestrians, equally precious, yet regarded by many as wilful and intrusive nuisances.



LEARNING FROM VANCOUVER LANDSCAPES



Many students spend the spring and summer months completing extra courses or taking a well-deserved trip. Anthony Montagano did both — at the same time.

The 20-year-old Niagara Falls native recently returned from a weeklong Geography and Tourism field course (GEOG/TOUR 3Q93) in Vancouver, B.C. The experiential learning opportunity brought a class of Brock University students to the city to learn about the historical geography of the region, as well as its social and cultural processes.

For Montagano, the diversity of Vancouver's landscape could not have been fully grasped in a classroom.

"It's good to hear about certain destinations, but to see things first-hand

is really helpful," said the second-year Tourism Management student. "It's easier to identify common trends, like gentrification and high-density housing, and you can use your own observations rather than just lecture notes to help form an opinion."

This lesson was made clear when the group, which included students from each of Brock's six Faculties, encountered the diversity that Vancouver offers in its many neighbourhoods.

"We travelled around to the different areas of Vancouver and determined what would cause the price of home ownership to go up or down, while also evaluating what services were available in each area," Montagano said. "It was cool to see the urban core, Olympic sports venues and small fishing docks all within the same city."

While exploring Canada's third-largest city, Montagano and his classmates were encouraged to learn about the social history of the region as well.

"I was unaware of the tragic historical exploitation of the Asian communities in Vancouver," he said. "I now understand a little more in history that many people may still be ignorant to."

Though the group was only together in Vancouver for eight days, Montagano learned that it was easier to bond with his classmates while outside of the lecture hall.

"When you are in a new setting, you tend to make bonds right away," he said. "I met some great friends and everyone got along really well."

In addition to the new friendships and cultural discovery that came with the trip, Montagano was also appreciative of other aspects of participating in a spring experiential field course.

"I gained some great experience for my resumé and you can save some time by having to take less courses during the year," he said.

Now home, Montagano has finished a 12-page paper about his experiences to complete the course's final assignment. The reflective exercise has helped him to share why others should participate in similar classes going forward.

"I would really encourage people to consider these experiential field courses," he said. "I know the trips might cost a bit more than a normal course, but now is the opportunity to travel and gain valuable experience at the same time. These courses will set you apart at Brock and help prepare you for your career."

- Story from The Brock News

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Hands-on learning is a great way for students to gain knowledge and skills through direct experience. Here are a few of the experiential activities our students participated in during 2018.

GEOG/TOUR 4P83 field trip to the Sir Adam Beck Ontario Power Generation Station

In February, our Research Themes in Water Resources class (GEOG/TOUR 4P83) visited the Sir Adam Beck Generating Station to learn about water policy and hydropower. Thanks to Joan and Justin from Ontario Power Generation for hosting us.



Students experience Ground Penetrating Radar demonstration

Sensors and Software Inc. visited our Physical Geography Field Course (GEOG 3P56) class in September to host a demonstration on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). After learning about GPR and its' applications, our students headed outside to test the GPR unit around campus.



Disney Internship: Opportunities abroad highlighted at International Mobility Fair

When Jonah Graham, a fourth-year BA Tourism and the Environment student, researched international mobility opportunities, his goal was to gain more relevant work experience. From May to December 2017, Graham participated in a six-month academic exchange and internship program offered through the University of Florida and Walt Disney World Resort.

"The opportunity to learn about my field from a new perspective and experience working for a recognized member of my industry was invaluable," he said. Graham was able to take courses in lodging operations and management, as well as an internship in leisure services, resort and destination development, and corporate communications.

His Florida internship helped him see that his degree cannot be defined just by his time in the classroom, but as a compilation of his experiences throughout his studies.

Graham added that studying abroad is a life-changing opportunity that broadened his horizons personally, academically and professionally.

- Story from *The Brock News*

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS**2018 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES BEST GRADUATE COURSE PAPER****Jennica Giesbrecht**

Jennica was chosen as the recipient for the Faculty of Social Sciences Best Graduate Paper Award. Jennica's paper, which was submitted to Professor Michael Ripmeester for 5P40: Historical Geographies of Culture and Power, was titled "Reclaiming Death Care and Negotiations of Culture, Power, and Authenticity."

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS**Philip Dwomo**

Senanu Kutor

Jerin Lubna

Alexandra Perna

Four of our graduate students were acknowledged for their extensive research work with awards from Brock's Faculty of Social Sciences.

GLENDIA LAWS PAPER AWARD**Jennica Giesbrecht**

At the 2018 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Jennica was selected as the recipient of the Glenda Laws Paper Award for her paper "Posthuman and Material-Discursive Examinations of the Geographies of the Dead Body."

2018 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES BEST GRADUATE MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER**Emmanuel Akowuah**

Emmanuel was chosen as the recipient for the Faculty of Social Sciences Best Graduate Major Research Paper Award. Emmanuel's MRP, which was supervised by Professor Chris Fullerton, was titled "Farmers' Access to Agricultural Information and its Impact on Smallholder Agriculture: A Case Study of the Asante Akim North Municipality, Ghana."

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**Jennica Giesbrecht****Katelyn Pierce**

Katelyn and Jennica were awarded Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS). The OGS program encourages excellence in graduate studies at the master's and doctoral levels.

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**Emmanuel Akowuah****Adam Fischer**

Emmanuel and Adam received the Distinguished Graduate Student Award for achieving the highest overall average in the Master of Arts in Geography program in the Spring 2018 (Emmanuel) and Fall 2018 (Adam) graduating classes.



*In September we welcomed seven new students into our Master of Arts in Geography program.
Some of them are pictured above with our Faculty and staff.*

TORONTO STAR: BROCK STUDENT STUDIES WHY SOME PEOPLE LIVE ON THE ROAD



When Stephanie Murray, a Geography master's student at Brock University, set out on a two-month long journey across North America to study nomads and vanlife culture, she didn't expect to find herself learning to surf, contributing to a documentary film, or being surrounded by a pack of angry stray dogs. But she quickly learned that life on the road is full of unexpected twists and turns.

An avid traveller, Murray stumbled onto vanlife culture. She was fascinated by the people she met, and quickly realized that although nomads living in vans had been around for years, no one had studied them yet.

"I knew there was a gap in academia that I could fill," Murray says. "But if I wanted to truly study this culture, I needed to be able to live and move like they did."

Using funding from Brock and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant, she purchased a used van on Kijiji. Naming it Lola, she converted the vehicle into 66 square feet of living space. Then, over the summer of 2017, she drove to the west coast of the United States to attend "van gatherings," events where people who live and travel in their vans get together to socialize and support one another. It's a diverse group, says Murray. "One of the couples I spoke to worked remotely in IT, another couple ran a blog, and one of the other vanlifers was making money from a book he'd written. They're a pretty talented bunch."

She was out to discover their motivation for giving up conventional lives and instead choosing a highly mobile lifestyle. "Our society is oriented towards people who stay in one place, and van nomads help to call that way of thinking into question." "I have encountered so much kindness on the road," Murray added. "People have welcomed me into their homes and helped me with my van, with no expectation of anything in return. And while the vanlifers I interviewed took up this lifestyle for a variety of reasons, they were united by a desire to choose their own path, rather than the one that's handed down to them."

Murray was thankful that she received the full backing of the University during her time on the road.

"Brock supported me fully from day one. And that support meant that I was able to do this research in the way it needed to be done — in person, on the road. I lived and moved alongside the people I was studying, and never once did I have to make any compromises that would have hurt the quality of my research. The University made sure I had the resources to do it right."

Murray's faculty supervisor and the Graduate Program Director of Geography at Brock, Dr. David Butz, believed her research was novel and important, given today's mobile society. Becoming a van nomad herself was pivotal.

"This research strategy — and life choice — gives her research an unusually strong experiential and autobiographical component, which is rare in 'mobilities' research, and which adds to the distinctiveness and potential significance of her research," says Butz. "We also felt Stephanie's unusual research project, while logistically complicated, was worth supporting. We were confident about her capabilities based on her history with the University. At Brock, we encourage applications from good students and we're willing to put funding behind that — and provide them with mentoring to apply for external funding. Brock can offer lots of personalized attention to students."

Research doesn't have to happen in a lab. There are interesting and exciting things going on around us everywhere, and at Brock University, unique postgraduate research projects in the community are encouraged.

For her part, Murray is grateful for the support she received from Brock. "This research changed the course of my life, and it showed me that it's possible to turn your passion into a groundbreaking research project," she said. "If you have a clear vision of what you want to discover, Brock can help you on that pursuit."

- Story from the Toronto Star



NEW BOOK BUILDS BRIDGE BETWEEN MOBILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Having choices about when, where and how to move — and when to stay put — is at the core of mobility justice, a new concept that is developing at the nexus of mobility studies and social justice scholarship.

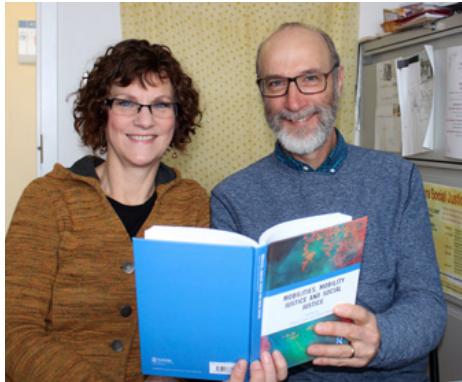
A recently published book, *Mobilities, Mobility Justice and Social Justice*, edited by Nancy Cook, Associate Professor of Sociology, and David Butz, Professor of Geography, explores “the ways social inequities are constituted in relation to mobility,” says Cook.

The newly established field of mobility studies looks at the differential flows of people, ideas, food and animals, and the related infrastructures that facilitate such uneven mobilities, such as roads, trains, airplanes, fibre optic cables and the internet.

“Mobility justice is a concept developing in the mobilities literature that examines how differences in mobility capabilities can contribute to social inequalities,” says Cook.

The topics and regions represented in the book exemplify the “deeply trans-disciplinary nature” of mobility studies, she says. “It has put us in contact with a whole different set of scholars from all over the world who we didn’t have access to before.”

Contributing authors, who come from philosophy, gender studies, communications studies, architecture, transport planning, public administration, geography and sociology, were asked to think about and analyze particular mobility-related injustices using specific



social justice concepts.

“This was to strengthen the justice focus of mobility analyses, and to bring thinking about the mobility-based aspects of injustice to social justice theorising,” says Cook.

The result is a diverse collection of empirical case studies that illustrate how “different scales, types and facets of mobility interact with particular kinds of social relations to (re)produce inequalities,” she says. Chapters explore issues such as LGBTQ communities’ access to public space, global air travel, ferry service, urban cycling, forced migration, food waste and even tick migration.

“Most chapters in the book are interested in access or impediments to movement, the way certain sorts of movement are imagined ideologically, and how that shapes people’s access to social justice or shapes inequitable social relations,” says Butz.

Butz and Cook saw first-hand the social justice implications of mobility infrastructure in their SSHRC-funded research project on the Shimshal Road in Pakistan. During the road’s construction, locals looked forward to a time when they would not have to carry everything on their backs through the mountains. However, the effects of switching from a pedestrian to a vehicular mobility regime have been complicated.

“We actually see a deepening of particular kinds of inequalities by age and gender,” says Cook. Men and students are “differentially benefitting” from access to this new mobility platform in relation to women and older adults.

According to Butz, mobility justice is more than simple efficiency of movement.

“We see social class and social advantage manifested in the way people travel. The trip from St. Catharines to Toronto is different for the person on the bus, in a car or on the Go train,” he says. “These experiences work into people’s identities and understandings of themselves in relation to the world.”

Mobility justice is as much about staying in one place as it is about access to movement. It’s about the ability to make choices in relation to mobility. “Many commuters would prefer to work near where they live and not feel compelled to move,” says Cook. Infrastructure enables people to live far away from their jobs but relegates them to cheaper suburbs and long commutes.

Like social justice, mobility justice is most often noticed in its absence.

“We get at justice by looking at injustice,” he says. But there are movements towards mobility justice, at least for some people. “An accessibility regime at a university is a positive example of achieving social justice for a group through a focus on enabling their mobility.”

The two say their interest in mobility justice emerged from and is supported by their work with the Social Justice and Equity Studies program and the Social Justice Research Institute.

“Mobility justice has taken our research in a really new direction which has been very exciting,” says Cook.

- Story from The Brock News

2018 FACULTY AND ALUMNI RESEARCH

Baird, Julia, Plummer, R., Schultz, L., Armitage, D., and Bodin, Ö. Integrating conservation and sustainable development through adaptive co-management in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. *Conservation and Society*, 16(4), online.

Baird, Julia, Schultz, L., Plummer, R., Armitage, D., and Bodin, Ö. Coalition-building for environmental management during times of conflict: what are the causal mechanisms? *Environmental Management*, online.

Baird, Julia, Plummer, R., Schultz, L., Armitage, D., and Bodin, Ö. Does socio-institutional diversity matter in collaborative environmental governance of social-ecological systems? *Environmental Management*, online.

Boggs, Jeff, Durrant, A., and Semplonius, T. Youth in Niagara: Highly skilled, highly mobile. *Niagara Community Observatory, Policy Brief #32*, online.

Boggs, Jeff, and **Peddle, Lauren**. The Brock University effect: How thousands of students and millions of dollars energize the economy of Niagara communities. *Niagara Community Observatory, Policy Brief #36*, online.

Butz, David, and Cook, N. The Epistemological and Ethical Value of Autophotography for Mobilities Research in Transcultural Contexts. *Studies in Social Justice*, 11(2), online.

Dilek, S. E. and **Fennell, David**. Discovering the hotel selection factors of vegetarians: the case of Turkey. *Tourism Review*, online.

Donovan, C., and **Ustundag, Ebru**. Graphic Narratives, Trauma and Social Justice. *Studies in Social Justice*, 11(2), online.

Fennell, David. Tourism ethics. In C. Cooper, W. Gartner & N. Scott (Eds.). *Sage Handbook of Tourism Management*. London: Sage.

Fennell, David. The future of ethics in tourism. In C. Cooper and E. Fayos Sola (Eds.). *The future of tourism: Innovation and sustainability* (pp. 155-178). London: Springer.

Fennell, David. Sustainability ethics in tourism: the imperative next imperative. *Tourism Recreation Research*.

Fennell, David. On tourism, pleasure and the summum bonum. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 17(4), 383-400.

Fennell, David. Book review of, Ecotourism's promise and peril: A biological evaluation, by D. T. Blumstein, B. Geffroy, D. S. M. Samia, & E. Bessa (Eds.). *The Quarterly Review of Biology*.

Fennell, David, and **Birbeck, Meghan***. Broads with rods: the social world of female fly anglers. *Journal of Gender Studies*, online.

Glass, T. & **Fennell, David**. Animal watching in tourism. In Butterworth (Ed.) *Animal welfare in a changing world* (pp. 226-234). CABI: Wallingford, UK.

Krievins, Katrina*, Plummer, R., and **Baird, Julia**. Building resilience in ecological restoration processes for freshwater systems: A social-ecological perspective. *Ecological Restoration*, 36(3), online.

Maguire, H., **McCartan, Andrew**, **Nash, Catherine**, and Browne, K. The enduring field: Exploring researcher emotions in covert research with antagonistic organizations. *AREA*, online.

*Geography and Tourism alumni

Melo Zurita, M.d.L., Thomsen, D.C., Smith, T.F., Lyth, A., Holbrook, N.J., Munro, P.G., de Bruin, A., Roggero, P.P., Seddaiu, G., **Baird, Julia**, Plummer, R., Bullock, R. Collins, K., and Powell, N. Global water governance and climate change: identifying innovative arrangements for adaptive transformation. *Water*, 10, online.

Prince, Tyler*, **Pisaric, Michael**, and **Turner, Kevin**. Postglacial reconstruction of fire history using sedimentary charcoal and pollen from a small lake in southwest Yukon Territory, Canada. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 19, online.

Simandan, Dragos. Being surprised and surprising ourselves: A geography of personal and social change. *Progress in Human Geography*, online.

Simandan, Dragos. Competition, contingency, and destabilization in urban assemblages and actor-networks. *Urban Geography*, 39(5).

Simandan, Dragos. Iterative lagged asymmetric responses in strategic management and long-range planning. *Time and Society*, online.

Simandan, Dragos. Rethinking the health consequences of social class and social mobility. *Social Science and Medicine*, 200.

Simandan, Dragos. Wisdom and foresight in Chinese thought: Sensing the immediate future. *Journal of Futures Studies*, 22(3).

Ustundag, Ebru. Book review symposium – Brenda Parker's "Masculinities and Markets: Raced and Gendered Urban Politics in Milwaukee". *Antipode Foundation Book Review* (with Winnifred Curran, Leslie Kern and Heather McLean), online.

Dr. Kevin Turner and his graduate students, Joe Viscek and Brent Thorne, travelled to northern Yukon in July for fieldwork. They're investigating the influence of changing climate and landscape conditions (fire and erosion) on lakes and rivers.

Photos by Kevin Turner & Brent Thorne.



FACULTY AWARDS

COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (CRSS) AWARDS

[Phillip Gordon Mackintosh](#)

Neurasthenia and the Modern City: Emotional Geographies of Laissez-faire Capitalism in North America, 1840-1920

[Michael Pisaric](#)

Microplastics in Niagara water systems

GLOBAL WATER FUTURES

[Michael Pisaric](#)

Southern Forest Water Futures

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, YORK UNIVERSITY

[Ebru Ustundag](#)

According to the award letter:

"The committee felt that, despite having many more years ahead to make significant scholarly contributions to the discipline of geography, that you [Ebru] exemplify the critical human geography championed by York University through your involvement in action research. In addition, you have made exceptional contributions to the discipline of geography in a very short time, and you have been previously recognized for your sustained and serious commitment to innovative pedagogy at the undergraduate and graduate levels, collegiality, multidisciplinary research and community activism."

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NSERC)

[Kevin Turner](#)

NSERC Discovery Grant

[Michael Pisaric](#)

NSERC Discovery Grant and Discovery Accelerator Supplement - From cells to biomes: the impacts of recent climate change on northern ecosystems

NSERC Discovery Northern Supplement - Impacts of recent climate change on northern boreal ecosystems - logistical support

NSERC Belmont Forum - Future Arctic Ecosystems

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC)

[Julia Baird](#)

SSHRC Insight Development Grant

- Evaluating alternative measures of ecological outcomes from water stewardship initiatives

[Michael Pisaric](#)

SSRHC Insight Development Grant - Visualizing past landscapes: Toward reengaging the local historic environment

HERITAGE TORONTO AWARD NOMINATION

[Phillip Gordon Mackintosh](#)

Dr. Phillip Mackintosh's *Newspaper City: Toronto's Street Surfaces and the Liberal Press, 1860-1935* was nominated for the 2018 Historical Writing award from Heritage Toronto.

This nomination "recognizes the importance of the history of Toronto's streets, especially at a time of rampant condo development," says Mackintosh, of Brock's Department of Geography and Tourism Studies.

Mackintosh says he "would love suburban politicians to read it to get some historical context for the continuing problems of automobile on Toronto streets." The "Fatal City" chapter, which he says was "horrific to write," looks at Toronto's engagement with the car and its catastrophic consequences for the city's children. "The legacy of municipal inaction regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety reflects in the deaths we're seeing now," he says.

Newspaper City, in part, tells the story of how the editors of Toronto's liberal newspapers campaigned to pave the streets in an effort to modernize the city. But property owners by and large resisted the city's mania for asphalt, intuiting that speeded-up streets would harm their children.

On another level, the book reveals the challenges inherent in using newspapers as primary sources in historical research. After all, newspapers at the turn of the last century, like those of today, had agendas of their own. In *Newspaper City*, Mackintosh cautions that researchers must be alert to historical newspapers' inherent but inconspicuous flaws.

The Heritage Toronto Awards celebrate extraordinary contributions to the conservation and promotion of Toronto's heritage. The 2018 Historical Writing award, which recognizes English language works of non-fiction.

BROCK HOSTS 'SMART CITIES' DISCUSSION



In February we worked with Niagara Centre Member of Parliament, Vance Badaway, to organize a roundtable discussion on how to help local municipalities become smart cities. Smart cities are communities that use data and technology to create efficiencies and economic development, improve sustainability and enhance quality of life for residents.

The Brock community were asked to bring innovative ideas to the table that could see Niagara transformed into a smarter region. The talk focused on the Smart Cities Challenge issued by Infrastructure Canada, which calls on communities across the country to bring forward their best ideas for improving the lives of residents through innovation, data and connected technology. All feedback collected during the discussion was submitted to the Niagara Region for its Smart Cities Niagara survey.

GEOGRAPHY AND TOURISM STUDIES HOSTS SAINT FRANCIS SECONDARY SCHOOL

In December we hosted two groups of students from Saint Francis Secondary School. During their visit, students participated in different activities to learn about some of the paths they could pursue with a Geography or Tourism degree.

Activities included:

- Bug Lab with Dr. Michael Pisaric
- Body Mapping with Dr. Ebru Ustundag
- Using Drones in Geography seminar with Dr. Kevin Turner
- Tourism Development Planning workshop with Dr. David Telfer



Interested in partnering with us on an event? Want to bring your class to Brock?
We would be happy to work with you. Please connect with us to learn more.

MAPPING WINS AND LOSSES ON THE RINK: A GIS APPROACH TO ICE HOCKEY ANALYTICS

From the ArcNorth News. Contributed by Kyle Rankin, Associate GIS Analyst, Esri Canada (BA Geography '18)

Like many Canadians, I like to watch Hockey Night in Canada every week, which is where I got the idea of applying GIS to analyze hockey. In the months that followed, not only did I apply spatial analysis to hockey games, but I also submitted this analysis to apply for the Esri Canada Higher Education GIS Scholarship at Brock University. Find out what made this a winning project.

November 14 is GIS Day, celebrated by geographers, cartographers and GIS users everywhere. At Brock University, GIS students celebrate with a project competition sponsored by Esri Canada. The winner receives an Esri Canada Higher Education GIS Scholarship, which includes funding, software, training and networking opportunities to help students continue to develop their GIS skills and interests. I decided to work on a project applying GIS analysis to hockey games and submit it for the competition.

As Canadians, we all know what hockey means to us: passion, athleticism, power and toughness—a hockey player is as Canadian as the maple syrup. For many people, myself included, the game of hockey doesn't mean advanced regression models and mathematical formulas. However, this changed for me when I realized there was an opportunity to apply the power of GIS and Esri's spatial analysis tools to analyze hockey.

Every hockey team wants to understand

how they can score more goals than their opponent and win more hockey games. If you are a hockey player, you'd more than likely agree this has as much to do with location on the ice during a game as an individual player's talent. As a young hockey player, I was constantly taught where to skate to, where to shoot from and where to defend from. That's applying the science of where to hockey!

Locational understanding on the hockey rink is clearly evident. So, I formulated the basic question for applying spatial analysis to player and team performance: what datasets are needed and can be analyzed to help hockey teams increase their goal-scoring and ultimately improve their chances of winning a match?

To expand on this, three questions came to mind:

- What kind of data would be easiest to collect and yield the best quality result? (Shot locations, player locations, puck location, etc.)

b) How could I define areas on the ice that are associated with higher likelihoods of scoring?

c) How can the fast and fluid game of hockey be analyzed using hard-defined areas?

Armed with these questions, I approached the Brampton Beast professional hockey team's manager of hockey operations, who showed great interest in my project and agreed to collaborate with me. Together, we set out to study the location where shots were taken on the ice to conduct statistical analysis. The report I created were not only easy to read and understand, but also provided meaningful insight into the team's games.

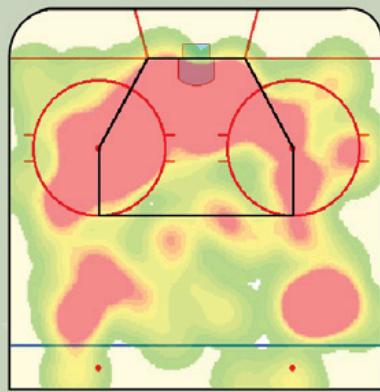
Data-Driven, Evidence-Based Reports

Using data collected from the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) online game centre, I digitized 705 points representing the location of shots for and against Brampton during 10 of their games. I relied on ArcGIS ModelBuilder to create a repeatable workflow for querying and analyzing the data. This allowed for reports to be created with ease, as the model pulled data that matched certain criteria and then performed analyses, such as kernel density, to highlight hot spots in shot-activity on the ice. I created several reports that were based on individual player performance, single games, certain opposing goalies and comparison charts of games won versus games lost.

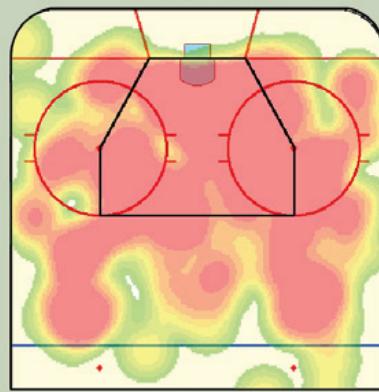
The team's staff used these reports to gain a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their strategy and to adjust their game-day strategy accordingly. Such reports can enhance coaching practices with data-driven and evidence-based strategies. Especially knowing how fast-moving and fluid hockey is—for example, while nobody can tell Sidney Crosby the exact coordinates of where he should shoot from, if you give him a map showing that

Heat Maps for Games Won vs Games Lost

Games Won



Games Lost

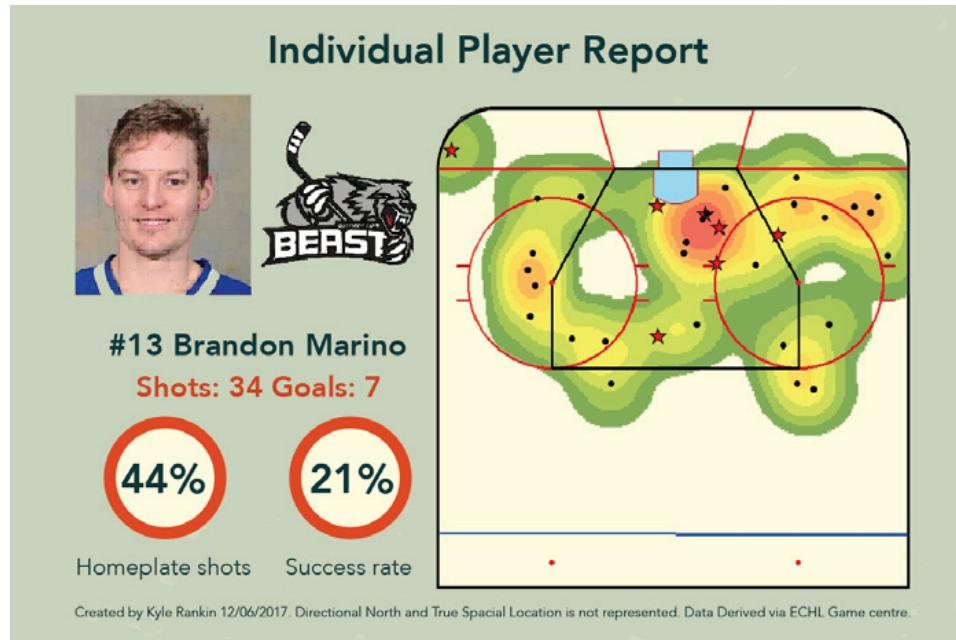


The hot spots in these maps represent the occurrence of shots taken. If we examine the more concentrated areas of "red" that represent where most shots were taken, we can identify the opportunity scoring area of the home plate. In this example, you can see losing games have a much less concentrated spread whereas in the winning games, the red areas are much more prevalent in and around the home plate scoring area.

he scores more often from the middle section of the ice than anywhere else, then he'll be out there in the next shift doing just that. Using these reports to interact with players can help them better understand their statistics and the analysis of their play—looking at a cool map is a lot easier to understand than numbers on a spreadsheet.

After graduating from Brock University, I entered the Associate Program at Esri Canada where I'm discovering a variety of different GIS tools, programs and applications. As I'm learning more, I'm also noticing a lot of potential in the continued development of location intelligence in sports. While professional teams in leagues such as the NBA or NHL have dedicated analytics staff who collect game data from multiple sources and analyze it at an advanced level, non-professional teams have no reason not to explore new ways of collecting and analyzing their team's game-day data. Similar initiatives can be taken in other ways. At the pro-level, microchip-embedded jerseys were tested at the Olympics to track players on the ice, and with Esri's newly announced Location Tracking for ArcGIS app (early adoption stage), player-tracking can integrate seamlessly with the current software environment.

There are endless possibilities for using spatial analysis in the data-rich sports industry. GIS can pull location data from sports fields and rinks and turn it into actionable insights. I wouldn't be surprised to see Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Kyle Dubas monitoring and analyzing the puck and players' data during a game on an Insights for ArcGIS



An individual player report: The analysis in this map shows where Brandon Marino took his shots and where he scored from. Notice how most of his shots were concentrated in the home plate area—it's no surprise he led the team in goals for this sample of games. This information could be used to develop his future shots strategy.

dashboard. But whether it's Kyle Dubas showing Auston Matthews where he scores his goals from or the next young prodigy at the local rink, spatial analytics in sports can be a powerful tool, not only to enhance the understanding of in-game performances but as a way to inspire young athletes to think spatially on and off the ice.

Hockey analytics isn't the only way GIS can be applied to ice. RinkWatch, a citizen science initiative from Wilfrid Laurier University that recently partnered with the NHL, is working with outdoor ice rink enthusiasts across North America and even globally to help monitor winter

weather conditions and study the long-term impacts of climate change. By asking participants to submit information about skating conditions via a custom Esri web app, RinkWatch is able to provide data on freeze and thaw locations and times throughout the year and make forecasts of future outdoor skating conditions on their backyard rink. Changes in the length of time that a backyard hockey rink is playable provides important information on their recreational activity as well as crowd-sourced reports on changes in temperature levels.

- Story from the ArcNorth News



Our Faculty, staff, students, and future student (Dr. Marilyne Jollineau's son, Ethan, pictured left) had a great time speaking to future Geography and Tourism Students at Fall Preview Day!





Meghan Birbeck (BA TREN '16), won prestigious Brock Co-op Student of the Year award for her work with the Township of Lincoln.



Sara Epp (BA Geography '08; MA Geography '13), successfully defended her PhD "Assessing Resilience in Agriculture: A Case Study of Old Order Mennonite Communities in Northern Ontario."



Darren Platakis (BSc Geography '10) was announced as finalist for the Canadian Open Data Leader of the Year Award, in the 2018 Canadian Open Data Awards competition.



In addition to celebrating her 50th birthday, Christine Alic, Administrative Assistant for Custodial and Grounds Services, was one of several Brock employees who graduated this year. Seven years of balancing two courses per semester and working full time at Brock finally paid off for Christine Alic when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography.



Diana Aquino (BA Human Geography '10) of Walker Environmental Group won the 2018 Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Young Professional Award. The Women in Business Awards (WIBA) is an annual event to recognize the leadership and success of women in the Niagara business community.

STAY IN TOUCH

We're always happy to receive updates from our alumni.

Have news to share?

Connect with us on social media @BrockUGeoTour, send us an email, stop by the Department, or give us a call.

Alumni share insights with internship students

In September, four of our Geography alumni (pictured right with Dr. Ebru Ustundag) visited our honours internship course (GEOG/TOUR 4F99) to share their experiences in the program and internship course, and life after university.

Where are they now?

- Myda Khatcherian, Case Manager, Ontario Works (BA Geography '12, MA Geography '15)
- Ashley Northcotte, Business Support Analyst, Niagara Region (BA Geography '09)
- Edward Stubbing, Senior Transportation Manager, AECOM (BA Human Geography '09)
- Rebecca Anello, Junior Meteorological Technologist, Environment Canada (BSc Geography '14)



From left to right: Myda Khatcherian, Ebru Ustundag, Ashley Northcotte, Edward Stubbing, and Rebecca Anello.



FACULTY IN THE MEDIA

GROUNDHOG DAY HIGHLIGHTS THE CHALLENGES FACING THOSE WHO RELY ON CONSISTENT WEATHER

When it comes to predicting long-term weather, humans hold little advantage over Wiarton Willie or Punxsutawney Phil.

That's not good news for businesses who need consistent forecasts to succeed, but are increasingly faced with volatile weather patterns.

"Even though short-term weather forecast models have gotten very good, long-term forecasts are not very accurate, so there's a lot of uncertainty in terms of what's going to happen," says Brock Geography and Tourism Studies Professor Tony Shaw. "Industries that rely on the weather have to take necessary precautions. Those uncertainties mean the risks are quite high."

Shaw says that while January thaws like what we experienced in February 2018 are not unusual, the dramatic swings in

temperature are.

"What we're seeing is changes on a daily basis tend to be on a bit of the extreme," he says.

"With climate change we can expect to see more volatility and variability in the weather.

"On the optimistic side, despite the occasional extreme cold temperatures, winters in Niagara are getting warmer and spring is arriving earlier based on long-term temperature trends."

Goodman School of Business Professor of Finance Don Cyr says the weather volatility means businesses across many sectors are having to turn to measures such as weather derivatives — financial contracts that protect them by allowing them to hedge weather conditions.

"There is a growing interest in this quasi-insurance market as the weather becomes more volatile," says Cyr. "Weather-related risk can affect about 25 per cent of the

gross domestic product for Canada. In some countries, it's as high as 40 per cent. It's pretty significant."

He says insurance companies and other financial intermediaries have long offered financial protection to industries such as agriculture, tourism and outdoor sport resorts such as golf courses and ski hills.

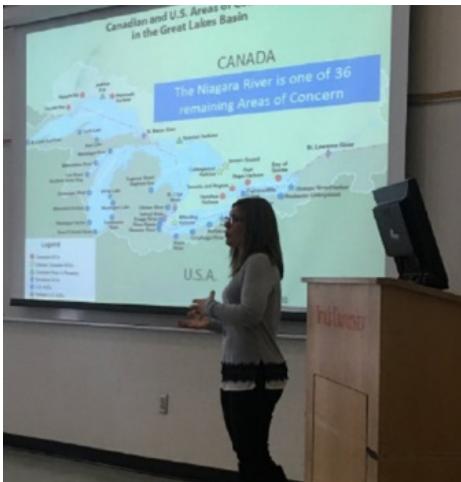
"These weather contracts allow firms to hedge against systemic weather risks — volatilities that wouldn't typically be covered through insurance," says Cyr, adding that these contracts have been famously used by a salon in a mall that noticed a drop in business on sunny weekends and a restaurant chain specializing in outdoor dining to cover their losses due to cool, rainy summers.

Municipalities have also used the contracts to hedge against the unexpected costs of snow removal when winters are worse than expected.

- Story from The Brock News

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUESTS

Having industry professionals visit our courses gives students a different perspective on the topics they learn about in class. In 2018 many guests visited our classes to speak to our students. We would like to thank everyone who came and shared their knowledge and expertise.



Natalie from the NPCA/Niagara River Remedial Action Plan spoke to the GEOG 3P83 (Geography of Water Resources) class about the progress of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan. It was a very informative talk on the activities and research that is contributing to the restoration of the Niagara River.



Conrad Hatcher from the St.Catharines Flying Club came in to speak to the GEOG 2P04 (Introduction to Meteorology) class about the relationship and hazards associated with meteorology and aviation.



Mark Robinson from The Weather Network came in to talk to the GEOG 2P04 (Introduction to Meteorology) class about his experiences with severe weather and volcanos.



Staff from Positive Living Niagara visited the GEOG 3P86 (Place, Belonging and Exclusion) class to present on social determinants of health and harm reduction.

Interested in visiting one of our classes?
Please connect with us and we'll see how your expertise matches
with our current course offerings.



GEOGRAPHY AND TOURISM STUDENTS PUT SKILLS TO THE TEST IN CENTRAL ONTARIO

A crisp fall breeze and the smell of pine recently welcomed Daniel Marshall into a different type of learning environment.

The fourth-year Geography student can normally be found deep in the Mackenzie Chown Complex learning about physical geography. But, during this year's fall Reading Week, an experiential education trip took him out of his comfort zone and into the field.

Along with 34 other participants from the Geography and Tourism Department's Physical Geography and Human Geography and Tourism Studies field courses, Marshall took part in a weeklong experiential learning exercise in central Ontario. The annual trip is designed to connect in-class learning with practical on-site research skills that are necessary for all geographers.

"Sometimes in the classroom you lose focus on what you are actually studying," Marshall said. "To be in the field and make the observations myself and get my feet muddy allowed everything to come full circle."

While the human geographers and tourism students went into Peterborough to gather data, Marshall and his fellow physical geographers went further afield to places such as Lochlin, Ont., where they collected soil and water samples.

"We brought a specialized tool and took a sample from about four metres down," he said. "We got a core that, if interpreted in a lab, could have given us 10,000 years worth of data about the area."

The ability to conduct applied research and maintain detailed field notes is a skill Geography and Tourism Studies Department Chair Michael Pisarcic considers invaluable.

"The field courses provide our students with hands-on experience that allows them to put their training and academic studies into practice by connecting firsthand the classroom learning they have done to the real world," he said.

Longstanding teaching assistant Darren Platakis, who has worked with countless students in his 10 years helping with the trip, echoed the sentiment.

"Seeing the growth in their confidence, whether it's conducting face-to-face interviews or using a new piece of equipment, is very satisfying," he said.

Gaining practical experience with tools of the trade provides students with a leg up for when their studies are completed.

"Nobody wants to hire an advisor who has no field experience," Marshall said. "An exercise like this makes you more marketable as a person."

With days of working to develop useful skills came a sense of unity among participants on the department-wide trip.

"At the end of the day, we were all reunited as a large group and it was nice to be together," he said. "We had a few large outdoor gatherings around the fire pits and shared stories of our day. It gave us the opportunity to become a close-knit group and contributed to the closeness of

the department as a whole."

The work of the students in the area has also led to lasting conservation efforts in the local community.

"Because of the work of previous classes from Brock, the Lochlin Esker and Wetlands site we visited has achieved Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest status," he said.

For Marshall, the most eye-opening portion of the week was seeing the way the concepts learned in the classroom actually existed in the environment.

"You can read as much as you want on a topic, but until you're actually looking at that feature or talking to those people, there is a huge divide between what the textbooks say and the actual observations you make in the field," he said. "It really worked for me to help close that gap and approach things in a more well-rounded way."

As he prepares to use his newfound experience to take on a thesis and apply for master's programs, Marshall hopes that others will consider studying Geography as well.

"Geography is everything and how it's related," he said. "Anyone who likes nature, the environment or being outside already loves geography. So, why not study it as well?"

- Story from The Brock News



Student-led Datathon dives deep into growing industry

As one of the co-organizers and co-founders of the Datathon, Geography student, Thomas Lillo (pictured centre) was featured in The Brock News.



High school students use Brock display to share history of Niagara theatres

As the Town of Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre curator, MA in Geography student Lisa Marie Mercier (right), invited two local high school students to curate an exhibit of their own at Brock. The exhibit showcased the history of entertainment in Niagara.



Undergraduate Geography student wins research award

Mackenzie Ceci (pictured left, BSc Geography '18) was acknowledged for her extensive research work by the Faculty of Social Sciences in 2018.

A large, detailed image of a Jack Pine stem cross-section. The image shows a central cavity (pith) surrounded by distinct radial growth rings. The wood fibers are stained in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink, creating a vibrant, textured pattern.

NSERC Science Exposed photo competition

Master of Sustainability student, Dana Harris (supervised by Dr. Michael Pisaric in Brock's Water and Environmental Lab), won two awards in the 2018 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) national Science Exposed photo competition. Dana won the People's Choice Award and a Jury Prize for her photo, "Exploring the Jack Pine Tight Knit Family Tree" (pictured here.)

THE MADAWASKA VALLEY CURRENT: NEIGHBOURS SEEK ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Local businesses and residents gathered at M&L Hall in Madawaska on Feb. 9, 2018 for a meeting entitled Economic & Tourism Development. It was the second of two sessions for South Algonquin Township facilitated by Chris Fullerton, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography & Tourism Studies at Brock University and his students, Sam Olson, Taran Lennard and Cam Rolz. In her introduction, Mayor Jane Dumas said that for several years South Algonquin has collaborated with Brock University on various projects to encourage community growth. South Algonquin Councillors Joe Florent, Richard Shallal and Sandra Collins joined in the discussion with the community participants.

Fullerton said South Algonquin recently adopted a community-led strategic plan that identified certain key goals and one of the priorities was economic development. To stimulate discussion about this priority, Rolz presented an analysis of the community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The group of approximately two dozen people discussed the current tourism assets in the area. Some of them referred to the significant competitive impact of

the areas west of Algonquin Park such as Muskoka. This influence is experienced to some extent in the Madawaska Valley. However, while MV is part of the Ottawa Valley tourism region, South Algonquin is officially linked with Algonquin Park in the tourism region located beyond the West Gate. Other participants noted that South Algonquin Township also faces a challenge because of its distance from the seat of Nipissing District, North Bay. This is another challenge that Madawaska Valley can relate to, as MV is the municipality farthest away from Pembroke in Renfrew County.

The two municipalities also have more in common. They share a rich history dating back thousands of years to the ancestors of the Algonquin peoples and more recently to the story of the lumber camps and the railway that linked Ottawa to Parry Sound. Although the trains are gone, JR Booth's legacy is still in full force connecting our villages via recreational trails which were once the railway tracks.

Over the past few years the Township of Madawaska Valley has invested in the development of a recreational geology touring guide which includes sites in both townships and a permanent exhibit in the Railway Station. More sites in both

townships were identified as suitable for potential development. The Madawaska River, which attracts thousands of paddlers each year, is another asset shared by South Algonquin and Madawaska Valley. While cross-border collaboration was not specifically on the agenda that afternoon, it seemed clear that there is a lot of potential for further mutual support and collaboration between the two townships – at least in terms of tourism and community growth.

The Brock University team also asked for feedback from participants about an ecomuseum concept. Fullerton said an ecomuseum is not a single building, but rather a community-wide approach to conserving and preserving local heritage. He described a Canadian example at Kalyna Country in Saskatchewan (Kalyna Country ecomuseum). An international example can be found in Tuscany, Italy (Ecomuseum of Casentino).

Embracing our shared heritage and geographical landscape as a springboard for tourism development may well provide a joint boost to economic development.

- Story from The Madawaska Valley Current



CONFERENCES

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS (AAG) 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Geography and Tourism Studies faculty and students travelled to New Orleans to present and participate in the AAG 2018 Annual Meeting. These are the sessions they participated in:

- Mobilities research, epistemic justice, and mobility justice (Nancy Cook and **David Butz**)
- The skills-mismatch: the weak evidentiary basis of a fuzzy concept and the implications for public universities (Emmanuel Kyeremeh and **Jeffrey Boggs**)
- Not quite a free space: The role of geography in critiquing liberatory discourse on LGBT life online (**Dean Mizzi**)
- Mobile 'homes': An ethnographic study with American vandwellers (**Stephanie Murray**)
- Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Engagement: Teach-Ins – Panel Discussion (Jenna Loyd, Punam Khosla, **Ebru Ustundag**, and Hilda Kurtz)

FEMINIST GEOGRAPHIES 2018

The 2018 Feminists Geographies conference in Montreal was co-organized by Dr. Ebru Ustundag and attended by three of our Master of Arts in Geography students. These are the sessions they presented their research in:

- Querying 'the future of work' 3: Rethinking Care and the future of work (**Jennica Giesbrecht**)
- Bodies and Embodiments (**Katelyn Pierce**)
- Spaces and Places 1: Cities (**Jennifer Williamson**)

OTHER CONFERENCES

- 27th Nordic Symposium on Tourism and Hospitality Research. Alta, Norway. "Animal interests in the context of national and state policy documents" (**David Fennell**)
- Blue Cities Conference, Canadian Water Network, Toronto. "Customer attitudes and motivation for water stewardship". Understanding and Engaging Customers Panel (**Julia Baird**)
- Brainstorming for Canada's National Water Vision, Canadian Science Policy Conference, Ottawa. "A resilience-based water vision for Canada" (**Julia Baird**)
- Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability Seminar Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. "Understandings of water resource systems through a resilience lens" (**Julia Baird**)
- International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Salt Lake City, Utah. "Public endorsement of water resilience" (**Julia Baird** and Gillian Dale)
- Niagara Economic Summit panel on Tomorrow's Reality (**Jeffrey Boggs**)
- Tourism Geographies Conference, La Malbaie, Quebec. "Developing Rural Tourism through Community-University Partnerships" (**Christopher Fullerton**)
- Water Economics, Governance and Policy Network Annual General Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. "Diving in to human dimensions of water" (**Julia Baird**)



Canadian Water Network
BLUE CITIES 2018
MAY 1 - 2 | #bluecities





BROCK FAMILY'S MUSIC TRADITION GROWS INTO CICADA FESTIVAL

A music tradition that began in a Brock family's backyard more than 20 years ago will have its sounds resonate across picturesque Henley Island this fall.

Cicada Music & Arts Festival started as an annual gathering of family and friends at the St. Catharines home of Thom Lepp and Karin Perry, Brock's Program Co-ordinator, Training and Development for the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The event began as a platform for budding neighbourhood musicians to share their craft, including Lepp and Perry's son Evan, who is now a Brock Geography student.

When the festival outgrew the backyard, Lepp organized the event at various Niagara venues.

Although he passed away from cancer in 2017, the festival he created to foster young singer-songwriters continues in his honour. Three former Brock students — Ben Goerzen, Erik Dickson and Kaitlin Sanders — have taken up the challenge this year of organizing an expanded version of Cicada on Saturday, Oct. 13.

The festival's lineup features established Canadian musicians — including Juno Award-winning indie rockers Dan Mangan and Said the Whale, and powerhouse Terra Lightfoot — but, in keeping with the festival's roots, also showcases several rising stars.

All profits from Cicada Music & Arts this year will benefit research and awareness for prostate cancer and mental health through the Movember Foundation Canada.

As a child, Goerzen used to perform on Lepp and Perry's backyard stage. He has now taken on the role of Cicada's

director, while Dickson (BA '11) is the festival's artistic director and Sanders, who studied Economics at the University, is managing vendors and media relations.

Goerzen, who studied Human Geography at Brock and later coached the women's volleyball team, said Cicada exemplifies the concept of "Gemeinschaft," a sense of community that he learned about from Associate Professor Chris Fullerton.

"It's how we define ourselves in spaces," he said. "I see Cicada as a perfect example, people coming together and creating a sense of place."

A lifelong musician and local entrepreneur, Goerzen is driven by a passion for music and community. He credits his experience coaching at Brock for instilling in him crucial leadership and management skills he now brings to Cicada.

Similarly, Dickson's extracurricular activities provided valuable experience. After completing his studies in Political Science, he continued to work at Brock, acquiring marketing and graphic design skills on the job before transitioning to music promotion.

The friends hope that Cicada will become a fixture in Niagara's music scene and are already talking about what the festival might look like over the next five years.

"I see this as an opportunity to give back to a community that has given so much to me," Dickson said. "Brock brought me here, and Brock keeps me here."

For information on the event, to volunteer or to purchase tickets, visit the Cicada Festival website.

- *Story from The Brock News*



CONNECT WITH US

Department of Geography and Tourism Studies
Brock University
1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way
St. Catharines, ON
Canada L2S 3A1

905-688-5550 x3484

www.brocku.ca/geotour

@BrockUGeoTour

Brock
University