



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR— LETTRE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

(La version française suit)

I think of myself as someone who is comfortable with silence. I am a Quaker, which means that I sit in silence for an hour most weeks. But there was a silence at the last CWAG meeting that I could not sit with. Ann Marie Murnaghan was heroically playing every role on the roster herself and running the meeting (because former chair Julia Christensen has moved to Copenhagen). But when Ann Marie asked for folks to step up to be chair, there was a long silence. She moved on to other positions, which thankfully colleagues stepped up for (see box for full list), but when she came back to the chair position, there was another silence. I was sheepish to step forward because I am just beginning my first faculty position and have not been active in CWAG (though I was a regular at CSWIG meetings in Vancouver), but I have been grateful for the voice it gives us all and did not want our organization to fall silent, so I spoke up.

I hope you will all help me keep our organization speaking up. Some of you may have seen (or participated in) the postcard drop at either the AAG or the CAG by the Great Lakes Feminist Geography collective. There were three postcards (see insert): one on mental health, one on maternity leave, and one on numbers of women in geography departments and journal editorial boards. The action was born out of the Great Lakes Feminist Geography Workshop, held in Guelph in May 2013*, and echoed a pink flyer action at the 2002 AAG. The details on the data [are here](#). Mona Domosh, the new president of the AAG, highlighted them in [her recent column](#) and I hope you will also help to keep them circulating by emailing, posting, tweeting, including them in newsletters, etc.

Of course most of you have been speaking out about these issues for much longer than I have. It was great to be reminded by [Linda Peake](#) in her Suzanne McKenzie lecture this year that there is an even longer and broader history of feminist geography than we usually remember.



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Sara Koopman, CWAG
Chair—Présidente du CWAG
2012-2014

*There was another feminist geography [conference in Omaha](#) May 2014, and in honor of it Gender Place and Culture issued an [open access reader](#), another great resource to share.

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I was particularly inspired by the story she shared of [Thelma Glass](#), an African American civil rights activist who started the geography program at Alabama State University and did a geography of the inequalities of the Montgomery bus system - *before* the bus boycott!

She showed how there were fewer routes and less frequent stops in black neighbourhoods, which set the groundwork for the later action. The boycott is widely misportrayed as starting with a spontaneous action by Rosa Parks, but Parks was a trained organizer and the campaign was actually well planned and strategized in advance. How wonderful to know that a geographer played a key role in that work! And how sad that geography instead regularly turns to the Detroit expedition by Bill Bunge (who wrote a homophobic rant in the annals about how homosexual spaces were bad for human survival, alongside the rats and parking lots that he mapped) as an example of early engaged scholarship rather than to Thelma Glass's work. And as Linda Peake pointed out, sixty years later there continues to be an astounding lack of racialized geography faculty. Let's keep speaking out about that. Please do read (and teach, tweet, post, forward, etc) Linda's lecture when it is published in the Canadian geographer.

Many thanks to Linda for her powerful lecture, which included great slides of Suzanne that gave a real sense of her spirit. Huge thanks as well to all of the former CWAG board, particularly Ann Marie Murnaghan and former chair Julia Christensen. CWAG has a long history of strong voices, but there is still too much that needs to be changed to fall silent. Let's speak out together!

Je me considère comme quelqu'un de confortable avec le silence. Je suis Quaker, et presque à chaque semaine je passe une heure en silence. Pourtant, à la dernière réunion du CWAG, il y eut un silence que je n'ai pas pu laisser passer. Jusqu'à ce moment Ann Marie Murnaghan avait rempli héroïquement tous les rôles du registre, et menait maintenant la réunion (puisque la présidente sortante Julia Christensen était déménagée à Copenhague). Mais alors, quand Ann Marie demanda qui, parmi les personnes présentes, se portait volontaire pour reprendre la présidence, il y eut un long silence. Elle passa donc aux autres positions pour lesquelles, heureusement, certaines collègues se portèrent volontaires, mais quand elle revint à la présidence, il y eut un autre silence. J'étais hésitante à me proposer puisque j'amorce tout juste mon premier poste de professeure et que je n'ai pas été active au sein du CWAG (bien que j'étais présente aux rencontres du CSWIG à Vancouver). Néanmoins j'ai souvent apprécié la voix que le CWAG nous donne, et je ne voulais pas que notre organisation devienne muette, alors j'ai élevé ma voix.

J'espère que vous allez toutes m'aider à porter la voix de notre organisation. Certaines d'entre vous avez peut-être vu (ou participé à) la distribution de cartes postales à l'AAG ou à l'ACG par le collectif féministe des Grands Lacs.

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Trois cartes postales étaient présentées : une sur la santé mentale, une sur les congés de maternité, et une présentant des statistiques sur la présence des femmes dans les départements de géographie et sur les comités de rédaction des revues savantes. L'action était née de l'atelier sur la géographie du collectif féministe des Grands Lacs, qui avait eu lieu à Guelph en mai 2013*, et faisait écho à une action de dépliants roses tenue à l'AAG en 2002. Les détails des données utilisées [sont ici](#). Mona Domosh, la nouvelle présidente de l'AAG, les rappelle dans [sa récente colonne](#), et j'espère que vous contribuerez à les faire circuler par l'entremise de courriels, billets de blogues, tweets, bulletins, etc.

Bien sûr, la plupart d'entre vous élèvez votre voix et discutez de ces sujets depuis beaucoup plus longtemps que moi. C'était fantastique en effet de se faire rappeler par [Linda Peake](#), lors de sa conférence hommage à Suzanne McKenzie cette année, que la géographie féministe a une histoire plus longue et plus vaste que ce dont nous nous souvenons habituellement.

J'ai été particulièrement inspirée par l'histoire de [Thelma Glass](#), une activiste afro-américaine des droits civiques. Thelma Glass débuta le programme de géographie à Alabama State University et établit une géographie des inégalités du système de transport en commun de Montgomery – avant le boycott! Elle démontra le manque proportionnel de circuits et la rareté des arrêts dans les quartiers noirs, ce qui établit la base pour l'action à venir. Le boycott est largement et faussement présenté comme émergeant d'une action spontanée de Rosa Parks, mais

Parks elle-même était une organisatrice chevonnée, et la campagne était en fait bien planifiée d'avance. Il est merveilleux de savoir qu'une géographe a joué un rôle charnière dans ce travail! Et il est triste que la géographie utilise majoritairement l'expédition à Detroit de Bill Bunge (le même qui écrit une diatribe homophobe dans les Annales décrivant les espaces homosexuels comme étant nuisibles à la survie humaine, dans le même ordre que les rats et les stationnements, qu'il avait d'ailleurs cartographiés) comme un exemple de recherche engagée précoce, plutôt que de se tourner vers le travail de Thelma Glass. Et, comme Linda Peake le soulignait, soixante ans plus tard il continue d'y avoir un manque stupéfiant de professeur/es racialisé/es dans les départements de géographie. Continuons d'élever nos voix pour dénoncer cette situation. SVP lisez (et enseignez, tweetez, partagez, transférez, etc) la conférence de Linda lorsqu'elle sera publiée dans le Géographe Canadien.

Merci mille fois à Linda pour sa conférence percutante, incluant des belles photos de Suzanne qui évoquent bien sa personnalité. Grands mercis également au comité exécutif sortant du CWAG, particulièrement à Ann Marie Murnaghan et à la présidente sortante Julia Christensen. Le CWAG a une longue histoire de voix fortes, et il y a encore trop à changer pour se taire. Élevons nos voix ensemble!

*En mai 2014 y eut une autre [conférence de géographie féministe en Omaha](#). Pour souligner l'occasion, Gender Place and Culture a publié un [accès libre](#) à sa revue, une autre ressource fantastique à partager.

CWAG new executive board—le nouveau conseil exécutif du CWAG

Chair—présidente 2014-2016 : Sara Koopman, York University

Secretary—secrétaire 2014-2016 : Emily Eaton, University of Regina

Treasurer—trésorière 2014-2016 : Audrey Kobayashi, Queen's University

Communications coordinator/newsletter editor—coordonatrice aux communications/éditrice du bulletin 2014-2016 : Laurence Simard-Gagnon, Queen's University

Student Representatives—représentantes étudiantes 2014-2015 : Julia Laforge, University of Manitoba; Adrienne Johnson, Clark University

CWAG new executive board—le nouveau conseil exécutif du CWAG

Emily Eaton—secretary

Dear Canadian Women and Geography,

I write to introduce myself as the new CWAG secretary. I am an associate professor at the University of Regina in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Ours is a small department with only three human geographers, so my teaching has involved a wide range of courses related to gender and identity, natural resources, economic geography, and mining and extraction. My research background is in the area of Canadian prairie agriculture, but my new focus has been on Saskatchewan's booming oil economy. I have just returned from a field trip that involved driving a half-ton truck and camper trailer and living in campgrounds full of oil workers in the oil producing areas of the province. I met with landowners, regulators, oil workers, city councilors, service providers and indigenous communities both resisting and exploiting oil development. Although I have written little about gender and identity in the past, it has certainly been at the forefront of my thoughts since this field trip. I look forward to our next meeting at Simon Fraser University.

Emily Eaton, Ph.D.

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Picture: courtesy of Emily Eaton

CWAG ON FACEBOOK—le CWAG SUR FACEBOOK!

For some real time connections with women and feminist geographers in distant locales, think of joining the Facebook Group CWAG—Canadian Women and Geography Study Group! Pour des connexions en temps réel avec des femmes et des géographes féministes, songez à devenir membre du groupe Facebook du CWAG—Canadian Women and Geography Study Group!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/430844290279789>

CWAG new executive board—le nouveau conseil exécutif du CWAG

Laurence Simard-Gagnon— coordonnatrice aux communica- tions/communications coordinator

(English follows)



Lorsque, il y a deux ans, je suis devenue membre du CWAG et que j'ai feuilleté ce bulletin pour la première fois, j'étais loin de croire que je serais un jour responsable de son édition et de sa publication. Mais la vie est remplie de surprises, et je suis bien contente d'assumer maintenant ce nouveau rôle.

Je suis présentement étudiante au doctorat à l'université Queen's, sous la direction d'Anne Godlewska. En tant que chercheure, mes intérêts tendent à converger vers les expériences quotidiennes des femmes, la consolidation de l'expérience dans le corps et/ou dans certains phénomènes et expériences (ce qu'on nomme en anglais *embodiment*), le soutien à l'existence (*care*), la continuité culturelle, la normativité et la dissonance.

Mon projet de recherche doctorale s'intéresse plus spécifiquement aux expériences des femmes Franco-

Ontariennes dont le quotidien implique des relations non-rémunérées de dépendance et de soutien. Un premier objectif est d'explorer des façons dont ces femmes – à travers leur engagement envers certaines pratiques culturelles de groupe (par exemple, les choix langagiers) et leurs actions de soutien à l'existence – divergent de certaines attentes normatives de la citoyenneté libérale, notamment de neutralité et d'indépendance.

Je m'intéresse également aux façons dont ces femmes négocient et articulent les frontières – ou seuils – qui établissent certaines facettes de leur existence comme ‘différentes’ (ie : être francophone, soutenir l'existence d'un/e ou de plusieurs autres) au sein de paradigmes libéraux de citoyenneté, d'accordement et d'inclusion.

Mon objectif est finalement d'investiguer les espaces de résistance aux paradigmes dominants d'individualisme, de compétition et de liberté qui sont créés par les actions de ces femmes, lorsqu'elles maintiennent et

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transmettent des relations d'(inter)dépendance, et des pratiques et valeurs culturelles d'un groupe particulier.

Je suis moi-même mère de deux enfants et francophone (de Québec par contre, ce qui implique un contexte très différent). Je sens ainsi que ma recherche et mes intérêts sont fortement liés à mes propres expériences et défis. Je trouve qu'il y a quelque chose d'autonomisant et d'épanouissant à m'approprier les pratiques et espaces qui me sont ouverts en tant que chercheure, et à pouvoir revendiquer, explorer et résister à mes expériences de stress et d'adversité.

Je pense que le bulletin du CWAG représente un tel espace, pouvant être constamment approprié comme vecteur de solidarité. Je vous invite donc toutes à vous l'approprier – ce me fera grand plaisir de vous y aider.

Little did I think, two years ago, when I became a CWAG member and I first beheld the newsletter, that I would soon be in charge of assembling and publishing it. But surely stranger things have happened, and I am quite excited to take on this new role.

I am presently pursuing my PhD at Queen's University, under the supervision of Anne Godlewska. As a researcher, my interests tend to revolve around themes of women's daily experiences, embodiment, care, cultural continuity, normativity, and dissonance.

My PhD project looks more specifically at experiences of Franco-Ontarian women who are engaged daily in unpaid relationships of dependency and care. My first objective is to explore the ways in which these women—through their commitment to specific group cultural values (such as language choice) and through their caregiving—diverge from normative expectations of liberal citizenship, namely of neutrality and independence.

I am also interested in how they navigate and articulate boundaries – or thresholds – that establish and recognize parts of their existence as 'different' (ie: being francophone, being a caregiver) within liberal paradigms of citizenship, accommodation and inclusion. Lastly my aim is to explore spaces of resistance to dominant paradigms of individualism, competition and freedom created by these women as they maintain and transmit relationships of (inter)dependencies, and commitments to common cultural practices and values.

As a mother of two and a francophone myself (although from Québec, which of course is a very different context), I do feel that my research and my interests are strongly interconnected with my own experiences and challenges. I find there is something empowering and fulfilling in appropriating spaces and practices that are opened to me as a researcher to claim, explore and resist experiences of stress and adversity.

I think the CWAG newsletter is one such space, to be constantly appropriated as a vector of solidarity. I am thus inviting you all to appropriate it – and I am very much looking forward to it.



A feel-good picture as a way to conclude—une photo inspirante en guise de conclusion

CWAG new executive board—le nouveau conseil exécutif du CWAG

Adrienne Johnson—student representative

Hello! My name is Adrienne Johnson and I am happy to be named one of CWAG's student representatives for the 2014-2015 academic year. Currently, I am a PhD Candidate at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts at the Graduate School of Geography. My research examines the intersections of environmental governance, post-neoliberal politics, and the effects of uneven power relations in governing extractive and agricultural sectors in Latin America. My dissertation entitled, 'Governing Knowledge, Protest, and Participation: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and its Processes in Ec-



Photo: Courtesy of A. Johnson

uador', analyzes the uneven socio-environmental effects of a sustainable certification initiative in Ecuador and traces to what extent various actors such as farmers, indigenous groups, company personnel, and government representatives are enabled to participate in an industry-led resource governance initiative.

Having relocated back to Canada after spending several years in the US and Ecuador, I look forward to re-familiarizing myself with the Canadian academic geographical landscape along with the wonderful work of CWAG!

Food for thought—matière à réflexion

What are ways in which student representatives have and could contribute to the work of CWAG?

De quelles façons les représentantes étudiantes ont par le passé, et pourraient à l'avenir, contribué aux travaux du CWAG?

Please send suggestions, glimpses of idea, insights, comments, or anything remotely relevant at:

SVP envoyez suggestions, pistes d'idées, impressions, commentaires, ou quoi que ce soit de moindrement pertinent à:

Laurence.simard-gagnon@queensu.ca

CWAG new executive board—le nouveau conseil exécutif du CWAG

Julia Laforge—student representative

Julia Laforge is a PhD student in the department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba. Originally from Saskatchewan, Julia completed a B.Sc. at the University of Saskatchewan in Land Use and Environmental Studies with a focus on Physical Geography in 2007. She later moved to Ottawa to do a M.A. in Human Geography at the University of Ottawa and graduated in 2010. Her research here focused on how farmers in 1930s Saskatchewan migrated out of areas that were hardest hit during the drought to areas that more moisture but were less developed in the Aspen Parkland. After finishing her degree in Ottawa she worked for [Just Food](#) and [USC-Canada](#) before academia called her back to start a PhD in Winnipeg.

Currently, Julia is researching how farmers who practice ‘alternative’ (that is, non-industrial) agriculture access knowledge on these farming practices. In 2014, she started her field work to do a comparative case study between Eastern Ontario and Southern Manitoba to explore the formal and informal ways that new farmers learn and share knowledge. For information about this project, visit

<http://ruminationsongerminations.com/>



Photo: Courtesy of Julia Laforge

Congratulations to International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Gender and Geography!

The IGU recently recognized the Commission for successfully advancing the objectives of the IGU through its efforts to organize meetings, publish scholarship, communicate effectively, and participate in global initiatives that promote Gender Geography.

The Gender Commission is the first recipient of this award and will receive a monetary sum for their efforts. They will also deliver a public lecture at the upcoming IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland on important scholarly contributions of the Gender and Geography Commission.

Congratulations to current Chair of the Gender Commission Dr. Shirlena Huang (National University of Singapore) and to its global network of supporters.

View current activities of the IGU Gender Commission at

<http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/> <<http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/>>



Drawing by / Dessin de
Typhaine Leclerc-Sobry

Canadian Women & Geography Study Group

This newsletter is published in winter and summer. Please send news, contributions, links, resources, congratulations, heartwarming tales and anything else that could be potentially relevant to the Communications Coordinator, **Laurence Simard-Gagnon**

Laurence.simard-gagnon@queensu.ca

Please indicate if you would like your material to be published in French and English—I am happy to translate.

A call to document and write up the history of CWAG!

By Linda Peake

Over the last few years I have been researching and writing an article with Eric Sheppard (UCLA) (Peake and Sheppard 2014) on a brief history of radical geography in North America. In our research we were shocked to realize the lack of records documenting the history of our discipline. Many organizations and groups have no written history or have not archived their newsletters and other publications. CWAG falls in this category (as does GPOW). And yet the Canadian Women and Geography Study Group is one of the more influential study groups in the CAG, its founders including Fran Kłodawsky, Audrey Kobayashi, Suzanne Mackenzie, Damaris Rose, Sue Ruddick and Pamela White. Its members have played leading roles in the CAG; past presidents of the CAG include Alison Gill and Audrey Kobayashi (currently AAG president). It also sponsors one of the CAG's two annual lectures: The Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture.

This is a call to those who would be interested in documenting and writing up this history. Please contact me on lpeake@yorku.ca

Peake, L., Sheppard, E. 2014 “Radical / Critical Geography in the USA and Anglo-Canada” *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 13 (2): 305-327

What does feminist geography look like? À quoi ressemble la géographie féministe?

*I welcome any suggestion of illustrations to embellish our newsletter
Je vous invite à m'envoyer des suggestions d'illustrations pour notre bulletin*

Laurence.simard-gagnon@queensu.ca

Le groupe d'étude canadien sur les femmes et la geography (CWAG)

Ce bulletin est publié à l'hiver et à l'été. Vous êtes invitées à faire parvenir vos nouvelles, contributions, ressources, félicitations, récits réconfortants, et toute autre chose qui vous paraît potentiellement pertinent à **Laurence Simard-Gagnon**, coordonnatrice aux communications

Laurence.simard-gagnon@queensu.ca

Veuillez indiquer si vous souhaitez que votre contribution soit publiée en anglais et en français—je me ferai un plaisir de traduire.

Sujet spécial!

Regroupement québécois de l'Association Canadienne des Géographes

Entrevue avec Martin Simard—par Laurence Simard

(English follows)

Bonne nouvelle! Ce printemps, plusieurs géographes du Québec se sont mobilisé/es pour mettre sur pied un regroupement régional québécois de l'Association Canadienne des Géographes. L'assemblée de lancement a eu lieu le 13 mai dernier à l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

Curieuse de voir l'impact qu'un tel regroupement pourra avoir sur le développement de la géographie féministe au Québec, j'ai envoyé quelques questions à ce sujet à Martin Simard, nouvellement président du regroupement. Il s'est prêté à l'exercice avec beaucoup de bonne grâce et je l'en remercie chaleureusement.

Voici donc notre entrevue virtuelle ou, comme je me plais à penser, une conversation entre Simard :

Laurence : J'ai l'impression qu'il y a proportionnellement peu de géographes au Québec intéressé/ es par les questions de genre et/ou les expériences des femmes - comparativement aux géographes anglophones au Canada. Partagez-vous cette impression?

Martin Simard : Oui, j'ai aussi cette impression. Malgré tout, on peut aisément identifier une demi-douzaine de géographes québécois-e-s préoccupé-e-s par ces questions. Je pense à des géographes d'expérience comme Anne Gilbert, Damaris Rose ou Paul Villeneuve ou à des géographes de la nouvelle génération comme Caroline Desbiens, Anne Latendresse ou Marie-Hélène Vandersmissen. J'en oublie sûrement quelques-un-e-s.

Il est d'ailleurs remarquable que ces géographes intéressé-e-s par les questions de genre aient pratiquée-

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ment tous et toutes étudié-e-s ou travaillé-e-s en milieu anglophone ou soient fortement réseauté-e-s avec des géographes du Canada-anglais ou des États-Unis.

Laurence : Si oui, à quoi attribuez-vous ce manque d'intérêt?

Martin Simard : Je crois qu'il faut d'abord relativiser l'expression « manque » que vous utilisez dans votre interrogation. En effet, la situation de la géographie des genres au Québec me semble plus intéressante que ce que l'on peut voir dans la géographie française, par exemple, en dépit de l'aspect embryonnaire de ce courant de recherche. À titre indicatif, des étudiant-e-s français-e-s m'ont déjà mentionné-e-s leur agréable surprise face au fait que ce thème soit discuté dans les universités du Québec, même s'il ne s'agit souvent que de séances spécifiques ou d'exemples soulevés en classe et non de cours universitaires complets sur le sujet.

Dans un deuxième temps, il est très difficile de parler de géographies nationales à notre époque alors que les géographes travaillent sur une grande diversité de sujets selon les opportunités, leurs intérêts personnels ou d'autres facteurs. Dans ce contexte, la faiblesse relative ou l'absence d'un champ d'étude ou d'une sous-discipline sur un territoire est-il attribuable au contexte culturel ou est-ce seulement un phénomène aléatoire ? Difficile de faire la part des choses.

« il me semble qu'il faudrait peut-être davantage s'intéresser au contexte qui a favorisé l'émergence et la consolidation [de la géographie féministe] au sein de la géographie anglo-saxonne plutôt qu'à traiter de sa faible présence dans d'autres géographies, si l'on cherche à mieux comprendre ce phénomène. »

Néanmoins, il est évident qu'il y a un effet boule de neige lorsque des professeur-e-s initient des projets de recherche sur le vécu des femmes ou les différences hommes-femmes. Ces projets peuvent « susciter des vocations » chez les étudiant-e-s de cycles supérieurs et favorisent les publications sur cet enjeu de société.

Pour finir, Sans être un expert de l'épistémologie de la géographie, il me semble qu'il faudrait peut-être davantage s'intéresser au contexte qui en a favorisé l'émergence et la consolidation au sein de la géographie anglo-saxonne plutôt qu'à traiter de sa faible présence dans d'autres géographies, si l'on cherche à mieux comprendre ce phénomène. Cela n'empêche pas de faire la promotion de la géographie féministe ou des genres dans d'autres contextes culturels ou nationaux.

Laurence : Croyez-vous qu'une section active de l'ACG au Québec aura un impact sensible sur les communications et échanges entre les géographes québécois/es et les géographes canadien/nes hors Québec? Si oui, quelles seront selon vous les implications pour la géographie féministe au Québec et au Canada?

Martin Simard : Difficile à dire. Cela peut être le cas si des membres se mobilisent sur ce thème et proposent des activités scientifiques mais rien ne l'oblige. Il faut bien comprendre que le Regroupement est davantage un contenant qu'un contenu, du moins selon ma vision de l'organisation. Ainsi, il n'y a pas de thème prioritaire à promouvoir, du moins au départ, car nous devons tenter d'être le plus inclusif possible.

Par ailleurs, la création du Regroupement pourra certainement améliorer les échanges entre les géographes québécois et canadiens, et ce, dans toutes les sphères de la connaissance géographique. Malgré tout, il y a

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aussi un objectif de favoriser les échanges québéco-québécois, c'est-à-dire faire en sorte que les géographes québécois se rencontrent, échangent et s'expriment de manière régulière. Actuellement, il n'y a pas de forum ou de médium pour alimenter ou canaliser ces échanges.

Laurence : Croyez-vous qu'une section active de l'ACG au Québec aidera à promouvoir le transfert d'idées et de recherche à travers la barrière de la langue?

« Selon moi, une ouverture plus grande aux idées et travaux réalisés ailleurs au Canada permettrait de confronter les idées et approches issues de deux grands courants culturels de manière très intéressante. Ce phénomène de carrefour culturel de la géographie laurentienne est déjà présent mais il pourrait être accentué sans mettre en danger son originalité. »

Martin Simard : Je pense que les géographes québécois ont beaucoup à gagner à échanger avec leurs collègues du reste du Canada. La géographie québécoise se nourrit abondamment à la géographie française, à cause de lien naturel que constitue la langue. Selon moi, une ouverture plus grande aux idées et travaux réalisés ailleurs au Canada permettrait de confronter les idées et approches issues de deux grands courants culturels de manière très intéressante.

Ce phénomène de carrefour culturel de la géographie laurentienne est déjà présent mais il pourrait être accentué sans mettre en danger son originalité. La géographie féministe ou des genres est un bon exemple de champ d'étude ou d'approche qui pourrait se développer davantage au Québec suite à l'accroissement des échanges pan-canadiens.

Special topic!

Québec branch of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Interview with Martin Simard—by Laurence Simard

Great news! Several geographers got together this spring to start a Québec branch of the Canadian Association of Geographers. The launching assembly was held on May 13th at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

As I was curious about the impact that such an organization could have on the development of Québec feminist geography, I sent some questions on this topic to Martin Simard, newly elected chair. He readily agreed to respond and I thank him warmly for it.

So here is our virtual interview or, as I like to put it, a conversation amongst Simards:

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Laurence : I am under the impression that there are proportionally few geographers in Québec who are either interested in gender issues, or/and who focus their work on women's experiences. Do you agree with this impression?

Martin Simard : Yes, I am under that impression as well. However, we can easily identify half a dozen Québec geographers who are preoccupied with such matters. I am thinking of experienced geographers such as Anne Gilbert, Damaris Rose or Paul Villeneuve, as well as geographers from the new generation, such as Caroline Desbiens, Anne Latendresse or Marie-Hélène Vandersmissen. Certainly I am forgetting some.

Also, it is notable that practically all of these geographers interested with gender issues have studied or worked within an Anglophone academic environment, or are tightly networked with English-Canadian or American geographers.

Laurence : If so, to what do you associate this lack of interest?

Martin Simard : First of all I think we need to balance the term 'lack' that you are using in your question. Despite its early stage, the situation of gender geography in Quebec seems to me to be more interesting than that in France, for example. As an indicator, I have had students from France mention their pleasant surprise with the fact that this theme is discussed in Québec universities, even if it is often limited to specific lectures or examples used in class rather than entire university courses dedicated to this topic.

Furthermore, it is very difficult in our era to talk about national geographies, while geographers work on greatly diverse subjects depending on their opportunities, personal interests, and other factors. In this context, is the relative weakness or absence of a field of study or a sub-discipline within a particular territory attributable to the cultural context or is it only a random phenomenon? It is hard to sort out.

Nevertheless it is obvious that there is a snowball effect when professors initiate research projects on women's experiences or on gender-based differences. These projects can 'generate vocations' with graduate students and foster publications on this social issue.

To conclude, while I do not claim to be an expert in the epistemology of geography, it seems to me that we should maybe wonder about the context that promoted its emergence and consolidation within Anglo-Saxon geography, rather than focusing on its thin presence in other geographies, if we are to better understand this phenomenon. This doesn't prevent the promotion of feminist or gender geography in other cultural or national contexts.

"it seems to me that we should maybe wonder about the context that promoted [the] emergence and consolidation [of feminist geography] within Anglo-Saxon geography, rather than focusing on its thin presence in other geographies, if we are to better understand this phenomenon."

Laurence : Do you think that having a branch of the CAG active in Québec will have a notable impact in enhancing communication and exchanges between geographers in Québec and the rest of Canada? If so, what do you think the implications might be for feminist geography in Canada and in Québec?

Martin Simard : Hard to say. It could be the case if members mobilize themselves and propose scientific

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activities around this theme, but there are no guarantees. It is important to understand that the Québec branch is a container rather than content, at least in my view of the organization. There is thus no priority or theme to promote, in the beginning at least, as we must attempt to be as inclusive as possible.

At the same time, the creation of the Québec branch will certainly allow for enhanced exchanges between Québécois and Canadian geographers, and in all domains of geographic knowledge. There is, however, also the objective of fostering Québéco-Québécois exchanges, that is to ensure that Québec geographers meet, exchange and express themselves regularly. For now there is no forum or medium to feed or streamline such exchanges.

"It is my opinion that a greater openness to ideas and works from elsewhere in Canada would allow us to engage with the interesting ideas and approaches flowing from these two great cultural currents. Laurentian geography is already present as a cultural crossroad, but this phenomenon but could be enhanced without endangering its uniqueness."

phenomenon but could be enhanced without endangering its uniqueness. Feminist or gender geography is a good example of a research field or approach that could be further developed in Québec through greater pan-Canadian exchanges.

Laurence : Do you think having a Québec branch of the CAG will help communicating works and thoughts across the language boundary?

Martin Simard : I think Québec geographers have much to gain from exchanges with their colleagues in the rest of Canada. Québec geography is much inspired by French geography through the natural bound of language. It is my opinion that a greater openness to ideas and works from elsewhere in Canada would allow us to engage with the interesting ideas and approaches flowing from these two great cultural currents. Laurentian geography is already present as a cultural crossroad, but this

phenomenon but could be enhanced without endangering its uniqueness. Feminist or gender geography is a good example of a research field or approach that could be further developed in Québec through greater pan-Canadian exchanges.

Many thanks to Pete Anderson, amazing historical geographer, fellow PhD student at Queen's and most of all dear friend, for his patient and generous proofreading and comments on my English.

If you would like to volunteer for some English proofreading let me know, it would be much appreciated!

Grands mercis à Pete Anderson, un géographe historique fantastique, un collègue au doctorat à Queen's, mais surtout un ami cher, de son aide patiente et généreuse pour la relecture en anglais.

Si vous voulez aider à la relecture en anglais faites-moi signe, ce serait très apprécié!

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Conference announcements—calls for papers and participation

Call for Papers, International Conference of Historical Geographers, London, 5-10 July 2015

UNDER ITS OWN NAME? FEMINIST HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY 2015

Organizers:

Mona Domosh, Dartmouth College

Karen M. Morin, Bucknell University

Tamar Rothenberg, Bronx Community College-CUNY

It's been over a decade since Domosh and Morin (2003*) reported on the status of feminist historical geography - a field which the authors argued, "rarely traveled under its own name." It seems appropriate to check back in and see where and how feminist historical geographers have traveled over the last decade. The International Conference of Historical Geographers in London provides us with an opportunity to regroup, to see where we've come as well as to claim space for feminists within historical geography. What spaces, knowledges, and practices have caught the attention of those whose work crosses the nexus of feminism-history-geography? Broadly we envision both paper sessions as well as panel discussions around a wide range of theoretical and applied topics, and aspire towards international inclusiveness.

Suggested topics within this theme of Feminist Historical Geography include (but are not limited to) the following:

- what are the connections between history and geography from a feminist perspective?
- what is happening in feminist historical geography in various sites around the globe?
- how have feminist historical geography theories and methods been applied within various research programs?
- what recent interventions have we seen in including women in the history of geography?
- what are the possibilities for collaborative work between women's history and feminist historical geography?
- how have scholars explored connections among feminist historical geography, environmental history, and science studies?

Submissions: Please submit 250-word paper abstract or panel session proposal to Tamar Rothenberg (tamar.rothenberg@bcc.cuny.edu), Mona Domosh (Mona.Domosh@Dartmouth.EDU) and Karen M. Morin (morin@bucknell.edu) by **Friday, August 29th, 2014**.

For further information on the International Conference of Historical Geographers 2015:
<http://www.ichg2015.org/>

Call for Participants

Powerful histories: Tracing the legacies of contemporary racial formations

21st Annual Critical Geography Conference: How Power Happens

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

November 7-9, 2014

Organizers: Kristy Copeland, Michelle Daigle, Katie Gillespie, Tish Lopez, & Amy Piedalue

This session(s) will explore ‘How Power Happens’ through a consideration of the ‘historical present’ of racial and colonial formations. Building upon recent work that pushes critical geography toward a deeper (and more reflexive) engagement with race (Kobayashi 1994, 2005; Kobayashi & Peake 1994; Pulido 2002; McKittrick 2006; McKittrick & Woods 2007; Price 2010), we aim to bring critical race and post-colonial scholarship into conversation with historical geographies of places and the bodies that inhabit them. Drawing upon the insights and innovations of feminist scholars who have advanced understandings of race, empire, and power by uncovering and politicizing historical linkages (Domosh 2005; McClintock 1995; Mohanty 2011; Sinha 2006), we intend to spark conversation across critical geographic work that centralizes the powerful histories undergirding contemporary relations of imperialism, racism, and ‘matrices of oppression’ (Hill-Collins 1990).

We seek papers that, in the spirit of the conference theme, trace power through structural forces, knowledge production & meaning making, and bodies & materiality. Recalling histories of racial formation and colonial legacy draws attention to points of contact and contestation among structures, knowledges, and bodies. Importantly, these histories are not bound to the past; rather, they reveal the ways in which racial formations are made, persist, and are reformulated through their structural, bodily, psychological and emotional manifestations. Thus, attending to these continued legacies of power, hierarchy, and privilege in their historical context is central to understanding how historical social relations persist and how we might imagine new transformative political and ethical praxis.

Potential themes may include (but are not limited to), histories and contemporary enactments of:

Slavery and apartheid

(Post)colonial development

Indigenous peoples and lands

Immigration policy and reform

Experiences of (im)migration

Animals and animality in colonial history and racial formation

Foreign policy (e.g., war, aid, etc.)

Resistance movements

Historical trauma & contemporary inequality

Oral histories

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If you would like to participate in this session, please submit a paper abstract by **Wednesday, September 3rd** to: Amy Piedalue (amer@uw.edu<mailto:amer@uw.edu>) and Katie Gillespie (kathryn.a.gillespie@gmail.com<mailto:kathryn.a.gillespie@gmail.com>).

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Heartwarming tale for the academic mind

By Laurence Simard

Once upon a time there lived a woman who was also a PhD student.

All through the hectic winter and spring she had been looking forward to summer as a time when she could finally slow down, and take time for herself and the ones she loved.

As summer dawned however she found the pace of requirements and expectations didn't slack. Trying to keep up, her ever-present anxiety increased, and soon morphed into a numbness of spirit and heart. The well of her thoughts and feelings seemed to have dried out, and she could spend countless hours in front of her computer and accomplish next to nothing.

After yet another sleepless night, she rose and declared: 'Well, this won't do. These demands that are put on myself will never abate. On the other hand, no one will die if I delay my work a little. So there.'

Having said this she unplugged her computer, took a nice vacation, spent time with family and friends and enjoyed the summer. When she came back she was refreshed, full of ideas, and she felt this precious sense of love and meaning that reminded her of why she was doing what she was doing. The end.



Little hand holding shells