

**Canadian Women
and Geography
Study Group
Newsletter**

CWAG

Newsletter

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Fall 2006

Editor:

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UNBC 2nd Geography Field School to Guatemala.

Photo credit: C. Nolin, 2006

From the CWAG Chair

Margaret Walton-Roberts

In the last 12 months two CWAG members have been recognised with regional and national awards. In October of last year Valerie Preston was presented with the Award for Service to Geography by the Ontario division of the CAG, and this Spring Geraldine Pratt received the CAG's Scholarly Distinction Award, the first women I believe to be recognised in this way. In addition to acknowledging the wonderful contribution these CWAG members have made to the discipline, I would also like to express gratitude to those who nominated them. In the case of Geraldine Pratt a number of CWAG members initiated and supported the nomination process. Nominations, and similar processes, to recognize the contributions of our colleagues are important for building the intellectual and collegial fabric of our discipline. We are all so busy with research and teaching that many of us overlook the role mutual recognition and congratulation play in community building. Recognition can be as simple as kind words of encouragement and support to our peers and students, or congratulations offered in response to achievements such as publications and awards. A clear manifestation of such good intentions is evident in the official nomination of our colleagues for various honours, and this is something we might do well to work harder at. Universities across the country have numerous

internal awards available, but occasionally it seems the award committees have a thin field of candidates to review. Needless to say we are all aware of the cumulative effect such prizes can have on the reputation of an academic, and so it would seem to me that recognition early and often can play an important role in the trajectory of one's career. I am not advocating some nefarious plan to accelerate the career paths of CWAG members; rather I am promoting the idea of building greater generosity within the academic world, a world often marked by petty rivalries and outright hostilities. I hope as a group CWAG can continue to find ways to assist in publicly valuing the work of our members.

On a different note, I will be stepping down as CWAG chair at the CAG meeting next June, and would encourage you to consider standing for this office. It is a relatively contained administrative load to assume and, for those of you who are in relatively junior positions, it does offer an introduction to the organisational operation of the CAG. I would be happy to address any questions you might have if you would like to consider this position. Wishing you a pleasant fall and holiday season,

Regards

Margaret Walton-Roberts 

From the Newsletter Editor

At long last, here is the latest CWAG newsletter, our venue for sharing information amongst the members of our study group.

As you will see, the newsletter is a bit thin, due to a low number of contributions. I'm not sure why that is, and I'm hoping that you, the members, can help me remedy this situation.

It may well be that it is time to pass on the duties of newsletter editor to someone else with brighter ideas and more energy to go out and 'beat the bushes'. Now that we have moved to an electronic newsletter, it is easily hosted on an editor's departmental website, as we have done here in the Department of Environment and Geography, University of Manitoba. This makes the newsletter that much more accessible, to ourselves, and to the larger geographical community, through our link to the CAG page.

Once again, I encourage you all to consider sending in updates, notices of new publications, short articles/stories, and encourage your students to send in profiles.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Hallman



Department Updates

YORK UNIVERSITY

News from Our Graduate Program

Between February and September 2006, the following female graduate students successfully defended:

Nadia Kelton, PhD (February 2006)
"The effects of ultraviolet and visible radiation on dissolved organic carbon-iron interactions in South Central Ontario streams: particulate carbon and iron formation, spectrofluorometric signatures and iron lability"

Maryam Torbati, MA (February 2006)
"Immigrant Entrepreneurship: A Case Study of Iranian Businesses in the Toronto CMA"

Sutama Ghosh, PhD (May 2006)
"We Are Not All the Same. The Differential Migration, Settlement Patterns and Housing Trajectories of Indian Bengalis and Bangladeshis"

Wendy Scolnik, MA (May 2006)
"Community and Memory: Eastern European Jewish Immigrants to the Ward (1890-1920)"

Junjia Ye, MA (May 2006)
"Multiple identities in a Transnational Workplace: The case of Singapore's Financial Sector"

Stephanie Watt, MA (September 2006)
"Formal and Practical Citizenship: 'Non-Status' Algerians and Montreal, Canada"

Focus on Faculty

In July 2006, the Department of Geography at York University welcomed the appointment of two female faculty members.

Alison Bain is an urban social geographer who studies contemporary culture in Canadian cities. With research interests on the geographies of artists, arts-led urban redevelopment, municipal cultural planning, cinematic cities, and the geographies of sexualities, the common thread through all of her research is a focus on identity and place in a Canadian urban context. Her current SSHRC research program is an empirical study of cultural production and creative practice in the 'inner' and 'outer' suburbs of Toronto (Etobicoke and Mississauga) and Vancouver (North Vancouver and Surrey).

Taly Drezner's research interests include biogeography, desert ecosystems, tropical island ecosystems, rivers, natural and anthropogenic disturbance, and species colonization. She is currently working on population cycles of the famous branched saguaro cactus of the western deserts, and its links to El Nino and other climate cycles and factors.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

TRAVEL & ACTIVITIES

Thirteen students of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) participated with **Dr. Catherine Nolin** in the 2nd Geography Field School to Guatemala. The first week of course (24-28 July) work took place at the Prince George (BC, Canada) campus and for 16 days we traveled throughout Guatemala (30 July – 15 August). The

delegation-style course "Geographies of Culture, Rights, and Power" featured meetings and excursions with human rights organizations, campesino communities, survivors of the 1980s genocide, the Canadian Ambassador & Political Counsellor to the Ambassador, coffee growing communities, and those working to exhume the mass & clandestine graves from the internal armed conflict. Forced & seasonal labour migrations to Canada are critical outcomes of Guatemala's experience with political violence in addition to long-term agricultural & natural resource exploitation by foreign capital. In the coming weeks, a photo essay will be available at:

<http://www.unbc.ca/geography>

Gail Fondahl (Chair of Geography Program) attended the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group workshop on Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic in Copenhagen (September 10-11), representing Canada at that forum. She then traveled to Akureyri, Iceland, for the initiation of a project on establishing Arctic social indicators of human development, also under the aegis of the SDWG (September 15-17).

PUBLICATIONS:

My first book is finally ready!

Nolin, Catherine (2006) Transnational Ruptures: Gender and Forced Migration. "Gender in a Global/Local World" Series, J. Parpart, P. Gardiner Barber, and M. Marchand, Editors. Ashgate: Aldershot, pp. 266.

<https://www.ashgate.com/shopping/title.asp?key1=&key2=&orig=results&isbn=0%207546%203805%207>

Straussfogel, Debra (2006) The interaction of climate change and resource dependency on the

vulnerability of boreal forest livelihoods. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 11 (4), 911-931.
Sherry E.; Halseth, R.; **Fondahl G.**;
Karjala M.; Leon B. (2005) Local-level criteria and indicators: An aboriginal perspective on sustainable forest management, *Forestry*. 78 (5), 513-539.

CAG PARTICIPATION:

A number of faculty members attended the CAG this year, but here we would like to highlight the presentations of two graduate students working with Dr. Neil Hanlon:

Clasby, Rachael and Hanlon, Neil.

Networks and partnerships in a remote resource town: a case study of adapting to an aging population in Mackenzie, BC.

McGregor, Jessica* and Hanlon, Neil.

Expanding the mine: applying political ecology to environmental conflict in northern BC.

*Jessica McGregor was awarded best student presentation in the Master's category by the Geography of Health and Health Care Specialty Group.

RESEARCH GRANTS:

Catherine Nolin:
SSHRC Standard Research Grant – New Researcher (2006-2009). Project: *Regionalization of Immigration & Settlement: Social Geographies of Services & Social networks within northern BC Communities.*

Sara Boon:
Received a grant from the Canadian Forest Service Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative to continue and expand her research of pine beetle-snow interactions in northern Interior BC.

RECENT CONFERENCE

PRESENTATIONS:

Nolin, Catherine (2006) Latin American transnationalism in rural/remote and urban British Columbia: Challenges and opportunities of place. Presented in the special session, "Latin American Immigration to Canada," at the [Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Congress 2006](#) (From Local to Global in Latin America and the Caribbean: Where Have We Come from and Where are We Headed?) Calgary, AB, 28 September. Discussant: José del Pozo.

GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:

University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program

Opportunities are available for two potential MA students interested in research and study in the area of Canadian immigration and the Canadian government's interest in the regionalization of immigration which seeks a "more geographically balanced" distribution of migrants. This is a SSHRC-funded research opportunity which provides for student involvement in a program of research focusing specifically on mid-size city, small town, and remote migration experiences in British Columbia. We plan to explore a variety of migration experiences including refugee settlement, mail-order & internet bride scenarios, faith-based immigration channels & support, and new labour migration streams. The program start date is September 2007. Graduate students at UNBC can choose from a set of interdisciplinary graduate degrees in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES) and Interdisciplinary Studies. Please see: http://www.unbc.ca/geography/graduate_programs.html

If you know of students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in this general field, or would like further information on these opportunities, please contact Catherine Nolin, Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia at 250-960-5875 or email nolin@unbc.ca.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Catherine Carnrite, PhD NRES (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) candidate, ccarnrite@msn.com, working with Dr. Greg Halseth on the social aspects of contemporary transitions in northern BC resource-based towns

Caroline von Schelling, MSc NRES candidate, vonsch0@unbc.ca, working with Dr. Debra Straussfogel

Melanie Grubb, MSc NRES candidate, grubbm@unbc.ca, working with Dr. Brian Menounos

Kara Przeczek, MSc NRES candidate, Magellan_013@yahoo.ca, working with Dr. Brian Menounos & Dr. Stephen Dery

SAD FAREWELL

The Geography Program bids a sad farewell to **Dr. Deb Thien** who joined us in late 2004 as a post-doctoral fellow to work with Dr. Greg Halseth. We are happy to say that Deb left UNBC to take up a tenure-track position in the Geography Department at the University of California, Long Beach. Deb plans to continue her research on northern BC so we look forward to her regular

(hopefully!) visits. ✨

AAG 2007 – Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group Invitation for Sponsorship

The Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group (GPOW) is pleased to extend a second invitation for sponsorship at the 2007 AAG, April 17-21, San Francisco.

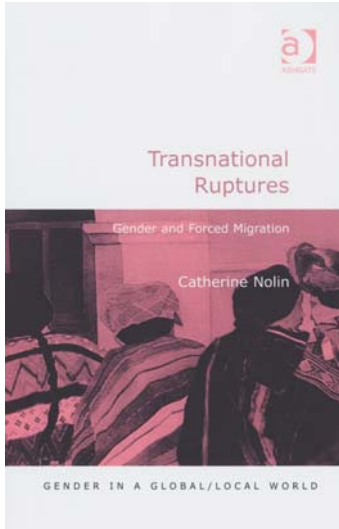
The purpose of GPOW is to promote geographic research and education on topics relating to women and gender. Sponsored sessions can encompass a broad range of geographic topics including (but not limited to) those focusing on women, gender, sexuality, feminism, feminist theories, and/or feminist methodologies. To name just a handful, last year's 43 GPOW-sponsored sessions included Critical Explorations of Militarism; [Gender and the Neoliberal City](#); [Gender Interventions in Research, Teaching, and/or Practice](#); [Multi-ethnic and Mixed-Race Realities](#); [Health and Sexuality](#); [Social \(re\)production and Household](#); and [a session on tenure for junior female faculty](#).

Please contact me if you would like to propose your session for GPOW sponsorship.

All the best,
Deborah Thien
dthien@csulb.edu

Notices

New Publications

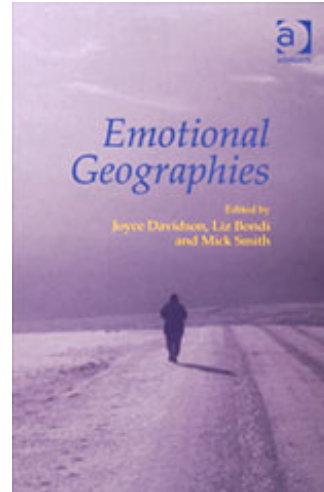


BOOKS:

My first book is finally ready!

Nolin, Catherine (2006) *Transnational Ruptures: Gender and Forced Migration*. "Gender in a Global/Local World" Series, J. Parpart, P. Gardiner Barber, and M. Marchand, Editors. Ashgate: Aldershot, pp. 266.

<https://www.ashgate.com/shopping/title.asp?key1=&key2=&orig=results&isbn=0%207546%203805%207>



Davidson, Joyce., Bondi, Liz., and Mick Smith (2006) (Eds.) *Emotional Geographies*. Ashgate: Aldershot, pp. 258.

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Sherry E.; Halseth, R.; Fondahl G.; Karjala M.; Leon B. (2005) Local-level criteria and indicators: An aboriginal perspective on sustainable forest management, *Forestry*. 78 (5), 513-539.

Hallman, Bonnie C. and Mary Benbow (2006) Naturally cultural: the zoo as cultural landscape. *The Canadian Geographer*. 50(2): 256-264.

Straussfogel, Debra (2006) The interaction of climate change and resource dependency on the vulnerability of boreal forest livelihoods. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 11 (4), 911-931

Call for Submissions

Content is always needed for the next edition, which will be produced in early May (before CAG). Please consider making contributions to *any* section of the newsletter. Profiles (student, research, professional, teaching), articles on issues of interest to CWAGers, and notices of publications are the backbone of the newsletter.

Please send your contributions to the Editor at:

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or by mail to:

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