



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CWAG members,

Happy New Year! I hope that each and every one of you had a chance to relax, even just a little, over the break.

Though I did have some time to rest over the holiday, I also spent time preparing for the Geography of the Arctic course I am teaching here at UBC this semester. While I did some teaching during my PhD, this is the first time I have designed and taught an entire course on my own. As many of you know, it is a huge amount of work. Yet during the most overwhelming moments so far, I have been able to count on the friendship and mentorship of several CWAG members, who have offered helpful advice along the way. I believe there is much more potential for CWAG to be a space of mentorship and knowledge sharing for all its members, and during my time as Chair, I would like to explore ways to make this happen. If any members have ideas, or suggestions for key mentorship areas, please get in touch.

Over the holiday, I spent a lot of time reflecting on 2012 and the kind of year it was. In particular, this year has shown me, more than ever, the limitless power of women. Chief Spence, the Idle No More organizers, protesters in India raging against the normalization of rape and



Julia Christensen, CWAG Chair 2012-2013

other forms of gendered violence, Balpreet Kaur, the compassionate and courageous OSU student who turned attempts to mock her appearance into an opportunity for learning and forgiveness.

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In 2010-2011, 41.7% (N=36) of Full-time University teachers appointed in Geography and Cartography were women. The average for the social and behavioural sciences and law was 34.6%. P.6

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*“Let's make 2013 a year of moving forward with the same spirit and strength of those who have refused to stand by and watch any longer.”*

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But 2012 was also the year that the world lost Amanda Todd, the BC teen who committed suicide after she was viciously shamed by her peers for sexualized images of herself made available online by an older tormentor whose attempt at blackmail Todd had tried to thwart. The year that Malala Yousafzai, a 14-year old Pakistani student known for speaking out about women's rights to education, was assassinated by the Taliban. The year that BC Commissioner Op-pal's report told us what we already knew: the Vancouver police failed many, many women in the DTES, not to mention those who loved them. The year that the persistence of gendered, sexualized and racialized violence against women was once again brought to light in Canada, in India, and all over the world.

In a blog post on Hook & Eye (see: <http://www.hookandeye.ca/2013/01/seeing-women-reflections-on-new-year.html>), Erin Wunker wants to give a name, metaphorically, to the Indigenous woman in Thunder Bay who was raped by two white men who taunted her with racial slurs before assaulting her and leaving her for dead. Wunker wants to give a name to the twenty-three year old student in New Delhi who was gang-raped by six men on a bus moving through the busy city streets. Though their names,

and the names of most other victims of such violence, are kept hidden to protect their identities, this can also result in what Wunker calls “a pernicious and violent cycle of erasure”. So though nameless, at the very, very least, we must work to ‘name’ these women and their oppressors through our writing, teaching, activism, and discussions with our colleagues, family, and friends.

There is so much we have to celebrate in 2012. But there is also so much left to change. Let's make 2013 a year of moving forward with the same spirit and strength of those who have refused to stand by and watch any longer. Reflecting on the contributions of so many CWAG members, I have tremendous optimism that we will continue to challenge these systemic forms of violence through our work.

I hope to see you all at the CAG AGM, August 11-15, 2013, at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

All the very best for 2013,

**Julia Christensen**

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Department of Geography at Memorial University is hosting the 2013 conference and meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), August 11-15, 2013.

**The call for special sessions has been extended until  
January 31, 2013.**

CWAG is happy to sponsor sessions.

Email [julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca) with session titles.

# Regional Revolutions Workshop:

ADVANCING RADICAL GEOGRAPHICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE THROUGH FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY ACROSS THE CANADA-US BORDER



Three feminist geographers at The University of Guelph (Roberta Hawkins and Alice Hovorka) and Wilfred Laurier University (Alison Mountz) were recently awarded *The Antipode Foundation Regional Workshop Award*.

This funding will support a gathering of a group of scholars from institutions in southern Ontario, Canada and the northeastern United States (Great Lakes region) for an intensive two-day workshop in May 2013.

The workshop is intended to: (i) advance the notion of feminist geography as radical scholarship and practice and (ii) build a cross-border network of feminist geographers. As a result of this workshop, the organizers aim to foster a network of scholars engaged in feminist geography and collaborative, critical research that begins locally, builds regionally, and extends nationally/globally.

“The Antipode Foundation exists for the promotion and advancement of social scientific research, education and scholarship in the field of radical and critical geography. Antipode Foundation Regional Workshop Awards are intended to support radical/critical geographers holding regionally based events (including conferences, workshops, seminar series, summer schools and action research meetings) which further radical/critical analyses of geographical issues and engender the development of a new and better society. The Antipode Foundation will explicitly privilege applicants and initiatives from historically under-represented groups, regions, countries and institutions.”

Source: <http://antipodefoundation.org/regional-workshop-awards/>

Please direct any questions or comments to Roberta Hawkins ([rhawkins@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rhawkins@uoguelph.ca))

## CWAG ON FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE GROUPS

For those of you looking for some real time connections with women and feminist geographers in distant locales, you might think of joining the new Facebook Group CWAG—Canadian Women and Geography Study Group <http://www.facebook.com/groups/430844290279789/>

Also, for more direct forms of communication and collaboration, we have also started a Google Group (Canadian Women and Geography Study Group (CWAG) ) where members can post topics, announcements, files for sharing, and other resources.

Please contribute any relevant material!



### REGIONAL MEETING RECAP

## Prairie Division CAG

*It's Not Just About the Prairies!* was the theme of this year's meeting of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference held at the Heartland Inn in Winkler, Manitoba.

From September 28-30, 2012, the Department of Environment and Geography hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> annual event with over 100 registrants giving over 53 presentations. Sessions examining social geography, physical geography, environmental geography, climate, urban geography, and techniques-based geography were filled out, including twenty participants from the University of Manitoba. The two specialized field trips to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden, and the Neubergthal Mennonite Street Village, Gnadenthal and Reinland highlighted the uniqueness of the region in both geological and cultural terms and were enjoyed by all.

The conference's success can be attributed to the excellent organizational skills of Dr. Janna Wilson, who also acted as the banquet host and logistics coordinator. Dr. Wilson's work was supported by the organizing committee and volunteers Karina Cardona Claros, Jenna Drabble, John Hu, Dr. John Iacozza, Dr. Jeffrey Masuda, Dr. Ann Marie Murnaghan, and Cheryl Sobie. The conference, banquet, photo competition, and general meeting went off without a hitch, and all the participants had a lot of fun in the beautiful fall weather in Winkler.

Outcomes from the conference will be published in the upcoming edition of *Prairie Perspectives*, a peer-reviewed, regional geographical journal of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Further details about publishing in this outlet can be found at <http://pcag.uwinnipeg.ca/>.



# BALANCING ON THE EDGE: THOUGHTS OF AN EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR

*Lisa Freeman*

The months following your PhD are both invigorating and exhausting. Although I defended my dissertation in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto (with Dr. Sue Ruddick) in November 2012 and started a post-doctoral fellowship at the Simon Fraser University (with Dr. Nicholas Blomley), I am still balancing on the edge of two worlds: the familiar world of the graduate student and the unknown world of ‘early career scholar.’

My dissertation, “Making Room: The Geography of Rooming House Regulation in Toronto” explored how local governments administer poverty through municipal bylaws. My case study on rooming houses in urban and suburban spaces in Toronto enabled me to analyze multiple forms of urban governance and the limits of municipal law. Further, it sparked my interest in the function of municipal governments. My post-doctoral research, “The Evolution of the Urban Commons: A study of the Public Library Board,” explores the influence that volunteer-

operated appointed Boards have in governing urban and suburban spaces. This study will focus on the changing role of the Public Library in the context of inner-city gentrification and racialized suburban poverty.

Feminist geographers have influenced my research on regulation, identity and marginalization, as well as, how I approach academia. Although many gender-based struggles have been won, we still have a long way to go. It is comforting to know that, as an early-career scholar, I am part of a growing community of scholars who have and continue to re-define the field of geography in Canada.

## MORE THOUGHTS ON BALANCE

*Silvia D’Addario*

Two thousand and twelve was chalk full of wonderful surprises! I gave birth to a beautiful baby in February, Angelica, defended my PhD at York University in the summer and ended the year embarking on an exciting online venture with my sister.

My doctoral research examined the geographical links between paid and unpaid work for immigrant women with special attention to the experiences of transnational care workers living in Toronto’s suburbs. My research on care and domestic work, my new found role as a mother and firsthand experience around the stress of being an academic were catalysts in a new business idea. I began to question how we, as professional women and mothers, have come to care for ourselves and understand the concept of balance. This,



along with a longstanding passion for nutrition and wellness, has prompted my sister and I to create a website that redefines ideas of balance. I am thrilled that my passion for writing and teaching far extend the limits that I had placed upon myself. I am also excited to integrate geography into discussions about wellness and nutrition.

In this brand new year, I look forward to working on publications, teaching courses in geography and inspiring women to rethink what balance means among the various facets of our lives. I am excited about a career that allows me to teach, write, research and inspire both within and outside of academic walls.

## CAUT Almanac 2012-2013 Lowlights

In 2010-2011, 41.7% (N=36) of Full-time University teachers appointed in Geography and Cartography were women. The average for the social and behavioural sciences and law was 46.0%.

	Geography and Cartography			Social and Behavioural Sciences, and Law		
	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Full Professor	204	83.8	16.2	2,529	71.1	28.9
Associate Professor	276	67.4	32.6	2,988	56.9	43.1
Assistant Professor	159	56.6	43.4	2,052	48.4	51.6
Lecturer	66	68.2	31.8	639	54.5	45.5
<b>All Ranks Combined</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>41</b>

<http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?page=442>

## AAG's GFDA Summer Workshop

The Geography Faculty Development Alliance  
2013 GFDA Workshop for Early Career Faculty & Graduate Students  
16 - 22 June, University of Colorado at Boulder

Registration has begun for the 2013 GFDA workshop for graduate students and faculty who are beginning their careers in higher education -- instructors, lecturers, assistant professors, and other untenured faculty. The workshop is open to faculty from all types of teaching and research institutions inside and outside the US. The workshop, sponsored by the Association of American Geographers, focuses on topics which are frequently the greatest sources of stress in the first years of a faculty appointment, including:

- Developing significant learning experiences for your students, Career planning, Time management
- Getting the most out of academic conferences, Ethics in research, teaching, and advising
  - Nuts-and-bolts issues about writing and publishing, Preparing a CV, job search and interviewing, Promoting collegiality, Preparing for the tenure process, Balancing personal and professional life

### Canadian Women & Geography Study Group

Please send all your news, contributions, links, resources, and congratulations to the Communications Coordinator, **Ann Marie Murnaghan**, [amf\\_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca](mailto:amf_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca)

The workshop touches on issues of teaching and learning, particularly those revolving around designing effective courses, issues of diversity and inclusion, and active pedagogy. The goal of the workshop is to help participants balance the many responsibilities of academic life and to understand how their teaching, research, service, outreach, and personal lives intersect and interconnect. Most participants have built lasting networks among themselves and with workshop leaders.

Graduate students and faculty from all institutions and departments are invited to attend. Some teaching experience is useful. Readings and exercises will include selections from Michael Solem, Ken Foote & Janice Monk (eds.), *Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty* (Prentice-Hall, 2009) and Robert Boice, *Advice for New Faculty Members* (Allyn and Bacon, 2000). The workshop begins at 7 pm on Sunday, 16 June and ends at 10:15 am on Saturday, 22 June. An optional, free fieldtrip into the Rocky Mountains to the Continental Divide will be available on Satur-