

2017: Annual Report to the CAG/ACG on *The Canadian Geographer – Le Géographe canadien*

Overview:

This is my seventh year of editing *The Canadian Geographer*. During the past seven years, we have radically altered our design, workflow, migrated to online only and facilitated reader experience. Our goal is to enhance our content, increase our readership and continue to serve our constituent community of Canadian Geographers to the best of our ability. This report summarizes our position in the industry in the discipline of geography, and focuses on emerging trends.

This report also summarizes and explains a number of metrics that describe the situation at *The Canadian Geographer-Le Géographe Canadien* (TCG-LGC) at the end of 2017.

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Emphasis in 2017

In January of 2017, we migrated to online only. This move was several years in the implementation and was supported by the executive of the Canadian Association of Geographers as well as Wiley's support staff. We also continued to build our reviewer database, streamlined our workflow, and focused on decreasing our time from submission to publication.

We continued to encourage authors to submit video abstracts. A number of key journals such as *Science* now offer video abstracts. We view them as a means of competing for audiences, especially as academics are faced with less available time to read – but may be inclined to watch a brief video summary. However, uptake has been slow. I believe that this is related to a lack of institutional support for videos. And authors are loathe to assume more responsibilities in an age of over commitment.

As I mentioned in the 2012-2016 reports, all manuscripts are run through iThenticate – an online plagiarism detection program provided by our publisher Wiley Blackwell. This was the fourth year that we used this service. Increasingly our main results show self-plagiarism. This is often legitimate as submitted papers can be based on white papers previously submitted online.

Manuscript submissions

The submission count for 2017 shows a slight decrease from the previous year. The trend towards higher numbers of French submissions held in 2017, with 5 French research papers. This trend looks to continue as we've already had 4 French submissions in the first two months of 2018. The trend for low numbers of submissions for physical geography also persisted, with no manuscripts being assigned to the physical geography editor in 2017. However, our first issue of 2017 was a special issue entitled *Changing priorities in physical geography*, which was guest-edited by Marc Tadaki, Olav Slaymaker, and Yvonne Martin. We ended the year with an issue that had two special sections: *Secondary suites—Canada's hidden housing resource*, edited by Richard Harris and *Student awareness of Aboriginal peoples*, edited by Anne Godlewska.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Editor in Chief	44	35	41	46	40	40	52	65	48	51	65	51	37	62	66	61
French Editor	4	9	7	13	8	9	15	12	7	11	9	2	5	1	8	5
Physical Geo Editor	3	4	3	2	6	6	8	2	3	4	1	2	2	1	1	0
Humanities Editor	2	2	2	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	53	52	55	64	54	57	81	81	61	68	75	55	44	64	75	66

Table one: Original manuscript submissions 2002–2017, sorted by editor.

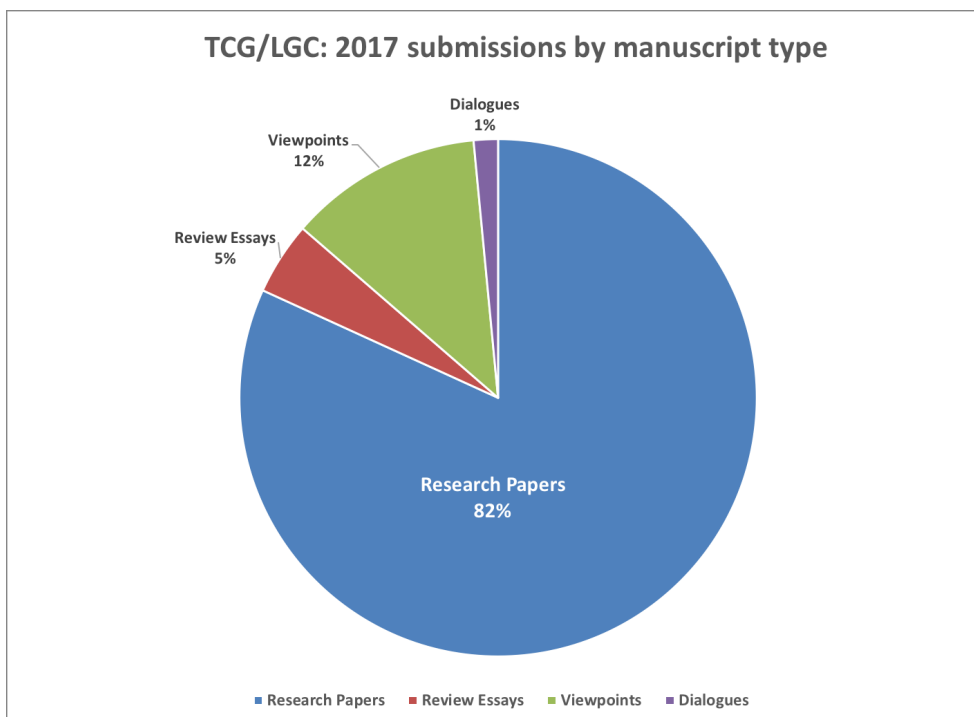


Figure one: Original submissions, by type in 2017. This pie chart illustrates that the relatively new category of Viewpoints continues to attract papers. We also received our second Dialogue papers in 2017. Research papers continue to comprise the bulk of our journal.

There were 31 book review submissions in 2017, including a special submission that reviewed an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario, *The Idea of North: The Paintings of Lawren Harris*.

Dispositions

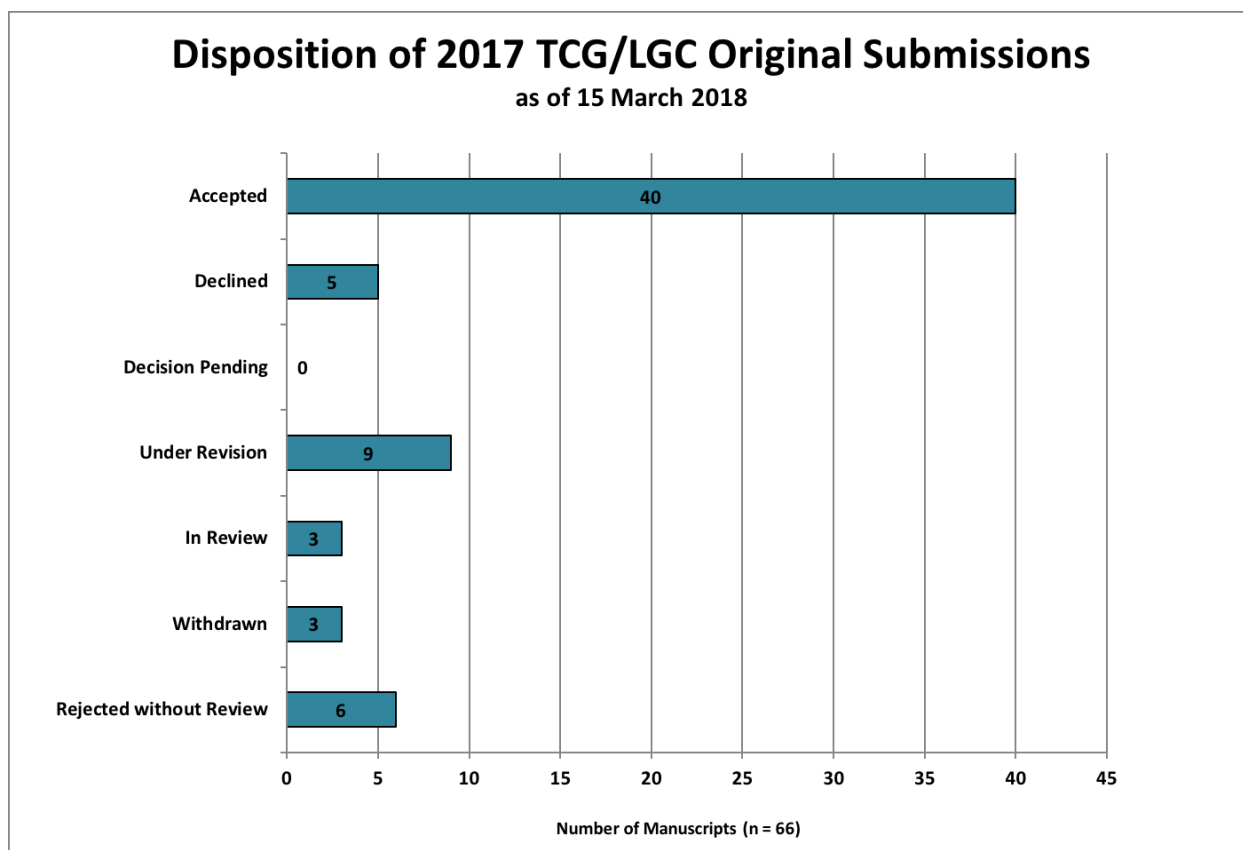


Figure two: disposition of original manuscripts in 2017.

Our acceptance rate was high in 2017—this is largely a function of special issue manuscripts. We had one special issue and two special *sections* in 2017; additionally, the first issue of 2018 was a special issue and its manuscripts were processed during 2017. Manuscripts with a Reject without Review decision were primarily papers that did not suit the journal; these decisions are typically rendered within one to two weeks of submission. As mentioned earlier, we also rendered one delayed Reject without Review decision because of inability to secure reviewers, and anticipate doing more of the same in 2018.

Reviewing

Securing reviewers remains an ongoing challenge, as does ensuring that reviews are returned on time. In our efforts to find three willing reviewers for each manuscript we need to consider our relatively small reviewer pool and ensure we don't invite the same people too often. Inviting

international reviewers has met with mixed success and is highly dependent on the global appeal of the manuscript in question. Certain manuscripts, while meeting our criteria for being sent to review, seem not to interest potential reviewers. Certain times of year, e.g., December, are often associated with less reviewer availability. And given the array of other commitments our reviewers have to manage, reviews are not always returned on time. In 2017 we had only two reviewers who failed to submit at all—this is very difficult to predict and has profound effects on the time from submission to first decision.

In our ongoing efforts to improve this time interval (submission to first decision), this year we focused on a different metric to see if we could zero in on aspects of the review process that are most amenable to further adjustment. This metric was *time from the first invitation to review being issued to the final review being received*.

Based on a window of 14 days to assign reviewers (highly optimistic/unrealistic) and 30 days to review, the interval from the first invitation issued to last review received would ideally be 54 days or less. Our average for 2017 was 65 days, which on the face of it seems somewhat reasonable considering that we typically have to invite more than three reviewers, and we give each reviewer 7 days to respond before considering a non-answer a decline.

However, the reality is that only 43% of manuscripts submitted and sent to review in 2017 had an interval from first invitation to receipt of three completed reviews of ≤ 54 days, and we had 7 manuscripts with an interval that was greater than 100 days. It also masks the fact that in the case of the special issue that went through in 2017, most reviewers were secured in advance of the manuscripts being submitted—meaning that only three invitations were issued and all were accepted within the two-week assignment window—and reviewers for special issues tend to be a bit better about submitting their reviews on time.

One of the factors that extends this interval is that it typically takes between 5 and 10 invitations to secure three reviewers. As mentioned last year, in some instances we are settling for two reviews if we are familiar with and confident in the two secured reviewers as it is often the third reviewer that proves elusive. For 2018, we intend to pursue this approach more proactively and make the decision earlier in the reviewer assignment phase.

On a related note, when we're failing to secure reviewers at all, instead of doing as we have in the past and doggedly sending out more invitations, we have started a new practice of rendering a "reject without review" decision and notifying the author that we were unable to secure reviewers for the paper. We have done this once in 2017, after inviting 12 reviewers without a single one accepting. In 2018 we intend to drop that number to 10 invitations.

Bibliometrics and rankings

ISI impact factors and rankings are reported in late June for the preceding year. The TCG-LGC impact factor for 2016 was calculated as a quotient in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{Number of citations in 2017 to TCG-LGC articles published in 2015 and 2016}}{\text{Number of source items published in 2015 and 2016}}$$

Our recently released Impact Factor for 2017 is 1.477. This is a considerable improvement over previous years shown in the table below.

ISI Rankings are published by Thomson-Reuters as Journal Citation Reports, a part of the Web of Science.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ISI Ranking	27/35	21/35	29/35	31/38	28/39	32/44	35/51	41/62	67/58	54/73	32/72	33/76	35/76	50/77	55/79
ISI Impact Factor	0.405	0.795	0.429	0.491	0.824	0.596	0.717	0.780	0.426	0.561	1.263	1.172	1.179	0.878	0.896

Table two: Journal Citation Reports Rankings and Impact Factors from 2002 to 2016.

Impact factors were far less important a decade ago than they are today. *The Canadian Geographer* is very much aware of this trend and we wait with anticipation for the impact factor to be released every June. Moreover, we work very hard to attract “citable” papers by “star” authors while also working to fulfill our mission to Canadian Geographers in general.

Article level metrics

There is a new trend emerging that focuses on the metrics associated with *individual articles* in mostly non-academic spheres. This is of interest to the journal (and editor) as it allows us to track which papers elicit the most interest and which authors are most sought after. Altmetric-scores are calculated based on quantity and quality of the attention that the paper receives in social media, blog posts, newspapers and magazines. The average Wiley journal has Altmetric-scores for 29% of papers published. In 2017, 45% of papers published in *The Canadian Geographer* received an Altmetric score. This year (2017), a record 50 papers published in TCG received article level metrics scores. This is a tribute to the relevance of papers published as well as the increased uptake of social media as a means of dissemination. Table three below does not list all of the paper that received an Altmetric score (the list would be too long) but the breadth and scope of papers mentioned through non-academic channels is demonstrated.

Rank	Article Title	One-Year Score
1	Secondary suites, second-class citizens: The history and geography of Calgary's most controversial housing policy (Nov. 2017)	16
2	Going unscripted: A call to critically engage storytelling methods and methodologies in geography and the medical-health sciences (Jan. 2017)	13
3	Our GIS is too small (Dec. 2017)	12
4	Environmental influences on skilled worker migration from Bangladesh to Canada (Dec. 2017)	11
5	Awareness of Aboriginal peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador: Memorial's first-year students (2013) speak (Nov. 2017)	11

6	The role of accredited zoos in the recovery process for species at risk in Canada (Aug. 2017)	11
7	Has it become warmer in Alberta? Mapping temperature changes for the period 1950-2010 across Alberta, Canada (Dec. 2017)	11
8	Linking legislative openness to open data in Canada (Sep. 2017)	8
9	“Made in Canada”: Local production networks in the Canadian fashion industry (Aug. 2017)	7
10	Reimagining GIScience for relational spaces (Sep. 2017)	7
11	Writing as righting: Truth and reconciliation, poetics, and new geo-graphing in colonial Canada (Aug. 2017)	7
12	Recent losses of perennial cover in a Great Lakes agricultural region (Dec. 2017)	4

Table three: Altimetric scores for top 12 ranked papers in 2017. Altimetric scores were awarded to 50 papers in The Canadian Geographer in 2017 – an all time high. This was a significant increase from our previous high in 2016 when 43 papers were granted an Altimetric score. In 2017, there were 11 papers with score of five or above.

Academic citations remain the most important metric attributed to papers – as they are the basis for assessment of impact factor. In 2017, the top-cited papers include the famous Butler paper on tourism cycles as well as Rebecca Lave’s radical paper that introduces critical physical geography. This year, a number of papers related to climate change were well-cited.

Author Name	Article Title	Publication Year	Citations in 2016
Butler, RW	The Concept Of A Tourist Area Cycle Of Evolution - Implications For Management Of Resources	1980	106
Lave, R	Intervention: Critical Physical Geography	2014	29
Castleden, H	I Spent The First Year Drinking Tea: Exploring Canadian University Researchers' Perspectives On Community-Based Participatory Research Involving Indigenous Peoples	2012	20
Hickin, EJ	Vegetation And River Channel Dynamics	1984	18
Hyndman, J	Towards A Feminist Geopolitics	2001	17
Wheaton, E	Dry Times: Hard Lessons From The Canadian Drought Of 2001 And 2002	2008	14
Mieczkowski, Z	The Tourism Climatic Index - A Method Of Evaluating World Climates For Tourism	1985	12
De Leeuw, S	Participatory And Community-Based Research, Indigenous Geographies, And The Spaces Of Friendship: A Critical Engagement	2012	11
Dyck, I	Feminist Geography, The 'Everyday', And Local-Global Relations: Hidden Spaces Of Place-Making	2005	10
Randall, JE	Communities On The Edge: An Economic Geography Of Resource-Dependent Communities In Canada	1996	9
Burn, CR	Canadian Landform Examples .17. Retrogressive Thaw Slumps	1990	9
Koster, R	Moving From Research ON, To Research WITH And FOR	2012	9

	Indigenous Communities: A Critical Reflection On Community-Based Participatory Research		
Andresen, MA	A Spatial Analysis Of Crime In Vancouver, British Columbia: A Synthesis Of Social Disorganization And Routine Activity Theory	2006	9
Slater, T	Municipally Managed Gentrification In South Parkdale, Toronto	2004	8
Schuurman, N	Measuring Potential Spatial Access To Primary Health Care Physicians Using A Modified Gravity Model	2010	8
Dyke, AS	Canadian Landform Examples .7. Drumlin Fields, Dispersal Trains, And Ice Streams In Arctic Canada	1988	7
Walks, RA	Ghettos In Canada's Cities? Racial Segregation, Ethnic Enclaves And Poverty Concentration In Canadian Urban Areas	2006	7
Skelton, T	'It Feels Like Being Deaf Is Normal': An Exploration Into The Complexities Of Defining D/Deafness And Young D/Deaf People's Identities	2003	7
Angel, S	Ten Compactness Properties Of Circles: Measuring Shape In Geography	2010	7
Mulrennan, ME	Revamping Community-Based Conservation Through Participatory Research	2012	7
Christensen, J	Telling Stories: Exploring Research Storytelling As A Meaningful Approach To Knowledge Mobilization With Indigenous Research Collaborators And Diverse Audiences In Community-Based Participatory Research	2012	7
Smoyer-Tomic, KE	Spatial Accessibility And Equity Of Playgrounds In Edmonton, Canada	2004	6
Lepawsky, J	Mapping International Flows Of Electronic Waste	2010	6
Bain, AL	Constructing Contemporary Artistic Identities In Toronto Neighbourhoods	2003	6
Ford, JD	Climate Change Vulnerability And Adaptation Research Focusing On The Inuit Subsistence Sector In Canada: Directions For Future Research	2012	6
Aminipouri, M	Using Multiple Disparate Data Sources To Map Heat Vulnerability: Vancouver Case Study	2016	6
Dakin, S	There's More To Landscape Than Meets The Eye: Towards Inclusive Landscape Assessment In Resource And Environmental Management	2003	5
Bradbury, JH	Winding Down In A Quebec Mining Town - A Case-Study Of Schefferville	1983	5
Nash, CJ	Toronto's Gay Village (1969-1982): Plotting The Politics Of Gay Identity	2006	5
Ghosh, S	Transnationalism And Identity: A Tale Of Two Faces And Multiple Lives	2003	5

Table four: Top cited papers in 2017. Some of these papers were published up to 37 years ago but continue to receive citations. Only those published in the last two years count towards our 2-year impact factor. However, all citations aid the journal in terms of bibliometric status.

A listing of our top cited papers over the past five years is found in Table four. As in past years, a wide range of topics characterize our top cited papers and speak to the importance of a broad disciplinary tent as represented by the journal.

Author Name	Article Title	Publication Year	Times Cited to Date
Lave, R	Intervention: Critical physical geography	2014	29
Aminipouri, M	Using multiple disparate data sources to map heat vulnerability: Vancouver case study	2016	6
Vaz, E	Crowdsourced mapping of land use in urban dense environments: An assessment of Toronto	2015	5
Huff, A	Reforming the city: Neoliberal school reform and democratic contestation in New Orleans	2013	5
Berg, LD	Producing anxiety in the neoliberal university	2016	5
Leszczynski, A	Feminist geographies of new spatial media	2015	4
Peake, LJ	The Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture: Rethinking the politics of feminist knowledge production in Anglo-American geography	2015	4
Tucker, B	Decolonizing the map? Toponymic politics and the rescaling of the Salish Sea	2015	4
Augustine, S	Changing paradigms in marine and coastal conservation: A case study of clam gardens in the Southern Gulf Islands, Canada	2014	4
Olive, A	What is the fracking story in Canada?	2016	4
Lewis, NM	Placing HIV beyond the metropolis: Risks, mobilities, and health promotion among gay men in the Halifax, Nova Scotia region	2015	4
Finnis, J	An analysis of recent observed climate trends and variability in Labrador	2015	4
Liu, S	Making news and making space: Framing Vancouver's Downtown Eastside	2013	3
Bedore, M	Geographies of capital formation and rescaling: A historical-geographical approach to the food desert problem	2013	3
Kershaw, GGL	An argument for ethical physical geography research on Indigenous landscapes in Canada	2014	3
Notzke, C	An exploration into political ecology and nonhuman agency: The case of the wild horse in western Canada	2013	3
Mitchell, CJA	Tracing economic transition in the mine towns of northern Ontario: An application of the resource-dependency model	2016	3
Hackworth, J	Giving new meaning to religious conversion: Churches, redevelopment, and secularization in Toronto	2013	3
Jones, CE	Transit-oriented development and gentrification along Metro Vancouver's low-income SkyTrain corridor	2016	3
Daigle, M	Awawanenitakik: The spatial politics of recognition and relational geographies of Indigenous self-determination	2016	3

Table five: Most cited papers over the past five years. It is hard to discern a clear thematic pattern though climate and physical geography are better represented than in previous years. It is clear that *The Canadian Geographer* continues to represent diverse areas of the discipline.

Given the heterogeneity of the top cited papers in 2017 and over the past five years, we have requested from Wiley the top cited papers of all time. These appear in Table six below and reinforce the important role that TCG plays in showcasing scholarship from across the discipline.

Title	Authors	Publication Year	Total Citations	Average per Year
The Concept Of A Tourist Area Cycle Of Evolution - Implications For Management Of Resources	Butler, RW	1980	1,235	31.67
Vegetation And River Channel Dynamics	Hickin, EJ	1984	170	4.86
The Tourism Climatic Index - A Method Of Evaluating World Climates For Tourism	Mieczkowski, Z	1985	163	4.79
Towards A Feminist Geopolitics	Hyndman, J	2001	126	7
Canadian Landform Examples .7. Drumlin Fields, Dispersal Trains, And Ice Streams In Arctic Canada	Dyke, AS	1988	115	3.71
Communities On The Edge: An Economic Geography Of Resource-Dependent Communities In Canada	Randall, JE	1996	103	4.48
Ghettos In Canada's Cities? Racial Segregation, Ethnic Enclaves And Poverty Concentration In Canadian Urban Areas	Walks, RA	2006	85	6.54
The Greying Of Resource Communities In Northern British Columbia: Implications For Health Care Delivery In Already-Underserved Communities	Hanlon, N	2005	79	5.64
Feminist Geography, The 'Everyday', And Local-Global Relations: Hidden Spaces Of Place-Making	Dyck, I	2005	76	5.43
Questioning The Credibility And Capacity Of Community-Based Resource Management	Bradshaw, B	2003	72	4.5
Spatial Dependency Of Segregation Indices	Wong, DWS	1997	72	3.27
Discrepancies Between Environmental Attitude And Behaviour - Examples From Europe And China	Tuan, Y	1968	70	1.37
Municipally Managed Gentrification In South Parkdale, Toronto	Slater, T	2004	69	4.6

Table six: Top cited TCG papers of all time. The five top cited papers of all time were static between 2016 and 2017. The pattern of our top cited papers not following a pattern remains.

Institutional Subscriptions and access to TCG-LGC worldwide

TCG-LGC articles continue to be downloaded around the world – as illustrated in Figure three and four. Wiley is largely responsible for our respectable download rates as they market the journal through social media as well as email campaigns and through their international consortiums of journals that are sold to libraries.

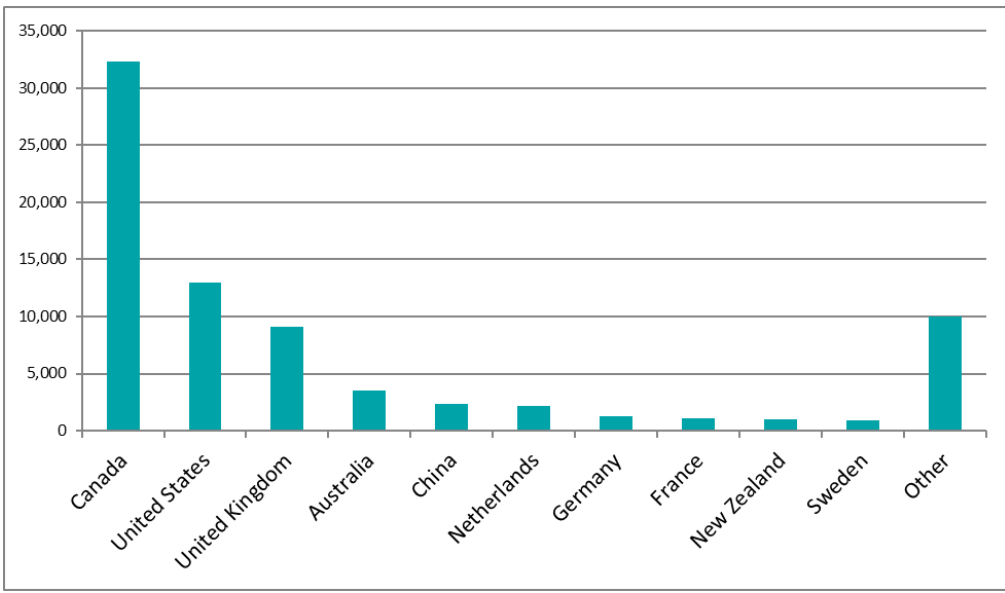


Figure three: Downloads of full-text papers in 2017.

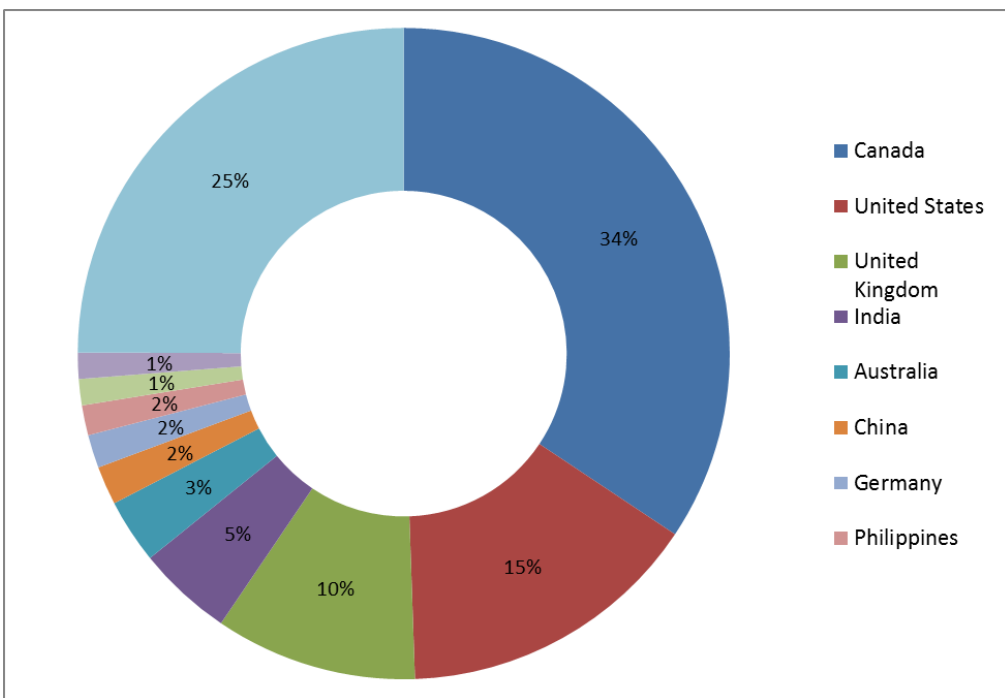


Figure four showing the countries with the most online traffic to our journal. Note that these countries are, for the most part, the same ones with top downloads.

TCG in Canada and worldwide

The Canadian Geographer is one of a handful of Canadian academic social science journals that is read worldwide. Figure five illustrates our relative position with respect to comparable journals published in Canada. Internationally, we cannot compete with big name Geography journals such as *Progress in Human Geography* or the *Annals of the Association of American Geography*. However, as Figure six confirms, we hold a solid position among comparable journals. It is important to remember that, most importantly, we are a journal that serves an Association and a membership.

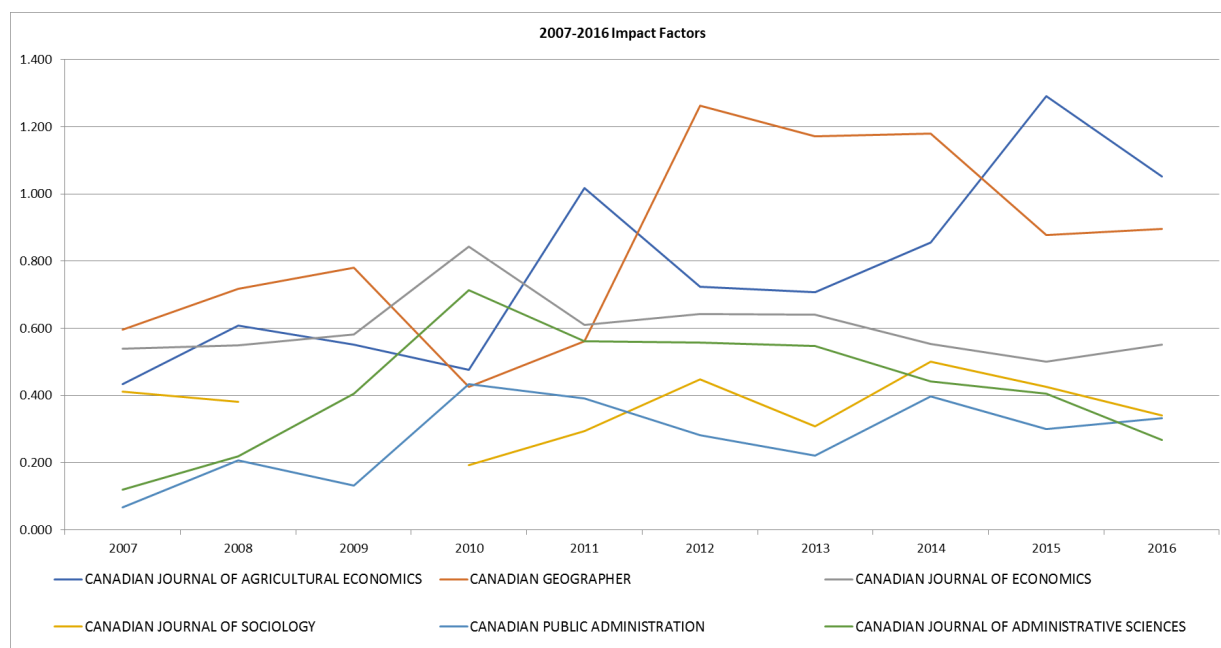


Figure five illustrates that TCG has remained strong – in terms of impact factor – compared to comparable journals published in Canada. Please note that the Web of Science 2009 impact factor is no longer listed for the Canadian Journal of Sociology.

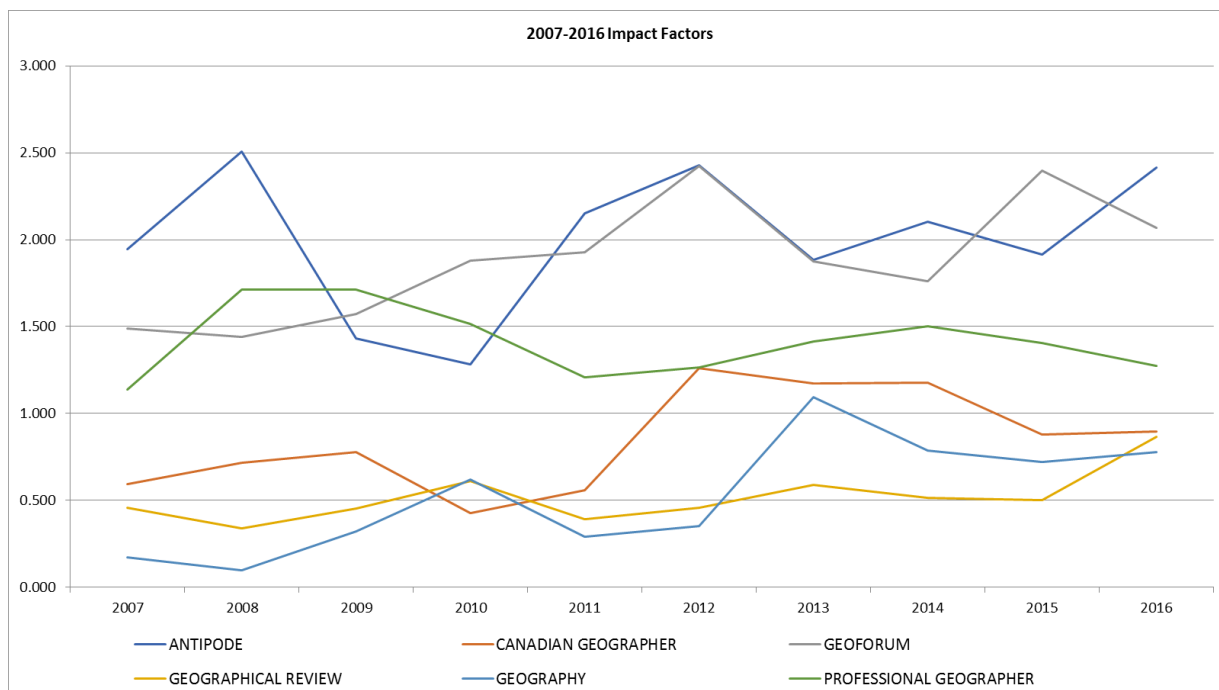


Figure six compares TCG to comparable journals published internationally. We hold a solid mid position that is strong for a regional Geography journal.

Final word

TCG-LGC remains in a strong position in terms of metrics, marketing and readership. We have continued to attract readers, citations and downloads. This is comforting given the immense changes facing the academic publish industry including Open Access journals, a proliferation of publishing choices and the increasing emphasis on Altmetrics. We hope to continue to hold our course in 2018.

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