



2023: Annual Report to the CAG/ACG on Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes

Overview

This is my 1st year editing *Canadian Geographies / Les Géographies canadiennes*. As such, I am reporting on the journal for the previous year as it was stewarded by my esteemed predecessor, Professor Nadine Schuurman, who managed the title for 12 years. Most significantly this is the year that the journal name change (from *The Canadian Geographer / Le géographe canadien* to *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*) was implemented and went ‘live’ in April 2023, with a new logo and cover design reflecting this transition.

In recent years, the publishing industry has undergone profound transformation. Open Access publishing, online-only reading, impact factors, and many other influences have affected our journal – and all journals. Our goal has always been to respond with agility and openness to changes and challenges, facilitated in 2023 in part by a Transformational Agreement between Wiley and the *Canadian Research Knowledge Network / Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche (CKRN/Rcdr)*.

The position of the journal is solid. Echoing the overview comments of the 2022 Annual Report, “Our Editorial team, supported by the Canadian Association of Geographers / Association Canadienne des Géographes (CAG/ACG), is keen to continue to attract authors, enhance our content, and widely disseminate our journal.”

This report summarizes our position in the industry and in the discipline of Geography. It highlights recent changes to the journal name and design. It also focuses on persistent challenges, as well as emerging trends. Additionally, this report presents and explains a number of metrics that describe the situation at *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* at the end of 2023.



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Emphasis in 2023

2023 marked the first year in which the journal was published under its new name: *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes (CG/Gc)*. This change was in place for the majority of the year as the rebranding officially took effect in April 2023. Consistent with this rebranding, a new logo (**Figure 1**) and cover design (**Figure 2**) reflecting the name change were introduced for the journal this reporting year.

A major concern with the rebranding has been potential implications for journal indexing, citation tracking, and impact factor. However, the Wiley team has successfully ensured that this is not the case, and this can be seen in the annual metrics for 2023 as they compare to 2022 (detailed below). This consistency is largely due to the ISSNs (serial numbers) remaining unchanged for both online (1541-0064) and print (0008-3658) versions of the journal the following the name change – which means that the indexing of the journal is unaffected.



Figure 1. New logo for *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*, reflecting the rebranding of the journal in 2023.



Figure 2. New cover design for *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*, reflecting the rebranding of the journal in 2023.

One of the major challenges highlighted by the former Editor-in-Chief in previous annual reports, including the report for 2022, has been Open Access (OA) publishing. We know that papers published as OA receive three times more downloads and almost double the citations. However, as a society journal that supports the CAG, it is important that we continue to offer traditional publication. We are trying to balance this while promoting Open Access to authors. 2023 nevertheless saw a very sharp increase in the uptake of OA publishing in *GC/Cg*. We published 26 Open Access papers in 2023, a >100% increase from the 12 we published in 2022, which itself represented a 50% increase over the previous year (8 OA papers published in 2021). This increase is due to the signing of a Transformational Agreement between *the Canadian Research Knowledge Network / Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche (CKRN/Rcdr)* and Wiley in January 2023. This agreement gives corresponding authors at *CKRN/Rcdr* member institutions (essentially all post-secondary research institutions in Canada) the ability to “publish their articles as open access in all of Wiley’s hybrid journals for the duration of the agreement (2023-2024)” (CKRN 2024: n.p.). Indeed, in 2023, all but one of articles published as hybrid open access were published OA under this Transformational Agreement. This reflects the



origin of our submissions, 70% of which were from Canada-based authors, which shows that this Transformational Agreement has had a very significant impact on the uptick in OA publishing in our journal.

The practice of highlighting two papers every month as ‘Editor’s Pick’ articles, which Wiley makes “free to read” online for 4 weeks, continued in 2023.

Despite the end of the pandemic, challenges securing reviewers that we and experienced during 2020 (1st wave of the COVID-10 pandemic) persists. We continue to need to invite a high numbers of reviewers before we secure the minimum of two. This however is a continuing challenge across the academic journal publishing industry, and is by no means unique to *CG/Gc*.

One of our key goals is to increase the number of manuscripts we publish annually. Overall, however, our original manuscript submissions decreased from 2022 to 2023 – which itself evidenced a decline over 2021 submission numbers. Our 2023 submissions are, however, still above those of 2020, which marked a low in the recent history of the journal (see **Table 1**).

In 2023, we ran two special sections in the first issue of the year. We encourage Geographers in Canada as well as abroad to propose special sections. By bringing together papers on a topic, special sections generate intradisciplinary exchange and conversation, and in so doing, draw audiences to the journal. This is important for our journal metrics – namely viewership and ultimately citation.

Three of the 10 most viewed papers in 2023 were concerned with Indigenous issues, continuing to reflect and solidify the importance of *CG/Gc* as a venue for the publication of scholarship on Indigenous topics, themes, and issues in Canada. Furthermore, we are a bilingual journal, reflecting the two official languages of Canada and of our Association. It continues to be a priority to broaden inclusion of French language submissions – and Francophone readership – of our journal. To this end, two special sections were submitted and finalized in 2023: one led by our French Editor, Martin Simard, and a bilingual special section. Both of these are being published in 2024.



Manuscript Submissions

Our total submissions across all submission types was identical to 2022: 84. However, the distribution of articles by type was significant different, with fewer original articles and more book reviews than in 2022 (**Table 1**). The submission count for 2023 included 55 original manuscripts (excluding Book Reviews). This represents a downward trend in original manuscript submissions from a 11 year high of 77 in 2021, but is nevertheless still higher than 2020 ($n = 46$). In the 2023 original manuscript submission count were two Introduction articles for special sections (**Figure 3**). Four articles were withdrawn by their authors, and 8 were desk rejected, so the total number of original manuscript submissions that were sent out for peer review was 53 (see **Table 2**). However, thus far in 2024, our submissions are encouragingly up by 8.33% compared to 2023 (year to date as of end March 2024). We also received a record high number of French language submissions ($n = 46$; see **Table 1**). This is partly explained by one French language and one bilingual special section in the works in 2023.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
English manuscripts	53	39	63	69	61	68	68	40	71	54	40
French manuscripts	2	5	1	8	5	6	3	5	6	12	15
TOTAL	55	44	64	75	66	74	71	46	77	66	55

Table 1: Original manuscript submissions sent to peer review, 2013–2023. The count for 2023 is inclusive of Introductions to special sections, but exclusive of Book Reviews.



We published two special sections in 2023. Both were published in the first issue of the year, 67(1). One of these special sections on ‘Practicing critical physical geography’ was guest edited by Alana M. Rader, Christine Biermann, Stephen M. Chignell, Katherine R. Clifford, Lisa C. Kelley, and Rebecca Lave. This special section built off the momentum of the 2014 intervention, ‘Critical physical geography’, published in the journal in 2014 (Lave et al., 2014) – and which continues to be one of the most cited articles of the last three years (2021-2024) and was one of the 10 most highly viewed articles in 2022 (see **Table 3**). ‘Practicing critical physical geography’ brought together seven contributions which “formally grown and encourage a critical integrative” physical geography by developing the “methodological, empirical, and research participation structures” for it (Rader et al., 2023: 10). The second of these special sections was on “Local Government Reform in Canada”, and was guest edited by Greg Halseth, Sean Markey, and Laura Murphy. This special section brought together four articles that “situate[e] Canadian local government in comparative international contexts”, and which “[prompt] a modestly radical re-invention of local government for rural Canada [to] better address the systemic challenges facing rural communities in a strategic and sustainable manner” (Douglas, 2023: 129). Special sections continue to be of critical importance and value to *CG/Gc*, attracting both national and international contributors and audiences, as well as global interest and thereby citations.

There were 29 book review submissions in 2023 – almost double that submitted in 2022 (16) and 2021 (15), which presented an anomaly (low) in historical trend. The 2023 book review submissions reflect a reversion back to 2020 levels ($n = 27$).

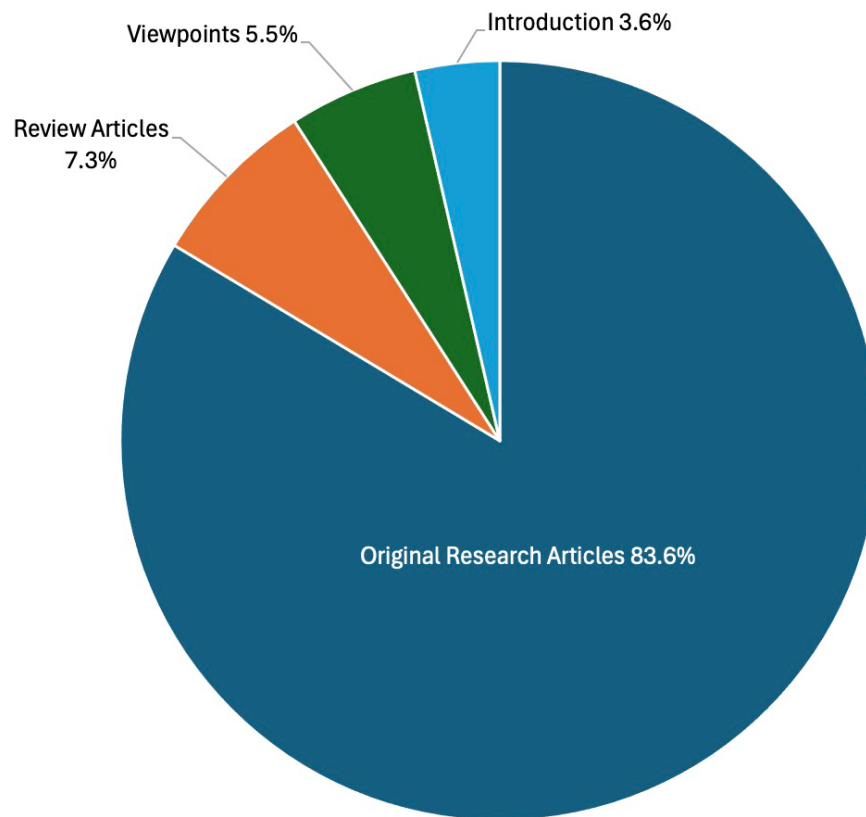


Figure 3: Original submissions by type in 2023. Original Research Articles (ORAs) continue to be the primary manuscript type submitted to our journal. ORAs, Review Articles, and Viewpoints are peer-reviewed, whereas Introductions to special sections are not.



Dispositions

Our acceptance rate for 2023 submissions that received a final decision to April 29, 2024 is 76.6% (see **Figure 4**). Slightly fewer manuscripts were desk rejected (rejected without review) in 2023 ($n = 8$) than in 2022 ($n = 10$); for context on desk rejections, please refer to the 2022 Annual Report (as these reflect the previous EIC's dispositions). The disposition of original manuscript submissions at the end of 2023 is presented in **Figure 5**.

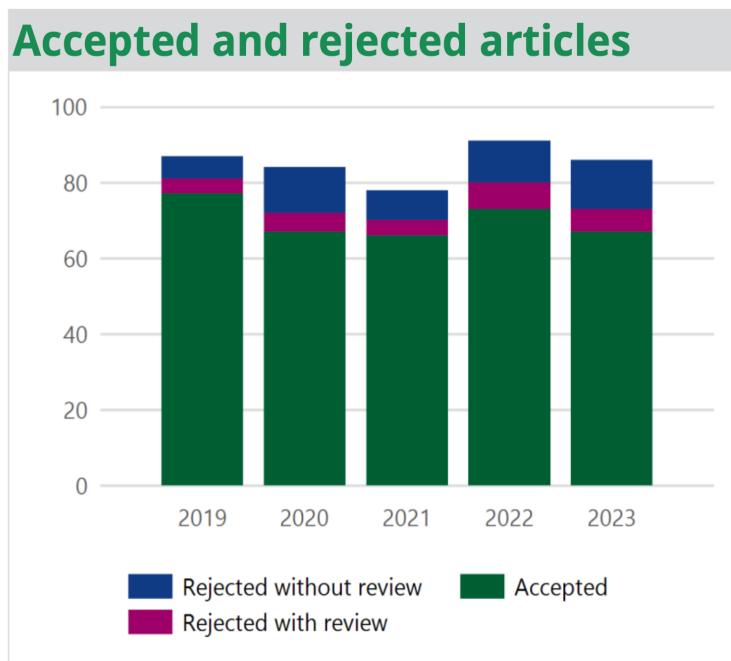


Figure 4: Manuscript dispositions in 2023. Slightly fewer manuscripts were desk rejected (rejected without review) in 2023 than in 2022. For context on these desk rejections, please refer to the 2022 Annual Report. Note that Book Reviews are included in this histogram; however, they are not included in most other submission metrics.

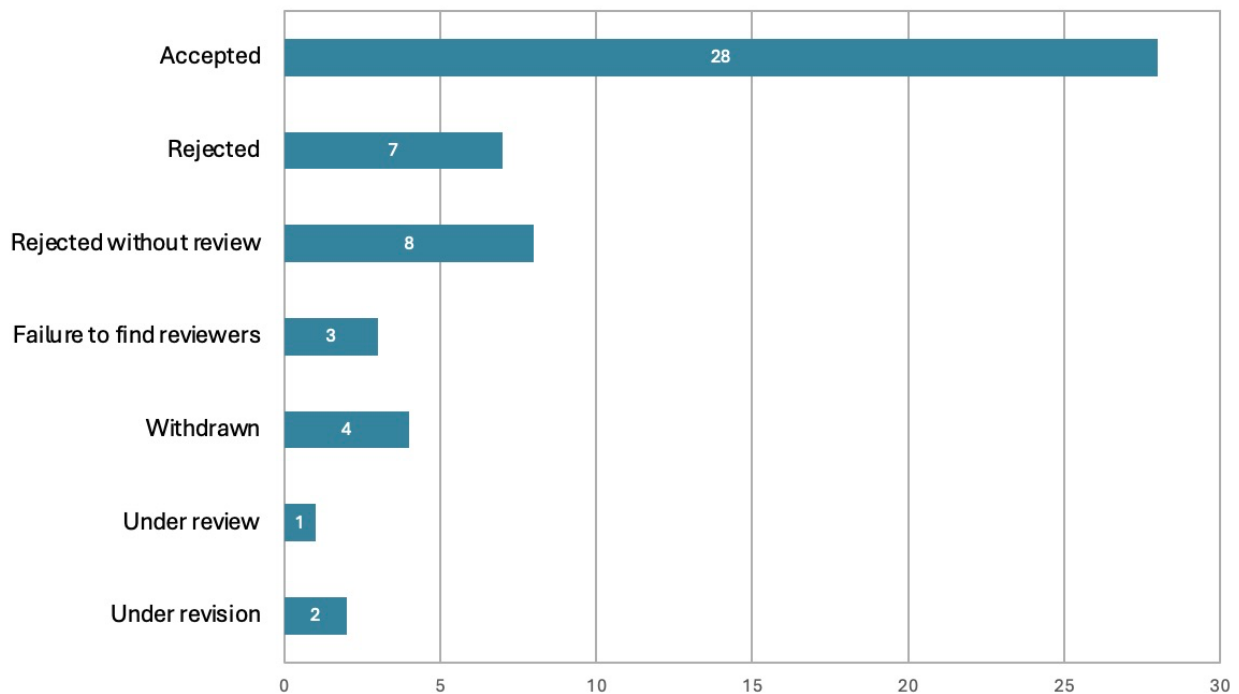


Figure 5: Disposition of 2023 original manuscript submissions sent out for peer review, at the end of the calendar year (2023). This data is inclusive of ORAs, Viewpoints, and Review Articles, but excludes Introductions and Book Reviews.

Reviewing and time-to-decision

In 2023, we made 341 review requests and secured 109 reviews in total (an invitation acceptance rate of 32%, significantly lower than the 2022 reviewer acceptance rate of 45%). Given ongoing challenges securing a full complement of 3 reviewers, we continued our practice of using 2 reviewers.

The median number of days to first decision for different types of peer reviewed manuscripts is shown in **Figure 6**. 2023 saw improvement in times from author submission to decision. In 2023, our time from submission to initial decision across all manuscript types averaged 59 days – continuing the gains made in this metric in 2022 (60 days compared to 66 days in 2021). Our greatest gain however was in time to final decision: 73 days, compared to 144 days in 2022 and 132 days in 2021. Similarly, the median number of days from submission to online publication decreased precipitously in 2023: from >200 in each year 2019-2022 (low of 219 in 2021; high of 255 in 2020) to a historical minimum of 139 days in 2023.

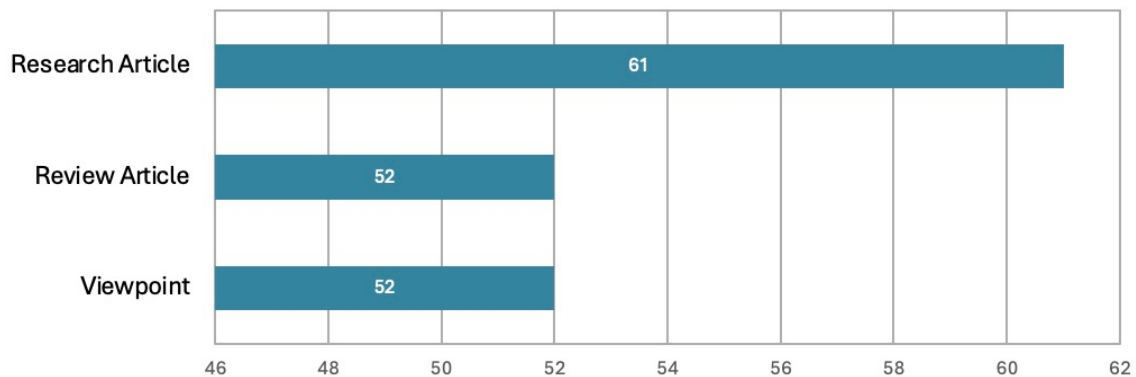


Figure 6: Days from initial submission to first decision for 2023 manuscripts sent out for peer review, based on manuscript type.

Bibliometrics, rankings, and readership

ISI impact factors and rankings are reported in late June for the preceding year. **Our most recent Impact Factor for 2022 is excellent at 1.8 – a historical high (see Table 2). ISI Rankings are published by Thomson-Reuters as Journal Citation Reports, a part of the Web of Science.**

To quote from the 2022 Annual Report, “It is ironic that many major publishers are discounting impact factors going forward. The reasons for this are many but, in a nutshell, it is a response to an over-emphasis on impact factors on choice of publication venues by authors. All major publishers have signed onto DORA (<https://sfdora.org/read/>), a declaration which announces the initiative to reduce scholarly and institutional emphasis on impact factors. The reasons include the fact that a journal may have a high impact factor based on a very small slice of its published papers; every domain has a different norm for impact factors; editors are able to manipulate impact factors... and the data used to calculate them are not widely available or shared publicly.”

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ISI Impact Factor	1.26	1.17	1.17	0.87	0.89	1.47	1.14	1.03	1.5	1.48	1.8

Table 2: Journal Impact Factors from 2012 to 2022. The journal impact factor for 2022 is the highest ever achieved by the journal – an increase of 0.32 over 2021, our previous record.



Turning to readership, Wiley no longer reports ‘downloads’, instead using the metric of ‘views’. In this report, I treat these metrics as equivalent to one another as the 2019-2023 ‘views’ data to which I have access exactly match the values previously reported as ‘downloads’ (same values for 2019-2022). ‘Views’ is an increasingly more relevant metric than ‘downloads’ as many articles are now read online without being downloaded (that is, a file saved on a user’s computer and to be read at a later date). As such, in this report and reports going forward, I use the term ‘views’ to reflect audience engagement with manuscripts published in *CG/Gc*.

As can be seen in **Figure 7**, views for 2023 ($n = 145.94k$) remained in line with recent historical trends, although they were slightly lower than in 2022 ($n = 149.46k$) and 2021 ($n = 155.48k$). Importantly, compared to 2020 and years previous, 2023 views are still historically high. Reassuringly, views for 2024 are presently up substantively compared to 2023 (by 12.8% year to date to end of March 2024). Should this trajectory hold, we are presently on course to surpass the record high audience engagement set in 2021.

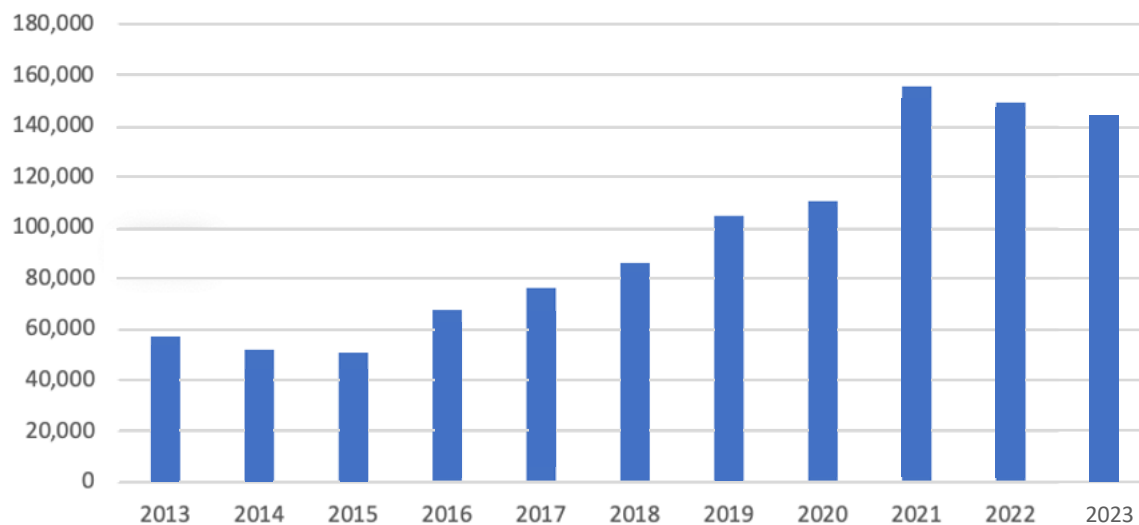


Figure 7: Full-text views trend, 2013-2023, in Wiley Online Library (WOL). The journal is attracting views at a high rate, although the 2023 views are slightly under those of 2021 and 2022, respectively. Note that these figures do not include views on other platforms, such as EBSCOhost. In 2023, views on WOL accounted for 84% of *CG/Gc* manuscript views.



Institutional subscriptions and access to CG-Gc worldwide

Unsurprisingly, Canada persisted as the top source country for both submissions (**Figure 8**) and viewer traffic (**Figure 9**) to CG/Gc. This reflects our status and role as a discipline-specific journal published on behalf of the national society (the CAG/ACG).

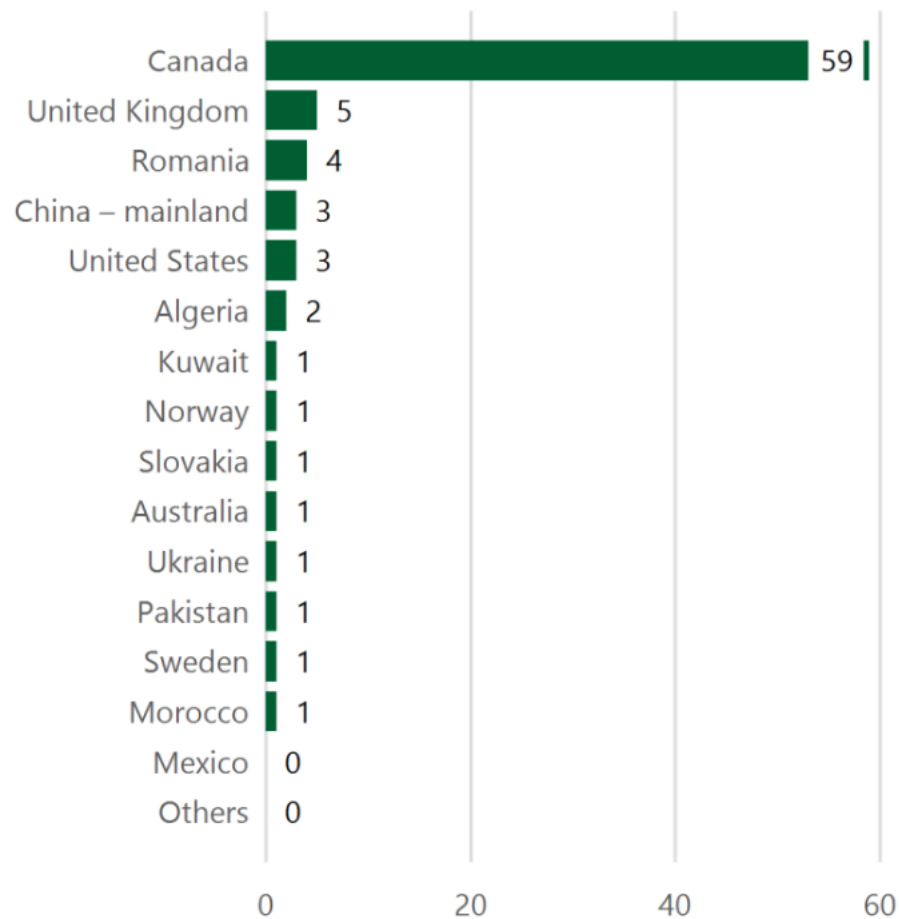


Figure 8: Top source countries for 2023 manuscript submissions.

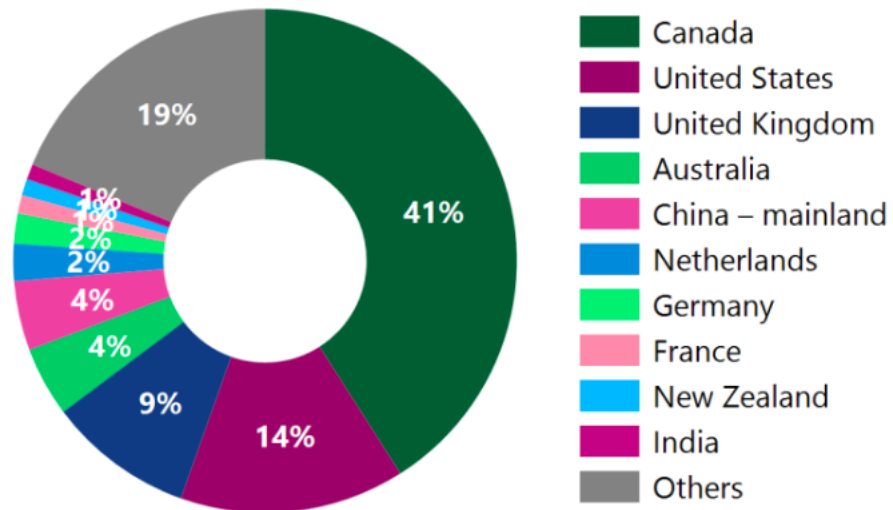


Figure 9: Top source countries for full text views in 2023.

The ten papers with the most full text views in 2023 (**Table 3**) are from a range of recent years. 70% of the top-ten most viewed papers in 2023 were also amongst the top-ten most viewed in the previous year (2022). This continues to show that our papers have a much longer life than that measured by either two-year or five-year impact factors. Additionally, 70% of the most viewed papers in 2023 were Open Access publications – which significantly extends their reach globally.

Rank	Author(s)	Article Title	Year	Volume (Issue)	Open Access?	Top 10 in 2022?	2023 Full Text Views
1	Hoover, KC et al.	Surveillance, trust, and policing at music festivals	2021	66 (2)	Y	Y	2,540
2	Richmond, C et al.	Supporting food security for Indigenous families through the restoration of Indigenous foodways	2021	65 (1)	Y	Y	2,104
3	van der Werf, P et al.	Food for naught: Using the theory of planned behaviour to better understand household food wasting behaviour	2019	63 (3)	N	Y	1,957
4	Bowra, A et al.	Indigenous learning on Turtle Island: A review of the literature on land-based learning	2020	65 (2)	N	Y	1,773
5	Colett, D et al.	Street vendors in Lima in the time of COVID-19: Guilty or oppressed?	2021	65 (4)	Y	Y	1,503
6	Elamé, JE & Landry TTN	La concession familiale Bamiléké: un exemple d'architecture endogène au Cameroun	2022	67 (2)	Y	N	1,479
7	Lepawsky, J & McNabb, C	Mapping international flows of electronic waste	2009	54 (2)	Y	Y	1,409
8	Castleden, H et al.	"I spent the first year drinking tea": Exploring Canadian university researchers' perspectives on community-based participatory research involving Indigenous peoples	2012	56 (2)	Y	Y	1,341
9	Liu, D et al.	Analyzing disparities in transit-based healthcare accessibility in the Chicago Metropolitan Area	2022	66 (2)	Y	N	1,208
10	Lave, R et al.	Intervention: Critical Physical Geography	2014	58 (1)	N	N	1,213

Table 3: The ten most viewed papers in 2023 on Wiley Online Library.

While views are important to the publisher and to the Society as they demonstrate interest in the content published by *CG-Gc*, citations are the basis for the calculation of impact factors. The 10 papers with the most citations in 2023 are shown in **Table 4**. Similar to the most highly viewed manuscripts, the most highly cited papers come from a range of years, albeit a narrower one (published 2020 – 2023). Furthermore, the Open Access status of manuscripts appears to have less impact on citation than it does viewership.



Rank	Author(s)	Article Title	Year	2-Year Citations	Total Citations 2023	FWCI ¹ 2023	Top 8 ² cited 2022?	Open Access
1	Cockayne, D	The feminist economic geographies of working from home and “digital by default” in Canada before, during, and after Covid-19	2020	8	8	1.3	Y	N
2	Liu, D et al.	Analyzing disparities in transit-based healthcare accessibility in the Chicago metropolitan area	2021	8	8	2.96	Y	Y
3	Saraçoğlu, C & Bélanger, D	Governance through discipline in the neighbourhood: Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens in urban life	2021	7	7	1.81	N	N
4	Sutton, J & Arku, G	The importance of local characteristics: An examination of Canadian cities’ resilience during the 2020 economic crisis	2020	7	7	3.17	N	N
5	Fan, JF & Sangupta, R	Montreal’s environmental justice problem with respect to the urban heat island phenomenon	2021	6	6	1.81	N	N
6	Das, RR et al.	Quantifying the prevalence of energy poverty across Canada: Estimating domestic energy burden using an expenditures approach	2020	6	6	2.85	N	N
7	Zook, M. & McCanless, M.	Mapping the uneven geographies of digital phenomena: the case of blockchain	2021	5	5	1.15	N	N
8	Tabascio, A & Brail, S	Governance matters: Regulating ride hailing platforms in Canada’s largest city-regions	2020	4	4	1.32	N	Y
9	Bridges, T & Pugh, R	Coming into fashion: Expanding the entrepreneurial ecosystem concept to the creative industries through a Toronto case study	2021	3	3	1.32	N	Y
10	Colett, D et al.	Street vendors in Lima in the time of COVID-19: Guilty or oppressed?	2021	3	3	1.48	N	Y

Table 4. Top 10 most highly cited papers in 2023. ¹FWCI = Author Field Weighted Citation Impact, a citation impact factor weighted by the field which “indicate[s] how the number of citations received by a researcher’s publications compares to the average or expected number of citations received by other similar publications. Similar publications are determined by year, type, and discipline” (Deakin University, 2023: n.p.). ²Only the top 8 most cited papers were reported in the 2022 Annual Report.



Altmetrics and the use of media exposure to measure relevance

Large publishing houses have been tracking which articles get media and social media exposure for some time now. They report this exposure via a metric called the 'Altmetric Score'. This is another way to measure relevance especially outside of the academic community. A number of papers published by CG-Cc have attracted such exposure (**Table 5**). News media accounted for 44.8% of our Altmetric mentions in 2023, and X (the platform formerly known as Twitter) accounted for 38.4%. Anecdotally, my sense is that X is likely to play a less significant role going forward as the change of ownership of the platform in 2023 has seen far less presence and engagement by academics (based on personal observations and experience as a highly active academic X user).

Article title	Altmetric Score
The concept of a tourist area cycle of evolution: Implications for management of resources	96
A few "big players": Systems approach to immigrant employment in a mid-sized city	60
It's been a long time running: New understandings of crime severity and specialization in Canada's longest running crime capital, North Battleford	53
The socioecology of fear: A critical geographical consideration of human-wolf-livestock	38
(Re)purposing cadasters: When ecclesiastical archives advocate for Indigenous land rights	33
	96

Table 5: Articles with the highest Altmetric scores in 2023.

Final word & looking forward

CG-Gc remains in a strong position in terms of metrics, marketing, and readership. This is most strongly evidenced by our two-year Impact Factor reaching new heights (1.8) in 2024. We continue to attract readers, citations, and downloads. This is comforting given the immense changes facing the academic publishing industry including Open Access journals and a proliferation of publishing choices. As the new Editor-in-Chief, my aim is to hold this course in 2024 and beyond.

There are a number of changes already enacted in 2024 (new EIC, reconvened Editorial Board, decision harmonization) and those slated for implementation (movement to a continuous publication model by Wiley). A further change is that Nalini Mohabir, the current Book Review Editor, announced that she is stepping down at the end of her three-year term, which concludes December 31, 2024.

All of these and subsequent changes will be detailed in my next annual report for 2024.



Canadian Geographies
Géographies canadiennes

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