



# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

## **SPECIAL SESSIONS**

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Understanding of Space, Place, and Identity- At the Confluence of Geography, Planning and Community Decision-Making: Special Session in Honour of the late Dr. J. Gordon Nelson.

**Session Organizer:** Patrick Lawrence, University of Toledo (Ohio)

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

A series of 5-6 presentations by academics or professionals engaged in active research or policy work linked to the conference theme and related to the associated career accomplishments and impacts of the late Dr J. Gordon Nelson

This session will highlight thoughts and contributions from academic and professionals actively engaged in research and policy development that crosses the nexus of land use planning, resource management, and community based decision-making. The focus will reflect the long career interests and contributions of the late Dr. J. Gordon Nelson, Distinguished Professor, University of Waterloo who passed away in May 2024. During career exceeding five decades, Gordon made significant contributions across a wide range of understanding the complexity of spaces, places and identities that educated and informed our understanding of land use change, related resource allocations, in the context of both natural and human landscapes. Geographic and planning themes and areas of interest included land and water conservation, land use and landscape change, parks and protected areas, watershed and water resources, natural hazards, with that work conducted in Canada, US, Asia and the Middle East. Presenters will examine the opportunities and challenges faced by geographers and planners by highlighting their active research or professional planning work to better improve our understanding and consider community engagement and decision-making as we seek to appreciate and address the needs to understand space, place and identity in efforts to improve the human condition at the landscape scale.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Geographies of Care and Mobility

**Session Organizer:** Eyram Adzo Agbe

**Session Type:** Themed session

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This themed session calls for papers and creative knowledge outputs from researchers, community organizers and carers interested in transportation as an infrastructure of care. The session invites interested participants to consider how different types of mobilities shape and are informed by carers' identities and their experiences of the everyday.

Geographers have long been concerned with the spatialities of care work and caregiving, particularly among women and in urban areas. Moreover, recent forays into the socio-spatial dynamics of the work that reproduces human life on a day-to-day basis engage with the notion of an 'ethic of care', which centers caring in everyday life and recognizes it as a complex process that requires a series of moral judgements about those who care and those who are cared for (roles that are interchangeable across space and time.) This, and the mobilities 'turn' in geography, has influenced new research into the mobilities of care, which encourages critical perspectives on the systems that (do not) sustain the movements that carers embark on to provide unpaid care while navigating myriad economic and interpersonal needs. While research at the intersection of these fields has identified the differential mobility patterns of carers (e.g., trip chaining and carers' non-linear movements), methodological questions, transnational perspectives and insights from the geographies of aging remain.

This themed session calls for original research, review articles and innovative knowledge outputs that explore diverse, critical approaches to studying the confluence of caregiving and mobility. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Relationship between care, housing and mobility
- Innovative methods for studying the geographies of care and mobility
- Approaches to mainstreaming an ethic of care in research practice
- Caring and mobility beyond the Global North
- Youth and elderly carers' experiences at the intersection of transportation and care
- Care and mobility in and beyond the urban"

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** GIScience Approaches to Improve Urban Mobility Research

**Session Organizer:** Stella Harden, Simon Fraser University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session seeks to promote innovative research related to urban mobility. We invite presentations related to pedestrian access, walkability, runnability, bikeability, and mobilities for all. Submissions focusing on how geospatial techniques improve the study of urban mobility are encouraged. Themes include equitable transportation, mixed-methods GIS, remote sensing, and under-researched mobilities.

Geospatial science approaches are continually evolving to help researchers better understand the complex nature of human mobility in cities. As a result, novel GIScience methods and approaches from other disciplines are being adopted to expand knowledge surrounding the spatiotemporal dimensions of mobility. This session seeks to promote innovative research related to urban mobility, particularly in nascent fields. The session aims to encourage conversation between researchers from diverse subdisciplines who share a common goal of improving mobility research. A wide array of GIScience practitioners are becoming increasingly engaged with urban mobilities research. Providing a space to foster dialogue between scholars is paramount as new data surface and technological capacity expands at unprecedented rates.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Maps, Memories and the Digital

**Session Organizer:** Lea Denieul Pinsky, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS-CS)

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session brings together scholars and mapmakers and memory holders to discuss how spatial expressions such as maps are used to trigger, commemorate, preserve, circulate, visualize, and analyze memories. We will also examine how digital technologies, such as digital archiving, artificial intelligence, and online mapping, are reshaping individual and collective spatial memories.

"Mapping allows individuals and collectives to recall memories that rise and resurface on the map. These located memories can then be shared with other people, other communities, other generations. They can be used to document past events, to commemorate them or to denounce them. Mapping can be an act of resistance and a demand for justice, making visible and tangible the sites of past dispossession and abuse.

However, maps, especially in their Euclidean forms, convey an impression of precision and spatial fixity that does not always align with the elusive, vague, or even inaccurate nature of memory. By translating memories into abstract cartographic symbols, maps risk stripping them of the emotions and meanings they carry. Moreover, mapping is inherently selective: it prioritizes certain memories while sidelining others, contributing to the erasure of whole segments of events and of their meanings.

Technological advances, such as digital archiving, artificial intelligence, and online mapping propose new ways to navigate and map memories, presenting both opportunities and challenges to the field. They help us navigate through places that may no longer exist or may not be accessible, preserving and sharing important memories associated with them while raising questions about digital accessibility, ownership, control, usage and the longer-term care and maintenance of these memories. In this session, we invite students, researchers, mapmakers, and memory holders to share their experiences and to reflect on both the potential and the limitations of cartography in representing, preserving and transmitting memory."

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Wildlife Politics

**Session Organizer:** Gabrielle Wong, Simon Fraser University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Geographers and political ecologists studying wildlife often highlight the multi-scalar power dynamics that shape and are (re)produced through human-wildlife relations. This session invites work - past, present or future - that explores these politics and power relationships, particularly research that draws on feminist and/or anti-colonial frameworks.

Biodiversity and wildlife abundance are nosediving - according to the 2024 edition of the Living Planet Report, the average size of wildlife populations has declined 73% between 1970 and 2020. Global institutions, states, corporations, Indigenous communities, and many others are responding to this crisis with policies and projects that aim to control, manage, promote, and/or protect wild animals and ecosystems. These projects shape and (re)produce multi-scalar power relations, with implications for the lifeways of human and non-human natures.

Geographers and political ecologists have long excelled at shedding light on these political dynamics. Our proposed session would bring together work within these overlapping disciplines that address the gendered, colonial, racialised, anthropocentric, and/or classed power relations that are part of wildlife politics. Through inviting research that connects human and more-than-human power relations, and that is historical, contemporary, or future-oriented, we hope to facilitate a conversation that allows us to see what Maria Mies calls “underground connections” across species, difference, and time.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Measurement and visualization of rurality indicators

**Session Organizer:** Tomoko McGaughey, Carleton University

**Session Type:** Workshop/Atelier de travail

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session will explore the application of the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+) for Canada, including a general measure of rurality, and public service specific measures of rurality, including methodologies of categorizing a spaces rurality. The session will end with exploration of this indicator through an interactive mapping portal.

Through session we will present and explore methods of providing small area measures of rurality, that can be applied to service or topic specific needs. The need for a small area measure of remoteness in Canada came about through an extensive review of available indicators, none met our needs. They were either based on non-standard geographies, solely based on population, produced in large areas that may not be wholly representative of all those who live in the space, or generalized and not representative for subject specific research.

Through a search of international measures of rurality, the Accessibility / Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+) methodology was the most relevant for our needs. The Spatial Determinants of Health Lab applied the ARIA+ methodology to a generalized accessibility model, as well as models for 24-hr emergency departments, pharmaceutical care, and public secondary schools. This included the generation of standardized scores based on the ARIA+, as well as normalized values and categorizations based on the Index of Remoteness, produced by Statistics Canada.

We will be discussing methods of sharing this knowledge to the general public and explore visualization techniques that can be employed in this field. Through this special session we will present the collective work conducted, and encourage other researchers to explore the potential of applying this methodology to other service specific areas of research.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Human, Environment and Human-Environment Research Examples using Geovisualization

**Session Organizer:** Christopher Macdonald Hewitt, Wilfrid Laurier University / University of Western Ontario

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Human, environment and human-environment interaction studies are interdisciplinary investigations of how people and society more broadly interact with their natural environment, in effect combining human and physical geography. For many studies, a spatial component in the form of a map or maps forms the basis for the analysis and presentation of the results. With the developments in cartography and data visualization more broadly since the mid-twentieth century however, standalone maps have given way to geovisualization including the display and combination of maps, graphs and diagrams. Geovisualization displays can include qualitative or quantitative data, depict one or many variables, be grayscale or coloured, as well as range from static displays to animated, interactive or multi-scaled presentations. From these displays, theories can be derived about humans, the environment and human-environment interactions, a perspective that is termed grounded visualization.

This session aims to solicit papers on humans, the environment and human-environment interactions that apply a grounded visualization approach to analyze and present their data related to a number of areas, including (but not limited to):

- Archaeology
- Conservation and Preservation
- Extreme Weather Events
- Historical
- Land Use
- Resource Management
- Urban Development"

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Feminist Geographies in Transdisciplinary Dialogue: Building Care and Justice in Uncertain Times

**Session Organizer:** Robin Westland, Thompson Rivers University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)/Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Hosted by the Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group, this session explores the confluences between feminist geographies and other geographies that bring new transdisciplinary understanding. We invite discussions on methodologies, pedagogies, and/or ontological world-buildings that broadly focus on fostering caring and justice amidst the socio-environmental crises we are facing today.

The world is facing deeply emotional and complex social and environmental upheaval; we need transformative approaches to make sense of what is happening in the world, to develop resiliency, and to maintain hope for positive change. This session, hosted by the Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group, is about bringing people together to share ideas and strategies for how they are employing feminist geographical approaches that combine other critical disciplinary lenses in multi-faceted efforts to build a more just and caring world. By focusing on practical methods, teaching approaches, and creative ways of seeing the world, we hope to spark conversations that engage with transdisciplinary community-building as an emergence strategy of social and environmental change.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Vegetation and Forest Remote Sensing

**Session Organizer:** Philip Lynch, York University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session will expose papers related to significant observations made from satellite-mounted remote sensors. Those sensors are capable of instantaneous monitoring and time-series assessment of vegetation status. Specifically, vegetation health, disturbance (e.g., harvest, fire, flooding, infestation, disease), boundaries, and regeneration. The speakers will introduce new applications of vegetation geospatial analysis.

Human-induced climate change poses a disproportionate threat to the status of global forestry and green vegetation. The continual increase in Canada's temperature is roughly double that of the global decadal average of 0.1–0.2°C. The collective impacts of human-caused and natural disturbances have resulted in thorough research of forest landscape, fragmentation, and regeneration. For instance, climate change is becoming more pronounced throughout Canada, producing higher average temperatures, longer and drier summers, and more lightning storms. A forest environment altered by climate change in addition to the impact of more frequent and more intense fires, may inherit modified post-disturbance regeneration trajectories

In recent decades, remote sensing research of plant phenology has increased in direct response to the impacts of climate change. For specific instances, there are primary foci for forestry, vegetation classification and mapping, and post-disturbance recovery observed in popular peer-reviewed discourse. The session will serve as a foreground for presenters to introduce new applications of vegetation geospatial analysis, including methods of remote sensing with spectral enhancement indices such as the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) and the normalized burn ratio (NBR). Remote sensing spectral vegetation indices leverage incorporated electromagnetic bands with simple and complicated mathematical formulas and are used extensively to assess the instantaneous state and change in the state of vegetation.

A major theme of the session will be cartography. Visualizing the spatial patterns obtainable through earth observation with maps allows researchers to communicate complex stories of vegetation status, depending on the sensitivity and accuracy of the methods employed."

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Book launch - Tending Nature : Fostering Eco-Citizenship in the Americas by Nathalie Gravel. Meet-the-critics event.

**Session Organizer:** Nathalie Gravel, Université Laval

**Session Type:** Panel discussion/Panel de discussion

**Session Description and Rationale:**

With the Environment and Resource Study Group, we convened to organize a panel discussion taking the form of a meet-the-critics event to launch my new book: Tending Nature: Fostering Eco-Citizenship in the Americas.

About the book: This book aims to enhance understanding of the foundational principles and ethical considerations of citizen engagement in environmental conservation through an examination of successful cases of shared environmental governance in the Americas. It seeks to inform policymaking on strategies for fostering behavioral change and advancing towards co-management of national public resources and the commons. These cases are analyzed through a geographical lens to provide a framework for reimagining eco-citizenship grounded in bioregionalism. This perspective diverges from the notion of eco-citizenship as a universal culture, advocating instead for its integration within the collective habitats of citizen groups.

Readers will gain insights into fostering reconciliation between nature and humanity by empowering diverse stakeholders to lead Blue/Green/Bee conservation initiatives. Emphasizing community learning, environmental awareness, and citizen participation, the book enriches decision-making processes and promotes environmental justice for all living organisms. The selected case studies from Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States highlight pioneering innovations in Blue/Green/Bee policy planning across urban, periurban, and rural settings. These initiatives propose empathetic and respectful approaches to nurturing our natural surroundings, including methods for co-management, networked urban gardening, wild native bee conservation, water source protection, community-based water management, river revitalization, and metropolitan green space stewardship.

This book is invaluable to students, urban and rural planners, researchers, academics, networking professionals, policymakers, international development practitioners, environmental organization personnel, and enthusiasts of the natural world alike.

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Satellite Earth Observation

**Session Organizer:** Anders Knudby, University of Ottawa

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

The observation of Earth from space is fundamental to modern mapping of both natural and human environments. This session features examples of the application of satellite data in the field of geography, and is open to all users and producers of satellite-derived mapping and monitoring products.

Geomatics in general, and earth observation specifically, has been underrepresented at CAG for decades, yet it is an essential part of modern geography and has continued to gain importance as more, and more sophisticated, satellite-based instruments are put in orbit. Including a session on satellite earth observation at CAG will help explore potential synergies between more classical geography and the new sources of spatial data provided by satellite-based instruments.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Titre de la Séance:** Vers une gouvernance adaptative des sources d'eau potable face aux changements climatiques

**Organisateur de Séance:** Nathalie Gravel, Université Laval

**Type de Séance:** Exposé normal (15 minutes)

**Description et Justification de la Séance:**

L'objectif principal de cette séance est de présenter des outils de gouvernance adaptative et résiliente face aux changements climatiques, dans le but de formuler des recommandations concrètes pour une gestion démocratique des bassins versants. Cette approche inclut la participation active de toutes les parties prenantes et prend en compte les défis contemporains et les savoirs locaux, afin de renforcer la résilience des écosystèmes concernés.

Bien que les lacs aient souvent constitué d'anciennes sources d'approvisionnement en eau potable pour les villes avoisinantes, ils ne bénéficient généralement pas d'une protection adéquate pour préserver leurs écosystèmes face aux multiples défis environnementaux. Ces défis sont aggravés par les activités anthropiques et les effets du changement climatique. Par ailleurs, les impacts des changements climatiques sur les écosystèmes lacustres et sur les prises d'eau potable demeurent, à ce jour, insuffisamment étudiés, soulignant un besoin urgent de recherche approfondie dans ce domaine. En parallèle, l'application inadéquate des réglementations existantes en matière de contrôle de la pollution, combinée à un cadre juridique multiniveaux fragmentant les responsabilités entre différentes entités décisionnelles, freine l'introduction d'innovations susceptibles de garantir la conservation durable de cette ressource essentielle. Ces dysfonctionnements soulignent l'urgence de repenser les mécanismes de gouvernance afin de mieux protéger la qualité et l'intégrité écologique des écosystèmes aquatiques.

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Academic Writing for Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Members

**Session Organizer:** Nadine Schuurman, Simon Fraser University

**Session Type:** Panel discussion/Panel de discussion

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This is a workshop for people who want advice on academic writing.

This is a panel on academic writing for everyone who is interested in how to optimize writing, journal submissions and journal revisions. The three panelists will cover topics from parlaying research to writing, journal submission and handling revisions to journals. We hope to attract graduate students, junior faculty and anyone who has questions about how to become a better writer, select the right journal for their work, coordinate and respond to reviewer suggestions and finally how to stay optimistic and engaged through the process of academic writing.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Global Migration and Mobilities in Uncertain Times

**Session Organizer:** Negar Valizadeh, University of Ottawa

**Session Type:** Workshop

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session explores the complexities of global migration amidst pandemics, conflicts, and restrictive policies. It examines migrant trajectories, migration governance, border dynamics, public attitudes, the roles of technology and civil society, focusing on mobility justice, spaces of belonging, and strategies for inclusive migration governance in uncertain times.

The proposed special session, “Global Migration and Mobilities in Uncertain Times,” aims to address the profound transformations in migration dynamics and governance in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating geopolitical conflicts, and intensified migration controls worldwide. These uncertain times have disrupted traditional migration patterns while also deepening the complexities of migrant trajectories, reshaping governance frameworks, and amplifying public debates around migration. The session seeks to unpack these intertwined processes by examining how intersecting drivers—ranging from economic inequalities and climate change to political instability—are reshaping global mobility.

This session is particularly timely as countries increasingly externalize border controls and implement restrictive policies to manage “unwanted” migrants, while civil society organizations and diasporic communities emerge as critical actors in advocating for mobility justice and migrant rights. Additionally, advances in digitalization and artificial intelligence are transforming both migration governance and the lived experiences of migrants, from surveillance technologies at borders to digital platforms that facilitate transnational connections. By exploring themes such as regional migration systems, contested spaces of belonging, the ethics of mobility justice, and the role of public attitudes in shaping migration discourses, this session will offer a comprehensive lens on the evolving landscapes of global migration.

Bringing together diverse perspectives, this session will foster critical dialogue on how these interconnected forces are reshaping mobility in an era marked by heightened uncertainty. It will provide a platform for innovative research that examines both the challenges and possibilities for more inclusive and equitable migration governance.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Atlantic Canada: A transforming region in a time of change

**Session Organizer:** Sara Clarke, Western University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Through a focus on Atlantic Canada, this session seeks to build conversation across geography subdisciplines (ie, housing, migration, economic development) to examine how a range of dynamics are transforming urban and rural communities in a region which has experienced considerable social, environmental, and economic change over the last decade.

The Atlantic Bubble – a COVID-era political creation that encompassed NL, NB, NS, and PEI – reasserted a sense of a distinct regional identity. Taking this as our starting point, we are keen to build conversation across research areas with the goal of tracing the complex dynamics at work in the region today. This would include a consideration of housing (the rapid growth of Halifax, growth of 2nd / seasonal homes), changing migration patterns (people moving from other parts of Canada to Halifax and other Atlantic provinces during the pandemic, the impact of new temporary foreign worker restrictions on labour patterns), food security (innovative community-based responses like food hubs, fisheries and sustainable agriculture), and climate resilience and sustainable planning (Hurricane Fiona in Newfoundland and coastal impacts).. The session would included empirically informed papers, and we will circulate the CFP to current research collaborators at NL and NB universities, and a discussant to bring together key ideas from the paper and guide an audience/presenters discussion on the confluence of the above-mentioned dynamics in Atlantic Canada.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Physical & Social Infrastructure for Community Health

**Session Organizer:** Keely Stenberg, University of Waterloo

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Through calls for action on the determinants of health, communities are encouraged to assess their local context, and improve the availability and accessibility of physical and social infrastructure. This special session brings together research that explores the impacts of changing infrastructure on population and community health.

The World Health Organization has long acknowledged that healthy communities require decision-makers to take action on the social determinants of health. While the specific needs of communities differ, determinants of health in Canada and elsewhere include the availability and accessibility of local infrastructure. In particular, physical infrastructure, as in the built form of buildings and facilities, and the links in between, can provide important resources (e.g., water, food, shelter, employment, transportation) that support the health and well-being of community members. Concomitantly, social infrastructure includes public and quasi-public spaces that support social interaction; this infrastructure can contribute to the well-being of community members through, for example, the opportunity to build social connections and social capital. A combination of physical and social infrastructure contributes to a healthier community by providing necessary resources and facilitating activities. Despite this understanding, there is a need to further consider how the infrastructural needs of communities and sub-populations (e.g., those of various life stages, abilities, genders, migration status, etc.) differ. Furthermore, research is needed that explores relationships between health outcomes, and local dynamics (e.g., built form, connectivity) and circumstances (e.g., disaster, disinvestment) that impact the availability and accessibility of physical and/or social infrastructures.

This session aims to showcase emerging research that investigates how the closure/removal, development/implementation, or alteration of physical and/or social infrastructure relate to population and community health. In the session, presenters are welcome to explore a range of geographies, methodologies, populations, and theories in relation to physical and/or social infrastructure and community health.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Collective and participatory cartography for social change: processes and practices

**Session Organizer:** Laurence Simard-Gagnon, Université du Québec à Rimouski - campus de Lévis

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session will gather researchers who conduct social justice projects anchored in participatory and collective cartography, with a view to discuss experiences of processes and practices. We would like to keep open time for general discussions and sharing experiences.

The role of cartography in reiterating sedimented dynamics of oppression, marginalization, exclusion and invisibility at the heart of space and place, when not actively driving projects of domination and dispossession, has been amply discussed (see (Mahmoudi & Shelton, 2022)). Yet, there is growing interest in the potential of cartography as an instrument of collective transformation, at the heart of processes of developing social and political awareness, of reclaiming space and of imagining possible futures (ex : Kollektiv Orangotango +, 2018) As well, different cartographic approaches are increasingly mobilised in the telling of rich and nuanced stories that are generally invisibilized (see Olmedo and Caquard, 2022)

This session aims to gather researchers involved in collective and/or participatory mapping projects, with the view of exploring how such projects can act as facilitators for the telling of obfuscated stories and for the construction of new spatial narratives through which (re)new(ed) collective movements for social and spatial justice can emerge.

We are looking for papers presenting mapping works as well as considerations on processes and practices, for example: issues of ethics, accessibility, inclusivity, literacy, representation, but also practical issues of logistics, time constraints, funding, etc.

Kollektiv Orangotango + (Éd.). (2018). *This is Not an Atlas—A Global Collection of Counter-Cartographies*. transcript Verlag.

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Olmedo, É., & Caquard, S. (2022). Mapping the Skin and the Guts of Stories – A Dialogue between Geolocated and Dislocated Cartographies. *Cartographica*, 57(2), 127-146.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Arctic Spatial Data Management

**Session Organizer:** Chantelle Verhey, Carleton University

**Session Type:** Special session (90minutes) = 4 regular talks (60 minutes) / 1 Panel (30 minutes)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session will highlight various spatial data initiatives in the Arctic. Effective spatial data management is crucial for decision-making in a region disproportionately affected by climate change. Proper data management supports the ongoing data-driven research revolution and enhances data reusability by leveraging existing information.

Spatial data is fundamental to understanding and addressing environmental challenges in polar regions, where rapid climate change is reshaping landscapes and ecosystems. This special session aims to bring together researchers utilizing geospatial tools—including GIS, remote sensing, numerical modelling, data integration, community and Indigenous data—to enhance our understanding of polar environments. By exploring innovative approaches to geospatial analysis, predictive modelling, and large-scale dataset management, this session will highlight key advancements in visualizing and interpreting polar science.

A primary focus will be on interoperability challenges and strategies for improving data accessibility, ensuring that spatial data can effectively support scientific research and decision-making. Case studies on permafrost modelling, sea ice dynamics, and glacial processes will provide real-world examples of how spatial tools contribute to environmental monitoring and forecasting. The session also invites discussions on cutting-edge techniques for spatial data discovery and visualization, fostering collaboration across disciplines. By bringing together experts and practitioners, this session will advance the application of spatial technologies in polar science, supporting more effective environmental assessments and policy decisions. Participants will have the opportunity to share insights, exchange methodologies, and explore new frontiers in spatial data applications for polar research."

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Geographies of Health and Health Care

**Session Organizer:** Jenna Dixon, University of British Columbia

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Welcoming a full spectrum of thematic and methodological approaches as aligned with vast interests in health and medical geography in Canada and beyond, this session will showcase the current research of members/those connected to the Geographies of Health and Health Care Study Group of the CAG.

This session, organized by Geographies of Health and Health Care Study Group (GHHCSG), is a longstanding tradition at the CAG annual meeting to bring together and showcase the research from within the sub-discipline. Based on contributors, sessions will be organized by theme where possible. The session also serves as a venue for those participating in the GHHCSG annual student presentation competition.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Beyond tenure-track: Exploring alternative post-PhD paths

**Session Organizer:** Jenna Dixon, University of British Columbia

**Session Type:** Panel discussion/Panel de discussion

**Session Description and Rationale:**

As PhD graduates are increasingly looking for (or having to look for) alternatives to traditional tenure-track positions, this panel will engage five individuals with non-traditional careers. Each panelist will speak for 10 minutes on their experiences; the final 30 minutes will be a moderated Q&A exploring common themes and advice.

As alternative career paths become increasingly relevant for those with Geography PhDs, this panel will support graduate students and early career researchers in thinking through their possibilities and providing valuable insight into best strategies for setting themselves up for happiness and success in their careers. The panel serves to open up a conversation and critical examination into both the benefits and challenges of these alternative pathways.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Exploring Rural Geography in Canada: Challenges, Transformations, and Opportunities

**Session Organizer:** Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Canada's rural places and spaces are undergoing profound transformations, shaped by shifting economies and international trade, demographic changes, and evolving environmental conditions. This session explores contemporary issues in rural geography, addressing themes such as resource-based economies, population change, economic restructuring, land use, border environments, and place-based development.

Canada's rural places and spaces are undergoing profound transformations, shaped by shifting economies and international trade, demographic changes, and evolving environmental conditions. This session explores contemporary issues in rural geography, addressing themes such as resource-based economies, population change, economic restructuring, land use, border environments, and place-based development. As rural regions face evolving challenges - including climate change, demographic shifts, and policy transformations - this session seeks to highlight critical research that examines these dynamics from geographical perspectives. This session aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the future of rural spaces in Canada and the policies that shape them. We welcome theoretical and empirical studies employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method approaches that advance our understanding of rural processes and place-based experiences. We welcome students, emerging researchers, and seasoned scholars to share rural geography research.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** How to Survive Academia, Make it Better for Others, and Transform the University: An Author Meets Readers Session

**Session Organizer:** Jennifer Silver, University of Guelph

**Session Type:** Panel discussion

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Join us to hear from Dr. Roberta Hawkins about her recent book, co-authored with Dr. Leslie Kern, called 'Higher Expectations: How to Survive Academia, Make it Better for Others, and Transform the University'. In this 'Author Meets Readers' session, Roberta will introduce and overview the book, we will hear remarks, observations and queries from a small panel of respondent readers, and then open up for questions and more discussion with the audience.

Hawkins and Kern contend that although universities are challenged on many fronts -- and, in turn can be challenging environments in which to work and learn -- we can raise our expectations, ask for more and build together towards meaningful change. The book both develops this argument and offers practical guidance for those who want to improve their own work lives and contribute to healthier conditions in the academy. At least three pieces of rationale motivate this session: i) to draw attention to the book (released in Spring 2024) and its important messages; ii) support and promote this generative work by the authors (both Canadian Geographers); and, iii) open up space for conversation among conference attendees about universities and the academy. We intend to approach a small handful of faculty, and likely at least one early career researcher, to participate as 'readers' in the panel.

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Special Session in Urban Geography

**Session Organizer:** Evan Cleave, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

Papers in this session will cover key issues and methodological approaches in urban geography. Papers can be conceptual, theoretical, or empirical and can cover any aspect of urban geography (i.e., urban governance, planning and development; social, cultural, economic, or environmental issues; urban morphology and form; and urban change). Any research relevant to urban geography is welcome.

The session will bring together the diverse field of urban research. Urban areas vary in their form, structure, morphology, land use patterns, and historical processes of evolution. But they are also driven by a series of interrelated processes of change - including economic, political, cultural, demographic, technological, environmental, social, and locally-contingent forces. The session is left intentionally broad to allow maximize topics covered and participation (and can be broken into multiple sub-themed sessions if interest allows).

The session also serves as a key event for the Urban Geography Study Group - allowing urban geographers to meet, network from across Canada as they share their research.

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** "Author Meets the Critique: Meaningful Past Historical Narratives, Commemorative Landscapes, and Everyday Lives by Russell Johnston and Michael Ripmeester"

**Session Organizer:** Ebru Ustundag, Brock University

**Session Type:** Panel discussion

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This Authors-Meets-Critics panel engages Johnson and Ripmeester in discussion with interdisciplinary scholars interested in the contested politics of memory and urban landscapes

Providing an opportunity for constructive criticism and debate between the authors and the critics. More information on the book can be found here:

<https://utppublishing.com/doi/book/10.3138/9781487550424>

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** "Confluence of Climate Change and Coastal Retreat: Integrating Social Justice, Community Engagement, and Governance"

**Session Organizer:** Ivy Chen X.Q (PhD), University of California Berkeley; Wilfred Laurier University

**Session Type:**

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session explores the confluence of managed and planned retreat strategies, community engagement, and governance in coastal climate adaptation. It emphasizes the integration of social justice, Indigenous knowledge, and inclusive planning to develop sustainable, equitable solutions that enhance coastal resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

Coastal regions are increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, erosion, and extreme weather events. These challenges require adaptive, integrated strategies, such as managed and planned retreat, to safeguard communities and ecosystems. However, the effectiveness of these strategies hinges on the incorporation of social equity, community engagement, and diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous perspectives.

This special session seeks to address the intersections of climate adaptation, social justice, and governance frameworks in the context of managed retreat. By focusing on case studies from diverse global regions, including New Zealand, the Netherlands, Canada, and the U.S., we explore the complexities of implementing retreat strategies that balance environmental protection with social and cultural sustainability. These case studies illustrate how inclusive, participatory planning processes, alongside careful integration of market-based solutions and legal frameworks, can enhance the success and acceptance of retreat strategies.

Moreover, this session emphasizes the critical role of Indigenous knowledge in shaping adaptive governance and retreat planning, ensuring that cultural values and traditional land connections are preserved. In doing so, we align with the CAG2025 conference theme of "Confluence," recognizing how multiple perspectives and approaches must converge to effectively address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change.

By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, this session provides a platform for discussing innovative solutions and the importance of equity and cultural sensitivity in climate adaptation practices, enriching the broader geographical and cartographic discourse."

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Inequalities in Food Insecurity

**Session Organizer:** Emmanuel Kyeremeh, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session focuses on a wide range of topics related to food availability and access, food justice, and the complex power structures that create and maintain patterns of privilege and disadvantage within food systems. This goal is to highlight the importance of understanding the meanings of food, the obstacles to food accessibility, and how they are influenced by intersecting identities.

Food insecurity is a pressing global issue, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and deepening existing inequalities. This special session seeks to explore the structural, economic, and social determinants that shape food access, availability, and justice. While food insecurity is often framed as an issue of supply or affordability, this session takes a broader perspective, recognizing the power dynamics embedded within food systems that create and sustain disparities.

Food access is shaped by multiple intersecting factors, including race, ethnicity, gender, class, and geographic location. These identities influence not only who experiences food insecurity but also how they navigate barriers to obtaining adequate and culturally appropriate food. Additionally, neoliberal food policies, corporate control of food systems, and the erosion of local food sovereignty contribute to the persistence of inequalities. Hence the session seeks to understand these systemic barriers, which is crucial for designing equitable interventions and policies.

This session also seeks to examine how food insecurity operates as a mechanism of social and economic exclusion. Thus, it aims to investigate structural drivers of food insecurity, explore the lived experiences of those affected, and propose policy or community-based solutions. Contributions may include research on food deserts, Indigenous food sovereignty, immigrant and refugee food access, or the intersections between food security and health outcomes. By fostering dialogue across areas, this session aims to generate critical insights into the inequalities within food systems and highlight innovative strategies for ensuring food justice for all.

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# CONFLUENCE

CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Geographies of Food Systems in the Global South

**Session Organizer:** Richard Nyiawung, University of Waterloo

**Session Type:** Lightning talk (5-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

The food system in the Global South is diverse, characterized by multiple actors but predominantly dominated by local small-scale actors living across multiple landscapes. This session brings together food systems scholars, experts, and practitioners to discuss and provide an outlook on how food system actors navigate the complexities of cultural diversity, human-environment interactions, and the food environment in the Global South.

Across different landscapes such as highlands, savannas, rainforests, and coasts, the food systems in the Global South include a broad range of activities and associated actors. This place-based food system provides a unique identity and attachment, influenced by intergenerational practices, culture, and local indigenous knowledge sharing. Moreover, local food systems are shaped by the availability and access of natural resources to local communities. However, the past decade has witnessed drastic unprecedented changes in food systems, and most local actors are unable to respond appropriately. Climate change, urbanization, and other related global forces put pressure on production systems, which in turn causes rapid changes to existing food systems in the Global South. Steering sustainable and inclusive innovations and instituting solutions for the resilience of practices and actors is critical for food system transformation.

Therefore, this session will bring together like-minded scholars, experts, and practitioners to share their experiences, field stories, and engagements in discussions of how food system actors in the Global South (can) navigate the cascading pressures for sustainability. The session will provide opportunities for people across multiple disciplines to present on several issues, including but not limited to methodological approaches, digitalization, GIS/remote sensing, governance, and field stories related to food systems in the Global South. Importantly, the session encourages presentations that are framed and use one or more geographical concepts and philosophies in advancing discussions around the governance and geographical dimensions of food system actors and practices in the Global South.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** From Remote Sensing Imagery to Geographical Mapping Knowledge

**Session Organizer:** H Peter White, Canadian Remote Sensing Society - Ottawa Chapter

**Session Type:** Special session (90minutes) = 4 regular talks (60 minutes) / 1 Panel (30 minutes) plus Poster presentations

**Session Description and Rationale:**

The session explores connecting leading-edge remote sensing techniques with practical applications, providing valuable knowledge and skills applicable to various disciplines, from urban planning to environmental conservation. Ultimately, this session aims to advance our Geographical Mapping Knowledge across land, ocean, and bathymetry through the exploration and exploitation of the latest remote sensing technologies.

During this session we will explore cutting-edge advancements in remote sensing and their integration with other spatial technologies, leveraging these technologies to address critical challenges. This session will invite discussion on lead-edge and diverse applications for data integration of remotely sensed information with other spatial technologies. The integrated advancements of these technologies are crucial for understanding and addressing environmental challenges, both terrestrial and aquatic.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Status and Trends Mapping: Earth Observations for Cumulative Effects

**Session Organizer:** H. Peter White, Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing Division - Natural Resources Canada

**Session Type:** Special session (90minutes) = 4 regular talks (60 minutes) / 1 Panel (30 minutes) / Special Poster Session "

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This session will explore how advances in mapping Status and Trends through Earth Observation can support managing the cumulative effects of development in our natural environment. This in turn supports natural resource management and impact assessment processes across the country.

Environmental status and trends data plays a crucial role in describing cumulative effects within natural resource management decision making, especially impact assessment and regional assessment processes. Cumulative Effects can be defined as the changes that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present, and future human actions and these effects continue to be a concern in project assessments and within most Canadian communities including Indigenous communities. Cumulative effects of development are largely outside of the control of individual project proponents and, therefore, represent a significant challenge in their inclusion into impact assessment processes. This session will explore current efforts in addressing cumulative effects through Earth Observation Status and Trends data and engage with the community through an expert panel on future directions.

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** The Evolving Landscape of Business Geography

**Session Organizer:** Dr. Christopher Daniel, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

This special session explores the dynamic shifts in retail geography, including e-commerce growth, urban revitalization, and socio-spatial retail disparities. We invite research on consumer behavior, retail resilience, and spatial analytics to understand emerging trends. Scholars and practitioners will discuss policy implications and future trajectories in global retail landscapes.

Business geography is a common field of employment for geography graduates and having a healthy applied research environment is essential to provide opportunities for Canadian students to explore deeper into sub-topics of their interest and create proof of their capabilities to employers. In addition, applied business geography is a rapidly evolving field of research as we grapple with changing demographic trends, evolving urban planning priorities in Canadian cities, and business trends such as E-commerce. Having a special topic on this theme will keep the

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CAG ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 20 - 23, 2025 - CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Session Title:** Making the Case for Geography in Our Classrooms: Lightning Lessons for Transformative Learning

**Session Organizer:** James Boxall, Dalhousie University

**Session Type:** Regular talk (15-minute)

**Session Description and Rationale:**

One in a continuing series of sessions with the International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography in Higher Education (supported by Int. J. of Geog. Higher Ed.). Workshops have been going on since 1999 (Hawaii) and usually are at AAG, RGS, or IGU events (last was in Quebec). Designed to focus on major issues in the discipline and build collaborations for publication and future efforts.

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