

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CWAG Members,

I hope you are all enjoying summer, wherever you might find yourselves.

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Waterloo was a successful event, filled to the brim with exciting sessions and evening events. One such event was the bi-annual Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture. We were privileged to have the lecture given this year by Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, and to a crowded room no less.

During the AGM, CWAG members also met for a lunchtime meeting to discuss new directions for the coming year. The meeting marked the end of Caroline Desbiens' two-year term as CWAG Chair. Caroline has worked tremendously hard for CWAG over the past two years, and has been integral in moving the study group forward in some new endeavours, such as the student paper competition launched this year. Inspired by Caroline's contributions, and excited to involve myself more in CWAG activities, I volunteered to lead CWAG for the next two years. I am very pleased to take on this role and look forward to getting to know CWAG members better.



Julia Christensen, CWAG Chair 2012

Just to tell you a little bit about myself: I am a newly-minted PhD in Geography, having successfully defended my dissertation at McGill in November 2011...

(Continued on p. 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Chair ....	1
Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture .....	2
Student Paper Competition .....	3
Facebook and Google Groups.....	4
Congratulations .....	4
Graduate Profiles.....	4
Teaching Urban Social Geography in the Caribbean.....	5
GFDA Workshop .....	6
Regional Meetings.....	6

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Student paper competition a success!
- CWAG's on Facebook and Google Groups for further discussion and collaboration
- The newsletter seeks your stories! Email stories, comments, responses, notices, op-eds, journal articles to [amf\\_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca](mailto:amf_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca)

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Since then, I have been a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in Geography at the University of British Columbia, though I spend much of my time in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, my hometown and also the site of much of my research. Here in Yellowknife, I am also a Research Fellow at the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research.

In general, my interests lie in critical northern geographies. For my PhD and postdoctoral work, I primarily focus on northern Indigenous experiences of home and homelessness. Lately, I have also been working with Indigenous women in Yellowknife to develop new ways of understanding agency in northern women's homelessness. I also engage with storytelling and creative writing as research methods and modes of research dissemination.

(CONTINUED FROM P.1)

In closing, I would like to thank Ann Marie Murnaghan for graciously offering to organize the CWAG newsletter and its distribution. Staying connected to one another during the months between AGMs is really important to building relationships and moving forward with new initiatives. The newsletter plays a central role in an ongoing conversation between CWAG members. We look forward to developing new ideas for the newsletter in coming months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, ideas, concerns, or just to say hello. I hope to see you all again in St. John's next summer!

Best wishes,

**Julia**

julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca

---

*“Staying connected to one another during the months between AGMs is really important to building relationships and moving forward with new initiatives.”*

---

### *Who is Suzanne Mackenzie?*

Suzanne Mackenzie was a much beloved member of the geographical community, both in Canada and around the world. A pioneer in feminist urban geography, she contributed actively to discussions and research about women and geography.

### *What is the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture?*

The Memorial Lecture Subcommittee of CWAG solicits nominations from CWAG and CAG membership at large for the annual lecturer. We encourage nominations of women in all stages of their careers, whose involvement in geography bears some significant correspondence with Suzanne's interests and passions.

Please contact: CWAG Chair, Julia Christensen

## THE 2012 SUZANNE MACKENZIE MEMORIAL LECTURE:

**AUDREY KOBAYASHI**

### COMING TO THE INTERSECTION: IMPOSSIBLE CONVERSATIONS ON RACE AND GENDER ALONG THE ROAD

Recent geographical scholarship has adopted intersectional analysis as a dominant paradigm. But the journey to intersectionality has been politically fraught and methodologically challenging. This presentation recounts some of the conversations that took place along this road. Available at CWAG website, or <http://vimeo.com/43166075>



*"Me and mini me"* (L. Simard)

# Laurence Simard-Gagnon

## STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER, 2012

Je m'appelle Laurence Simard-Gagnon et j'étudie à la maîtrise en géographie à l'Université Laval, Québec, sous la direction de Caroline Desbiens. J'ai eu cette année l'honneur de gagner la compétition d'articles étudiants du CWAG.

Mon projet de recherche porte sur l'utilisation des petits fruits par les femmes inuites de la communauté d'Inukjuak, au Nunavik. Plus précisément, je m'intéresse aux sens associés aux produits territoriaux des femmes au sein des systèmes de subsistance contemporains. Ce travail se fonde sur une littérature anthropologique abondante discutant des systèmes de partage de la nourriture chez les Inuit et de leurs implications sociales et culturelles. Ma contribution à ce corpus vise à déconstruire certaines structures analytiques binaires et essentialistes qui informent notre compréhension du genre – particulièrement du genre inuit – et de l'espace genré.

The paper I submitted documents aspects of berry picking and use of Inuit women by following the trajectories of the berries along contemporary networks of sharing. Through this I explore the social nature of berries and highlight meanings of women's practices, both in terms of cultural belonging and (gender) identity. This allows me to challenge binary assumptions that limit the recognition of women's territorial experiences within Inuit studies literature.



*Arpik (cloudberry)* (L. Simard)

## STUDENT PAPER AWARD

This year CWAG offered an annual prize for the best student paper.

The rules stipulated that the paper was to be written by a master's or Ph.D. student who presented their paper at the 2012 CAG meeting.

The paper was to be based on research and address some aspect of feminist geography, broadly defined.

Entries could be submitted electronically, in either French or English, and did not exceed 5,000 words, including references and footnotes.

Thank you to this year's evaluators

**Geraldine**

**Pratt** (UBC) and

**Linda Peake**

(York) who generously agreed to review the papers for the Study Group.

If you are interested in being an evaluator for next year's competition, please contact

**Julia**

**Christensen**

julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca

## CWAG ON FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE GROUPS

For those of you looking for some real time connections with women and feminist geographers in distant locales, you might think of joining the new Facebook Group CWAG—Canadian Women and Geography Study Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/430844290279789/>

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

Please contribute any relevant material!

## CONGRATULATIONS BONNIE HALLMAN

Please join me in congratulating Prof. Bonnie C. Hallman (Manitoba) who has recent been appointed as the Director of University 1, the University of Manitoba's program for first year students, effective September 1, 2012. This position holds a five year term.

Vice-Provost Susan Gottheil noted that it was Prof. Hallman's "academic, professional and administrative achievements and success, as well as her proactive approach" that suited her for the job.

Bonnie recently completed a one year



Bonnie Hallman

term as acting associate dean of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources while continuing to research and teach on food geographies, Disney, and geographies of intergenerational relationships.

She will be missed in the Department of Environment and Geography, but will certainly be a welcome addition to the university administration.

---

*Question from Linda Peake (York): Does the CWAG mission statement need to be revised? How can we do it?*

*"CWAG aims to provide a forum for people interested in issues of access, equity, and the well-being of women in geography and for those whose research is linked to questions of gender as they relate to relations of class, race/ethnicity, sexuality, nation/ality, and ability."*

*Submit replies to [amf\\_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca](mailto:amf_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca)*

---

### (NEAR) GRADUATE PROFILE:

## SERENE TAN, PHD ABD, YORK UNIVERSITY

As of this writing, I am on the verge of submitting my dissertation for defense (fixing typos, ironing out stylistic issues, and straightening figures!). My dissertation research focused on four Chinatowns in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Rangoon, and Singapore (fieldwork was extensive and exciting!). I explored heritage cultural landscapes, concepts of diaspora and home in these Chinatown communities, as well as nationalism and identity in these cities.

I am currently a Policy Associate at the Mowat Centre of Policy Innovation at the University of Toronto. My specific project, Mobilizing Diaspora Networks, examines the potential for supporting and leveraging diaspora networks in Ontario and Canada to strengthen Canada's economy. This job is an exciting opportunity for me to combine my research interests in diasporas and transnational processes with the application of policy considerations.

I am also teaching a summer course in Geography at University of Toronto Mississauga campus. While working two jobs leaves me little time to do much else (like edit and submit the dissertation!), I am grateful for the opportunities available to me at this time, and the flexibility of my job that allows time off to teach.

# TEACHING URBAN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY IN THE CARIBBEAN

by *Priya Kissoon*

Everyday is not coconuts and Calypso, but most are. Everyday is about influencing students' vision of themselves, their communities, and the world. Everyday is also about experiencing the privileges and challenges of relative wealth, and applying my knowledge, skills, and soul to making a difference where I live.

I joined the Geography Unit, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in January 2012 after completing a postdoc at UBC and then sessional teaching Urban Geography at UofT-Scarborough. Prior to this I had earned my doctorate at King's College, University of London, in the UK, and my M.A. and other degrees in Toronto, at York University. I had only lived in big cities in more-developed countries, and conducted research in big departments, and the prospect of being an urban geographer in a small less-developed country was daunting.

In reality, St. Augustine, Trinidad is well-linked by public transportation to the capital, Port of Spain; and things I thought I would not easily find, such as live music and theatre, cinema, poetry and spoken word, and good coffee with decadent pastries are present and accessible. Crime, particularly with the country's state of emergency in 2011, and uncertainty about healthcare were also concerns before arriving, and so far I have avoided incidents, though I remain vigilant about my well-being while enjoying a wide range of activities. I should also acknowledge that sexism and racism exist in the Caribbean as elsewhere, and at times, even with my Guyanese roots, they have challenged my social identity and my self-confidence. I am thankful that this has not been my experience at the University. I am also pleased to say that my colleagues and senior administrators have offered mentorship and encouragement to enable my transition from Canada to Trinidad and Tobago, and my movement from a temporary sessional academic worker to a full-time leader. While I loved my teaching ex-

periences in Canada, the step-up from sessional work has been life-changing for me for the stability, pay, and the new horizon it offers; the last of which, especially, is critical for planning a medium and long-term research agenda and seeing myself as a part of the future of my institution.

Originally hosted in the Department of Food Production, Geography will be inaugurated as its own Department in August, 2012. As a faculty member in the new department, I play an essential role in supporting its development and shaping its direction, which is an opportunity I may not have had in a larger established department. As one might expect, as a full-time lecturer, I teach Human Geography and Urban Geography courses, I have graduate students,

I am engaged in administration at various levels, and I participate on working groups and committees, including the implementation of experiential learning in current and prospective courses across the Campus. Crucially, professional development is a priority for the Campus Principal and University, and resources are committed to workshops and symposia on publishing, research, and teaching strategies. I have met colleagues from across campus who are inter-

ested in collaborative research and publishing on issues of poverty and homelessness in the Caribbean, and being abroad has given me more reason to reach out and stay in touch with colleagues in Canada and the UK who are also interested in these topics and collaboration.

Finally, I have necessarily adapted my teaching of Urban Geography in particular to fit my new environment, and I am rewarded beyond expectations to learn from my students' experiences, ideas, and critically, their resistance to certain concepts and ideas. I would have to say that this is one of the most important experiences of my academic trajectory, and I am grateful for it – One last note: You can't underestimate the power of coconuts and Calypso in turning the everyday into a great day.



Priya Kissoon

## Regional Meetings

**The Western Division** annual meeting will be hosted by the Department of Geography at the **University of Lethbridge, March 2013.**

**The Prairie Division** of the Canadian Association of Geographers is meeting on **September 28-30, 2012** in Winkler, Manitoba. Please register with the **University of Manitoba** organizing committee before September 14, 2012. For details see: <http://pcag.uwinnipeg.ca/>

**The CAGONT** Annual Meeting will be held from **October 12-13, 2012** at the **University of Toronto - Scarborough.**

The 24th Annual **Atlantic CAG Meeting** will be held at **Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, on October 19-21, 2012.**

## Canadian Women & Geography Study Group

Please send all your news, contributions, links, resources, and congratulations to the Communications Coordinator,

**Ann Marie Murnaghan,**

amf\_murnaghan  
@umanitoba.ca



## CANADIAN WOMEN AT THE AAG'S GFDA SUMMER WORKSHOP

by Ann Marie Murnaghan

Like many CWAGgers before me, I recently attended the Association of American Geographers' annual Geography Faculty Development Alliance's Summer Workshop for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The workshop was an incredible experience, dealing with teaching methods, professional development, and research tasks. I was happy to spend a week with about twenty other participants from all over the US, with a wide variety of interests and research methods. The most fun was that all of the four Canadians in attendance were women.

**Anne-Marie Debbané**, a York PhD graduate in geography, just completed her first year of teaching at San Diego State University. Her research on the political ecology of water in South Africa has been published in *Antipode*. She noted that "The GFDA exposed me to valuable tools and resources that will strongly benefit my teaching. It was great to share teaching experiences with fellow participants and make new friends."

**Sara Gagné**, a Carlton PhD graduate in biology, teaches at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research on regions and urban biodiversity is published in *The Journal of Biogeography*. Sara echoed Anne-Marie's comments: "Being a faculty member is much more than research, teaching, and service. It is about being a part of a larger community of academics. The GFDA workshop is essentially an introduction to this community (its members, norms, and culture). I left the workshop feeling like I was an important part of this community and ready to contribute to it to the best of my abilities."



Micro-flora at Rocky Mountain National Park Field Trip, Colorado. (A.M. Murnaghan)

**Laura Tate**, a UBC PhD graduate in planning, is the provincial director at Community Action Initiative, a non-profit agency in Vancouver. As a mid-career professional who is taking a "non-traditional" academic path, she is interested in continuing to work in academia and found that the workshop helped motivate her in her publishing goals, helped her to network, think about her teaching goals and strategies, and apply them in some course preparation. She was also impressed by the calibre of younger academics who attended the workshop with her, and by the generosity of spirit and time shown by the facilitators.

I am also a recent graduate of York University, and currently teaching at the University of Manitoba. Apart from the collegial relationships that we created throughout the week, I am particularly proud of our ancillary workshop on critical pedagogies, and our class' contribution of organizing a scholarship fund (with the help of facilitator Ken Foote) which will assist future contingent faculty pay the workshop fees. Contract workers are often in the most precarious positions, with limited funds to attend these events, although they benefit the most from the collegiality, information, and networking opportunities that the workshop provides. Any former GFDA participants are encouraged to contribute to this fund through the AAG.