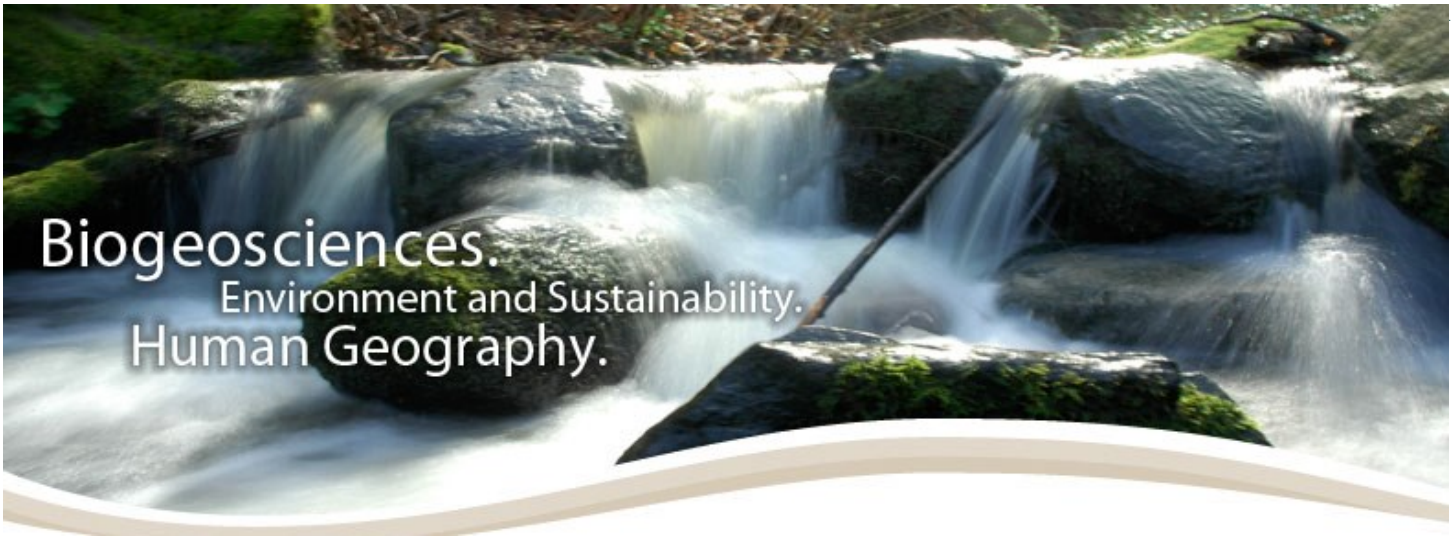


2014 Graduate Student Symposium

UBC DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Presenter Abstracts:

Thursday, May 1st, 2014

9:00–9:10	**Welcome**
9:10-9:30	Lawrence Bird (MSc)
9:30–9:50	Molly Clarkson (MA)
9:50–10:10	David West (MSc)
10:10–10:30	Alex Pysklywec (MA)
	Coffee Break
10:45–11:05	Sarah Desrosiers (MSc)
11:05-11:25	Chris Quick (MSc)
11:25–11:45	Adam Mahoney (MA)
11:45-12:05	Salome Buglass (MSc)
	Lunch in Grad Lounge, rm 140
1:00–1:20	Jill Miners (MSc)
1:20-1:40	Nick Byrne (MA)
1:40–2:00	Matthew Chernos (MSc)
2:00-2:20	Shambhavi Srivastava (MA)
	Break
2:30-2:50	David Reid (MSc)
2:50-3:10	Catriona Gold (MA)
3:10–3:30	Lucy MacKenzie (MSc)
	Conclusion

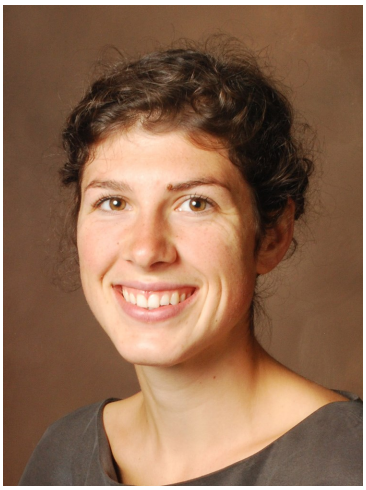
Symposium location: Room 200, Geography Building, 1984 West Mall, UBC Vancouver. For a map to the building, visit http://www.maps.ubc.ca/.

The UBC Department of Geography is pleased to invite students, faculty and guests on Thursday, May 1st, to the 2014 Graduate Student Symposium. Second-year master students will be presenting their research findings with opportunities for discussion and constructive feedback. Each presentation will take approximately 15 minutes with five minutes afterwards for questions.

Lawrence Bird (MSc)

Thermal Regime of a Large Proglacial Lake Fed by a Calving Glacier

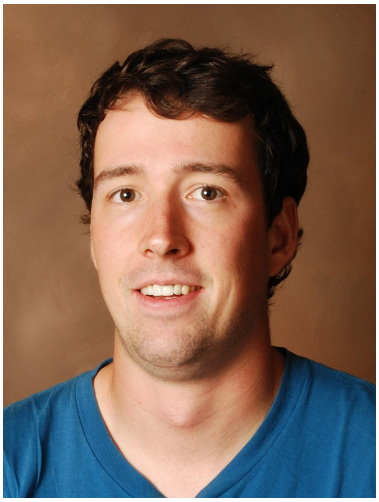
Sustained glacier retreat has lead to the formation of new proglacial lakes, which can have significant influences on downstream water quality and aquatic ecology. This study aimed to document the thermal regime of a large proglacial lake formed by the retreat of Bridge Glacier in the southern Coast Mountains of BC. Static vertical temperature profiles documented the thermal structure of the lake, while two climate stations provided data to compute surface energy fluxes. It is anticipated that, as Bridge Glacier continues to retreat and ceases to calve icebergs, there will be greater opportunity for lake warming, with implications for the downstream river thermal regime.



Molly Clarkson (MA)

Who Speaks for the Salmon?: Perspectives on the Cohen Commission (2009-2012), conservation and contention

For the upcoming presentation I will contrast the differential treatment of fishing technologies - traps, purse and drag seines, gill-nets and weirs - by different groups in the 1902 BC Fisheries Commission in order to make an argument that 'conservation' encompassed a constellation of different, and at times competing, interests in the fishery. I bring this critique into my analysis of the most recent fisheries commission in BC in order to argue that the commission's central question of where the sockeye have 'disappeared to' constrained responses by Commission participants and witnesses to the biological, physiological and the environmental.



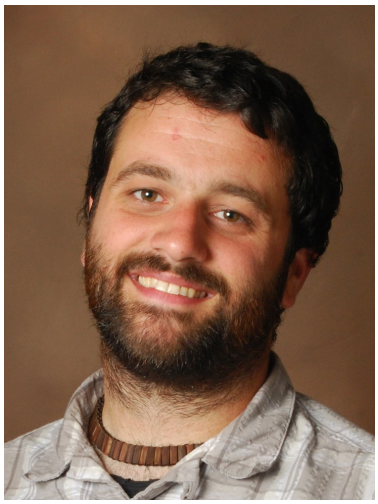
David West (MSc)

Modelling the thermal regime of a regulated coastal British Columbia river and assessing the potential of warming mitigation strategies

The thermal regime of streams has an important influence on aquatic ecosystems. This study focused on the thermal regime of the regulated Alouette River in coastal BC, which currently exceeds thermal tolerance thresholds for native salmonids. A process based lagrangian stream temperature model was developed using detailed field measurements that captured the components of Alouette's heat and water budget. The potential for mitigating warm temperatures was assessed through simulations involving operational changes to reservoir discharge and reestablishment of riparian vegetation.

Alex Pysklywec (MA)

Rainbow Flags and Body Bags: Pride as Everyday Resistance to Violence in Northern Mexico



In 2012 and 2013 a mid-sized city in northern Mexico bore witness to its first ever pride marches. These marches are already courageous acts in of themselves; however, what is more remarkable is that the city in northern Mexico has been wracked by violence resulting from the so-called 'drug war'. In this presentation, I argue that these pride marches form an active resistance not only to gender and sexual minority marginalization, but also to the violence occurring in Mexico. I do so by exploring how moments of everyday resistance and contestation work to queer heteronormative spaces of violence.

Sarah Desrosiers (MSc)

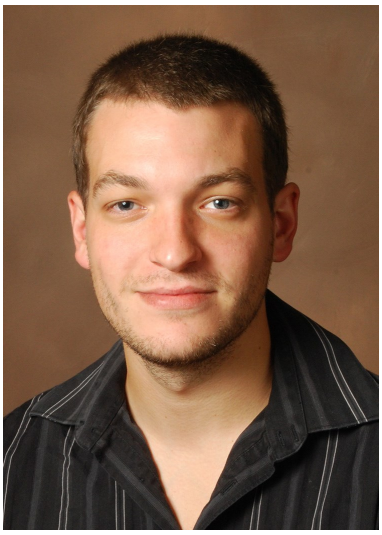
Community-supported monitoring: Building partnerships to engage youth in the monitoring of the environment in Kugluktuk, Nunavut

To gain a better understanding of the changing environment and assess adaptive capacity of northern communities, communities must be included in environmental monitoring research. My MSc project aims to build a new partnership between the Kugluktuk High School, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (DoE) and university researchers by enhancing and maintaining a long-term community-supported monitoring program of culturally important berry species. The overall objective of this research is to learn how to create meaningful ways to build capacity for youth in Kugluktuk, Nunavut to engage in the monitoring of the environment.

Chris Quick (MSc)

Investigating Coral Bleaching Patterns Using Spatial Interpolation

Coral bleaching occurs when the colourful photosynthetic algae living within corals are consumed or expelled making the colony's white skeleton visible. This is most often caused by high water temperatures. For this project, maps were created based on a large database of coral bleaching events and Kriging interpolation to find areas that had no bleaching records, but were probabilistically likely to have bleached based on proximity to other bleached sites and on thermal stress levels in the area. This analysis allows a much expanded perspective on large-scale coral bleaching patterns.



Adam Mahoney (MA)

The Ideology of Development: Ruptures and Sutures in Canadian Official Development Assistance

Canada recently unfolded a major reprioritization of international development spending towards public-private partnerships with Canadian extractive industries operating abroad. In response, a cheeky current of development's discontents have "congratulated" the government's shift towards transparency, effectively challenging the 'newness' of private interests in development. This paper endorses these claims via theorizing the ideological function of development. Following Althusser, ideology typically makes its own material effects immediately illegible, but recent changes in Canadian official development assistance are rendering those effects thoroughly legible. Such changes therefore introduce a rupture in the ideological fabric of development and present an opportunity to advance a counter-hegemonic suturing project.

Salome Buglass (MSc)

Studying the Impact of Mass Coral Bleaching on Tobago's Coral Reef Ecosystems

My research focuses on studying the impact of climate change induced mass coral bleaching events on Tobago's coral reef ecosystems. To identify what changes are occurring, I am comparing historical coral data with current data that I collected over the summer of 2013. I undertook SCUBA surveys along transect lines at six reef sites across Tobago's major coral reef systems, gathering data on the adult and juvenile coral abundance and size, and on benthic percent cover. As coral growth is affected by sedimentation from terrestrial run-off, I also collected sediment samples using tube traps to assess the rate of sedimentation. Currently I am analysing the temporal changes in the reef community since the mass bleaching event and characterising the sedimentation rates at each site, which are the findings I will present in this symposium.

Jill Miners (MSc)

Land-use Impacts on Water Quality and Salish Sucker Distribution in the Fraser Valley

Freshwater habitats are among the worlds most endangered ecosystems due to anthropogenic habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss. Intensive agriculture and urbanization are commonly associated with poor water quality, and declines in fish abundance and are the dominant land-uses in the Fraser Valley. This study examines the cumulative effects of land-use on stream habitat, water quality and the abundance and persistence of an endangered freshwater fish, the Salish Sucker, and native salmonids in the lower Fraser Valley, generating critical information needed to manage habitat for these species, and to anticipate and minimize the impacts of future land-use development.

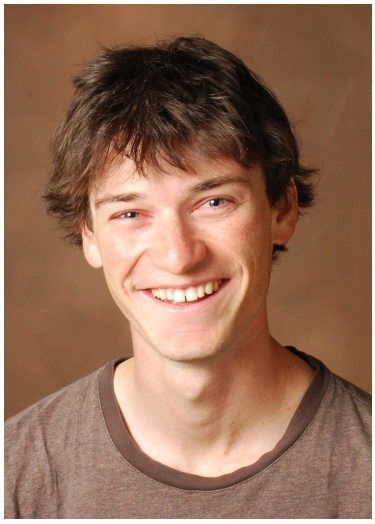
Nick Byrne (MA)

The Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative, and Professional Networks in Northern BC

During the course of the past two years, and building on previous research completed for my Honours Essay, I have been studying professional networks within Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative, while focusing on northern British Columbia. These networks consist of interactions between businesses, levels of government, and non-governmental actors involved in the planning, control and operations of infrastructure, and in marketing northern British Columbia as a corridor for exporting and importing commodities.

Matthew Chernos (MSc)

Calving and Mass Loss of a Lacustrine Terminating Glacier



Bridge Glacier, a 64 km2 outlet of the Lillooet Icefield, terminates in a large proglacial lake, and has retreated 3.55 km in the last 35 years. This retreat has been characterized by large calving events, and periods of relative stability. For the 2013 melt season, surface melt is compared to calving in order to calculate its relative contribution to mass loss. Installation of an on-glacier weather station allowed for calculation of surface melt using a distributed energy balance model. The calving flux was reconstructed by quantifying the terminus flow velocity, and the terminus retreat, derived from time lapse photography. This study finds that calving is responsible for roughly half of the mass loss during the 2013 melt season, suggesting that stochastic calving events can have a large impact on the mass balance of lacustrine glaciers.

Shambhavi Srivastava (MA)

Identities of the youth within the Punjabi-Sikh community in Vancouver

My thesis analyzes the various ways in which different sections of youth within the Punjabi-Sikh community identify with 'Sikh history' and culture, their sense of belonging within the Sikh community, and in the Canadian context at large. It also looks at the settlement experiences of Punjabi-Sikh youth who have recently moved to Canada and the differences in their 'translocal' identity from those born or raised here. The thesis focuses on the inter-linkages between their identities and their perceptions of Sikh history especially narratives around 1984, Komagata maru etc.

David Reid (MSc)

Suspended-sediment contributions from an unpaved forest road surface in the Honna River watershed

Unpaved forest road surfaces can be significant sources of fine sediment to small streams, potentially impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. Using 16 months of field data, a reach-scale sediment budget was developed along a road-impacted channel segment of the Honna River, Graham Island, B.C. Objectives of this research are to assess the magnitude and timing of fine sediment input from the road, and to compare this input to natural, non-road sources. Environmental controls on sediment input from the road surface are also being investigated to determine optimal input conditions. Preliminary results of the sediment budget analysis will be presented.

Catriona Gold (MA)

We don't have a colonial history': interrogating AFRICOM's framing of US military involvement in Africa

'One of the beauties of being American – an American in Africa is we don't have a colonial history… there aren't hidden agendas. That's not in our constitutional makeup.' (General Carter F. Ham, 2013)

United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) was established in 2007, with the stated goal of '[enabling] Africans to address their security threats and [reducing] threats to U.S. Interests' (AFRICOM, 2013). I investigate AFRICOM's imaginative geographies, furthering interdisciplinary concerns with the recent convergence of humanitarian and security interests in both military imaginaries and practice, and critically examining accompanying conceptions of Africa as a space of both threat and opportunity.

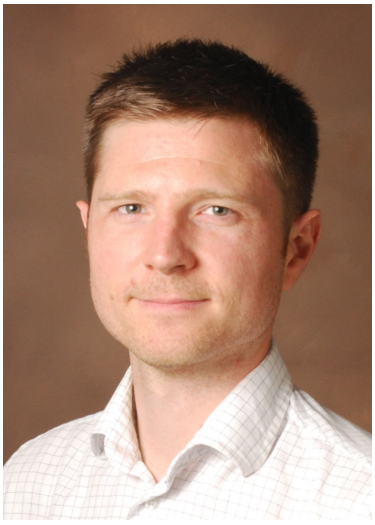
Lucy MacKenzie (MSc)

Constraining the effects of wood load on channel morphology through experimental modelling

Field studies have found that the presence of large wood in a stream channel alters local flow patterns and changes the location and quantity of sediment stored in the channel. By comparing two sets of stream table experiments, this study examines the relative importance of large wood and bed surface grain size in controlling channel morphodynamics. Results indicate that while the wood load of a stream channel plays a dominant role in influencing some reach-scale characteristics, such as sediment storage, the size distribution of bed material controls key characteristics of bed forms, such as the dimensions of pools and riffles.

Craig Jones (MA)

The Emerging Skytrain Poverty Corridor?



Recent research into urban income inequality has revealed a transition in Canadian cities over the last 40 years. Traditional inner-city areas of poverty have become revalorized in post-industrial cities while some middle-income sub-urban districts have transitioned into low-income areas. In Greater Vancouver a distinctive zone of districts along the rapid transit Skytrain corridor have moved into low income status in the past 40 years. My research attempts to identify the factors which have led to the development of this new low-income region in formerly middle-income neighbourhoods, and raises questions regarding the security of the region's affordable housing.