



UBC Geography Welcomes New Graduate Students

As the leaves begin to fall and the wet autumn days descend on Vancouver 22 new graduate students and 3 returning students settle into the UBC Department of Geography. It will be a great pleasure to get to know each of these bright scholars and observe their academic achievements in the year to come. Watch for GEOG@UBC Issue 2B to learn about more of our new graduate students.

Gregory Greene: M.Sc.

Supervisor: Lori Daniels



I am from San Diego, California. I earned a B.S. (2008) in Geographic Information Systems from California State Polytechnic University, with Minors in Anthropology and Interdisciplinary GIS Applications. My studies at UBC focus on historic fire regimes and fire/climate interactions in montane forest environments. I am working in the Tree Ring Lab, advised by Dr. Lori Daniels.

May Farrales: M.A.

Supervisor: Gerry Pratt



I completed my undergraduate degree in Geography at Simon Fraser University in 1997. During my final undergraduate years at SFU, I became involved in the Philippine Women Centre of B.C. (PWC) and helped to found the Filipino-Canadian Youth Alliance. I remain active in various community-based programs at the PWC. Encouraged by our positive experiences with community-

based research, collaborations with academics, and by members of the PWC, I am entering my first year in the Master's program in Geography at UBC. My research interests revolve around the experiences of Filipino migration to Canada, and the community's experience of integration.

Doris Leong: Ph.D.

Supervisor: Simon Donner



After contemplating life alternately as a physicist, astronomer, and oceanographer, Doris Leong is now seeking enlightenment as a geographer, studying the environmental costs of land-use and how to reconcile this with food/feed demands. Born and raised in Vancouver, she is glad to be back in a land of mountains after some time exploring the other, less fortunate coast.

John Dewey: M.A.

Supervisor: Trevor Barnes



Greetings! In many ways, I am a typical upper-Midwestern urban Yankee, Minneapolis born and bred. After entering the University of Minnesota with the (short-lived) dream of becoming a biologist, I quickly cycled through a progression of coursework in urban studies, economics, and--thankfully--geography. I credit Abdi Samatar for eventually (and perhaps inadvertently) converting me into the geography fold. Most of my research interests at this point relate in some way or other to economic discourses of power and how they effect uneven development. I have a particular interest in the ever-shifting field of "Economics" proper, both as an academic discipline and a means of policy production. For my M.A., I hope to engage "New Economic Geography," a brainchild of economists that has been recently integrated into development policy discourse at the World Bank. From my perspective, critiquing this type of discourse effectively requires a relatively high degree of mathematical literacy, so don't be surprised if you find me burrowed into a Calculus or Econ textbook in the coffee room!

Kean Fan Lim: Ph.D.

Supervisors: Trevor Barnes & Jamie Peck



Hi there! I joined the department during the summer, having previously been half the globe away in Singapore, a small Southeast Asian island nation. I obtained my undergraduate and Master's degrees from the National University of Singapore, and I also took a postgraduate diploma in Education at the National Institute of Education. Before coming to UBC, I spent 2.5 years in a government high

school managing naughty kids while trying my best to teach Geography and English. Ultimately, it was my passion in geographical research that made me decide to do a Ph.D. in Geography, and I'm very honoured to be able to work with Professors Trevor Barnes and Jamie Peck in this esteemed department. My specialization is in economic geography, and I will be examining the roles of East Asian global cities (notably Hong Kong and Singapore) in transnational outsourcing networks. Here in Vancouver, I spend a lot of free time with my wife Stephanie (who's so supportive of what I wanted to do, she moved here with me!), going for long strolls and exploring the multi-faceted landscapes of this absolutely beautiful city.

Sophie Webber: M.A.

Supervisors: Simon Donner & Jamie Peck



I have just moved to Vancouver from Melbourne, Australia where I have lived for the previous 20 odd years. I completed my undergraduate degrees (B.A. & B.Sc.) in November 2008 at the University of Melbourne, studying Geography, Statistics and Applied Mathematics. Perhaps surprisingly my interests for this year or two are firmly in the social realm! I aim to complete a M.A. degree, and

hope to conduct some research about the effects of climate change projects in the Pacific Islands Region. More generally, my interests are in investigating the political economy of climate change in the Pacific, including interactions in negotiations, policies and adaptation to climate change. My supervisors are Dr. Jamie Peck and Dr. Simon Donner: I hear you all already, predictably looking confused and thinking, hmm, interesting, how is that going to work – I'll keep you posted.

Natasha Cowie: M.Sc.

Supervisors: Dan Moore & Marwan Hassan



I am a M.Sc. candidate in geomorphology and hydrology. My interest in land and the processes that shape it began when I was growing up in the Appalachian mountains. I completed my undergraduate degree in natural resources at Sewanee: The University of the South, in Sewanee, Tennessee, spent some time studying abroad in Mongolia, moved to Colorado, decided it

was too dry, moved to North Carolina, decided I wanted to study glaciers, and therefore, I am (happily) here. It's no coincidence that I am also a professional mountain biker, as racing bicycles over mountains gives a unique perspective on landforms, and sometimes very up close-and-personal experiences with rocks.

Justin Tse: Ph.D.

Supervisor: David Ley



Justin Tse is a Ph.D. student in human geography. His research centers on issues related to religion and transnationalism in the Pacific region. His answer to the question, "Where are you from?" tends to be Vancouver, but when pressed for its corollary, "Where are you really from?" his answer is the San Francisco Bay Area, where he lived from his childhood through high

school. He came to UBC for his undergraduate degree in History because tuition in Canada was cheaper, and after becoming interested in Chinese churches in Vancouver, decided to switch departments from History to Geography for his M.A. and now his Ph.D. Through his undergraduate and master's work, his geographical interests have been increasingly drawn to Hong Kong, shifting his geographical imaginations and causing a humorous crisis in his answer to, "Where are you from?" When he is not performing participant observation at Hongkonger Christian events or reading voraciously on Asian cities, religion, and transnational imaginations, he spends a fair bit of time hanging around ethnoburban Richmond with family and friends exploring Asian food venues and finding good-spirited humour in the heavily Asian population in Metro Vancouver. He also enjoys music that ranges from Gregorian chant to U2 and is known to play his eclectic iTunes collection in his office when no one is around.

Marc Edwards: M.Sc.

Supervisor: Greg Henry



My name is Marc Edwards and I am from Wales in the UK. I completed my undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Bath in England and I am now pursuing an M.Sc. with Dr. Greg Henry in his Arctic Studies lab. My research interests include landscape ecology and conservation. I like to use a combination of field work and spatial tools such as GIS and remote sensing to answer ecological questions over a range of spatial scales. My research will be investigating the effects of climate change on arctic ecosystems.

Mike Van Der Laan: M.Sc.

Supervisor: Andreas Christen



Hello, I'm Mike and have just started my M.Sc. in Urban Climatology. I left the Prairies in 2005 and arrived in Vancouver to complete a degree in Environmental Design at UBC. Although a new graduate student in Geography, I am no stranger to the Department. I plan to bridge my background in architecture and climatology, to investigate the relationship between built form, carbon, and

energy. I enjoy being outdoors as much as possible, whether that's touring on my bike, heading out for a powder day or hiking on a local trail.

Sarah Davidson: M.Sc.

Supervisor: Brett Eaton



Although I'm from Vancouver, I'm new to both UBC and Geography. I completed my Bachelors degree at McGill University in Environmental Science with a focus in land surface processes, but spent most of my time as an honorary Geography student. I'm excited to now begin my Masters degree as an actual member of the Geography department. For my re-

search I will be performing flume experiments to investigate the interaction between wood and sedimentary processes. I'm also the proud mom to a one year-old boy named Austin, who you'll most likely see periodically toddling down the halls.

Alyssa Stryker: M.A.

Supervisor: Derek Gregory



Having been born in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, raised in Edmonton, Alberta and lived the last four years in Kingston, Ontario, I'm excited to add Vancouver to the list of places that I have called home. I just completed my undergraduate degree at Queen's with concentrations in Global Development Studies and English Language and Literature, and am excited to begin my M.A. While

almost anything interests me (with very few exceptions!) I am particularly intrigued by all things post-, neo- or continuously colonial, representation and its relationship to power, cores and peripheries of all varieties, and settler/aboriginal relations in Canada. My Masters research will deal with the ways in which Western European and North American societies, by virtue of their privileged positions within colonial relationships past and present, construct and maintain particular perceptions of the so-called developing world, and specifically the way these perceptions affect the way the development project proceeds. When not attending to academic pursuits, I can be found watching and rewatching episodes of The West Wing, backpacking (really, camping and/or hiking of any description), volunteering with kids, or enjoying theatre of all shapes and sizes.

Alan Grove: Ph.D.

Supervisors: Merje Kuus & Matthew Evenden



I am starting my Ph.D. under the co-supervision of Dr. Merje Kuus and Dr. Matthew Evenden. I attended the University of Cincinnati for my Bachelor's in International Affairs and my Master's in Geography. My research focus is on the geopolitics of sovereignty and security in the Canadian Arctic. My Master's thesis was on the geopolitical place-making of Canadian security policies and the constructed locations of terrorists in these security documents. I have an unhealthy obsession with all things hockey, having played goalie for fourteen years, three of those on the club team at Cincinnati. When I'm not trying to will my Toronto Maple Leafs to win the Stanley Cup... I mean studiously working away for classes, I enjoy playing the occasional game of soccer and golf, reading up on the current news of the day, travelling, and cooking.

Andrew Shmuely: Ph.D.

Supervisor: David Ley



Broadly speaking, my research interests fall in the interstices between urban geography, cultural anthropology, critical social theory, psychoanalysis (particularly in the Lacanian vein), and continental philosophy (especially that stemming from the Hegelian-Marxist tradition). An unwavering focus on the dialectical relationship between the *production of spaces* and the *composition of political subjectivities* lies at the heart of virtually all of my academic inquires: up to and including my recently-completed master's thesis entitled "Excavating the History of Counterhegemonic (and Thermidorian) Subjectivity in Kensington Market: The Rise (and Fall) of Toronto's Jewish Left (1881-1956)." I've come to UBC to begin a PhD that will attempt to do for Calgary, Alberta, something along the lines of what Mike Davis' "City of Quartz" has done for Los Angeles. I intend on paying particular attention to the aestheticization of politics in Calgary's Downtown East Village.

Justin Knudson: M.Sc.

Supervisor: Dan Moore



I grew up in central Wisconsin and moved to Montana as a young adult in pursuit of wilderness and good snowboarding. My undergraduate studies at Montana State University- Bozeman focused on geology and resulted in a B.Sc. in Earth Sciences. Realizing my passion lies in environmental issues, I pursued work in hydrology and water quality. As a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center, I worked on projects related to agricultural groundwater contamination and emerging contaminants (unregulated pharmaceuticals, hormones, etc.) in streams. I plan on conducting my M.Sc. research on a project related to the effects of glacier retreat on water temperature and stream flow, and how fish productivity might be impacted considering projected climate scenarios.

Michelle Drenker: M.A.

Supervisor: Merje Kuus



I'm originally from California but spent the last five years in Eugene, Oregon. I graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in Geography, Political Science, and European Studies. I spent a year studying in Uppsala, Sweden and a semester in Carpi, Italy. After graduation, I worked for a local aerial mapping and GIS company in Eugene. Although I enjoy mapping, my research interests tend more towards the human side of geography. Broadly, my research interests include territoriality, nationalism, and migration within the European Union. I love to travel and basically anything that involves being outdoors.

Emily Rosenman: M.A.

Supervisor: David Edgington



I grew up in the state of Washington before heading to Oberlin College (a small liberal arts college and music conservatory in the state of Ohio) for my undergraduate degree. I split my years there between majors in violin performance and East Asian Studies with a focus on China. Upon graduating and being faced with the prospect of getting a job, I worked for a construction litigation practice and then as an emergency management consultant out of Washington, DC and Chicago. With this work, I became interested in how human vulnerabilities to natural hazards create disasters, and how communities can better prepare for and recover from disasters. Under the supervision of Dr. Edgington, my M.A. research will explore the ongoing process of post-Katrina hurricane recovery in New Orleans. I am interested in the uneven access to federal housing recovery funding in New Orleans and how this affects the abilities of people in different neighborhoods to return to the city and rebuild their homes. More broadly, I am interested in how geographical analysis can help improve disaster recovery and mitigation practices. Outside of school, I enjoy exploring the hiking trails around Vancouver, visiting Chicago, and playing music.

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The University of British Columbia
The Department of Geography

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