

# **WD-CAG 2016**

**Prince George, BC**

**11-12 March 2016**



## **ABSTRACTS**

Turner, Rhys, and Shaw, Pam  
Vancouver Island University

## RECREATING BIOREGIONALISM: BUILDING COMMUNITY INTEREST THROUGH THE HUMAN-NATURE CONNECTION

This research examines the re-introduction of a decades old yet tested approach in Geography, specifically the concept of bioregionalism, to re-invigorate levels of citizen involvement in community growth and change. A bioregional approach enables a clear understanding of the inter-relationships, connections, and context of issues in urban environments, and the consequences of action or inaction. Tied to this is an emphasis on understanding the connections between natural systems and human agency, between the natural world and the human mind. A return to a bioregional approach to conceptualizing urban spaces has the potential to increase the human-nature bond and promote greater involvement in community issues.

This research provides examples to engage local residents in establishing bottom-up structures of interdependent governance within the communities they inhabit. By providing structure to endemic areas of various scales, communities can redevelop their physical and behavioral characteristics and collectively undertake particular goals in order to overcome the severe penalties facing our local communities and regions.

Key Words: Reliance; Reciprocity; Community Engagement; Bioregionalism; Comprehensive

---

Waldichuk, Tom<sup>1</sup>, Tabayashi, Akira<sup>2</sup>, Yagasaki, Noritaka<sup>3</sup>, Kikuchi, Toshio<sup>4</sup>, Nihei, Takaaki<sup>5</sup>, and Kaneko, Jun<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Thompson Rivers University

<sup>2</sup>University of Tsukuba

<sup>3</sup>Nihon University

<sup>4</sup>Tokyo Metropolitan University

<sup>5</sup>Hokkaido University

<sup>6</sup>Ehime University

## AGRI-TOURISM IN JAPAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Whereas intensive agri-tourism case studies have occurred throughout British Columbia (BC), few studies have taken a regional approach to classifying commodified rural space. We have previously examined agri-tourism in Japan and now focus on southern British Columbia. After briefly highlighting past research in Japan, this presentation examines the varieties of commodified rural spaces in southern BC and the roles they play in sustaining rural economies and societies. This study focuses on the Lower Mainland, southern Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, and the Thompson-Cariboo region. This research is based on a review of tourism and agriculture government documents, interviews with government officials and site visits to agri-tourism operations in September 2014 and June 2015.

The Lower Mainland is characterized by diversified rural commodities such as hobby farms, Circle Farm Tours, and pick-your-own operations. In the Cowichan Bay area there is a slow food movement that concentrates on consuming local food. In these two regions residents from Vancouver, Victoria and other nearby cities visit on weekends. Wine tourism is important in the Okanagan, whereas ranch

tourism and branded dairy products characterize commodification in the Thompson-Cariboo region. Since both regions are far from large population centres, most visitors stay longer.

There are regional differences in the types of commodification, modified by physical conditions, accessibility to metropolitan centres, and local agricultural activities. In short, the commodification of rural spaces in southern BC, which is more advanced and diversified than that of Japan, plays an important role in sustaining rural economies and societies.

Key words: rural space; commodification; agri-tourism; wine tourism; slow food

---

Waldichuk, Tom<sup>1</sup>, Horning, Darwin<sup>2</sup>, and Hawkins, Blake<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Thompson Rivers University

<sup>2</sup>Lecturer, School of Environmental Planning, University of Northern British Columbia

<sup>3</sup>MLIS Student, UBC

#### WHAT TO DO WITH A GEOGRAPHY DEGREE: JOBS AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES (PANEL)

Similar to the successful panel that was held at the 2014 WDCAG at the U. of Victoria, this panel will examine life after graduation for undergraduate students. How do I get that real job? What are the steps to get there? How do I go about conducting an information interview? What about volunteering? Should I continue going to school? If so, what courses should I take? Is it too late for me to enter a co-op program? Should I take an online course? Should I go to grad school? Or should I do something really different like teaching English overseas for a year?

Although this session is primarily geared to undergraduates, graduate students are welcome to attend and share their experiences during the transition from undergraduate to graduate studies. Panelists will reflect on whether undergraduate and graduate studies are helping to prepare students for the world outside of academia. Faculty and professionals with a geography background are also encouraged to attend and share their employment experiences after graduation and their insights into where the jobs are now and the skills that are needed to take on those positions.

---

Walker, Kirk<sup>1</sup>, and Nolin, Catherine<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MA Student (Interdisciplinary Studies), UNBC

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Geography, UNBC

#### NARRATIVES IN THE ANDES: CHALLENGING TRAUMATIC MEMORY WITH PHOTOVOICE

The village of Huamanquiquia, Peru was one of many communities to experience multiple violent events during the Peruvian internal armed conflict. This period, from 1980 to 2000, is popularly known in Quechua as “terrorismo tiempupi.” Both the guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso and state military directly targeted and victimized Indigenous peoples. The violence left these already marginalized communities with a legacy of trauma and social fracture.

Through my Master’s-level research, I sought to distill the collective memory of the community as related to this period of violence, in terms of place and spatiality. In collaboration with the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF), I utilized a visual participatory method, popularly known as