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McGill



Director's Message

Jaye Ellis

Acting Director

McGill School of Environment

Sylvie de Blois, the MSE Director, is on sabbatical this year, and I have taken over as acting director in the interim.

I have been with the MSE since the beginning of my academic career, and it is fascinating to see the School from this vantage point. Much of my time has been spent connecting with our associate members and the large number of deans, department chairs, and directors of institutes whose faculty members are jointly appointed to the MSE, or whose research and teaching programmes intersect with ours. Many of those people are old friends of the School; indeed, not a few of them are founding members.



I have been impressed by the scope and strength of the network of environmental teaching and research in which the MSE plays a central role, and gratified to see how much support, moral and practical, flows to the MSE.

Wishing you all a productive and enjoyable semester!

Vivian Lewin Field Study Endowment Award 2015-2016

The award supports students enrolled in a McGill University recognized field study abroad program or have a pre-arranged independent course or honours course involving field research abroad. It is awarded to a meritorious McGill School of Environment undergraduate student.

Ms. Jelena Grbic, B.Sc. Year 3, majoring in Environment - Water Environments and Ecosystems Domain-Physical, has been chosen for this year. Her research summary below typically exemplifies the high caliber of students at the MSE.

“Coral reefs are amongst the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. They are crucial to the health of our oceans, yet are under constant threat. One of these threats is tributyltin (TBT), a compound found in antifouling paints used in painting the bottom of boats. The compound deters organisms from attaching to the bottom of these boats, which prevents corrosion, decreases maintenance time, and increases boating efficiency. However, TBT breaks down into toxic compounds when it is exposed to water. Thus, its use as an antifouling agent results in the leaching of toxic material into our oceans, damaging and endangering delicate reef ecosystems.

The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships bans the use of antifouling paints containing TBT in 71 countries, including Barbados. Nevertheless, the Barbadian boating community still commonly uses these paints, potentially unaware of the devastating consequences. The purpose of this research is to measure the toxicity effects of TBT antifouling agent in Barbadian coastal waters. Specifically, this research will estimate the amount of TBT that is leached into these waters on an annual basis, and will investigate the presence and concentration of the compound in the flora and fauna of the local marine ecosystem.

The collection and analysis of this data will make clear the extent of the toxicity problem, and will be the impetus for government action to eliminate the use of TBT antifouling paints in Barbados. Additionally, this data will provide a toxicity benchmark that can be used in future to study the potential recovery process of ecosystems exposed to TBT.”

Our thanks go out to Vivian Lewin for her generosity and sustained commitment to the goals of the MSE.

Focus on MSE Students

Emillee Joy Hernandez

Bachelor of Arts and Science, Year 2
Interfaculty Program Environment

This past summer, I had the opportunity to volunteer abroad for six weeks at Cloudbridge Nature Reserve in Costa Rica. With the help of McGill's own Borderless World Volunteers, myself and two other McGill students (mentioned below) were able to aid the nature reserve with its reforestation efforts by tree planting and maintaining. Our main focus, however, was to implement a business project for the local women of the rural town we stayed in.

The alarming amount of wasted agricultural product in the region inspired us to create a sustainable business enterprise in which local women would take in overripe or unsellable tomatoes, that would otherwise be thrown away, and create sellable conserves such as salsa. We used recycled jars for containing the product and hope to see it on the shelves for retail in local *tiendas* and tourist hotspots. Our workshop taught the community the process of canning salsas and emphasized the potential opportunities for additional income for local women.

Our reforestation work coupled with the development of a sustainable business idea has inspired me to continue to be environmentally conscious every day.

cloudbridgereserve.wordpress.com

Emillee is also the Assistant Editor of the Grassroots Journal:

www.thegrassrootsjournal.org

Nainika Lamba

Bachelor of Commerce, Year 2
Major Accounting
Major Information Systems

Alexie Rudman

Bachelor of Arts Granted: May 2015
Major Concentration Intl Development Studies
Minor Concentration Hispanic Languages
Minor Concentration Environment



Left to right: Nainika Lamba, Emillee Hernandez, and Alexie Rudman /
Photo courtesy of Cloudbridge Nature Reserve

Focus on MSE Students

Macdonald Campus Summer Internship Program

Educational experience through the generous support of the Bieler Family Internship Office.



www.facebook.com/CEA.AKUMAL



Coral Reef Monitoring Program

Hello, my name is **Thaís Romauldo Aubry**. I am an undergraduate student at McGill in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Major Environment, Domain Renewable Resource Management. This summer, I worked with the Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA) under their Coral Reef Monitoring Program for the duration of three months, from May to July 2015. CEA is located in the small tourist town of Akumal, in the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico. The Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA), as it self-describes, has the mission to produce and promote strategies for ecosystem management in Akumal, through research, education and policy, for sustainability in the Mexican Caribbean. The main goal of CEA's Volunteer Program is to collect comprehensive data of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef in the region of Akumal and to help conserve marine turtles.

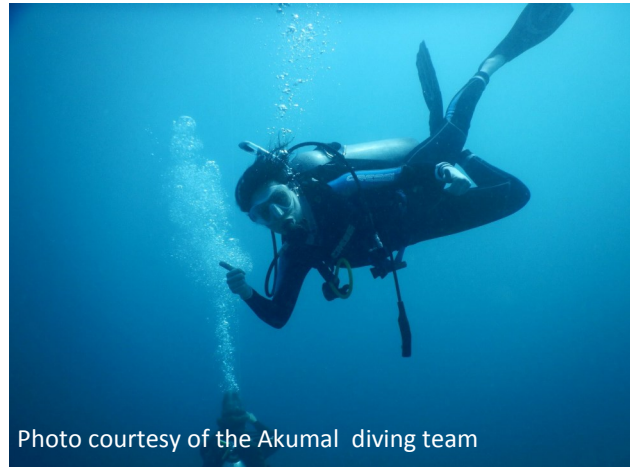


Photo courtesy of the Akumal diving team

My responsibilities were to gain theoretical background on the ecology of the Mesoamerican Reef System; be trained in coral, benthic and fish species and diseases identification following the AGRRRA and SAM methodologies; monitor Akumal's Reef on SCUBA; perform data collection and analysis in the Marine Management Community Program of Akumal Bay (POBAK); and, participate in the Environmental Education Program (diffusion of sustainable tourism practices and community activities).

My actual experience ended up being much richer. We were a team of three to five divers and I chose to specialize in fish identification (adult, intermediate and juvenile phases), while learning some general knowledge about coral and benthic cover. I used this knowledge to apply the AGGRA methodology during dives and snorkels and compiled this data into an excel database. On Saturdays, I would participate in POBAK, which consisted of keeping a precise count of tourists doing specific activities in the bay.

This internship made me realize I was seeing the practical application and live version of "the ecosystem", this vague concept I have reviewed and analyzed theoretically so many times. I became very knowledgeable about the fish species of the Gulf of Mexico, being able to recognize all but the rare ones by common name through coloration, shape and other characteristics. There were countless more benefits: learning more Spanish, being more comfortable working in the water with various kinds of equipment, meeting people, having an idea of what a workplace looks like in the marine biology field, and being able to apply my identification knowledge in the field.

Participating in an internship, be it at home or abroad, is a unique experience that shows what is to be expected of students once they graduate. It is like going to a class named "Introduction to working a real job". It shows various methodologies that may be useful later on, allows meeting people and networking a reference list, shows how much work is required of you, and what the result of your work will be or what it will do for others. The data I gathered during my internship, coupled with the work of other interns before me, will be compiled and analyzed in a research paper that will be published in Marine Biology Journal. If that isn't something already, then what is?

Focus on MSE Students

A systematic survey of periodicals reveals insights into the intersection of religion/ethics and environmentalism.

Gabriel Yahya Haage
Diploma in Environment, Year 3
Major Environment

Understanding the intersection between religious/ethical affiliation and positions on environmentalism is vital in creating efficient environmental campaigns and programs. I conducted an Independent Study research project as part of my Diploma in Environment that investigated this relationship. A systematic review of 25 periodicals connected to specific religious or ethical worldviews was performed and each was coded for references to climate change and other environmental issues. The frequency with which these issues were discussed, as well as the specific positions espoused regarding these issues was noted. Only non-scholarly publications were chosen, to get the perspective of the average believer, and the 25 periodicals fell into 8 broad religious or philosophical categories: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, naturalistic philosophies, New age/Neopagan, and UFO-religions. The naturalistic philosophies spanned the political spectrum, with Objectivism on the far right, Communism on the far left, and Secular Humanism near the center. Statistical procedures were used to compare different categories of religious/philosophical affiliations.

The results were enlightening. The acceptance of climate change was found in all religions/philosophies that discussed it, with only Objectivism holding a clear anti-environmentalist worldview. The pervasive claim that all “Eastern” religions are more environmental than their “Western” counterparts proved untrue, although Hinduism and Buddhism did discuss animal-related environmental issues more. Modern views on environmentalism did not vary in relation to when the religions or philosophical systems were founded. The results also suggest that belief in the supernatural is not a prerequisite for environmentalism, with Secular Humanism being ranked quite high in pro-environmentalist views.

Working with the Ministry

Dassyn Barris
B.Sc. (Ag&Env), Year 3
Ecological Determinants of Health, Population Stream

This past summer I had the chance to work with the Quebec Ministry of Environment, le Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques (MDDELCC for short). I worked at their offices in Laval, mainly on their pesticides program, but I also did some work with their experts on water extraction and municipal waste water management.

For the pesticides program, I conducted inspections to guarantee compliance with provincial pesticide legislation; both for businesses in pest extermination, as well as for stores selling pesticides to the general public. The work was very interesting not only for what I could learn about pesticides and the application of the existing regulation, but also because each visit was different: while some exterminators needed more help adapting to compliance, many were very knowledgeable in their field. I was also reviewing usage registries for pest extermination businesses, which helped me appreciate the importance of thorough tracking to maintain safe environments when using these products.

Additionally, I verified the reception of yearly water extraction declarations for industries covered by the respective legislation and helped ensure adequate follow-up if the declarations had not been received. I also made sure to reconnect with the municipality of Laval to ensure the reception of their yearly declaration on municipal waste water management. These two projects were very interesting in learning both about the levels of water consumption in Laval, and to learn how to collaborate with both private businesses and the public sector when cooperation is needed – learning how to talk to different people at businesses to get the information that we needed is a part that I valued very much of my job.

The team I worked with was very welcoming and certainly made it nice to be with the Ministry – working there felt overall like a great experience this past summer.

Roots and Research With Dr. Jean-François Lozier

By Dr. Julia Freeman, MSE Faculty Lecturer

Dr. Jean-François Lozier

Curator, French North America



Dr. Lozier has been curator of Canadian History to 1800 at the Museum since February 2011 and is currently working on updating the Virtual Museum of New France.



MUSE students once again spent the month of May immersed in the investigation of their local environment and community. This year we were lucky to enjoy a daylong Bio Blitz organized by Ingrid Birker and Jacqueline Farrell of the Redpath Museum. It was an extended exercise of tree, plant and bird identification with various experts from McGill and Montreal that challenged students to examine Mont Royal at a new level of detail. Some of this new knowledge base was then showcased during the presentations at the annual symposium.

This event, held on May 29th also featured a keynote presentation by curator Dr. Jean-François Lozier of the Canadian Museum of History. Dr. Lozier took the symposium attendees on a fascinating “ramble” as he called it, from the region’s roots to its rapids. He recounted the cultural and economic significance of indigenous plants such as bloodroot and wild ginseng, as well as siting important political intersections and conflicts in the area we now call the Lachine Rapids.

Dr. Lozier’s talk brought together the environmental and socio-political analyses that drive the MUSE field school and applied student research projects each year.



Urban Sprawl

Christopher Barrington-Leigh, Associate Professor
Institute for Health and Social Policy and the McGill School of Environment



The urban street network is one of the most permanent features of cities. Once laid down, the pattern of streets determines urban form and the level of sprawl for decades to come. In the U.S., urban sprawl has become an enduring hallmark of the past century. Yet, there are some glimmers of hope.

New research by McGill University professor Christopher Barrington-Leigh and University of California, Santa Cruz professor Adam Millard-Ball indicates that sprawl – as measured by the degree to which newly built streets are highly connected and grid-like – peaked in the mid-1990s. Newly built neighbourhoods since then have tended to have better-connected streets, with fewer dead-ends.

“We find that even in the absence of a coordinated policy effort, new developments have already turned the corner toward less sprawl,” they write in a study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. “Initial impacts on vehicle travel and greenhouse gas emissions will be modest given that the stock of streets changes slowly, but feedbacks are likely to mean that benefits compound in future years.”

The study includes the first high-resolution time series of sprawl from 1920 to 2012, based on the researchers’ reconstruction of historical road networks for many U.S. counties. Their publicly released data provide further opportunities for research on urban development and the social and environmental impacts of different urban forms. The research was funded partly by grants from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Sustainable Prosperity Network, and the University of California Santa Cruz Committee on Research.

Articles courtesy of the McGill Newsroom: www.mcgill.ca/newsroom

Social Equity in Urban Transportation Planning

Kevin Manaugh, Associate Professor
Dept. of Geography and the McGill School of Environment



In a study published recently in the journal *Transport Policy*, the researchers analyze the transportation plans of 18 metropolitan areas across the U.S. and Canada – from San Diego to Montreal - and find that many plans focus largely on local environmental and congestion-reduction goals.

“Many of the plans talk a lot about social-equity goals, but these goals are not translated into clearly specified objectives and it’s not at all clear how the goals are incorporated into decision-making,” says Kevin Manaugh, lead author of the paper and an associate professor in McGill’s Department of Geography and School of Environment.

That’s partly because traffic speed and certain environmental effects are easier to measure than social-justice considerations, such as access to job opportunities or health care for low-income groups, or balancing the interests of pedestrians and cyclists with those of motorists. (The transportation plans cover the gamut of infrastructure projects, from sidewalks to highways and bicycle paths to suburban rail systems.)

At the same time, a few cities notably Boston, San Francisco, San Diego and Chicago have managed to build in clear, measurable indicators for achieving social-equity goals, says Prof. Manaugh, who co-authored the study with professors Madhav Badami and Ahmed El-Geneidy of McGill’s School of Urban Planning.

Building such considerations into the process is important, because “these are very long-term decisions,” Manaugh notes. “Once you build a highway, it’s there for many decades.”

Seeds of a Good Anthropocene (The Age of Humans)

Elena Bennett, Associate Professor, Natural Resource Sciences and the MSE

Photo of Les Girls courtesy of Bennett Lab



There is growing consensus that global development is on an unsustainable trajectory. The abundance of scientific and popular visions of future collapse and hardship underscore this point. However, the global change community has produced very few positive visions of more desirable, just, and sustainable future global outcomes for society and nature, or how to achieve them. In the rare non-negative visions of the future, the potential of such futures and the pathways towards achieving them are not clearly articulated. Various utopian visions exist in the literature, but these lack the quantitative rigour of the global and regional scenarios literature.

A future “Good Anthropocene” will likely be radically different from the world in which we are currently living. This sort of imagining can be extremely difficult – imagine standing in a medieval person’s shoes and picturing the modern industrial era, or the utter impossibility of the last century of China’s history to someone living in 1900 – because it goes far beyond small improvements to the way we currently do things. In fact, it could require fundamental changes in values, worldviews, relationships among people, and between people and nature. We aim to scope out some of these radical changes that go beyond more incremental improvements (e.g., reducing pollution or increasing the environmental efficiency of agricultural production) that are the focus of much of today’s sustainability dialogue.

The seeds of this future likely already occur in many places around the world. Identifying where these elements of a Good Anthropocene currently exist on the planet, and understanding how and why they occur, can help us envision how we might grow them to create new, positive futures for the Earth and humanity.

My new project aims to identify and analyse ‘bright spots’ – real places that demonstrate one or more elements of a positive future that might serve as seeds of a Good Anthropocene. Using these seeds of a good future, we will develop and explore a suite of alternative, plausible visions of “Good Anthropocenes” – positive visions of futures that are socially and ecologically desirable, just, and sustainable.

We hope to initiate wider global discussions of the kinds of futures people would like to create and to expand discussions beyond efforts focused on avoiding negative futures or taking incremental steps forward.

If you want to learn more, or you want to submit your own ‘seed’ of a Good Anthropocene, check out our web page: goodanthropocenes.net



Carly Ziter, M.Sc. Biology, McGill.
Currently Ph.D. student at Univ. of Wisconsin Madison



Claudia Atomei,
B.Sc., ESS,
Geography, and
currently M.Arch.,
McGill

Now in the second year of a five-year partnership research grant funded by the Canadian Government's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, **Geothink.ca** involves 26 researchers and 30 partners in examining the implications of increasing two-way exchanges of locational information between citizens and governments. Yet the vision for this type of collaborative, cross-disciplinary project began years before.

"Geothink sprang from an idea that we're in this period of huge technological change when it comes to our ability to communicate with cities as citizens, and cities' ability to communicate with citizens. It's a very different world in which we can on a Saturday evening or an early Monday morning know what's happening in our cities and comment on what's happening in cities. It's technologies like sensors on road networks that allow cities to know how we're travelling through a town, where we are meeting up with people to, for example, create dynamic neighbourhoods of where people congregate and want to see their friends to then create better urban design for cities. So the technology is really transforming the way we can have this interaction."

"Cities are publishing enormous amounts of data—it's called open data, and this data can be turned into applications that for example can allow citizens to more easily know when they should put their recycling out and what types of recycling [exist], where there is going to be traffic congestion or traffic construction, when the next city council meeting will be held and what will be on the city council agenda."

This open data forms the basis for how many modern technologies use programs to simplify and facilitate citizen interactions with city garbage services, transportation networks or city policies and processes. In

particular, one Geothink project aims to interrogate how standards are created for open data—no easy thing, according to Sieber, when you're talking not just about abstract data but even more abstract metadata. "So why should one care about that? People can now get up-to-date transit information in cities all over North America and, indeed, cities all over the world is because of a very small open data standard called GTFS, the General Transit Feed Specification."

How does all this reflect on what civic participation means today in North America? Governments can now know if you visit certain parks, go to certain places for coffee, and meet certain friends while doing either. So, theoretically at least, they can now design urban spaces and cities themselves to be safer, more vibrant, and better suited to the range of activities taking place in these places.



Shaping Government and Citizen Interactions

Renée Sieber, Associate Professor, MSE, and Geography

Project Head of Geothink.ca
by Drew Bush, Ph.D. (Thesis),
Year 6, Geography -
Environment



Claudia Atomei, B.Sc., ESS, Geography, and currently M.Arch., McGill



Katriina O'Kane, B.Sc.H., ESS, McGill - M.Sc., UBC - Research Associate, Canadian Polar Commission - Independent Documentary and

Kudos to our Partners



Steve Maguire
Professor, Strategy and Organization;
Director, Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management, and
MSE Associate Member
Photo: Owen Egan

McGill's MDIIM wins Award for Sustainability in Business Curricula

By McGill Reporter Staff

A team led by Steve Maguire, Director of the Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management (MDIIM), has been named winner of the 2014 Dr. Alfred N. and Lynn Manos Page Prize for Integration of Sustainability Issues in Business Curricula, for conceiving and implementing the new Managing for Sustainability Major and Concentration (MSUS) programs for Bachelor of Commerce students at McGill.

The Page Prize aims to encourage and support efforts aimed at integrating sustainability into the curriculum of business schools, both nationally and internationally. The prize has been awarded to leading universities since 2008.

"We would like to thank the Page Prize Committee and the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina for this award," said Professor Morty Yalovsky, Interim Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management. "It's a great honour and testament to the strength of sustainability education and scholarship at Desautels to be recognized and counted among the world's leading management and business schools in terms of integrating sustainability topics into our programs."

Launched in September 2014, the programs allow Desautels BCom students to pursue two designations focused on sustainable development while also completing the Desautels "Management Core," which ensures they have a solid foundation in all management disciplines.

The Concentration in Managing for Sustainability, which is a bundle of five courses (15 credits), is designed to complement concentrations and majors in traditional management disciplines, better preparing management students for the sustainability challenge confronting contemporary organizations across all sectors.

The Major in Managing for Sustainability, which is a bundle of thirteen courses (39 credits) of which seven are through the **McGill School of Environment** and the Department of Geography, provides a rigorous foundation in the natural and social sciences relevant to sustainability, in addition to management and business. The Major in Managing for Sustainability prepares management students for sustainability-focused careers in each of the private, public and plural sectors.

The programs were developed through a collaborative process that included consultations with BCom students; Desautels alumni; sustainability professionals and potential employers of program graduates in each of the private, public, and plural sectors; Desautels administrative and academic units. The Major in Managing for Sustainability was developed in partnership with the **McGill School of Environment** and the Department of Geography at McGill.

"The Managing for Sustainability programming offers a mix of in-classroom and experiential learning for students who wish to apply their managerial and business knowledge to enable positive change towards sustainable development," said Maguire. "Whether it is with new sustainability-focused start-ups or social enterprises, established businesses in sectors where current realities are resulting in considerable changes to business models and practices, government departments, or NGOs, there are lots of opportunities for our graduates, whom I am confident will go on to change the world for better."

Reprinted courtesy of the McGill Reporter

Students group wins Catalyst Award for Myko Social Score app

By Faculty of Law

A group of McGill students and alums who worked on the Myko Social Score app have received the **2015 Catalyst Award for Excellence in Applied Student Research**.

The Award is sponsored by the McGill Office of Sustainability and is decided by a distinguished jury. DCL candidate **Juan Pinto**, undergrad law student **Etienne Ravilet Guzman**, as well as alumni **Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia** (LLM'11) and **Guillaume Béal** (LLM'14), were among the members of the multidisciplinary team that received the group award.



Professor **Richard Janda**, who has led the project from its inception, describes Myko as a smart phone app that “lets you track your social and environmental sustainability, and then set concrete goals for yourself to improve our collective footprint. The project has been driven by McGill students and is a wonderful example of experiential learning.” The annual Catalyst Awards event, which was held this year on April 13, acknowledges and celebrates those who have led the way towards integrating sustainability into McGill's academics, operations and culture.



The Myko Social Score project has also made it to the final round of the Dobson Cup Start-UP competition, sponsored by the Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship, Desautels Faculty of Management.

Kudos to our Partners

Richard Janda
Associate Professor, Faculty of Law
MSE Associate Member

www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/mcgill-social-score-project-sp0130

www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/about/catalyst-awards-0/2015-awards



Myko can be downloaded for free at getmyko.com as an iPhone and web app.

Congratulations to MSE Faculty

Tony Ricciardi
Associate
Professor, MSE
& Redpath
Museum



Congratulations Professor Ricciardi on being awarded a Trottier Fellowship by the Trottier Family Foundation. These Fellowships are academic awards that enable the University to encourage a policy element in scientific inquiry conducted by world-class scholars at the University.

The Science and Management of Microplastic Pollution in Freshwater Ecosystems
Microplastics – plastic particles (beads, pellets, fibres) smaller than a few millimetres in size – are an insidious form of pollution detected in lakes and rivers in recent years. The tiny size and buoyancy of microplastics allow some of them to pass through wastewater treatment facilities. In 2013, Dr. Ricciardi's team found that microplastics are prevalent in St. Lawrence River sediments, indicating that the river is acting as a sink for this pollution. This is a concern because persistent toxic contaminants such as PCBs readily adsorb to microplastics, which can then transfer the contaminants and cause liver damage to fish that consume them.

Elena Bennett
Associate
Professor, MSE
& Natural
Resource
Sciences



Congratulations Professor Bennett on winning the 5th Annual Catalyst Award for staff contribution to sustainability - Academic. The Catalyst Awards and the Emerald Key acknowledge the students and staff who have gone above and beyond in their work to integrate sustainability into McGill's knowledgebase, operations, and culture.

McGill Net+ is a project designed to be the first step in a community process to collaboratively imagine and design a hub for sustainability activities at McGill.

Fredéric Fabry
Associate
Professor, MSE
& Atmospheric
and Oceanic
Studies

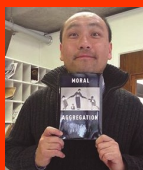


Professor Fabry has published a textbook, "Radar Meteorology".

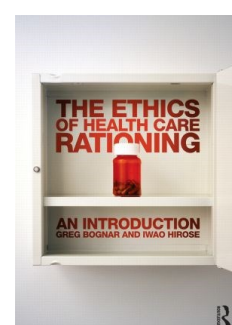
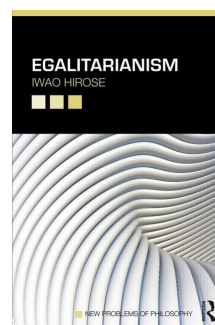
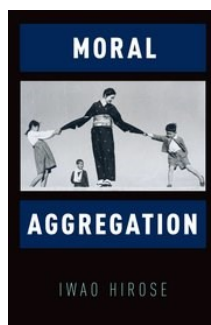
This practical textbook introduces the fundamental physics behind radar measurements, to guide students and practitioners in the proper interpretation of radar reflectivity, Doppler velocity and dual-polarization imagery. Operational applications are explored, such as how radar imagery can be used to analyze and forecast convective and widespread weather systems. The book concludes with an overview of current research topics, including the study of clouds and precipitation using radars, signal processing, and data assimilation.



Iwao Hirose
Associate
Professor, MSE
& Philosophy



Professor Hirose has published 3 monographs: "Moral Aggregation", "Egalitarianism", and "The Ethics of Health Care Rationing".



Back from an Exciting Sabbatic Leave

Madhav Badami

Associate Professor

School of Urban Planning and the MSE

I had a busy, productive and rewarding sabbatic leave from September 2014 to August 2015.

I was based at the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, during November-December 2014, and then as a Bartlett Visiting Research Fellow at the University College London, from January 15 to March 31, 2015. I was one of five people selected for this fellowship for the 2014-2015 year, which was focused on Human Well-being. The competition and the work of the Fellows (including myself) are highlighted in these websites:

www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/research/collaboration/visiting-research-fellowship/visiting-research-fellows-2014-15

www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/gurc/news-and-events/headline-381150-en.htm

During my time in the Development Planning Unit and the Bartlett School of Planning at UCL, I conducted research on the project which I proposed for the Bartlett fellowship competition: "Human Wellbeing in a Rapidly Urbanizing World: The Role of Urban Transport in Improving the Lives of the Urban Poor".

Besides making good progress on my research and writing, I delivered guest lectures and seminars, interacted with researchers and students, and actively participated in other research activities, during my stay at IIM Bangalore, UCL, and at The University of Manchester.

One of my most enjoyable, worthwhile and hope-inspiring experiences was a conversation I had – over about three hours -- on the environment with senior students at The School, Krishnamurthy Foundation of India, in Chennai, India. I had been invited to deliver a formal presentation there, but I opted for a conversation, which the students happily welcomed.



With Mr Gandhi, in Tavistock Square, a stone's throw from my office at University College London



Photo taken in Lima, Peru, as part of the DPU M.Sc. Environment and Sustainable Development field trip in May 2013 (Bartlett UCL)

MESS Council

MESS holds a variety of events each year of both academic and social focuses.



Back row from left: Elliot, Nadia, Kat, Anna, Rachel, Dena, Elisabeth
Front row from left: Kaila, Abbey, Jessica, Megan

The 2015-2016 MESS Executive Council is comprised of 12 undergraduate students from various educational paths and backgrounds all motivated to serve the needs of the McGill School of Environment and its community.

In addition to representatives for AUS, SUS, and BASiC, this year we have added a SSMU representative as a new position on council and expect it to further enhance the overall presence of environment students throughout the university. This year's executive council is taking on many ambitious goals in the hopes of leaving behind lasting changes for all environment students.



I am **Elisabeth Pusin** and I will be serving as one of your Co-Presidents this year for MESS. I am a U2 student in in the Biodiversity and Conservation Domain with a minor in Communication Studies. We have assembled a great group of students for this year's MESS Council and I am looking forward to seeing you at our events!



My name is **Elliot Tan** and I am a U3 student studying the Ecological Determinants of Health Arts Program. I am greatly interested in how the built environment affects human health through the lens of physiology and society. I am eager to bring my previous experience as VP Finance of MESS to a leadership role to this year's council as Co-President.

THANK YOU for all your contributions to the McGill School of Environment. As we look to the future, we are excited about our strong interdisciplinary education and our innovative approaches to teaching and research.

We invite you to make a philanthropic investment for future generations.

On line: www.alumni.mcgill.ca/aoc/online-giving

By telephone toll-free at 1-800-567-5175;
Or, at 514 398-5000

By mail: payable to "McGill School of Environment"

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Montreal, Quebec H3A 3L8

Contact us:

McGill School of Environment
3534 University St.
Montreal, QC H3A 2A7

Phone: 514-398-2827
Fax: 514-398-1643
Email: secretary.mse@mcgill.ca
Website: www.mcgill.ca/mse

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The MSE is:

Acting Director - Jaye Ellis (Faculty of Law)

Faculty Members

Madhav Badami (School of Urban Planning)

Chris Barrington-Leigh (Inst. for Health & Social Policy / Economics)

Elena Bennett (Natural Resource Sciences)

Peter G. Brown (Geography)

Jeffrey Cardille (Natural Resource Sciences)

Colin Chapman (Anthropology)

Sylvie de Blois (Plant Science)

Frédéric Fabry (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences)

Iwao Hirose (Philosophy)

Nicolas Kosoy (Natural Resource Sciences)

Brian Leung (Biology)

Kevin Manaugh (Geography)

Gregory Mikkelson (Philosophy)

Anthony Ricciardi (Redpath Museum/ Biology)

Raja Sengupta (Geography)

Renée Sieber (Geography)

Ismael Vaccaro (Anthropology)

Faculty Lecturers

Julia Freeman

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Kathy Roulet

Staff

Danielle Lefebvre

Shannon Scott

Christina Zhu

Photo of Macdonald Campus, by Dr. Julia Freeman, MSE Faculty Lecturer
Coordinator of MUSE (Montreal Urban Sustainability Experience)

Research Themes:

Health in a Changing
Environment

Ecosystems, Biodiversity
and Conservation

Citizens, Communities,
Institutions and the
Environment

Rethinking Social-
Ecological Relationships



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