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Introductory Note

Ghazi-Walid Falah

*Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies,
University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-7904 U.S.A.*

E-mail: Falah@uakron.edu

It has been said that “research informs teaching.” That is to say, if you have an active research agenda you are likely to bring into the classroom fresh ideas and knowledge that springs from research findings. The spark for organizing this forum and inviting retired colleagues to share their retirement experiences was the realization that this dictum could be reversed: teaching may inform and eventually generate good research ideas. I confidently submit that many of my colleagues in the field of geography would agree with me on that, recalling how the classroom provided the impetus for many of their articles—great research papers for which the seed that sprouted was sown in the classroom.

For the past 15 years at the University of Akron, I have been the only faculty member assigned to teach a graduate 600-level course, History of Geographic Thought. There are two required textbooks—*Geography and Geographers: Anglo-American Human Geography since 1945*, by Ronald Johnston and James Sidaway (2004), and *All Possible Worlds: A History of Geography Ideas*, by Geoffrey Martin (2005). And I recommend, for additional reading, three more books: David Livingstone (1992), Richard Peet (1998), and David Stoddart (1986). Needless to say, once a new edition of one of these books is published, I update my syllabi accordingly.

Students are required to choose a key thinker in geography and write an essay of about 4 000 words—an essay worth 100 out of 255 points, or 39% of their total final grade. Significantly, before they start their research, I have to approve the key thinker the students select and I give them specific instructions about how to structure their essay. I suggest that up to 15% of the essay’s total words should be devoted to the biography of the key thinker, 40–60% to his or her contribution to the discipline, 10–15 % to what other writers have said about the work of the key thinker, and the remaining words to the student’s own assessment of the key thinker’s work and contribution to geography and science in general.

Having taught this course at least a dozen of times and read over 100 essays by my students at the University of Akron on key thinkers, I became ever more aware that there is a need to learn more about and help

produce knowledge about the personal life of geographers—to encourage a kind of auto-ethnography (Ellis et al. 2011). This type of knowledge should be no less important to students than knowing what they are writing about. The sites of representation of writers and their early experiences in life often have a major impact on their research agendas and even teaching styles. I ventured into a kind of archaeology of the self several years ago, when I choose to write a paper on the geographies of my own childhood (Falah 2013). From this perspective and many others, especially in my capacity as the editor of an academic journal, I arrived at the idea of inviting colleagues who had recently retired to share their observations about their everyday lives and about the understandings and/or projects that evolved once they had been freed from a formal university framework and had embarked upon a sojourn in a space that is universally described as retirement.

Let me explain here the perspective I gained from my engagement in organizing and reading the 21 essays in this forum and answer the question of whether or not the authors in this forum can be considered a valid representation of the entire community of retired geographers. In my view, this group of authors may only marginally represent the majority of geographers who have retired from formal work in higher education and are still among the living. I initially invited approximately double the number of those who accepted; about half declined or for various reasons did not reply. Some of those who declined wrote that they were too busy, given the time frame; others that they believed they did not have much to share with readers of the journal on this quite personal topic; still others responded that they hadn't done much since retirement that could be of interest.

I tried, albeit largely in vain, to recruit female geographers to speak about their everyday lives after retirement, but most did not respond. I even asked some of my female colleagues to suggest names of retired female geographers, with no better results. Yes, I tried my best; and this extraordinary and ultimately futile effort at gender balance raises a question about the nature of our discipline: Is geography a male-dominated discipline, with female geographers active only within the framework of formal employment by their respective universities? I am pleased that our colleagues Anne Buttimer and Anngret Simms have shown that, for Ireland, this is not the case. I just wonder about this seemingly gendered divide, not attributable to any sort of prejudice against retired female geographers, many of whom have made major contributions to the field over the centuries.

Perhaps we have to look at the global picture and reflect more broadly on who among us has the privilege of publishing and practising research in an academic setting? I have devoted much thought to this and have received diverse answers from colleagues in the Arab World—from places I visited, whether I was participating in academic events or just

travelling. In Morocco, one colleague said that research is a “kind of luxury” and only a few could engage in it. He noted that, in some places in Morocco, people do not even have hot water at home and they take a shower once a week in a public bath house and pay for it. He boldly asked, “How could someone expect us to have regular access to a computer and library facilities?” In Lebanon, as another example, there are regular power outages for several hours during the day, triggered by the electric company to cut costs, and this interferes with people’s plans, including plans to write papers for journals.

I have also toured wealthy, oil-producing countries on the Arabian Gulf, and my colleagues there offered different reasons for the slow production of knowledge, a number blaming their respective universities for an extremely high teaching load. Faculty members can find themselves teaching 4 to 5 courses per semester and they have to be present in the classroom on a daily basis. So time becomes a major constraint. Nevertheless, geographers everywhere, on staff and emeritus, are still producing geographical knowledge and publishing their ideas in various venues, despite constraints.

It has to be acknowledged that not all geographers around the world have equal and fair access to the means of producing knowledge, whether they are retired or still working at their respective universities and colleges. This is a structural fact that we should be aware of, and there is a crucial need for cooperation between colleagues to overcome such limitations and create a more level playing field for knowledge production globally.

This issue of *The Arab World Geographer* (AWG) is published on the occasion of the 33rd International Geographical Congress (IGC) held in Beijing, China, 21-25 August 2016. On behalf of the editorial board of the AWG, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the contributors of this issue.

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Life in My Third Age

Alan R. H. Baker

University of Cambridge, U.K.

E-mail: arb1000@cam.ac.uk

I retired in 2001, after 44 years spent in the Departments of Geography at two universities—those of London and Cambridge, in the United Kingdom. I had thoroughly enjoyed each of the three-fold challenges of being an academic: teaching, administration, and research. But retirement meant that I could focus on the last of these—research—as much as I personally wished, while combining it with other, non-academic, leisure pursuits. Given that my interests as an historical geographer could be pursued just by obtaining access to archives and libraries (there was no need for laboratories), it was perfectly possible to continue with some research while developing new pursuits. My retirement has, therefore, involved both continuities and changes.

Continuities

Retirement immediately gave me time to achieve my long-standing ambition to complete a book on the relations between history and geography—it had been gestating for many years but I needed a long spell of uninterrupted time to bring it to term. It was published in 2003—with, to my delight, translations into Chinese in 2008 and into Japanese in 2009. Retirement also gave me the opportunity to extend my previous research on the historical geography of work-related voluntary associations (such as agricultural co-operatives) in one part of France (the middle Loire Valley) to leisure-related associations (such as brass bands and sports clubs) in the whole of the country. I therefore undertook archival research in eleven different regions of France and aim to complete my book about them by the end of 2016.

My ties to the international community of historical geographers, developed over many years, also meant that my retirement did not result in a complete rupture from the academic world. Since retiring I have been invited to give lectures at the Charles University in Prague, at Peking University in China (Figure 1), and at University of British Columbia in Canada. Only last year, I delivered, by invitation, the opening plenary lecture to the 16th International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG), held at the Royal Geographical Society in London in July. My remit was to consider the impacts of both the ICHG and the *Journal of Historical Geography* (both founded in 1975) on the development of

historical geography as an international discipline. The conference was attended by 701 historical geographers from 39 countries. The text of that lecture will be published in *The Geographical Journal* later this year (2016).

Continuity has been provided as well by requests that I write essays for inclusion in books that will be published to mark the retirements of two distinguished international geographers, Akihiro Kinda of Kyoto University (Japan) and Jean-Robert Pitte of the Sorbonne (France). Yet another thread that has tied me to the past has been my acceptance of invitations to write, for publication, lengthy memorial essays assessing the lives and works of Norman J. G. Pounds and Robin A. Donkin as historical geographers. So, it seems that once an historical geographer, always an historical geographer.

But as important to me as the continuing role of historical geography in my life since I retired from my university post in 2001 have been the new challenges that I have been able to confront.

Changes

As a geographer, I have travelled to many parts of the world, visiting not only for professional purposes, to give invited lectures and to attend conferences, but also for holidays. My travels have embraced numerous European countries but also many in the Middle East, in Asia, in Africa, in Australasia, and in North America. The historical geographies of places—of their landscapes and their cultures—hold for me a deeply rooted fascination. But retirement has enabled me to explore more fully than hitherto the geography of the United Kingdom, and even more locally, that of the Cambridge region. We are fortunate here in Cambridge in having a very active University of the Third Age (U3A)—the first two ages being those of “childhood” and of “work.” The U3A is a voluntary association that arranges more than 300 courses each year, given mainly by retired people and mainly for retired people, that cover a very wide range of topics; it is open to anyone aged 55 or over. I have always enjoyed walking in the countryside and so, for six years (2002–7), I organized and led for the U3A two groups of ramblers on weekly walks, each of about seven miles, in rural Cambridgeshire (Figure 2). Each group had about 20 members; we met at a “public house” (an inn), somewhere within about 15 miles of Cambridge, parked our cars and set off for what was usually a walk lasting about two hours. This meant that we returned to the pub at about 12 noon for lunch. Rambling was a healthy physical exercise for we elderly folk, but it was also a very sociable occasion, with people making new friends and talking about every topic under the sun while

walking. Moreover, we walked in all weathers, from September through to June—altogether good exercise for both body and mind.

While at the Departments of Geography at University College London and Cambridge, I lectured to undergraduates mostly aged between 18 and 22. But in retirement, the U3A has provided me with an opportunity to lecture to adults. I have enjoyed giving two courses: one on the roles of history and geography in the making of the French nation during the nineteenth century; the other on the development through time, the spread through space, and the cultural significance of voluntary associations in France between 1815 and 1914. Delivering these lectures was, of course, to some degree a continuation of my pre-retirement life, but it was also fundamentally different because my U3A audiences comprised people with deep knowledge and experience of the world at large and in many cases of France in particular. I also had to develop a competence in PowerPoint presentations—when I retired in 2001, I was still using 35 mm slide projections.

Before my retirement in 2001 I had been involved in local politics. As a member of the Liberal Democrats, I had regularly delivered leaflets to households in Cambridge. But then, with more time to devote to non-academic interests, I decided in 2002 to seek election to the City Council for the part of the city where I lived. I was duly elected and in later years re-elected [Figures 3 and 4], so that I served on the Council for eight years until 2010 when I decided to stand down and not seek re-election. For those eight years I was a member of the largest political group—and thus the ruling group—on the Council, so that I was closely involved in governing the city for that period. In addition to dealing with the many issues that irritated my constituents—such as traffic congestion and parking pressures, recreational facilities and litter in public places—I became closely involved with the problems created by the rapid growth of Cambridge's population and its economic boom as a centre of knowledge-based industries. While in my post in the Department of Geography of the University and as a Fellow of Emmanuel College, I had acquired considerable managerial experience, and so my Liberal Democrat colleagues appointed me to chair the Planning Committee—also partly because they assumed, not entirely correctly, that, as a geographer, I would know about urban problems and planning. I knew something but very quickly had to learn a lot more. The Planning Committee was the hardest-worked committee of the Council, meeting 13 times each year rather than just four times a year like most other committees. We had to resolve many conflicting opinions when considering applications from developers to build more intensely. There was often considerable local opposition to applications by developers to increase density of dwellings, either by building houses and small apartment blocks in the back gardens

of suburban houses or by erecting tall apartment blocks that many citizens considered to be unsuited to the low-rise character of Cambridge as a historic city.

Keeping the streets of Cambridge clean for its resident population of more than 100,000 as well as for the 4 million or so tourists who visit the city each year was a responsibility of the City Council. But it was aided by a voluntary association of which I was for some years chairman, the Cleaner Cambridge Campaign, which both organized litter clearances by volunteers in the streets and parks of the city and enhanced public awareness of the littering problem by organizing some high-profile events, engaging support of the Mayor (Figure 5).

My role on the Planning Committee and my experience as an historical geographer combined to make me realize that the archives of the City Council needed more careful attention—there was no systematic preservation of documents—while those of Cambridgeshire County Council needed both better storage facilities and more cataloguing. For two years I became a member of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies, sitting as Cambridge City Council's representative. I also worked as a volunteer at the County Archives, cataloguing collections of title deeds for nineteenth-century properties in the city that had been demolished in the twentieth century to make way for a new shopping mall.

I have also enjoyed becoming involved in two other local charities. In 2010 I became a trustee of the Cambridge branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau, a national charity that provides advice and information free to people in the community. It deals each year with nearly 10,000 "clients" and with a very wide range of problems but especially personal debt and issues relating to welfare benefits, housing, and employment. The Children's Society is a Church of England charity that aims to provide support for run-away and homeless children. My wife, Sandra, is on the committee of the Cambridge branch of this national charity. My involvement has been limited to helping with fund-raising by organizing and acting as *compère* on a number of Quiz Nights.

Last but Certainly Not Least: Friends and Family

Not all of my time in retirement has been spent on deep-rooted academic pursuits and on new ventures in the worlds of politics and charities. Retirement has provided my wife and me with more time to take adventurous holidays—for example, in Egypt, Cuba, and Sri Lanka. And it has also enabled us to spend more time with our many friends in the United Kingdom and most especially with our two sons and their families. Blessed with reasonably good health, both Sandra and I are enjoying our

retirements and, as we both approach our 80th birthdays, hope to continue doing so for some years to come.

Selected Publications

Baker, Alan R. H. 1999. *Fraternity among the French peasantry: Sociability and voluntary associations in the Loire valley, 1815–1914*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 373.

—. 2003. *Geography and history: Bridging the divide*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 279.

Edited 44 monographs in 1982–2009 under the title Cambridge Studies in Historical Geography, published by Cambridge University Press.

Brief Biography

In 1960 I graduated from University College London with a BA in geography with history. I remained at UCL to complete, in 1963, a PhD on the agricultural geography of medieval Kent. UCL was an international centre of excellence in historical geography, led by Professor H. Clifford Darby, my research supervisor. After three years on the staff at UCL, I moved with Darby, in 1966, to the University of Cambridge. In 1970 I became the first Fellow in Geography at Emmanuel College. My early research on medieval field systems in England gave way to work on rural settlements in France during the nineteenth century. That interest then mutated into a study of the historical geography of voluntary associations (including agricultural cooperatives, mutual aid societies, volunteer fire brigades, bands, choirs, and sports clubs) in provincial France 1815–1914.

Historical geography has been for me a passion. I sought to promote it not only through research and teaching but also through a series of research seminars in Cambridge that ran for more than 30 years, through editing for 10 years the international *Journal of Historical Geography*, through co-editing more than 40 books in a monograph series published by Cambridge University Press, and through co-founding a series of international conferences of historical geographers.

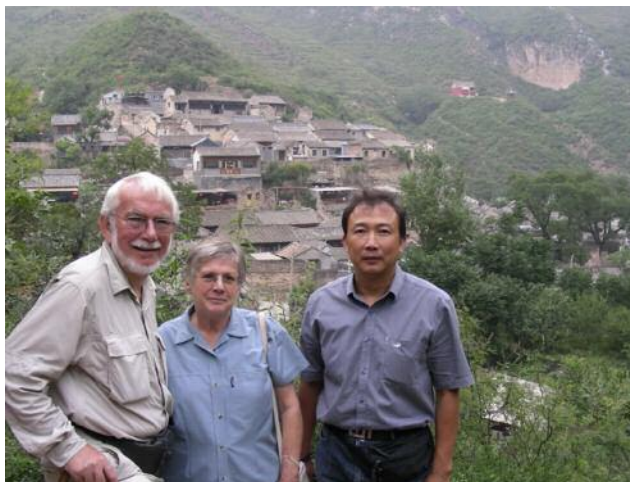


FIGURE 1
Alan with his wife,
Sandra, and
Professor Weimin
Que of Peking
University visiting
historic villages in
China in 2009



FIGURE 2
Alan [third from the left] leading a
Cambridge U3A Rambling Group
in 2005



FIGURE 3
Alan [on the right] in Cambridge's
Guildhall on his first election as a City
Councillor in 2002

FOCUS

on Queen Edith's

ELECTION SPECIAL
April/ May 2006

Alan Baker – champion of our local environment

COUNCILLOR ALAN BAKER is standing for re-election as a Queen Edith's councillor at the city council elections on Thursday 4th May.

Over the four years he has represented Queen Edith's, he has won a reputation for hard work and persistence in protecting and enhancing the area in which we live – keeping on top of basic jobs such as street-cleaning; making the streets safer to walk, cycle and drive on; acting on dangerous parking; and insisting that new buildings fit the character of this area – keeping Queen Edith's clean, safe and green.

Alan lives just behind Hills Road, with his wife Sandra. A former geography lecturer at Cambridge University, he is now retired and therefore is able to devote his time to his constituents. He has taken up hundreds of individual cases for local people, and as chair of the City's Planning Committee, has developed expertise in this area.

Alan has put himself at your service for the past four years, and done an excellent job. Now he needs your support, so he can carry on defending and improving this area.

ALAN BAKER

X

Vote for Alan Baker on May 4th...

County Councillor
GEOFFREY HEATHCOCK

City Councillor
AMANDA TAYLOR

City Councillor
RICHARD STEBBINGS

... to carry on as part of the Queen Edith's Focus Team

Alan's aptitude in planning led the Liberal Democrats to choose him as Chair of the City Council's Planning Committee. In this role he has not only worked for the benefit of the city as a whole, but has also preserved and enhanced the environment of Queen Edith's.

Just this year he voted against:

- building 150 flats on land at the junction of Hills Road and Cherry Hinton Road, currently occupied by the Shell petrol station, Tim Brinton's and Marshall's
- demolishing no. 29 Queen Edith's Way to replace it by a building of 12 flats
- building 1400 flats plus shops and offices next to the rail station
- demolishing no. 10 Long Road to replace it with a building of 10 flats and 4 detached houses
- building 106 flats on Hills Road next to the War Memorial and the University Botanic Garden

All of these applications were turned down by the Planning Committee.

FIGURE 4
Alan's political campaigning leaflet for re-election to Cambridge City Council in 2006



FIGURE 5
Alan clearing litter with the help of Cambridge's Mayor 2005

Belfast and the Beach

Frederick W. Boal

Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, U.K.

E-mail: F.Boal@qub.ac.uk

Retirement: what is retirement? The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives us the following: “retire: leave one’s job and stop working, especially because one has reached a certain age.” Presumably “working” here refers to remunerated employment. But the dictionary gives some other interpretations of “retire”: “to withdraw, to retreat, shut yourself away.” Certainly retirement has involved change—a pension cheque rather than a salary, not working to a schedule dictated, at least in part, by the demands of the workplace, and not being subjected to the managerial regime of the university as an institution. It also entails, at least to a degree, an increase in isolation from the daily stimulus provided by a lively collection of university colleagues.

Retirement is not an event—it is a particular state of being, and one that is by no means static. Mind you, strictly speaking retirement *is* an event—one day you are “working” the next day you are not. But the reality is quite different. I like to think of my retirement as being like an airplane on a gentle glide path to touch down, with the inevitable prospect of an eventual landing! In this regard, I think we university folk are immensely privileged in that, in retirement, we can continue our life-long interests—here is no sudden disjunction, just continuities with quite gentle change (Figure 1).

So it has been possible to continue to pursue my academic interests. But there is something else to be noted, something of great significance and something that does not just provide the opportunity to further explore certain life-long interests but delivers an *imperative* so to do.

Before I define this imperative, a bit of background is called for. My interests, broadly speaking, are to be found in the field of urban geography, most particularly focused on issues such as segregation and interaction. Belfast born and bred, I returned to my native city from Canada in 1963. Little did I realize that, from 1969 onwards, I would be living and working in a city that was being almost torn apart by the urban manifestations of a deeply rooted ethno-national conflict. In one sense, this provided an opportunity to study close up the dynamics of segregation, as demonstrated in a context of severe, at times violent, conflict. It could, of course, be claimed that this was an academic being parasitical on the backs of other peoples’ suffering. But the conflict was also part of my own

daily environment. Moreover, it seemed quite wrong to adopt an ivory tower approach not only in research but, equally importantly, in teaching. For the students in my classes were also living in a highly fraught environment of ever-present violence. It would have been profoundly wrong for us in the university to turn our backs on what was going on within earshot of the campus. Indeed, though rarely, the violence even penetrated the campus itself.

As I write this, 47 years have passed since the outbreak of the so-called Troubles in 1969. Since 1998, when an agreement was signed by the political representatives of the two ethno-national groupings (Belfast Agreement / Good Friday Agreement), there has been a marked reduction in violence, but the fundamental ethno-national conflict is still unresolved. All of my seventeen retirement years have corresponded with this period.

But back to the imperative. During my active working years at the university that imperative required that I should attempt to contribute to an understanding of how urban conflict can manifest itself and what its causes and consequences are. Part of this work lay in the classroom, as I and my students, reluctantly at times, tried to confront our deeply held and frequently opposed positions on the roots, current manifestations, and desired outcomes of the ethno-national conflict. But as I neared retirement, and subsequently, I now saw the need, not only to understand *per se*, but more importantly to deploy that understanding as a tool towards the achievement of a mutually acceptable resolution; one, in other words, that would accommodate the opposed aspirations of the two conflicting ethno-national groupings. Mind you, many will say that this was and still is an objective impossible to achieve.

In my more optimistic moments I consider that three framing devices can be brought to the task. All have their roots in my pre-retirement period but have become central to my thinking in the years that have followed. Gregory Bateson in 1973 stated that a frame is a message intended to organize the perception of the viewer—"attend to what is within, and do not attend to what is without." Such an approach can be very productive when trying to get to the core of a problem or situation, though it comes with a major health warning. This is best expressed by the American historian William Cronon. He does not use the term "frame." Instead he writes of stories:

We configure events of the past into causal sequences—stories—that order and simplify the events to give them new meanings. Whatever the story's overt purpose it cannot avoid a covert exercise of power—it inevitably sanctions some voices while excluding others.

And, very significantly for me, Cronon concludes that “the stories we tell change the way we act in the world.”

So where does this leave me? We academics who write on contested topics, and I certainly include myself, should try to declare, openly and honestly, our own predispositions. On many occasions in the retirement phase I have sat and listened to lectures and to conference and seminar presentations that superficially display objectivity but are, in fact, profoundly shaped by undeclared ideological positions. A bit more honesty would go a long way.

Anyway, what are my three framing devices? These can be stated as three words—encapsulation, frontier, and territoriality. For Belfast, “encapsulation” provides a perspective that sees the city deeply embroiled in and shaped by an all-embracing ethno-national conflict. When we come to “frontier” we can do no better than to adopt the definition provided by Howard Lamar and Leonard Thompson:

A territory or zone of interpenetration between two previously distinct societies. Usually one society is indigenous to the region, or at least has occupied it for many generations, the other is intrusive.

And finally “territoriality.” One cannot have lived in Belfast for the past 50 years without imbibing the intense territorial sensitivities that permeate the place. By “territoriality,” I mean the techniques deployed by individuals and groups to lay claim to defined spaces or territories. Whether this behaviour is socially or biologically rooted remains a moot point, though I tend to favour the biological.

And then we have walls—another retirement theme—from the separation barrier/apartheid wall of Jerusalem to the fragmented but nonetheless stark peace walls of Belfast (Figure 20). Here the words of my favourite American poet, Robert Frost provide a usefully questioning perspective:

Before I built a wall I'd like to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
[But Frost's neighbor says:]
“Good fences make good neighbors.”

In the last number of years I have visited the Belfast walls frequently, the Jerusalem wall three times, and the Frost wall on his farm in Derry, New Hampshire once. This last was on the occasion of our 40th wedding anniversary in 2001. Call me a wall obsessive if you like, but there you are!

Quoting Frost reminds me of something else I have increasingly become aware of—the literary contribution to our geographic understanding. For me, not only does Frost make compulsive reading, but so also does the work of two of our northern Irish poets, Seamus Heaney and John Hewitt, as well as the territorial sensitivities given vivid expression by the writer Ciaran Carson.

All this is work still under way. The end product should take the form of a book (what else?)—*Belfast: Frontier City*. Yet, despite the aforementioned imperative, I still find many things in retirement that provide diversions from the task in hand, or perhaps that exist as even higher priorities—family, dogs, and the great outdoors.

So what about retirement when I am not obsessed with ethno-nationalism? Here a little holiday cottage on the north coast of Northern Ireland plays a central role (Figure 3). We have had this family get-a-way for over 30 years, and it is a very special place. The cliffs with their exposures of “raw” geology, the huge waves rolling in from the North Atlantic, the shifting sand of the long curved beach outside our window, the ever-changing weather with its over-arching cloudscape: all this takes one’s mind off urban conflict (at least for a while). But it has done something else—it has relit an interest in physical geography that has its origin in my schooldays. Three aspects of physical geography are to the fore—physical geology, meteorology, and coastal processes—all readily to hand just outside our little cottage! But frontiers still make their presence felt, analogically at least. Our cottage sits on a major geological fault (fortunately quiescent for the past 60 million years). At the same time, the dramatic changes in weather are associated with the passage of fronts. Faults and fronts, plate tectonics and air masses—they all provide thought-provoking parallels with the dynamics of ethno-national confrontation.

Very recently my attraction to physical geography has been reinvigorated by my attempts to assist one of my grandsons with his high school examinations in geography. Somewhat to my embarrassment as an Emeritus Professor of Human Geography, I have found it more congenial and orderly to work through the physical geography rather than the human. The vagaries of much of human geography contrast rather unfavourably with the seeming clarities of physical geography. This is reinforced by what I have come across in my somewhat eclectic retirement reading in the field of human geography—replete as it is with “spatialities” and “geographies.” Perhaps I just view this with the somewhat cynical eye of an elderly academic. However, I can’t help quoting from a recent book review I came across in *Atlantic* magazine: “[T]he book sometimes recalls Nietzsche’s scorn of the academic as someone unable to see with his own eyes. Every few pages some trendy thinker’s

catchphrase pops up between the reader and the thing described with no apparent gain in insight.” Mind you, haven’t we all jumped on various bandwagons during our careers? In this regard, I particularly recall the quantitative revolution of the 1960s.

But back to the cottage. As an ornithologist friend of mine would put it, “What about the birds?” Each year our coastal cottage is visited by family and friends. One bunch of visitors is of the feathered variety—house martins that build their nests in our eaves each summer, raise their young, and then leave us to head back to their winter quarters somewhere in west Africa. The British Trust for Ornithology is trying to improve our understanding of the migratory habits of these little birds. There are many unknowns about precisely where they over-winter, what conditions they confront there, and where precisely their migratory paths are. I have a 1-km grid square on the North Atlantic coast to survey and then I report my observations, which in turn become a small part of a comprehensive survey that covers the whole of the British Isles. Of course, migration is a major focus within human geography as well, and once again I am tempted to find parallels/analogies/metaphors that, in this case, will be exchangeable between the avian and the human worlds!

Though I have not escaped (nor have I tried to escape) from my life-time interest in geography, I hope I have not allowed this to dominate at the expense of that which matters most—my family: my wife of 55 years, Sallie, extracted from the familiarities of her native Michigan to reside in the seemingly unending turmoil of Northern Ireland, and my three children and their families, including four lively grand-kids. Sometimes when drawn to spend time at the computer or the reading desk, I ask myself “What matters most?” The answer is simple: family. So switch off the Mac, quit seeing ethno-national conflict in the very rocks, get the boots and the rain jacket on, put the leash on Poppy the dog, gather the clan together, and take off for the stormy beach that beckons across the bay (Figure 4).

Selected Publications

- Boal, F.W. 1969. Territoriality on the Shankill-Falls divide, Belfast. *Irish Geography* 6: 30–50.
- . 1972. A conflict interpretation of the urban residential sub-community. *Area* 4: 164–68.
- . 1976. Ethnic residential segregation. In *Spatial processes and form*, ed. D. T. Herbert and R. J. Johnston, 41–79. London: John Wiley.
- . 1999. From undivided cities to undivided cities: Assimilation to ethnic cleansing. *Housing Studies* 14(5): 585–600.
- . 2002. Belfast: Walls within. *Political Geography* 21: 687–94.
- Boal, F.W., Murray, R.C., and Poole, M.A. Belfast. 1976. The urban encapsulation of a national conflict. In *Urban Ethnic Conflict: A Comparative*

Perspective, ed. S.E. Clark and J.L. Obler, 77–131. Comparative Urban Studies Monograph No. 3. Chapel Hill, NC: Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina.

Boal, F.W., and Livingstone, D.N. 1983. An international frontier in microcosm: the Shankill-Falls divide, Belfast. In *Pluralism and Political Geography: People, Territory and State*, ed. S. Waterman and N. Kliot, 138–158. London: Croom Helm.

Biographical Note

I was born in Belfast in 1934. I took a bachelor's degree in geography at the Queen's University of Belfast, graduating in 1956, and then worked as a research assistant there for the following two years. In 1958 I became an exchange student at the University of Michigan, taking a master's degree in conservation, moving across campus after one year to work on a doctorate in geography. I also met my future wife in Ann Arbor. In 1961 we moved to Calgary, Alberta when I was appointed Assistant Professor (University of Alberta, Calgary—now University of Calgary). We stayed in Calgary in sight of the Rockies for two years before moving (back, in my case) to Belfast, where I taught and researched geography for the 34 years that followed—as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader, and finally Professor. During that time I also had two sabbaticals—one at the University of Toronto and one at Carleton University, Ottawa. On retirement in 1997 I was appointed Professor Emeritus of Human Geography. During this retirement I have received a number of awards. The first was from the International Geographical Union in 1998 “in recognition of a lifetime contribution to political geography and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.” The second, in 1999, was an OBE from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II “for contributions to urban planning and regional development in Northern Ireland.” The third, in 2009, was from the Association of American Geographers as “Distinguished Scholar of Ethnic Geography.” Finally, in 2014, the journal *Progress in Human Geography* designated my paper “Territoriality on the Shankill-Falls Divide, Belfast” as a classic in human geography.



FIGURE 1
A Dilemma - Coffee or Computer? (2016)



FIGURE 2
One of the Belfast "Peace Walls", January 2015



FIGURE 3
Nestling in the Cliffs - the Coastal Cottage (2016)



FIGURE 4
The Beach Beckons - Poppy
and Fred ready for a Walk
(2016)

Geo-Retirement: A Second Adolescence, a Season of Renaissance, and a Circus

Stanley D. Brunn

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

E-mail: Brunn@uky.edu

*Quibus multa dantur, ab eis multa exspectantur.**

* To whom much is given, from them much is expected.

Asking someone who is three score and seventeen years about her/his future is akin to asking a developing teenager to describe biological, intellectual, and spiritual changes she or he is experiencing. The answer may be simple, but more than likely these are years where you encounter complexities, confusion, and some surprises. These cannot be described or explained in one sentence or one paragraph or even be depicted in one photograph because what is behind the written and the visible is likely to be both invisible and unexplainable. I chose the words in the subtitle with care as they reflect how I look at retirement, not a time that some might define in terms of years or in terms of the loss of some specific ability. But retirement will/can be a time of recovered innocence, of renaissance, and of pleasures like those of the circus. Probably the best way to picture these terms is as a set of overlapping circles: where they intersect is an image, not only of retirement, but of open-ended engagement, creativity, and empowerment. (Perhaps that thinking also applies to adolescence.) Below, I will define the words in the title and what they convey about retirement.

Geo-Retirement

All of us live in places and spaces and environments, both human and natural/physical. In this sense, we are all creatures and creations of where we are and why we are where we are. Geography, in my thinking, is an umbrella concept that relates to the study of places, spaces, landscapes, networks, systems, boundaries, and environments. We are not the only scholars that study these phenomena or topics, but we focus on them more than others and hope to encourage and educate others to see their value. These features of our planet are essential parts of our lives and livelihood. They were part of us as children, as teenagers, and in early and middle adulthood, and they are also part of the retirement or unofficial working phase of our life. The concept “geo-retirement” implies what

these specific concepts mean to us in our later years. Places, networks, landscapes, boundaries, and environments are important parts of our intellectual, spiritual, and physical worlds, at 66, 76, 86, or even 96. Those “senior” years uncover some old and some new meanings for these concepts.

Second Adolescence

This term applies to approaching life and study much like a teenager who is approaching adolescence and enjoying many new experiences. You discover, both subtly and quickly, that you are not exactly the same person as you were at age nine or ten. You blossom into a newness of life and learning, living and growing. And that blossoming can, does, and will occur if there are caring parents and accepting siblings, but also school and non-school teachers who promote both knowing and not knowing, factual knowledge and conceptual knowledge, and who build a foundation of discipline and creativity for long-term wholeness and excitement about ATC (all things curious). That uncorrupted growth and eagerness to express needs to be fostered and rewarded throughout one’s years on the planet. As an undergraduate student, I thought about entering the Foreign Service or serving as a missionary, but my teachers (foreign language and geography) encouraged me to pursue geography, a choice I have never regretted, and I would make that same choice in the early twenty-first century. (I realized very early that, much as I liked maps, I could not be a cartographer because I am colour-blind in relation to some colours. And my older sister would tell you that, when I was in the second grade, I had to stay after school one day because I coloured “outside” the circle. That was probably an example of early nonconformity!!)

Renaissance

I have always been perplexed why historians only describe “one” Renaissance in human history. In all candour, I think they have it wrong in that history is a constant flow of “renaissances” in human knowledge, understanding, and development. Preliterate and pre-modern human history was just as much a renaissance period as the Space Age and the cyberworlds of today are. Writing, language development, community harmony, and the acceptance of others are just as important in human history as plant and animal domestication, mapping and ideology, cartography and power, preserving diversity, green living, social justice and gender equality. There have been “spurts and spikes” of major achievement in art, literature, science, language, community, and human development all over the world; they were not overwhelmingly Euro-

centric. All the regions of earth have contributed to human advancement.

I look at the renaissance that is geo-retirement as times *and* spaces for intellectual and personal growth. That is, growth that may have been stagnant or even latent but now can be awakened or re-awakened with new-found energy and new networks. It is a time, perhaps, for doing something you never had time (or space) for or possibly something you never wanted anyone to know that you wanted to do. It may include reading, thinking, and experiencing something familiar, but also something unfamiliar. Perhaps, it may be writing something or constructing something that only you knew was deeply lingering in your mind and soul. It may mean learning new languages, travelling to places little known, discussing topics having to do with life, liberty, and philosophy with complete strangers, pursuing a hobby neglected since childhood, working with others to correct injustices, becoming a volunteer chef in a community kitchen, entering a lay ministry, or empowering others with your own learning, compassion, and wisdom.

Circus

All of life should provide times for enjoyment and “fun” (if that is an acceptable word in the scholarly lexicon). Without the pressures of committee meetings, land-line phone calls (which few make these days), preparing for classes (always enjoyed that), grading exams (less of a thrill), advising and mentoring students (locally or globally), you have more time/space for doing some “pleasurable things.” Those may mean raising or helping to raise grandchildren, baby-sitting, tending to spousal concerns (health, welfare, familial), refinishing antiques, singing or playing an instrument, volunteering, or gardening. But they may also include acquiring new skills (cooking, colouring, landscaping, constructing, aiding newcomers, empowering strangers, involvement in community music and heritage projects) or even raising rabbits, goats, or heritage plants. If you are still pursuing intellectual goals, you might work on a hobby neglected since childhood, establish a daily meditation/exercise routine, return to university to earn another degree, learn new technologies, develop latent artistic talents, or work with others on community projects (housing construction, community gardens, aiding refugees and immigrants, or running for political office). Again, merging into one the intellectual, spiritual, and physical self will contribute to an overlapping harmony, where retirement is measured, not in years, but in a HCRQ—“Happiness/Contentment Retirement Quotient”—where the number of activities you engage in or support financially is the numerator and your age is the denominator. A high quotient is desirable; a low number not. Laughter, humour, and wit are a *sine qua non* for physical,

intellectual, and spiritual longevity. We also need to remember that, for some, the unpaid working years of are full of pain and stress, unexpected caring responsibilities, financial hardship, downscale lifestyles, or assisted living.

Geo-Retirement Activities

At any given time I am probably working on eight or ten projects, some individually, but many with friends and colleagues from around the United States and the world. I enjoy working with others, younger or more senior, those I know and those I don't. Any final product is stronger if it issues from collaborative and cooperative efforts. In the past few years I have published (edited and co-authored) these books—*Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Megaengineering Projects*, *Atlas of the 2008 Election*, and *The Changing World Religion Map*—in addition to articles on cyberspace geographies, the Bible Belt, the geographies of silence, knowledge geographies, the Asianization of Europe, the library holdings of Bible Belt and Quaker universities, place/tourism branding, and racial/ethnic knowledge bases. Currently, I am working on *Cities of the World* (6th edition) and *Mapping across Academia* (how different disciplines use maps), both of which will appear in 2016. Current book projects with others include *The Changing World Language Map*, an *Electronic Atlas of Peace*, and articles on cyber-medical tourism, cyber-branding, the Roma in Poland, Polish dads (an advertising campaign), Made in China branding, the visual content of stamps in China's transition periods, geopolitics and China in Southeast Asia, and using UN stamps to measure the state of the world. Many involve some innovative cartography. I enjoy writing a poem (geo-poetry) every week, often with suggestions from global friends. Most have a strong geography, social, and environmental justice component; what would you expect?

There are numerous topics that still fascinate me that I hope to explore before leaving Planet Earth. These include the human geographies of sparse lands in the U.S. Great Plains (the by-passed places in the rural Midwest and Plains), networks of cyber-missionaries, twenty-first century circuit riders (clergy), invisible geographies, marginalized groups, time regions, and regions of deep poverty in America. I have a strong interest in the intersections of science, art, and religion and in the similar geographies and geometries of personal lives and universities. Amidst these various projects, I am active in Quaker meetings and activities, maintain my stamp collection, and when possible, sing in choirs. I regularly maintain contact with hundreds of friends around the world—a true, caring geography-network of friends.

Geo-Reflections

A few reflections are in order. Probably childhood experiences have much to do with what we do and how we look at others. I was raised in the rural Upper Midwest and considered myself a cosmopolitan Middle Westerner. I collected stamps and radio-station call letters, read travel/adventure books (Halliburton and Galloway), and wrote to missionaries.

And there are those geographers who have been inspirational. I would mention (in alphabetical order): Ron Abler, Anne Buttimer, Karl Butzer, Martin Dodge, Peter Haggett, Don Janelle, David Lowenthal, Richard Morrill, David Smith, Nigel Thrift, Yi-Fu Tuan, Bill Warntz, Gilbert White, John K. Wright, and Wilbur Zelinsky. The graduate training I received at University of Wisconsin-Madison and at Ohio State broadened my life-long interests in geography and in geographic techniques, histories, and methodologies. I maintain that Wisconsin-Madison helped develop the right (creative) side of the brain, and Ohio State, the left (analytical) side. At both universities I had classes from faculty who instilled broad interests in learning and I developed many life-long friendships.

In writing this statement, a few other thoughts are worth sharing: we need to thank all those who “brought us on our way” and still lead, guide, and direct us; my earthly home is anywhere and everywhere; I am not finished travelling, teaching, and learning; we need to prepare those coming after us to be better geographers and humans; the books I read are still about creativity, exploration, and discovery (in all fields); there is much more we do not know about geography than we do know; probably not everything we know is really worth knowing (especially harming and hurting others and our environments); and geography is like a hobby that is worth pursuing.

Brief Biography

I have taught at three U.S. universities: University of Florida (1966–69)—Michigan State University (1969–80), and University of Kentucky (1980–2015). I have also taught for various periods in universities in nearly 20 other countries in Europe, East and Central Asia, Australia, South Africa, and the Caribbean. Travels to more than 80 countries have included presentations to more than a hundred conferences around the world. I am comfortable with living and working in many different environments and countries, all which require some or much flexibility and adaptability. I don’t know which publications are most important, but I know I enjoyed working on all of them, including a proposed political

reorganization of the United States (which resulted in an interview on NBC national TV in 1971), world urbanization, political geography, terrorism and 9/11 worlds, e-commerce, Walmart, time-space issues, geography and law/justice interfaces, cartooning, music, atlases of Michigan and Central Eurasia, the impacts of mega-engineering projects and religion. When I teach in other countries, I specifically seek ways to work on projects with faculty or students there; that is mutually very rewarding. All these experiences are part of my “cultural DNA.”

Major Books (authored and co-edited)

- S.D.Brunn . 1974. *Geography and Politics in America*. New York: Harper and Row.
- S.D.Brunn and T. R. Leinbach (eds.). 1993. *Collapsing Space and Time: A Geography of Information and Communication*. London: Unwin and Hyman.
- S. D. Brunn and T. R. Leinbach (eds). 2001. *Worlds of E-Commerce: Economic, Geographical and Social*. Chichester and New York: Wiley
- S.D.Brunn (ed.). 2013. *Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Megaengineering Projects*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- S.D.Brunn (ed.). 2015. *The Changing World Religion Map: Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics*. Dordrecht: Springer.



FIGURE 1
Faculty Seminar at the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa,
February 2011



FIGURE 2

Middle School Class, Krakow, Poland, November 2015



FIGURE 3

Personal photo



FIGURE 4

Teaching Human Geography Class, Beijing Normal University, July 2012

Retirement? You Must Be Joking

Anne Buttimer
University College Dublin, Ireland
E-mail: anne.buttimer@ucd.ie

Introduction

Friends, colleagues, neighbours, and relatives all titter when I tell them that I am retired. As Emeritus Professor since 2003, I have been busier than ever. Lots of trips, lots of lectures, many publications, and the opportunity to devote chunks of time to specific projects, which was not possible while I was still employed full-time. Since then I have been able to pursue my life-long dream of promoting international dialogue and—as one of my close friends once expressed it—creating a “home for ideas.” I’ve lived in many places and have welcomed many to my home (see Buttimer 1993). Retirement does not mean a loss of contact with friends and colleagues all over the world, even less so now there is the Internet. Many visit me here in Dublin every year and really enjoy a wee corner office in the University College Dublin (UCD) School of Geography where I can still exchange ideas with colleagues and students (see Buttimer 2009c; Alcoforado and Jones 2015).

Meaningful Activity in Post-Retirement Years

I have been invited now to share insights on the meanings I find in life after retirement. To begin with, the loss of status at UCD was scarcely noticeable. Apart from being relieved from scheduled lectures, staff meetings, and other institutional obligations, there was little change at all in my work on various research projects. A far more serious rupture for me was the death of my dear husband, Bertram Broberg, in 2005 (Figure 1). Mathematical physicist, material scientist, Bertram was my greatest support over the years, especially those spent at UCD. He was a gifted artist, too, and made numerous overhead illustrations for all my lectures, often encapsulating complex issues in graphic form. Over the years these graphics have been key elements in all my lectures and courses in Sweden, the United States, France, Canada, and Ireland.¹ He was calm, unruffled, and serene, while I have always been emotionally volatile. He once said that he began to understand my temperament better when he saw the Irish sky! One of my first meaningful activities on retirement was to complete the digitizing of all his published work and to deposit these files in the archives of UCD and the Lund Institute of Technology. I also set

up a Bertram Broberg Memorial Fund that finances Broberg lectures by keynote speakers at annual meetings held on alternate years in Ireland and Sweden, as well as a special Bertram Broberg Memorial Medal accorded annually to the author of the best PhD thesis in the School of Engineering.

The other major rupture was the death in 2004 of Torsten Hägerstrand, a generous research partner over 30 years, someone whose advice and critique was deeply inspiring. Among our various joint projects was work on creativity and environment, behavioural patterns in time and space, and sustainable development and, most especially, our Dialogue Project approach to issues of knowledge integration (see Buttimer and Hägerstrand 1980; Buttimer 1986). This Dialogue Project has continued to flourish. Many other video interviews have been recorded and now, even in 2015, the Young Academy of Europe is beginning to take up the idea

Continuing and Evolving Activities

In 2003 I was still President of the International Geographical Union (IGU), the first woman and first Irish person ever elected to the post. This involved numerous trips to various places for conferences, congresses, and Council meetings, ending formally at the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Glasgow in August 2004. Happy memories include those of shaking hands with Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the Jubilee Year 2000, and awarding our Planet and Humanity Award to Nelson Mandela in 2002 and to Mikael Gorbachev in 2004 (Figure 2). I was happy also to be invited to be a keynote plenary speaker at the International Geographical Congress in Cologne (2012).

As past president, my obligations as to executive matters continued, with committee meetings in far-flung places such as Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai, Moscow, and Rome, as well as the more formal regional conference in Brisbane (2006) and the IGC in Tunis (2008). Only one year later I received a Gold Medal from the King of Sweden, followed by honorary doctorates from Joensuu (Finland) in 2002, Tartu (Estonia) in 2004, and Grenoble (France) in 2012 (Figure 3).

Over those years of service on the IGU Executive Committee I had laid the foundations for other bases for international dialogue. Chief among these was a “Home of Geography” at Villa Celimontana, in Rome. This was located in a beautiful Renaissance edifice and was designed as a depository for all the IGU archives while also serving as host for meetings of special interest groups, commissions, and networks from all over the world. Many highly important international meetings were hosted. My successors in IGU, however, have not—alas—main-

tained this initiative, but invitations from Roman colleagues continue to this day.

Contacts with colleagues in the International Council of Science (ICSU) and the International Association for the Social Sciences (IASS) have endured (see *Strengthening* 2005; Buttimer 2005). One important activity was the UN International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE 2007–9) where geologists and geophysicists tended to dominate. I was appointed to the Board and attended planning meetings in various places throughout the world. UN and UNESCO ventures, however, depend largely on nationally based commitments and only to a lesser extent on commitments by international scientific organizations. As a member of the Irish National Committee for the IYPE and simultaneously chairing the Royal Irish Academy's Committee on Geography, I experienced first hand how difficult it was—and still is—to build bridges between the academic and political worlds in our little country. Much effort is still needed to promote Ireland's contribution to international academic life. As with other post-colonial lands, much is needed to bridge the worlds of research and education, as well as those the capital city the rest of the country

Two of my other main activities during my retirement years have been those with the Austrian Academy and the Academia Europaea (AE). In 2008 I was invited to be member of the Austrian Academy's Research Board and attended meetings in Vienna over a four-year period. Meetings were always cordial and fresh ideas were welcome, even if the overall issues of national versus continent-wide concerns were not always well explored. AE was quite a different story. As a member since 1993, I had neglected the organization—largely because of other pressing obligations—but returned in 2009 and was immediately invited to chair the Social Sciences Section. AE is a relatively recent invention, formally launched in 1988 at a time when there was virtually no other framework for trans-European collaboration, particularly in the humanities. AE was parented largely by the European Science Foundation at a time before EU Framework programs, the European Research Council or other Europe-wide programs were in place. So many raised the question of what AE's special contribution might be. I therefore interviewed all the surviving founding members on what the "founding visions" of AE actually had been. These are available on the AE-information website and transcripts have been published in the *European Review* (Buttimer 2011). In 2012 I was invited to become Vice President of AE, with special responsibility for the Humanities and the Social Sciences and this involves many meetings and discussions. One of my endeavours is to bridge the apparent tension for members between loyalty to national academies and loyalty to the AE. An example was a series of joint meet-

ings on “Turkey and Europe,” jointly organized by AE and the Austrian Academy, and held in Vienna (2012) and Salzburg (2014), with contributors from Turkey and Europe (Buttimer 2013c).

Research and Publications

What is marvellous about retirement is the possibility of devoting extended time to particular projects—uninterrupted by lecturing, research direction, or administrative duties. I, certainly, have greatly enjoyed both the conceptual and empirical sides of my research commitments.²

On the philosophical side, I have enjoyed delving into the writings of Alexander von Humboldt and translating many of them for a wider readership (Buttimer 2003b, 2004c, 2006a, 2007a, 2009d, 2010). I was especially happy to have my translations from his *Géographie des plantes* circulated electronically in *Cybergeo* (Buttimer 2012a). I’ve also completed work on the career histories of Walter Freeman and Torsten Hägerstrand, with bio-bibliographic essays published in the IGU series (Buttimer 2003c, 2007d). The issue of knowledge integration continues to be a major question across the disciplines, and I lecture on this in various places. Visiting colleagues have also joined me at UCD during my retirement years: Luke Wallin, Visiting Professor of American Studies, was fascinated by my work on nature and culture, and together we arranged for a republishing of my earlier *Geojournal* collection, including an essay by him and a new one from me, in a volume entitled *Nature and Identity in Cross-Disciplinary Perspective* (Buttimer 1999). Then Tom Mels came from Sweden as a post-doctoral fellow, and I shared with him all my lecture notes from my Fulbright Seminar at Lund in 1976. He, too, was fascinated, and together we put together a fresh volume, using all the results of my previous work on Swedish dissertations 1880–1980 and adding his knowledge from the 1980–2000 period (Buttimer 2004e; Buttimer and Mels 2006).

Since returning to my homeland in 1991, I have also explored Irish issues, such as the ways in which this land has been imaged in school textbooks and how authorities in the new Republic attempted to reorganize the teaching of geography (Buttimer and Gilmartin 2005). Another highly enjoyable project explored the life and times of Saint Columban (Columbanus), an Irish monk who founded schools and monasteries all over Europe in the seventh century AD. It was actually a monk from the Columban School of Luxeuil that founded the town of Saint-Dié des Vosges!³ What more appropriate theme for my “acceptance” lecture for their “Nobel” award?

Following repeated invitations from European colleagues who specialize in religion and ecology, I have become fascinated by the many ways in which cultures all over the world have found the sacred in nature (see Buttimer 2013b, 2013d), themes which will no doubt fill my time in future years. On the empirical front, I hosted round-table discussions at the AE Annual conferences of 2011 and 2012 on both “migration and identity” and “sustainable development”—all of this based on previous research (Buttimer 2007b, 2007c, 2013a). And a major effort during retirement years has been that of drawing conclusions from our (EU-sponsored) transnational project on sustainable development (with research teams from Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, and Sweden): *Landscape and Life—Sustainable Landscapes and Life: Issues of Scale and Appropriateness* (Buttimer 2001). I’ve been invited to speak on this matter in numerous places, including Brussels, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean.

Memories That Heal and Events That Uplift

I live in a wonderful neighbourhood at Glenomena Park, Blackrock in Dublin. We know each other well and meet on the first Monday of each month at a local cafe. Bus services to the city and beyond are excellent; neighbours take care of my home when I travel and welcome me back home when I return. My loveliest time during retirement, however, is spent at Neadín Ciúin (Figure 4), the bungalow built by my parents and bequeathed to me when the home farm was given over to my brother Denis. I love to wander there amid gentle breezes, melodies of birdsong and rippling stream.

Every time I am there I recognize the multi-sensory aspects of the “sense of place”—hear, taste, touch, smell, see—all that migrants may really miss when they move from one place to another, and particularly from rural to urban environments. On these walks, too, I gratefully remember all the wonderful events, challenges, and opportunities that have blessed my life in Seattle–Tacoma, Louvain, Glasgow, Worcester, Lund, Paris, Austin, and Ottawa. I am so grateful to my teachers, research directors, counsellors, and academic friends who supported me in my many endeavours, which often seemed to be “swimming against the tide.” My mother once said, “Divine Providence walks down the street to meet you.” I think of the many, coincidental encounters that have led to creative outcomes. The Association of American Geographers continues to offer encouragement, according me the AAG Honors Award in 1986, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014; the International Festival of Geography (Saint-Dié des Vosges) awarded me the Vautrin Lud Medal (considered to be the Nobel Prize of Geography) the same year.

And—surprise of surprises—an award from Ireland—at long last, one official mark of “welcome return” (Figure 5).

Meaning in Retirement ? A time for grateful re-membrance! No joke.

Notes

- 1 I used some of these illustrations in my plenary lecture at the International Geographical Congress in Cologne (2012) and still receive comments on these.
- 2 See Post-Retirement Publications list.
- 3 This town hosts annual celebrations entitled “Festival Internationale de Géographie” and considers itself as the global centre of the field. Each year a major award, entitled the Vaudrin-Lud International Medal is chosen, and in 2014 it was awarded to me. My work on Columbanus was in preparation for my “acceptance” lecture on that occasion.

Selected Pre-Retirement Publications

- Alcoforado, Maria Joao, and Jones, Michael. 2015. Professor Anne Buttimer, Laureate of the Vautrin-Lud International Prize for Geography 2014. *Norsk Geografisk Tidskrift* 68(3): 186–87.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00291951.2015.1038295>.
- Buttimer, Anne. 1986. *Life experience as catalyst for cross-disciplinary communication*. DIA paper no.3. Lund University Department of Geography.
- . 1993. *Geography and the human spirit*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- . 1999. *Nature and identity in cross-disciplinary perspective*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer.
- . 2001. *Landscape and Life—Sustainable landscapes and lifeways: Issues of Scale and Appropriateness*. Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press.
- Buttimer, Anne, and Hägerstrand, Torsten. 1980. *Invitation to Dialogue*. DIA paper no.1. Lund University Department of Geography.

Post-Retirement Publications

- Buttimer, Anne. 2003a. Human geography as social science: Retrospect and prospect. *Erdkunde* 57(4): 263–71.
- . 2003b. Renaissance and re-memembering geography: Pioneering ideas of Alexander von Humboldt 1769–1859. *South African Geographical Journal* 85(2): 125–33.
- . 2003c. Thomas Walter Freeman 1908–1988. In *New Oxford dictionary of national biography*. Vol. 20, 936–38. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- . 2004a. Geography for the third millennium: Inventory and prospect. *Perspectiva Geografica* 10: 11–22.
- . 2004b. *International Geographical Union, report 2000–2004*.

- . 2004c. Inimesed peaksidelamamaal. *Eesti Loodus* (Detsember): 34–37. (An interview by Hannes Palang for Estonia's leading nature magazine).
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Brief Biography

Anne Buttimer is Emeritus Professor of Geography at University College Dublin, was President of the International Geographical Union (2000-2004). Since earning a Ph D in geography at University of Washington

(Seattle) in 1965 she has held research and teaching positions in Belgium, Canada, France, Scotland, Sweden, and USA. Her publications cover issues ranging from social space and urban planning to the history of ideas and environmental concern. Some of these have been published in translation to Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. She served on several committees of the International Council for Science (ICSU), is currently member, Board of Management for the International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009), and member, Council for Science for the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She has received many awards and honours, including a post-doctoral fellowship from the Belgian American Educational Foundation 1965-1966; Fulbright-Hays Visiting Professor in Social Ecology to Sweden 1976; Association of American Geographers Honors Award 1986; Ellen Churchill Semple Award, University of Kentucky 1991; Elected member Academia Europaea 1993; Chair AE Social Section 2010, Vice President 2013+; Royal Geographical Society (UK) Murchison Award 1997; Royal Scottish Geographical Society Millenium Award 2000; August Wahlberg Medal in Gold from King of Sweden, 2009; Doctor, *honoris causa*, University of Joensuu, 1999; Tartu University 2004, Universite de Grenoble 2012; Lifetime Achievement award of the Association of American Geographers 2014; Vaudrin-Lud International Geography Prize 2014; Ambassador Conference Award, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dublin 2016.



FIGURE 1
Dancing in Tartu 2004



Encountering Pope John Paul II during the Jubilee Year 2000.



To Nelson Mandela 2002



To Mikael Gorbachev 2004

FIGURE 2

Awarding the IGU “Planet and Humanity” Medal

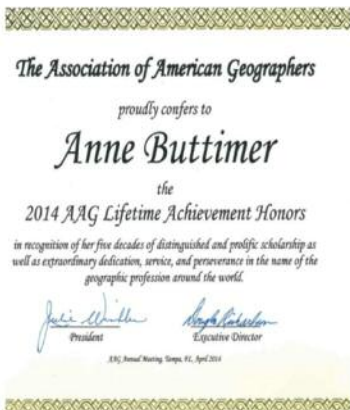


FIGURE 5

Honorary Certificates



Gold Medal from the King of Sweden 2009.



FIGURE 3
Honorary Doctorate Awards



FIGURE 4
Neadín Ciúin

Exploring a Statistical Treasure Trove: the Commonwealth Censuses

A. J. Christopher

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

E-mail: AJ.Christopher@nmmu.ac.za

Introduction

In 2004 I reached compulsory retirement age after an academic career of 40 years spent in southern Africa. I was one of a generation of British students in the early 1960s who were encouraged to spread their wings in other parts of the world, first as post-graduates and subsequently in academic positions. Southern Africa provided a remarkably rich research environment conducive to the investigation of a wide range of geographical topics, particularly those related to state activities. The colonial and apartheid governments made substantial impacts upon the landscapes and lives of the inhabitants of the region. Furthermore, they created a vast bureaucratic record of their activities. Many aspects were familiar as derived from the British inheritance, while others were distinctly different. The survey and property records in the Surveyor-Generals' Offices and Deeds Offices constituted a body of material of remarkable detail and complexity, providing a significant portion of the framework for my early research career and publications, which focussed on the rural distribution of land and its parallels elsewhere (see selected publications). Later the patterns and implementation of urban segregation on a racial basis involved an examination not only of the cadastre but of the myriad of regulations and plans adopted to enforce legislation such as the *South African Group Areas Act, 1950*. In recent years, the same offices have provided the records necessary to effect the ongoing land restitution program of the present government. Computerization presented the opportunity for me to explore the relationship between the plans and the changing distribution of population in the urban areas under the impact of the legislation, through an examination of another major bureaucratic record, the National Census. The rise and partial demise of the apartheid project constituted a large part of my research output. As I was working in a country where virtually every subject tends to be politicized, political geography was a further area of research.

Retirement

After seventeen years as Professor and Head of Department, retirement was, in one way, a relief from the endless cycle of meetings and interminable paperwork, which seemed to grow with the years, as ever more forms were devised and committees, national and local were created. The daily round of lectures, practicals, fieldwork, seminars, and thesis supervision wound down, in most cases, at the end of the academic year in 2004. As a result, there was time available, much of it restored to leisure and time with my wife, Anne, as I realized how time-consuming an academic career had become. However, there was still a substantial amount of newly available time to devote to reading or re-reading books which I had been unable to fit in before. It was time to revisit the English literary classics and history. And there remained a project which had been in my mind for when I had more time available and was free from publication pressures. In the course of my travels for sabbaticals and conferences the imprint of the British imperial heritage had appeared frequently in both physical and intangible forms, from government buildings and domestic dwellings to Anglican Church liturgies and hymns. The extensive land records held by most former British colonies pointed to the existence of significant archives on all aspects of life. Experience with the South African Census offered an opportunity to gather together one part of the British imperial project, which continues today.

The Record Issue

The first point that needs to be made is that there was really no such thing as an imperial census, only guidance. Each colony or country was and is responsible for its own enumerations. The records are therefore scattered widely, where they survive. As each census creates vast numbers of records, their preservation and storage is highly problematical. Furthermore, the individual returns contain confidential information that, although essential for the production of the totals or averages, was not written down by those enumerated to be read by others. Where the original returns do survive there is usually a hundred-year waiting time imposed before they can be made available to researchers. However, the rate of preservation has been low. Occasional original census forms have survived, such as those for 1844 and 1861 in Jamaica. Even in the United Kingdom whole sequences were destroyed as there was no depository space in which to keep them, and this practice was followed by colonial governments. Hence, in South Africa no original colonial-era individual Census records survive, while the enumerators' summary books for the

1911 Union census, which do exist, are still the subject of confidentiality restrictions. For most Commonwealth countries, the survivals have been either patchy or non-existent, although the preservation rate improves significantly with time.

As a comparative project, the use of original records thus is not a viable proposition. It is therefore the published records of the censuses that survive that had to form the basis of study. These can be supplemented by archival material from official correspondence, parliamentary debates, petitions, and contemporary newspapers. The census authorities produced reports and tabulations as government publications, either in the local *Government Gazette* or separate parliamentary blue books and latterly independent government departmental publications. Again, although such reports were widely circulated, their survival rate has tended to be somewhat meagre. Because there was no imperial or Commonwealth centre of calculation, there was no central repository for such reports. The libraries of the former Colonial Office and General Register Office in London have been dispersed. Fortunately, the former India Office Library, with its complete set of Indian census reports 1871–1941, has survived. The National Archives at Kew is concerned with the preservation of written records not printed publications, although colonial *Government Gazettes* and some other printed materials are housed there. The British Library and the various academic research libraries possess the most extensive holdings of the printed reports and tabulations. However, none of these is complete and they have to be consulted as complementing one another. More recently some historic census series have been placed on the Internet, as indeed have most census reports of the present century.

The Census Reports

The published reports provide a unique view into the local society as perceived by the census commissioners of the day. Contrasting styles of presentation are symbolized by the covers of the reports for Cape of Hood Hope in 1865 and St Helena in 1998 (Figures 1 and 2). They were initially written as reference works to be read and reread as literary offerings seeking to guide their readers through the mass of detailed statistical tabulations which accompanied the report, indeed ‘making sense of the census’. Furthermore the 1841 Irish commissioners suggested that: ‘a Census ought to be a Social Survey, not a bare Enumeration’, and proceeded to expand upon the subjects of enquiry so as to produce a wide ranging account of the country. Subsequent commissioners emulated this approach as noted by the 1901 Sri Lankan commissioner who wrote that:

‘half the circle of sciences and all the circle of human interests are open to the Census reviewer’. The reports therefore offer significant contemporary insights into the organization and purposes of the enumeration, together with the specific topics and questions posed. There was always a tendency to increase the number of questions, but in the era before the introduction of the mechanical tabulator the work of creating a single table meant a laborious return to the original hand-written records, which held the numbers in check. More recently the development of computerization has allowed a great increase in the number of questions and the number of tabulations and cross-tabulations. However, as the volume of statistics has increased, the volume of comment has declined, with modern census commissioners generally confining themselves to technical issues and definitions.

The objective of the census commissioners has been to provide information in an intelligible form, necessitating the compression of the responses given in often millions of forms into statistical tables that can be read by government bureaucrats and the general public. This has involved the process of classification. Some questions, such as age, sex, and place of residence, are relatively straightforward. Others depend upon personal judgements. Thus, the colonial questions on race tended to reflect the peculiar circumstances of each country involved, with classification schemes unique to that particular place. Individual identification in the nineteenth century tended to elicit a wide range of answers, which needed to be grouped together to produce more coherent categories. Thus, in the first scientific census of Sri Lanka in 1871 some 79 different self-descriptions were offered to census takers. These were subsequently grouped into seven categories and a residual “other.” It is a measure of the innate conservatism of the census authorities that this grouping is essentially still (2012) in use. This trait is derived from one of the important purposes of the census: the monitoring of change within society through a sequence of enumerations. Other topics of enquiries proved to be no less controversial. The occupational classification exercised the minds of the authorities as most problematical, with schemes of the utmost complexity devised in England and imposed with varying degrees of success on countries as diverse as Ireland and India, until the international standard classification was devised after World War II.

The Future

In 2010 the new Conservative government of Canada cancelled the long-form questionnaire for the following year’s Census as interfering with personal privacy, in this way symbolically reducing the reach of the state.

Their action highlighted significant issues concerning the future of the Census, as already, in many European countries with comprehensive population registers, censuses have been curtailed in favour of register-based population estimates and sample surveys. The subsequent re-instatement of the Canadian long-form questionnaire in 2015 by the incoming Liberal government underlined the politicization of the issue, with the emphasis on the need for “evidence-based” policy making rather than ideology. The success of a census depends, for the reliability of the returns, upon the cooperation of the general population and their trust that the answers given are confidential. Most governments, therefore, undertake consultative enquiries into the topics to appear on the questionnaire. More particularly, sensitive questions are not included in order to reduce the potential for resistance to the census as a whole. The fates of the religion question in Great Britain and Nigeria are cases in point. High-profile publicity campaigns are waged in the media by the state at the time of the actual enumeration to ensure compliance by the population in the completion and return of the forms. Exhortations vary from an emphasis on the duties of the citizen to stressing the benefits to be gained from inclusion in the results, often with slogans such as “count me in.” Intriguingly, one of the recent findings in South Africa was that the comprehension and completion of government forms was the most problematical of the various literacy tests formulated! The continuing role of enumerators in the smooth running of the operation is thus still essential. The official release of the results is usually an opportunity for the government to show the value of the results for national planning and for the monitoring social upliftment programs. More comment aimed at prompting popular support for the continuation of traditional questionnaire-based census-taking generally follows.

In terms of a retirement project, the Commonwealth census has offered me an intriguing insight into the workings of diverse civil services, and I have been helped by professional statisticians, land surveyors, librarians, archivists, and others. I have been most grateful for their dedication and assistance. They serve in a tradition of some antiquity, as witnessed by the massive archives and departmental record collections that testify to the diligence of those who have gone before them. In retirement, therefore, I have continued to spend part of my everyday, unphotogenic, yet stimulating activities in front of a computer screen, reading in libraries, archives, and government offices, and travelling, but free from the pressure of deadlines. Furthermore, the Commonwealth censuses have proved to be an eminently publishable project, particularly in non-geographical academic journals, which in itself has added to the sense of exploration.

Selected Publications

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- . 1983. From Flint to Soweto: Reflections on the colonial origins of the Apartheid city. *Area* 15: 145–49.
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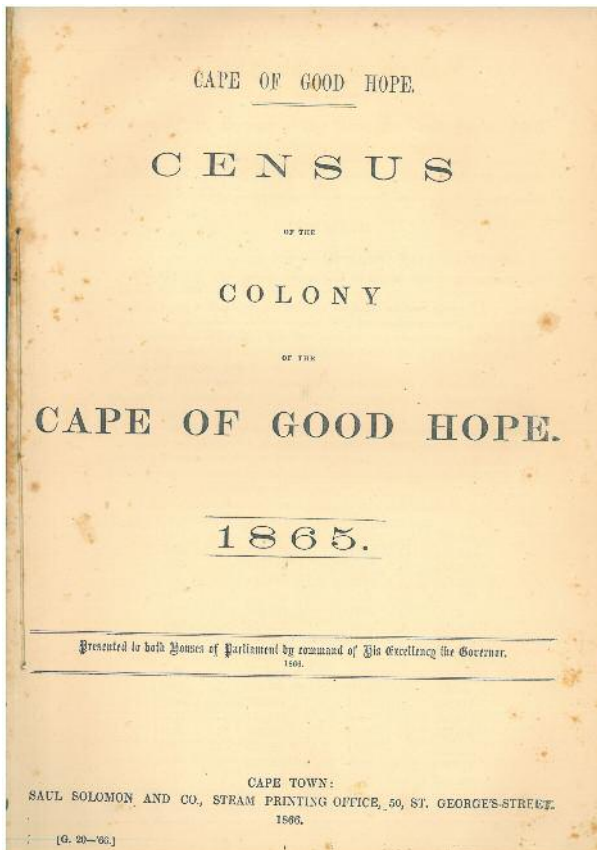


FIGURE 1

Cover of first Cape of Good Hope census 1865. The external cover is deep blue, in common with most British government publications – the Blue Books.

The 1998 Population Census of St Helena



Statistics Office, 1 Main Street,
Jamestown, St Helena

FIGURE 2

Cover of St Helena Census 1998, which was designed by Lucy Cranfield (aged 10 years), winner of the Middle School Poster Competition conducted to publicize the Census.

And Now for Something (Not) Completely Different

Kevin R. Cox

The Ohio State University, Ohio, U.S.A.

E-mail: cox.13@osu.edu

The short answer to the question “What am I doing since retiring?” is “more of the same.” I have been running for exercise for well over 30 years now, but finding the time was always a frustration. So now I can go to my so-called “athletic” club—the label is a conceit—three times a week instead of the two times that I used to have difficulty squeezing in anyway. I run on a treadmill and steal envious glances at the control panels of my younger neighbours to check their speed. Then I go to the changing rooms and smile smugly to myself at the political views of fellow retirees who inhabit the premises at the same quiet times of the day as myself. Meanwhile, they are being echoed by an overly loud TV, tuned into CNN, as in “Just look at this (highly unflattering) photo of Ted Cruz on the front of *Time Magazine*. Did you ever see one like that of Bill Clinton, Al Gore or Jimmy Carter?” To which I exclaim, “But he isn't from the same planet.”

I'm also reading more novels: novels of all sorts, including (for me) new writers, often culled from the *Guardian* review pages or the London / New York / Los Angeles reviews of books, the *Nouvel Observateur*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. These can take me in entirely new directions, often in highly serendipitous ways. I discovered Joseph Roth and Arthur Schnitzler some time back, but the recent discovery of Miklós Bánffy's Transylvanian Trilogy has deepened my interest in the dying days of the Hapsburg Empire. I have always read French novels, but now, again, I read more of them. A recent discovery is Patrick Modiano, but I want to go back and read stuff that I read decades ago, including Zola. There are some favourites that I do reread; I must have read Arnold Bennett's *The Old Wives' Tale* at least four times, and I always discover something new. For me, this is also a way of practising geography, and Bennett gives you more than a nudge: very self-conscious about it.

Every novel has to have some sort of geography, and I now find myself going to Google Maps to locate places and see what they look like today. In his autobiographic book, *A Corner of Paradise*, Brian Thompson revisits the Cambridge suburban road he lived on as a child and complains about its decline. As a student, I rented rooms on the same road, and judging from Google Maps, it is not noticeably different now from what it was almost 60 years ago; or perhaps I had other things on

my mind. But while every novel has a geography, very few novelists, alas, see fit to include a map. Thomas Hardy was one of the few exceptions, and very helpful his maps were too; and the ones that accompanied Arthur Ransome's children's books were an early stimulus to my interest in geography.

I can also spend more time with my adult children. Neither of them is married or has children, and so they are more than willing to indulge me. In the summer I play tennis with my daughter on a regular basis. For a few days each year she likes to go back to Southern California, where she lived for a while, and I too like the sand, the ocean—did you ever see a 77-year-old boogie boarder?—and the chaparral. With my son, it is mountain walking and again mainly in the West, as I have an aversion to high tree lines. I love the mountains and their challenge. This is something that goes back to an earlier history—me and the English Lake District—but the extremely unreliable weather there has become a discouragement.

Retirement for me, though, is more than “more of the same.” It is also a time for reflection, and not least reflection on my past; a question of who I am and how I got here. My childhood corresponded with the full flowering of the (now somewhat withered) British welfare state. Having my school fees paid by the state so that I, along with numerous others, could attend a private school with a quite remarkable set of teachers was a major turning point. Without it, I would not have gone to university. And then, serendipity struck again. For I count myself extraordinarily fortunate to have been a student at the time the spatial–quantitative revolution took off and to have enjoyed the tremendous stimulus of the terrible twins of British geography: Dick Chorley and Peter Haggett. There again, I have been able to retire comfortably.

It is also a time to work through backlogs. My interest in the German language goes back to school days. A Welsh friend who was a classicist describes German as a “second rate Latin”: slightly disparaging but also a compliment, since German is an intellectual challenge, perhaps a little less than Latin, that French isn't. So my French has always been better, and I have longed to bring my German up to the same level and, by way of example, to make sense of the TV news programs. I have also played saxophone for a long time but never had the time to even begin to approach the fluency or the ear of the professionals, and perhaps I never will. But at least I can now find out. And there is something else, of particular importance to a geographer, which is making up for lost time in terms of travel. The structure of the academic year, as well as demands on time during the summer vacation, were always obstacles. So now I can go back to South Africa for the first time in 10 years, when in the nineties, I went almost every year. I can also visit new places that have long been on my wish list: notably Australia and, perhaps strange to relate, Bolivia; but

not so strange if one sees it—with its colonial legacy, uneven development, and migratory labour—as a sort of Latin American South Africa.

Most importantly though, retirement is a time to write up all those books that, by virtue of teaching and other aspects of the academic schedule, I have not been able to get to: a frustration increased by the fact that I chose to retire well after it is usual. I use the expression “write up” deliberately, since these are projects I have long had in mind and for which I have accumulated quite massive amounts of material, often, but not necessarily, as an outgrowth of courses (courses on globalization and South Africa come to mind) and of the copious writing of my own that I habitually provided for the students. There is also the prospect of writing things that would hardly have passed muster on a CV, like the book on my adopted home town of Columbus that I have just started. I have always been interested in the history of the area, particularly its development politics, and all the busy clipping of newspapers dating back to the mid-seventies can now bear fruit. All cities have their specificity, if not something that can be understood entirely in terms of the German *Eigenlogik* school of thinking and its claims of irreducible particularity. Rather, in the United States, they are all refractions of more general tendencies in American urban development. But Columbus is not Los Angeles, nor am I Mike Davis, so a more general interest is unlikely.

In a number of respects, retirement is an excellent time to write, particularly those books that take a long time from conception to fruition. Many years ago Torsten Hägerstrand spent a term in the Geography Department at Ohio State, and I remember being mystified, even cynical, at a statement he made during one of his seminars. This was to the effect that there were very few ideas in the world with which, given his age (of seventy), he was not familiar. In part, but not entirely, he intended his claim as a rebuttal to the Marxism that I and my students were urging on him. I was incredulous, but now I see what he was getting at. A professional life can be a long time, and you are, indeed, exposed to a lot of—often highly contrasting—approaches and ideas. You are able, therefore, to place the new, or what is supposed to be new, in a much deeper and broader context, both historical and geographical. The view that there is nothing entirely new under the sun, nor can there be, has a more profound meaning. Length of experience also opens up new connections and contrasts, theoretical and substantive and new stand-points that can be turned to advantage in thinking through ideas and how to commit them to paper. The profuse post-retirement output of someone like Zygmunt Bauman, then, should come as no surprise; or the way Eric Hobsbawm continued writing till very late in what would turn out to be an unusually long life. By no means, though, does this accumulation of knowledge and ideas enjoy a withdrawal from what is going on right

now; which is why I want to continue going to the annual meetings of the AAG—a major stimulus to thinking, in my experience.

Writing in retirement has also been revolutionized by the Internet. I work mainly at home, and the web journals accessible through the library are a wonderful resource—something that the university continues to make available to its retirees, for which I am extremely grateful. There are the myriad other resources available through the Internet—the articles, the blogs, the statistics, the maps—of which I take huge advantage, even though the information can border on overload. And there again, I can order books from the library and have them delivered to my office. As you might gather, I regard the library at the Ohio State University as one of its gems.

To sum up, my retirement so far has not been at all what is suggested by the literal meaning of the word. I definitely need and have a schedule, but it is now mine and not the university's, so research and writing in the morning; an hour playing the saxophone in the afternoon; another hour in the evening when my lower lip has recovered; three times a week for the athletic club at three hours a pop, door to door; and research and writing on those afternoons when I don't work out. I have a sense of urgency, of time disappearing, which concentrates the mind. And I am sure that I am not alone in that.

Selected Publications

- Cox, Kevin R. 1969. The voting decision in a spatial context. In *Progress in geography*, ed. C. Board et al., vol. 1, 81–117. London: Edward Arnold.
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- . *The Politics of Urban and Regional Development and the American Exception*. Syracuse NY: Syracuse University Press. forthcoming 2016.
- Cox, Kevin R., and Mair, A. 1988. Locality and community in the politics of local economic development. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 78(2): 307–25.

Brief Biography

At the start my university career was fundamentally shaped by the spatial–quantitative revolution, which I still regard as the great hinge of geography's development in the twentieth century, even while my use of statistics is now much more explicitly descriptive in character. During

graduate work, and quite by accident, I had become interested in geographic studies of voting behaviour, so spatializing and modelling became central to what I was doing at that time. This would change quite drastically at the beginning of the seventies. Urban conflict became much more central to my interests, and that has persisted down to the present day, though with a more definite focus on the politics of local development. My approach has, from the start, been historical materialist, deepening as I came to understand the basic arguments in a more profound way. During the nineties, and under the influence of students from that country, I became very interested in South Africa, but again with a focus on development and through a Marxist optic. On the other hand, my approach has also been heavily influenced by an immersion in the different currents of thought that human geography has experienced over the last 50 or so years.



FIGURE 2

Returning from my university retirement reception with my wife and daughter.



FIGURE 3

In the Santa Monica
Mountains

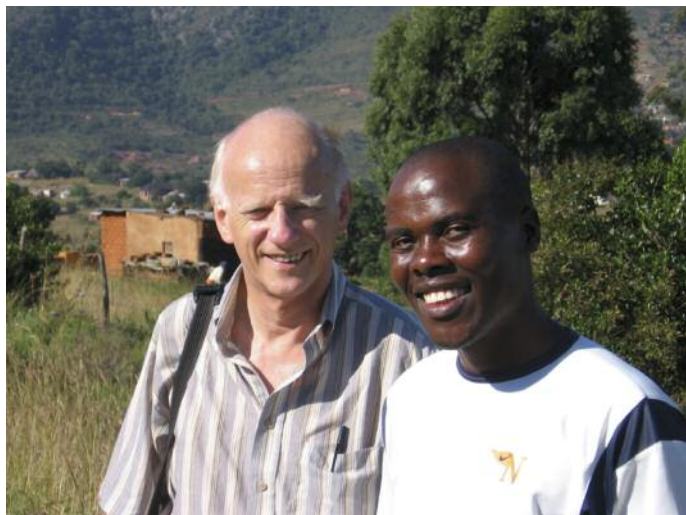


FIGURE 4
In South Africa



FIGURE 1
Practice



FIGURE 5
In the Sierra Nevada

You Can Never Retreat from the World

Gertjan Dijkink

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

e-mail: gertjan@geopol.nl

“Retirement”—the word is a joke, considering what we (Eva, my wife, and me) have experienced since we bade farewell to the university. Do not imagine a life in which personally meaningful activities prevail in contrast to a period that was filled with academic obligations. Many of the subjects that we taught at the university still move us but sometimes literally rather than merely intellectually. After my retirement we took the decision to move to a new neighbourhood, which promised to be a quiet residential quarter across the River Y in Amsterdam at an unbelievably small distance from the city centre. We should have been wiser, for very soon the *New York Times* was rating our neighbourhood (Amsterdam-North) among the three most exciting urban developments in the world, where the new generation would find an ideal residential environment and opportunities for cultural events and creative industries. As in many cases of gentrification, the municipal plans were contradictory because the magic of words had taken the place realistic calculation. Discourse in urban politics had been one of my favourite subjects since the 1980s and now I was in-the-middle-of-it-but-I-didn’t-want-to-write-about-it—first, because nothing had changed very much and second because action was needed. And so I found myself speaking at meetings of the municipal council about limits of the 24-hour economy or (as Eva did) and the maladaptation of the municipal infrastructure to architectural reality. Nothing of this was fulfilment of our deepest personal desires but you cannot retreat from the world.

Fortunately, we always have an escape: a house in Southern France not far from the Mediterranean and the Spanish border. Fringed with vineyards, its atmosphere combines the stability of agricultural life and the cosmopolitanism of wine. Talking with winegrowers about soils, grapes, and wine quality arouses old and deeply buried geographical interests. The creation of a Mediterranean garden has been another pleasant activity that also provides indispensable physical exercise. The garden needed a stand-alone irrigation system that takes its water from the adjoining river and allows control and checking from anywhere in the world. Mastering this agricultural technology, which also relies on the user’s computer skills, was very satisfying but it was not the kind of mental activity that was a meaningful continuation of my previous life. Is that continuity necessary then? No, not at all, and I would not condemn

anybody who sees retirement as a total surrender to exactly such pursuits. In my case, though, there are unfinished academic projects, and I have to admit that I am deeply worried about the world in its current shape. Even in a remote village in France, and today particularly in France, the world sounds out loud and clear. First, because, after so many years, you cannot escape social life, with its aperitifs and the prolonged meals that accompany events like the commemoration of the end of the World War II (8 May) or the French Revolution (14 July). And second, because contemporary (inter)national events also exercise my mind. After the terrorist attacks on the office of *Charlie Hebdo* (7 January 2015), we had to pose for a photograph of the village community, each participant carrying the slogan “*Je suis Charlie*.” You can never retreat from the world.

There is no quicker way to transcend cultural or language barriers than by playing a musical instrument. Mine is the cello, and in France I soon entered into a musical relationship with a neighbour, a German woman, who had spent much of her life in a number of places through the world. The duo grew into a quartet supported by the school of music of Leucate (a Mediterranean coastal town). One link in this network is the Syrian musician and composer Abed Azrié, a resident of Paris who has passed much of his time in our village and currently in Leucate. Apart from music, our conversations during the last four years have inevitably turned to the events in Syria. Abed, whose background is Christian and whose challenge as a composer is a creating a synthesis of Arab and western music, was obviously wary of the goals of the dissident movements. “We know and understand what they are opposed to but not what they aim at,” as his friend, the poet Adonis (Ali Ahmad Sa’id), phrased it. His fears certainly seem to have come true, and there was a French report published in February 2012 by two research institutes, one studying terrorism and the other the intelligence services, that warned against the coming “lebanization” of Syria, and of the concomitant civil wars that would “surpass the killings of the Balkan wars.” I was surprised at that time about the absence of similar views in western media, where support for the rebels often went unchallenged. Moving to another place (particularly another country) means experiencing a completely different structure of information, a very healthy experience.

It is the idea of “territorial shock,” which I started to use as a heuristic device almost ten years ago, that still keeps my mind focused on the things that happen around us and particularly in Europe. The term also provokes mail exchanges with graduate students from different parts of the world who are searching for a new perspective in their doctoral theses and asking for clarification. It is encouraging that young academics intuitively grasp the relevance, for our time and the near future, of a concept that has been hardly discussed in the literature. This is not the

place to discuss its scope and conceptual links; I will just suggest that there are periods in which the spatial (or geopolitical) structure of authority, identity, and control is so gravely disturbed that people completely switch their convictions about the just order of society and the world. We see it all around us, since borders do not seem to protect us anymore from migrants (Europe, United States) or financial liabilities (Europe vs. Greece). The initial political reactions to the turmoil seem to betray everything that was learned from the recent past, and the call for new territorial enclosures (like those the Front National in France champions) is certainly not the answer.

Each time, when we go shopping to the city of Perpignan, we pass (on the D5) a huge field where there are barracks in a state of decay—the Camp de Rivesaltes, originally the military Camp Maréchal Joffre (1935). Its barrenness is accentuated by the semi-desert in which it is laid out, but in the distance, one sees the snow-capped mountains of the Pyrenees, almost at walking distance. These mountains are symbolic in multiple ways because they express both the escape from war of the first (civil) inhabitants of the camp (refugees from the Spanish civil war) and the imprisonment of the next, the Jews and Gypsies during World War II. For some of them, particularly Jewish and German intellectuals, the difficult crossing of the Pyrenees in the opposite direction was the only escape to freedom (and ultimately to America). The Pyrenees is also a famous case in boundary studies: Peter Sahlin has shown how the imposing of a linear boundary in the seventeenth century was not a satisfactory solution. In the 1960s the camp finally became a symbol of decolonization when the *harkis*, Algerian loyalists who served in the French army, had to leave their homeland because they faced terrible reprisals. Now, their French grandchildren are joining Islamic State. With its recently opened museum, the camp is a tragic emblem of the most absolute impact of territorial shocks on people: physical or mental exit. And a few miles further to the east, you reach the Mediterranean shore, where new camps are built, although on the opposite side.

You can, of course, ignore all these symbolic places and even switch off the world news, but this is difficult, particularly for a political geographer. If someone asks, “What are you doing?” the most obvious answer is to mention some type of physical activity like gardening, making music, or caring for other people, but most of the time, you are still trying to make sense of the world and to put it into words—even although fewer people than in the past are urging you to come up with a publication.

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Sahlins, P. 1989. *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*.

Selected Publications

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- Dijkink, G. 1996. *National identity and geopolitical visions: Maps of pride and pain*. London: Routledge.
- . 2006. When geopolitics and religion fuse: A historical perspective. *Geopolitics* 11(2): 192–208.
- . 2010. Territorial shock: Toward a theory of change. *L'Espace Politique* 12(3): 1781. <https://espacepolitique.revues.org/1781>.

Biographical Note

How human ideas (perceptions, ideology, belief, discourse, etc.) shape the world has been a continuous thread in my life and work as a geographer. It started on the micro scale, with a fascinating project on the development of urban knowledge in children, co-directed with a psychologist (Free University Amsterdam, 1975–77). Later on, I switched to “organizational knowledge” in cases like the processing of information about urban ecology and crime in the Amsterdam Police Department (PhD thesis, 1987). It was a small step to the discourse of municipal politicians in urban development programs, which became my expertise in the research program on urban governance at the Department of Geography of the University of Amsterdam, where I was appointed Associate Professor of Political Geography in 1987. State formation, another established topic in research and teaching at this department, set me on the track of exploring the link between national identity and geopolitical visions. The influence of events in the post-Soviet space and the Middle East cannot be denied of course. That was the first time that I felt an obligation to engage with certain (geopolitical) problems, somewhat in defiance of the research priorities suggested by our academic institutions.



FIGURE 4
Biking in the Corbières vineyards



FIGURE 1
Neighbourhood in Amsterdam
asks for action



FIGURE 3
Working on walls



FIGURE 2
Sometimes it is heavy

Thoughts of a Semi-Retired Physical and Quantitative Geographer

Ian S. Evans

Durham University, U.K and University of Suceava, Romania

E-mail: i.s.evans@durham.ac.uk

Retiring academics split between two camps: those who find other projects and are relieved to be out of the intellectual race, and those who feel they have invested so much in their field over the last 40 years or so that they continue their academic endeavours. I am among the latter and seem to be following the bad example of Henry Osmaston, who became an ‘old man in a hurry’ and probably published more after his retirement than when he worked at Bristol University. A mountain hut in the Ruwenzori (Uganda) is named after him and his work on glaciers is still widely cited.

I retired at the age of 65 in 2008 and retained a desk in Durham’s Geography Department for four-and-a-half years, eventually losing out to the pressures of departmental expansion but still going in for seminars and discussion groups and having a number of joint publications with colleagues. On my retirement a small skip was filled with committee papers etcetera, new bookcases were installed in the last few corners of our house, and I tried to give away papers on areas where I had taught but had no plans to publish: there were few takers. Loss of departmental bookshelves in 2013 caused further pressures, relieved by shelves and map chests in the garage, which is cold but not too damp. Of course, a lot of what I retain there is of no lasting value, but I want to glance through it a final time before throwing it out.

My generation straddles the analogue-to-digital cusp. Some contemporaries never made the transition to the online world of computing. I had the advantage of having been a computer user since 1967 and made the necessary transitions to new systems every few years. That does not mean I am up-to-date: I now have a tablet but (so far) resist having a smart phone. But the cusp does mean I have a lot of papers as well as a lot of computer files, so sometimes I feel more like a librarian than an information generator. 1995 used to be a ‘year zero,’ when most journal publishers went online: often, back issues have now been scanned, but I have the feeling that students (and even researchers) rarely look at anything published before that watershed. The advantage of having continued to publish into the new age is that it makes a new generation aware of your work and opens up possibilities for collaboration.

In the year before retirement, like many other universities, Durham provides a two-day retirement advice workshop. In my case, the financial advice was not very relevant, as the more important decisions would have had to be taken ten or more years earlier. Anyway, like “economic expert,” the term “financial expert” was once again proven to be an oxymoron by the 2008 financial crisis. The good advice was that you need new projects and that there are many ways of volunteering to help society. Many organizations would grind to a halt without the help of the active recently retired. I found that I was getting numerous requests to review research papers and proposals, and as that made use of my acquired skills it seemed the best way to make an unpaid contribution to society—well, to academia and the quality of published material—rather than sitting on committees or helping in charity shops. It did, however, get out of hand, and at sixteen papers a year I found it was slowing down my own writing and providing too many deadlines—when one hoped (unrealistically) that retirement would bring an end to deadlines. Of course, there are advantages in seeing exciting new work early—it helps in keeping up-to-date with the literature. But I am now declining invitations to review unless they relate closely to my own writing plans or build upon my previous publications.

The good news financially is that, after putting up with low academic salaries throughout your career, the pension scheme is (was) good enough that there is no reduction in living standards on retirement. Indeed, there should be enough money to make good use of the new flexibility in relation to time—to travel. My wife and I have always travelled a lot, often mixing business with pleasure, but retirement means you can choose when to travel for pleasure—months like May, June, and October, hectic times in British universities, are the optimum months for travel to many places in terms of weather and prices. So one priority has been to visit many parts of the world we had previously missed, such as China, New Zealand, Ukraine, and Peru.

Conferences are more expensive than leisure travel and, as university and most other support is no longer available, one has to be very selective in terms of location and cost. Invitations that make significant contributions to travel and accommodation costs are very welcome, and I have been fortunate enough to have had half a dozen. Halved registration fees, as from the International Glaciological Society, are also welcome and indeed necessary.

A second priority is to keep researching and writing, completing long-term projects and being tempted by new ones, to keep the “grey matter” active. My geomorphology research does not depend on laboratories or sophisticated equipment—just a computer, travel possibilities, and access to online journals. For someone who has always worked with

air photos, Google Earth has been an unbelievable benefit. I reckon on working approximately half-time (including reviewing), and so far this has not been enough to round off my work on the British Columbia Coast Mountains, about which I have accumulated a huge amount of information over the years. It is easier to write in review mode, as one can provide perspective and a temporal depth of knowledge of the literature that youngsters might find difficult to acquire. But I also have a lot of measurements to analyse, and I still hope to get them published before my laborious methods seem out-of-date (as it is increasingly possible to automate and process huge data sets).

Actually, it has been easier for me to publish in recent years, after a more difficult spell in the early 1990s. Although rather a slow writer, and frequent reviser, I published 99 papers before retirement and 31 since. There has been a revival of interest in glacial cirques, especially in relation to the ‘buzzsaw hypothesis’ of glacial erosion of mountains. My interest in glacial distribution has developed into study of glacier change. Also geomorphometry from digital elevation models has become a routine part of geomorphology, and for specialists, there are biennial conferences on geomorphometry.

Much of my recent publishing activity has been in cooperation with east-central Europeans. Since retiring I have written five joint papers with Jozef Minár of Bratislava, Slovakia; three with Marcel Mîndrescu of Suceava, Romania; and two with Ovidiu Csillik and Lucian Drăguț of Timișoara, Romania. I find it important to open up the literature to being fully international, and I have been very happy to strengthen ties across what used to be the “iron curtain.” Incidentally, it is now easier to cross borders in east-central Europe (within the EU) than to re-enter Britain or the United States. I have also given a number of lectures (and practicals) to MSc students in Suceava.

Other collaborations have been with Durham colleagues (Nick Cox, Chris Stokes and Dave Evans) and with fellow-retiree David Jarman.

At school I was never a sporty type and not enthusiastic about the Latin motto “*mens sana in corpore sano*.” The need to stay healthy and not too overweight becomes more obvious as you get older, and “healthy mind in healthy body” now makes a lot more sense. I do not walk as much as some friends (who do one or two half-day walks each week) but I do manage some, and sometimes go jogging (at slowly declining speeds). Pressures on time have prevented my driving over to walk in the Lake District mountains whenever the weather is fine. But the Durham area (I live a 15-minute drive south of the city) is well placed for day-trip access to four national parks (Northumberland, North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales, and Lake District), the North Pennines AONB and a fine coastline (restored in Durham from the ravages of coal mining). The scenery in

central and east Durham might also be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) if it were in southern England—it compares favourably with the Chilterns. I can still find new routes on country footpaths only a few kilometres away from home.

For years I have managed a week's skiing in the Alps, covering different resorts each time and enjoying the “proximal sensing” of these very accessible mountains. My ability plateaued years ago: I can still manage the most difficult slopes, but not deep snow. Physical geographers have some advantage in terms of the need to be active outdoors (although I do have a few even fitter human geography colleagues), and in 2014 I spent my fourteenth summer in British Columbia, wilderness camping in the Coast Mountains probably for the last time. Reaching summits is now less important, and I have been happy to reach the bottom, rather than the top, of Annapurna (1995, with my wife) and Everest (2011, with Marcel Mindrescu).

An active social life is said to be good for longevity. Our relatives are some hours drive away in Wirral, London, and Surrey, so we see them all too occasionally. In Durham we have good friends and participate in some events in Trevelyan and Van Mildert Colleges and in visits organized by the newish D. U. Retired Staff Association and the Northeast Branch of St Catharine's College (Cambridge) Society. There are more opportunities, but that is about as much as we can manage. Likewise, we occasionally go to cultural activities (theatre, concerts, and exhibitions) but there are far more in Newcastle and Durham than we have time for. Reading the *Guardian* takes a lot of time; I listen to Radio 4 and watch documentaries, news, and football on TV, while avoiding commercials and celebrity and popular culture.

Another priority, one that must come first, is keeping one's spouse or partner happy, if one is fortunate enough to have one. This means being available for odd jobs about the house and garden; although I confess to being a most reluctant gardener—it seems to be too much of a “fighting against nature” occupation. I take on the less skilled jobs in the kitchen. I keep hoping that we have done everything we can to the house, but I am continually disappointed. Years ago we considered moving to sunnier climes on retirement, but as simply moving out of the Department was painful enough, the thought of any further move with all our *impedimenta* seems unattractive and unlikely. Why are people so restless that as soon as they have modified their home into the nest they are comfortable in, they up and move? Although, as a rationalist, I do not share my wife's religious interests, we are fortunate in sharing a love for travel and walking.

So clearly I have no cause to be a “grumpy old man.” There is no difficulty in filling life with interesting things: It is all too short. How can anyone be bored? The flexibility of retirement is something to look

forward to: If you still have deadlines, it is because of your own choices. Some occupations need earlier retirement, but I feel that, if academics are in good health, they can continue contributing full-time until 70 years old, and part-time for another 5 years or so. I do not know when I will give up academic activity.

Selected Publications

My most cited papers are two early papers on geomorphometry, using Digital Elevation Models:

Evans, I. S. 1972. General geomorphometry, derivatives of altitude, and descriptive statistics. In *Spatial analysis in geomorphology*, ed. R. J. Chorley, 17–90. London: Methuen.

———. 1980. An integrated system of terrain analysis and slope mapping. *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie, N.F. (Supplementband)* 36: 274–295.

although I have spent more time on glacial topics in research such as

Evans, I. S., and Cox, N. J. 1995. The form of glacial cirques in the English Lake District, Cumbria. *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie, N.F.* 39:175–202.

Evans, I. S. 2006. Local aspect asymmetry of mountain glaciation: A global survey of consistency of favoured directions for glacier numbers and altitudes. *Geomorphology* 73(1–2): 166–84.

as well as publishing on rock weathering and on cartography, and analysing census data:

Clarke, J. I., Dewdney, J. C., Evans, I. S., Rhind, D. W., Visvalingam, M., and Denham, C. 1980. *People in Britain: A census atlas*. London: HMSO for O.P.C.S. 132 pp.

Brief Biography

After reading Geography at Cambridge 1961–64 I completed an MS in Geology at Yale, and a Cambridge PhD (1974) on “The geomorphometry and asymmetry of glaciated mountains,” supervised by R. J. Chorley. From 1968 to 1970 I worked on the automation of cartography, at the NERC/RCA Experimental Cartography Unit, and from 1970 to 2008 I lectured in Geography at Durham University, retiring as Emeritus Reader.

One line of research provided a unified and simplified approach to the analysis of the land surface, based on surface derivatives and statistical moment measures using local quadratics; my distinction between specific and general geomorphometry was widely accepted. I demonstrated the scale-specificity of many landforms, the complexity of the land surface, and the allometric development of glacial cirques. My techniques for the definition and measurement of glacial cirques have been widely adopted. Analysis of the World Glacier Inventory led to a model for world variations in the degree of local glacier asymmetry. The

favoured aspects (azimuths) of glaciers and of cirques were related to climatic and topographic factors. Publications have dealt with Britain, British Columbia, the Alps, the Arctic, Romania, and the world as a whole. I also published on cartography, census data analysis and mapping, and data analysis in Geography.

My teaching covered a wide range of geomorphology, data analysis and even regional geography and included numerous field courses. I published 130 scientific papers and chapters, reviewed for over 50 journals, and supervised 12 Durham PhD theses.

On retirement, I was made an Honorary Member of the Quaternary Research Association and the Japanese Geomorphological Union. In 2012 I was awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Suceava, Romania, where I am an Associated Professor. I served as Chairman of the British Geomorphological Research Group 1996–97 and of the International Society for Geomorphometry 2009–11. In 2013 I received a Silver Medal from the University of Isfahan and a Life Achievement Award from the International Society for Geomorphometry.



FIGURE 1

Ian with Simon Hutchinson and Marcel Mîndrescu in Plzeň, Czech Republic, March 2015



FIGURE 2

Ian and Marta; Lower Manhattan from Liberty I., U.S., October 2015

FIGURE 3
Ian lecturing at a geological remote
sensing conference, Berlin, December
2013; photo courtesy of Jason Manning



FIGURE 4
Ian on Fox Glacier, New Zealand, January 2013

Clearly I Remain a Geographer for Life

Blair Fitzharris

University of Otago, New Zealand

E-mail: blair.fitzharris@otago.ac.nz

Two weeks ago I loaded my car with 12 banana boxes of text books and long runs of scientific journals (some dating back to the 1950s) and drove them to my university. My wife noted that I had been retired 12 years and it was now about time my office was “cleaned out of all that old stuff.” After a few months of badgering I realized she was right (as usual). On reflection, I hardly referred to them anymore, and they needed to go to a good home. And that they did. Some went to younger colleagues, others to graduate students, and a few very special and rare items to the university library.

The journey took four hours because, on my retirement, we decided not to live in Dunedin, my university town, but in Queenstown. This is an extremely scenic, iconic tourist town, surrounded by mountains and on a bay of a large glacial finger lake (see Figure 1). A big decision. Dunedin had been our home for 32 years and is a cultural and intellectual place with great views, beaches, and a harbour. However, its weather is rather dull and cloudy. So we decided that retirement meant moving inland to sunnier Central Otago, breaking away from university life and starting afresh. The region, at latitude 45°S, has long been part of our lives—our *tūrangawaewae*. This is a Māori term referring to “a place where one stands” and where one feels especially empowered and connected. It has the most distinctive landscape of New Zealand and is blessed with a semi-continental climate, with marked seasons and low rainfall. We live surrounded by the stunning mountain, river, and lake landscapes of “Middle Earth” as depicted in the film trilogy “Lord of the Rings.” The wine and food of the region are not too bad either.

But we have two other places to call home. As winter approaches, we make an annual migration to Noosa, at latitude 26°S and part of the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, Australia. This has a superb surf beach in a subtropical climate. It is somewhat of an arty place that prides itself on quality restaurants, strict height restrictions on buildings, and a strong environmental ethic. The local farmers’ market sells a wide variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables that range from pineapples to avocados to macadamia nuts. Dress code is relaxed—that is, shorts, t-shirt, and sandals. Our apartment has direct access to a large tidal lagoon, where I paddle a canoe among the waterways, try to catch fish,

and observe the abundant bird life. The original retirement plan was to live in Noosa from April to October and then migrate back to Queenstown for the austral summer. We climatologists know a lot about optimizing weather experience.

However, life is full of surprises. We had four of them just as I retired. These came in the form of grandchildren, two in Sydney, Australia and two south of Oxford in the United Kingdom. They are such a delight that we feel obliged to visit them all regularly. Consequently, we have become globe trotters, circumnavigating the world on an annual basis.

This year we are planning seven weeks based in what seems to have become a third home—Phuket in Thailand—and also a visit to Cambodia and Malaysia. Phuket is a relaxed tropical island at latitude 8°N. Influenced by the southwest monsoon, it provides yet another array of fine food. Our first visit was immediately after the catastrophic Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, and the area proffers interesting insights into mega-hazards, southeast Asian culture, and politics. After a career studying climate change, the impact of global warming on ASEAN countries still titillates my intellectual interest. In particular, I find myself researching likely impacts on the Mekong, one of the great rivers of the world and important to millions of people. I sense a paper coming on! This August, we intend to take a multi-day boat trip down this mighty water way, something we did two years ago. That trip remains one of our retirement highlights (see Figure 2).

How does one retire after four decades of university study? This was a question which pre-occupied me during my fifties. After seeking advice from friends and colleagues, I was offered several extreme options. The first was to emulate an English friend, who on the date of his retirement placed all his notes, research papers, and texts into several wheelbarrows. He dumped them in a large pile in the middle of a field and set fire to the lot. He then opened a fine bottle of red wine, which he proceeded to consume with a wide smile and a sparkle in his eye. His life was to begin anew. That seemed a bit drastic for my taste—I knew so much about my field and had so many international contacts that I could not bring myself to see it all go up in flames.

The second option was to research even harder with my newly found free time. Fortunately, my wife gave me a book about an American academic who did just that. After retirement she devoted six full years to compiling a detailed monograph about the written works of some obscure German author from the nineteenth century. By the end, it became an obsessive trial and consumed too much of her remaining years. She regretted that more retirement time had not been devoted to her husband, her grandchildren, and herself.

Like most retired academics, I took a middle road. More time for family, relaxation, pleasure, and travel, mixed with occasional forays into research. The first three years after I left the university were like one elongated sabbatical leave. I had a contract to be a Convening Lead Author for the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). So, I read the latest research papers, summarized and assessed their main findings, visited colleagues in research laboratories and universities, and attended frequent workshops and plenary meetings, often in far-flung places of the world. The finished chapter was published in 2007. Retirement meant that I no longer needed to rush back to the university for teaching and administrative duties, so such trips allowed me to linger with family (see Figure 3).

I also set up a consulting company to advise on climate management related to resource development. Contracts arrived for work in New Zealand, Australia, the Cook Islands, and Canada. Commissioned reports were prepared on hydro-electricity schemes, the snow hydrology of key catchments of economic importance, irrigation projects, dust deposition around gold mines, and the vulnerability of particular cities to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise; I also helped produce maps of topo climates for regional councils. Some were easy to write, others more challenging, but I felt I was able to apply the deep experience of a long academic career to practical ends.

After a few years my wife pointed out that I seemed to be working rather hard for a retired person (again she was right). So I slackened off. On our antipodean journeys we are now stopping over longer in countries we enjoy. Highlights have been extended visits to Namibia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, and Laos. Invited to play another major role in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, which was published in 2013, I declined, but took on the lesser task of Review Editor. Some ongoing research stutters along, but at a leisurely pace. The most important is a collaborative assessment of ice volume loss from the over 3 000 glaciers of the Southern Alps. I now only accept consultancy contracts if they are very interesting and fit within our travel plans. My wife and grandchildren appreciate the enhanced time I am spending with them.

However, I now realize that I am starting to forget stuff I once knew well. I am also conscious that, since I no longer diligently peruse the scientific journals or interact with graduate students, there are new findings and approaches I am now only vaguely aware of. As a keen follower of sport, especially tennis, cricket, and rugby (I am a Life Member of the Otago University Rugby Football Club, which is famous for producing more international All Blacks than any other in New Zealand), I know well that top-class athletes need to keep working hard to stay top of their game. Academics need to do the same. As retirement progresses, so also

do we lose what we once had. The trick is to retain some knowledge and skill, but not at the risk of being a boring old professor who has lost touch. Just as former athletes sometimes compete in “Golden Oldies” tournaments, so too can retired academics convene the odd seminar, guide graduate students, help out with post-conference field excursions, and offer talks to U3A and service clubs. Pretending that we remain top of our academic game is delusional.

I find that there is a growing appetite among lay people for informed discussion about the real nature of climate change. They are often bewildered by conflicting opinions and want to know what is really happening. Consequently, I am increasingly giving invited talks on the reality and impacts of climate change or on specific sectors of the economy such as agriculture or water resources. And people seem to want credible information about future sea-level rise and what coastal communities can do to adapt. Last week I spoke to the local wine growers association about the role of local and topo climates and climate change in grape production. They seemed to appreciate it, because they paid me generously, in kind!

I am a regular attendee and occasional speaker at the very active Queenstown branch of U3A. Last week’s talk was given by a Seattle physician about new advances in cardiology. This week Dr Jock Phillips, a distinguished historian, will discuss “Changes to NZ society and values since 1940.” Most Thursdays, I try to join the Wakatipu Walkers. They have no fees or subscriptions, but are very well organized (check out their website) and hike a different trail every week over amazingly diverse terrain and climatic zones (see Figure 4). Next summer, I am threatening to join the lawn bowls club. In this way, I can meet more local residents and enjoy their comradery at a Victorian-age club house in an absolutely gorgeous setting within the Queenstown Botanic Gardens. I can walk there in 10 minutes without crossing a road or seeing a car. Bliss.

Social life can be hectic. Today is Friday, so at 5 pm I go to a real kiwi pub for a couple of hours to trade banter with a group of mates, none of whom are academics. My wife will do likewise at an upmarket bar for ladies, but not before she spends the day playing bridge. Thereafter, both groups will join up for dinner at a local restaurant, perhaps followed by a digestive at our place. We live on the edge of the CBD, so all this can be done on foot. Last week, we were invited to dinner at two amazing homes, both with stunning views. One host is a financial high flyer, who seems to value my world perspective. The other is my former GP, now retired. His daughter is an ex-student, now Professor of Geography in the United Kingdom. We are graced with a wide array of interesting professional and international people who have chosen to live in the Queenstown community.

Late last year I was asked to help out with an international Agrifood Conference held in Queenstown, mainly with an excursion to the nearby vineyards. Before long, I was field-trip leader. Next, I was invited to present a paper. In the end, I attended the whole conference, including all social functions. In January the New Zealand Geographical Society held its conference at my old university. Once again I was invited to help out with a field excursion and ended up presenting not one, but two papers. In a rush of blood, and to the horror of some of my physical geography colleagues, who think I have crossed over to the dark side, I spoke about “Three international tourist towns—present and future change.” My post-retirement travel experiences living in Queenstown, Noosa, and Phuket sparked a recall of my wider geographic training and a nascent need to formalize, structure, and comment on what I was observing.

Clearly I remain a geographer for life.

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Brief Biography

Blair Fitzharris is a climatologist and former Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. After completing an Honours degree at the University of Otago, he studied for an MA and PhD at the University of British Columbia, Canada, where he was a Commonwealth Scholar. He taught at Otago for 32 years and retired as Emeritus Professor of Geography. He undertook scientific research on climatology at research laboratories and geography departments in Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Australia. He has written over 150 research publications on geography and climate matters. As a four-time Convening Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he is very familiar with issues arising from global warming. He has been a consultant for large corporations on climate matters and resource development. He served on several committees of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the International Geographic Union, is a former President of the Meteorological Society of New Zealand and former Chair of the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council.



FIGURE 1

Getting ready for lunch at our Queenstown, New Zealand home. I am barbequing the Southland lamb, the Central Otago pinot noir is opened, and my wife has baked an apricot pie from local fruit. The view will aid the digestion. The snow is a reminder that winter is not far away and it is time to migrate to Noosa (subtropics) and then Phuket (tropics) for the winter.



FIGURE 2

With my wife Joanna. We are travelling for several days down the Mekong River by long boat and are near the juxtaposition of the borders of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. It is the southwest monsoon, so this mighty river is in flood (flow estimated at 10 000 m³/sec). The source of the Mekong is the snow and glaciers of the mountains of western China and Tibet and that has piqued my curiosity.



FIGURE 3

Retirement means we can visit far-flung family. I am enjoying lunch in the Alsace, France, with my daughter Sarah. She is a dentist in the United Kingdom, is fluent in French, and knows a lot about wine. All very useful!



FIGURE 4

With the Wakatipu Walking Group. Start of this walk is less than an hour's drive from our Queenstown home. Trying to keep fit while doing a bit of geography. Could be worse.

Still Searching

Peter Holland

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

E-mail: pgh@geography.otago.ac.nz

Medical doctor, minister of religion, or high school teacher? Almost from when I began thinking about what I wanted to do after leaving high school, they were the only occupations I considered, and it was not until I was awarded a grant for five years of university study followed by a year of training for high school teaching that I felt able to decide among them.

High school had been interesting, but university was a joy. At the University of Canterbury I studied geography as the major subject for the BSc, together with four cognate subjects: botany, chemistry, geology and mathematics. For three years I was challenged to master the basics of each subject, and it was not until I completed the MSc, papers and thesis, in geography that I began to understand the chief functions of tertiary study: to make discoveries, evaluate knowledge, and deepen public awareness of the ideas and objects that shape our nature and our lives. The next three-and-a-half years spent at the Australian National University in Canberra as a candidate for the PhD opened my eyes to formal and more powerful ways of thinking about science and scientific research and left me with an abiding love of rational inquiry with the aid of models, testable hypotheses, and experiments (Holland and Steyn 1975). My next move was to McGill University in Montreal, and the years I spent in Canada were a revelation to me. I had read about but had not seen tracts of deciduous forest vegetation until I crossed the equator (Holland 1971), and I quickly became interested in the re-establishment of what had been the northern hardwood biome after the last of the Pleistocene ice sheets in eastern North America melted and the climate grew warmer (Holland 1980). Since 1971 I have worked for two years in Kenya and three in South Africa, and I grew to love African people and environments. During several long visits to Cape Town I got to know members of the Muslim community and with their gentle encouragement was able to see a different city. Too many of them have since died, but I still correspond with those who survive.

As an academic, I have never felt comfortable working in one small part of geography, which may be the legacy of having always been an avid reader, with wide interests and a good memory, who enjoyed learning about research in the earth and biological sciences, astronomy, and cosmology. Even though the focus of my research has shifted since grad-

uation, abstract ecological ideas and models continue to interest me, and I like discovering underlying patterns and solving research problems.

In the last decade of my formal career and for the ten years that followed I was invited to serve on national committees charged with proposing a unified suite of tertiary educational qualifications for New Zealand, approving course proposals from tertiary institutions, and auditing performance against agreed standards. That work gave me a taste for policy development and quality assurance. Even though those years were a roller-coaster ride, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to participate in the development of higher-education policy in this country. Towards the end of my formal career and since retirement I have received invitations to talk to community groups about tertiary-education policy and my own research and have encountered an unexpected depth of interest among members of the general public in topics rooted in lectures that the late Professor Murray McCaskill gave while I was a student at the University of Canterbury. Fifty years on, and I am still trying to understand what drove European settlers as they flooded the new land with plants and animals, many of which quickly out-stayed their welcome and became pests in gardens and fields, alongside roads and tracks, and in remnants of native ecosystems.

These days there is considerable popular and academic interest in “wild” and early colonial New Zealand, and I have enjoyed having something to say to individuals with a foot in each of those camps. To that end, I am closely involved with a group interested in the conservation of historic cemeteries: restoration and re-standing of damaged grave stones, clearance of volunteer plant growth on and around graves, and establishment of memorials to individuals who shaped our landscape and society. Many older New Zealanders are fascinated by this small country’s historical development and enjoy learning about the interesting, sometime notorious, characters who modified the rural landscape in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Because organized European settlement began about 175 years ago, a good number of artefacts still remain extant. Many timber structures erected in the second half of the nineteenth century, however, were too lightly built to last or were destroyed in fires, and as the Christchurch earthquakes have shown us, even apparently solid brick and stone buildings may not remain standing after a major earth tremor. Across rural New Zealand, the physical traces of former times are often found in the collections of plants that grow alongside roads and tracks or in old fields, such as the scattered hollow squares of *Cupressus macrocarpa* trees that mark the boundaries of a small part of the property on which a settler’s flimsy wooden cottage once stood. Such items, as well as letters, drawings and paintings, work diaries,

period photographs, articles in newspapers and magazines, and doggerel and songs tell us much about a world that had almost disappeared by the mid-twentieth century but that influenced the form and composition of the landscape as we know it today.

My academic career progressed in normal as well as unusual ways, and towards the end I experienced difficulty balancing the competing demands of university and inter-university policy making, day-to-day administration, student supervision, teaching, and my own research. While I look back with pleasure on almost fifteen years as an academic auditor, before my formal retirement I was unable to schedule blocks of time for field, laboratory, and archival work—activities that I have always preferred to undertake myself rather than hire someone to do them for me. For seven years after I retired the University of Otago generously allowed me to progressively close down a complicated career in teaching, research supervision, and administration. This helped me resuscitate my research interests, come to grips again with several literatures, and return to my old love of problem-solving in an environmental setting. Concurrently, I was privileged to advise several senior students (Beal, Orwin, and Holland 2011; Orwin, Guggenmos, and Holland 2010; Sims, Cox, Fitzsimons, and Holland 2015). whose research supervisors were in e-mail contact but temporarily out of the country on sabbatical leave. That experience helped me think about problem-solving in several distinctive scientific domains and was good preparation for the sort of retirement I wanted.

Since 2006 I have published a book (Holland 2013), a handful of book chapters, and a dozen articles and am currently researching another book and three articles. I have also been able to broaden the scope of my activities by contributing to University for the Third Age courses as well as giving lectures to groups interested in the history of their respective areas of study. The topics have included the plants that settlers used to feed their sheep and cattle and decorate their homesteads and the often stern challenges that the ill-housed, ill-clothed, and ill-equipped European settlers faced at times of stormy weather. More recently, I have become interested in how rabbits and small birds introduced by the settlers were able to become such serious pests in the drier lands of New Zealand (Holland and Mager 2015). I have also spoken on radio, addressed groups of interested citizens, and presented at conferences, all of which activities have let me do my bit towards increasing public understanding about the changing human environments of southern New Zealand.

Music is a long-standing interest, and as a high school student, I began to collect orchestral scores and recordings. I particularly enjoy

music of the twentieth century, although I have recently discovered the joys of music by Antonio Vivaldi, George Frederic Handel, and Franz Joseph Haydn. Despite its small size, Dunedin is a good city for people who like the arts. It has a semi-professional orchestra, and the university hosts numerous recitals, concerts, and theatre productions. There are several large and small choral groups and a professional and several amateur theatre companies. Most years there are two or three rather grand musical theatre productions, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Royal New Zealand Ballet Company are frequent visitors, and the Chamber Music Society offers six to eight concerts. In retirement, I have enjoyed rediscovering music by listening to recordings and attending performances of recently composed orchestral music as well as pieces for smaller groups and soloists.

For the past decade I have been barred from field work by a condition that restricts mobility on irregular surfaces. This has forced a shift from the field-based research of earlier years to something as mentally challenging but less physically demanding. Despite this, I try to keep up with the literatures of biogeography and plant ecology—for many years I was associate editor of the *Journal of Biogeography*—and still think of myself as a biogeographer/ecologist. I serve on the committee of the Friends of the Hocken Collections, the major archive for historical documents in Southern New Zealand and the locus of my research, enjoy attending subject conferences and research workshops, retain a passion for science, and enjoy writing articles for publication with students whose research I helped direct. I still examine theses, review recently published books, and act as a referee for manuscripts submitted for publication in peer-refereed serials, but more than anything else I feel a responsibility for training my successor.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to staff of the Hocken Collections / Te Uare Taoka o Hākena of the University of Otago for facilitating my research since retirement and allowing Chris Garden to take photographs of me in the open and archival areas.

Selected Publications

The following publications (also cited in text) are indications of the research I have done over the past 40 years and of what I am currently involved with.

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Brief Biography

I was born and raised in South Canterbury, New Zealand, studied at the University of Canterbury (BSc and MSc) in Christchurch and then at the Australian National University (PhD) in Canberra, before taking up an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at McGill University in Montreal. In the 1970s I was seconded to the University of Nairobi for two years and later spent 12 months on sabbatical leave, as well as several shorter periods of research leave, at the University of Cape Town. I returned to Christchurch in late 1979 and spent 20 months there and a further 6 months in Cape Town before being appointed Professor of Geography at the University of Otago, where I remained until my formal retirement in 2004. Since then, I have taught modules in undergraduate classes, supervised research students, been active as an academic auditor and departmental reviewer, served as President of the New Zealand Geographical Society, and investigated relationships between European settlers and the land in southern New Zealand.

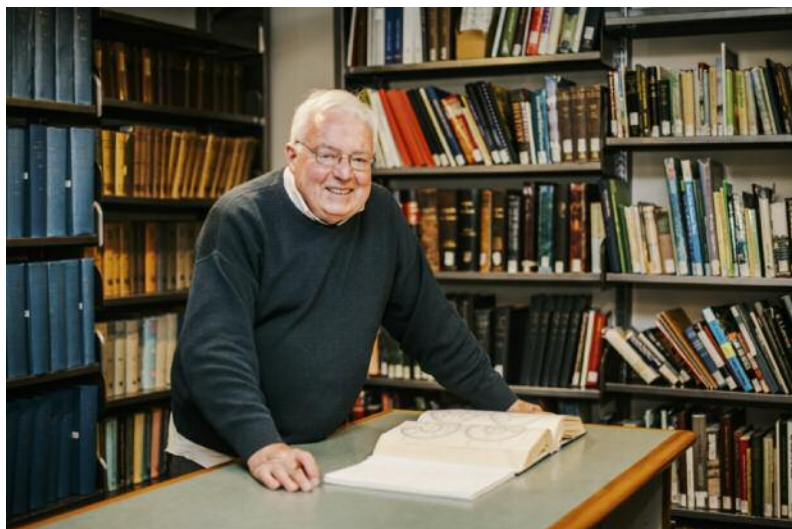


FIGURE 1 & 2

Peter Holland in Kocken Collection, University of Otago

Balancing the Scales: Learning to Be a Retired Geographer at the Edge of the World

Roy Jones

Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

E-mail: R.Jones@curtin.edu.au

After emigrating from the United Kingdom in 1970, I worked for 42 years at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) in Perth. This institution became Curtin University of Technology in 1987 and Curtin University in 2010. In the four years since I retired, I have, almost daily, walked my dog around the old (in Western Australian terms—a little over 100 years) inner suburb in which I live. Most weeks, I catch up with a long-term colleague, himself on the cusp of retirement, for a coffee in a pavement café in the historic port city of Fremantle. On roughly a monthly basis, I attend the council meetings of the Wadjuk Boodja Gateway Aboriginal Corporation (WBGAC) of which I am a non-member director (only Indigenous persons with a connection to the Wadjuk group of the Noongar Aboriginal nation can be corporation members). Over the course of a typical year, I spend part of my summer (December–February) working with a couple of school teachers to set the Western Australian Year 12 (university entrance) Geography examination and part of the succeeding November working with the larger group of teachers who then mark the scripts. In the mild but wet local winter, I normally travel to the northern hemisphere to reconnect with friends and family, to attend socially and intellectually congenial conferences and to collaborate with colleagues on research tasks.

In all of these temporal and spatial scales, life and geography remain inextricably mixed for me. On my dog walks, I observe and, on occasion, record a locality that was once the rural–urban fringe of a small and remote colonial outpost and is now becoming an upwardly mobile inner district of a major city (Jones, Miller and Middle 2015). Fremantle is not only the centre where my children went, and now my grandchildren go, to school and where I shop, eat, drink, and support the local football team. Ever since it was transformed by Australia's defence there, in 1986–87, of the America's Cup, I have been studying and writing about the processes and implications of Fremantle's reinvention (Jones 2007). Shortly thereafter, I began researching Indigenous heritage issues, following the occupation of a disused brewery in Perth by an Aboriginal group for whom this was a significant, indeed a sacred, site (Jones 1997). However, my association with WBGAC mainly results from my wife's

career as an anthropologist specializing in Indigenous issues and her many contacts in the Perth Noongar community also because the former WBGAC chair was her honours student and the current chair was my undergraduate student. In an isolated and, until recently, fairly small city such as Perth, the professional and personal aspects of one's "everyday life" inevitably intersect.

Several of the teachers with whom I have set Year 12 examinations and many of those who mark them, not to mention the recently retired teacher with whom I co-wrote a Year 11 Geography text book (Jones and Snell 2014), are also my ex-students. Given Western Australia's rapid population growth—from c. 1 million to over 2.5 million over the last half century—there has been a small and unsteady influx of geographers, interstate and overseas (including myself), but we remain thin on the ground. I was the second geographer appointed to WAIT in 1970, and at that time, even the geographers at the University of Western Australia could be counted on two hands. Today, Perth has a few dozen academic geographers and a few hundred geography teachers, all separated from their interstate counterparts by a desert and several thousand kilometres.

This has produced close relationships within the discipline. In particular, I owe a great debt to the Nostrodamus Club. This is a small group of geographers from Curtin, Edith Cowan University, and the University of Western Australia who, for over 20 years, have met regularly to eat, talk, and make predictions (on everything from inflation and exchange rates to sporting results, royal scandals, and notable deaths). This institution began when we were all in mid-career, has continued into our retirements, and has provided—and hopefully will continue to provide—us all with valuable friendship and support through a range of work-related and personal vicissitudes.

However, a corollary of Perth's isolation and of the small size of its geographical community is that interdisciplinary and "town and gown" connections are also important for us, both during and after we leave formal academic employment. Over the course of my career, my research interests moved increasingly into the areas of heritage, tourism, and recreation (Jones and Birdsall-Jones 2008; Jones 2009; Jones and Selwood 2012). When I was employed and also in retirement, this has been reflected in my interdisciplinary contacts. Earlier this year, I attended the graduation of what I expect to be my last PhD student with a first degree in Geography. Nevertheless, I am still supervising PhD students with first degrees in Sociology, History, Cultural Studies, and Architecture, in all cases working with co-supervisors from other disciplines. I am also a Visiting Professor of History at a U.K. university, largely because of my long-term collaboration with an historical geographer who was subsumed into the history department when that university's geography program was discontinued.

My work with the Western Australian school system is typical of the long-standing involvement of local academics in this role. However, I notice that, across most school subjects, it is increasingly retired academics like myself who now serve on such committees and assist with examinations, as universities ascribe less and less value to this type of community service, and younger academics are thereby less inclined to become involved. Research collaboration with industry and the community is now far more valued by university senior management, especially when it attracts external funding. Earlier in my career, I thoroughly enjoyed working on externally funded research projects, on one occasion with an octogenarian emeritus professor from another state (Argent et al., 2014). Now, perhaps, as I recover from my own managerial terms as head of school and, immediately prior to my retirement, as faculty dean of research, I find the bureaucratic, timing, and reporting demands of such projects excessively onerous. Both locally and internationally, therefore, I prefer to involve myself in smaller, non-funded, curiosity-driven research projects.

Possibly as a result of my geographical bent, this curiosity extends to a desire to visit different places, particularly those that are changing in interesting (to me) ways and especially those where I can draw either parallels or contrasts with the change processes in Western Australia that have prompted my own research. This inclination has caused me to remain actively involved in the International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (IGU-CSRS), both of which hold meetings with significant fieldwork components. Since 1983, through the ICHG, I have developed valued contacts, research collaborations, and friendships (mainly) with Canadian and British geographers and, from 1995, have done likewise with a wider range of geographers through the IGU-CSRS. These contacts have enabled me to conduct comparative research in Canada (Jones and Birdsall-Jones 2003), which I hope to build on later this year, and to relate my own work to that from Brazil (Jones Diniz, A., et al. 2015) and, potentially, Romania. In the Latin American context, these contacts also allowed me to visit Brazil—not entirely coincidentally, during the 2014 World Cup—and to vent my views on Australian geography, albeit in the safety of a somewhat boutique outlet (Jones 2014).

My ability to continue with these activities is, in part, due my university's awarding me emeritus status and their provision of half of a (Spartan, windowless) office and various other facilities. In return, I am happy to provide graduate supervision, present the odd guest lecture or seminar, include my university affiliation on my publications and offer what assistance I can to my former colleagues, and be given institutional accreditation

of my publications. Nevertheless, it is the freedom to research as much or little as I like, on what I like, and to publish it where I like, regardless of the university's "priorities," "mission," and "strategic directions," that I find to be the most satisfying and liberating aspect of retirement.

I acknowledge that I have two concerns as an ECR (Early Career Retiree). The first is ethical. To what extent am I remaining academically active as a means of avoiding relevance-deprivation syndrome or even out of (im)pure self-indulgence? In my personal defence, I would argue that I am not depriving younger geographers of employment or research funds—or even of prestigious publication space, given that my recent publications have largely been in somewhat marginal outlets. Furthermore, in working with an Indigenous group, with high-school geography and geographers, and with academic geographers from non-English speaking countries, I am undertaking tasks for which current employees might be given little institutional credit in relation to the effort involved and which might even be of broader community value. A more general disciplinary defence of retiring from geography in terms of the salary but not of the brain can also be made. Cornish (1943) argued that a geographical education significantly enhanced its recipients' awareness and enjoyment of reading a newspaper and of taking a country walk. I would contend that this argument should be extended to virtually all forms of media and travel and that, therefore, while geographers can retire from a job, they can rarely do so from the world.

My second concern is more temporal and personal. Later this week, I will turn 70. In four months, my next grandchild is due to arrive and in six months my wife will retire. Retirement, like employment, is a process that occurs in ever-changing internal and external circumstances. I certainly hope to become a mid-, and even a late-career retired geographer (my mother lived to 104), but I realize that this will involve balancing the intellectual and the familial as well as the local and the global, on the scales of my life. Meanwhile, I will seek to gain as much enjoyment from geography and from travel as I can reasonably allow myself.

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Brief Biography

Roy Jones, PhD (Manchester) is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Planning and Geography at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, where he has worked since moving to Australia in 1970. From 1996–2001 he was Head of the School of Social Sciences and Asian Languages, and from 2007–12, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Humanities. He is an historical geographer with particular interest in the areas of heritage and tourism. He has authored or co-authored over 100 refereed publications, including the Australian chapter in *The Ashgate Research Companion to Heritage and Identity* and the “Heritage and Culture” entry in *The Elsevier Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. He was Human Geography Editor of *Geographical Research: Journal of the Institute of Australian Geographers* 2001–9 and is a Steering Committee Member of the International Geographical Union's Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems 2012–16. In 2013, he was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers.



FIGURE 1
“Dunny” (outside toilet) and
house extension fronting a
Perth suburban laneway.



FIGURE 2
Residential conversion of a harbour-side wool store in Fremantle; photograph
taken for the broadsheet accompanying a Western Australian Year 12
Geography examination paper.



FIGURE 3

Didgeridoos and technology; Wadjuk Family Day, Swan Valley, Perth.



FIGURE 4

Preserved Severn Valley Railway, Shropshire, U.K.—a return to my childhood and train-spotting roots on the 2015 ICHG Post-Conference Field Trip.

Writing and Managing: Everyday Activities of an Emeritus Professor of Historical Geography

Akihiro Kinda
Kyoto University, Japan
E-mail: akinda@zeus.eonet.ne.jp

When I retired from being a Professor of Geography at Kyoto University, Japan and (soon) became an Emeritus Professor, I was 61 years old. As a professor, I had served as Head of the Geography Department, Dean of the Faculty and Graduate School of Letters, and Executive Vice-President of Kyoto University. Although the formal retirement age at Kyoto University at that time was 63 years old, I was obliged to take early retirement because of the nomination to the president of the National (Japan) Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU). I was appointed president of NIHU for six years (two terms). Because both my professorship at Kyoto University and my presidency of the NIHU were full time appointments, my real retirement time came at the end of March of 2014, when I was 67 years old.

Managing

Soon after my 2014 retirement, I became director of the Research Center for Tonami Region, founded by the Tonami City Government, Toyama Prefecture, Japan. The centre is a small one, but it has been very active, publishing a research bulletin once a year, so that there are now total 32 volumes, including many geographical papers and regional studies. I usually go to my office at the centre once a month to manage research projects, regular meetings, and public lectures. When I am not at the office, the same roles are performed by an official who connects with me by e-mail.

Since May 2014, one month after my retirement, I have been senior executive adviser to the Kyoto Prefecture. This is a part-time position, overseeing the process of establishing the Kyoto Institute and advising staff if necessary. The reason for establishing the Kyoto Institute derives from the unique character of the very old city. Kyoto was built as the capital of ancient Japan in 794 and has continued as a city with a large population until the present day. So, Kyoto has rich history and various unique cultures. The institute will be founded in 2016 by the Kyoto Prefectural Government to promote studies of Kyoto and to foster young scholars in the field—mainly post-doctoral fellows—invited not only from throughout Japan but also from overseas. I receive various reports and oversee the process of establishing the institute, giving advice to the staff once a week at

the office in the prefectural government or at my own private office and, of course, any time through e-mail. When the Kyoto Institute opens, I will become the managing director.

On 1 April 2016, I was also appointed as director general of the Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives (KLA), which contains huge numbers of historical records and books, including items listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register, Japanese National Treasures, and Important Cultural Properties. This is also a part-time position, but I go at least once a week to the office at the KLA. The KLA is now facing its busiest time because a move to a new building, where the Kyoto Institute will be also housed, has been scheduled for 2017. So, my involvement with the KLA requires, at present, work other than and in addition to routine maintenance of a library and archives.

As for managing organizations, I began the task of managing as Dean of the Faculty in 2001. Although there have been some gaps both after I served out my term as Vice-President of Kyoto University and after I served out my term as President of NIHU, I have almost always been involved in research and in educational organizations and with archives and foundations relating to academic activities. I think that senior professors ought to recognize such additional obligations to the research and education community as both inevitable and necessary. I still feel those obligations now that I am retired, although all my management positions since retirement have, of course, been part-time ones.

In addition to those management tasks, I am a member of various committees of local governments and foundations. I have, in many cases, been elected or appointed as the chair of those committees, whose total number reaches more than 10. Attending meetings of all those committees requires 20 to 25 days a year.

Writing

I try to commute to my office daily to write papers or books, but actually, I only get there on days when there are no meetings or when the meeting is being held in Kyoto where the office is located, so that I can use break times to work.

Nevertheless, I have been able to set aside more time to write than I could before, when I had full-time positions. I have already published a book entitled *Townships* (Kinda 2015b), which is based on an earlier paper of mine, "The concept of townships in Britain and British colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries" (Kinda 2001). This is a popular or educational book, based on academic work, that explains the origin of, changes in, and diffusion of land plans in townships, parishes, hundreds, and so on, with many examples originally collected by myself for the earlier paper.

I have also been able to complete drafts of two books. One (approximately 300 pages long) is a popular or educational book based on my own academic work on old maps of Kyoto, drawn from the twelfth century to the first half of the twentieth century. Another, of equal length, explains various old maps of towns and rural settlements drawn during early modern times. Both will be published by the end of 2016.

I also contributed a few papers or chapters to different compilations after retirement. One was on the grid-pattern land-tenure system in the northern coastal region of central Japan in the eighth century (Kinda 2015a). The second one was also on the grid-pattern land-tenure system in the southern coastal region of central Japan in the eighth to twelfth centuries (Kinda 2016a). The third one, a genealogical analysis of old plans for the imperial palace district, focused on the eighth to fifteenth centuries (Kinda 2016b).

Besides those three, I wrote an academic paper on the location of two manors of the Todaiji-temple in the eighth century. It proposes a new way of exploring and identifying the location of the manors, and I also corrected a few out-dated understandings. It will be published this coming June in a refereed journal, *Journal of History*, in Japan.

These articles and chapters are all concerned with land plans in ancient and medieval Japan, which has been a main theme of my research since the beginning of my academic career. And with respect to that work, I have, in spite of being retired, gotten some additional results, extending those of my former academic papers and books.

My works published after retirement have been, with the exception of one refereed paper, mainly popular or educational in nature, although they do sometimes include new findings. Besides the articles and books mentioned, I edited a high school text on geography. I think, as a senior geographer, that I have to work at disseminating geographical knowledge based on academic research.

For the same reason, I have often given public lectures since retirement, mainly in Japan, but twice overseas—generally 5 to 10 times a year in all. Those lectures have addressed historical geographical topics—geographical and historical materials, including old maps; cultural landscapes; cultural heritage; and so on—each of which derived from my own former academic work.

Recently

I realized, through looking at the works mentioned earlier, that many of my articles and books, including *A Landscape History of Japan* (Kinda 2010), have dealt with landscape history, even in cases which analyzed a particular landscape factor or factors. Each landscape factor may persist, change,

spread, or disappear, after its appearance in a region, in relation to the economic, social, cultural, and political circumstances of a given natural environment. Academic analysis should, of course, inquire into the landscape factor as accurately as possible. Because landscape is complex as a whole and consists of large numbers of factors that are or were once closely related to each other, the methodology of landscape history should adopt a contextual approach to situate each landscape factor in the landscape as a complex whole. When a geographer is considering the landscape or understanding it, the same methodology is required.

I will be working on landscape history or themes associated with it for next few years hopefully with a few glasses of wine a day.

References and Selected Post-Retirement Publications

- Kinda, A. 2001. *The concept of townships in Britain and British colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Journal of Historical Geography*, 27(2): 137–52.
- Kinda, A. ed. 2010. *A Landscape History of Japan*. Kyoto: Kyoto University Press.
- . 2015a. Manors of Todaiji-temple and Jori plan. In *The Succession of Buddhist Culture*, 7–23.
- . 2015b. *Townships*. Kyoto: Nakanishiya. (In Japanese).
- . 2016a. Jori plan in Owari and Mikawa Provinces. In *Prehistory and ancient times*. Vol. 1 of *Aichi Prefectural History*, 787–858. Aichi Prefecture.
- . 2016b. On plans of the palace district in Heiankyo. In *Cultural History of the Imperial Court*, 244–60 Kasamashoin.

Biographical Chronology

- 1946: Born in Japan
- 1969: Graduated from Kyoto University (Japan)
- 1971: MA (Geography, Kyoto University)
- 1974: Completed Graduate School of Letters (Geography, Kyoto University)
- 1975–77: Assistant Professor at Kyoto University
- 1977–87: Lecturer and Associate Professor at Otomon-Gakuin University (Japan)
- 1987–94: Associate Professor at Kyoto University
- 1993: D Litt (Kyoto University)
- 1994–2008 (March): Professor of Geography at Kyoto University
- 2001 (April–December): Dean, Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University
- 2001 (December)–2005: Executive Vice President, Kyoto University
- 2008: Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University
- 2008–14: President, National (Japan) Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)
- 2014: Director, Tonami City Research Center
- 2014: Senior Adviser to Kyoto Prefecture
- 2016: Director General, Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives



FIGURE 1
Research Center for Tonami Region with a museum
in the same building.



FIGURE 2
Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives



FIGURE 3
"Townships"



FIGURE 4
"Cultural History of The Imperial Court"

Music and Geography and Retirement

David B. Knight

University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

E-mail: dbknight@uoguelph.ca

At the last annual meeting of the AAG I attended my name tag read “Happily Retired,” which got many positive reactions. To understand why I am happy to be retired it is first necessary to say something about my earlier years. Music and my professional activities as a geographer have long been interwoven.

Music performance was important to me before I became a geographer. From age nine and following I was lead drummer, first, in a drum and bugle band, and later, a pipe band, both of these in New Zealand. My high schooling was completed in Scotland. Early in my stay there the Professor of Music at St Andrew’s University asked me what I wanted to do in music. My response was “play timpani.” He immediately arranged for me to have lessons. I learned quickly, and within eight months I was the timpanist in a Scottish Youth Orchestra.

My geography teachers in New Zealand and Scotland were truly outstanding, and they—plus the family’s travels (United Kingdom to New Zealand and back via the Panama Canal thrice and once United Kingdom to New Zealand via the Suez Canal)—sparked my interest in geography. Having completed the Scottish Leaving Certificate, I moved to the United States where I spent four years at Macalester College to study geography with Hildegard Binder Johnson. She was a remarkable person, teacher and mentor (Knight 1995). She was thrilled I was her first student to declare before arrival that I wanted to study geography, and I did really well in all of the geography courses; however, she was frustrated that I was not totally dedicated to academic matters this because my heart was set on musical performance. Upon arrival at Macalester I was appointed to the position of drumming instructor in the department of music, a position I held for four years, and I quickly joined the musical scene in Minneapolis-St. Paul by playing, after auditions, as timpanist in top-level symphony and chamber orchestras, plus, on occasion, opera and ballet orchestras.

Only during my third and fourth years of undergraduate studies (by which time my future wife was in my life) did I become serious about academic studies (while still performing). Though offered placements in geography graduate programs, I wavered. Go to graduate school or find a continuing position in an orchestra? Uncertainty led me to accept a position in the geography department at the Encyclopaedia Britannica in

Chicago. During my year with the EB I greatly enjoyed researching and compiling dozens of maps for EB publications. I also performed as timpanist in symphony and ballet orchestras in Chicago and I searched for full-time orchestral positions but none existed, undoubtedly because timpanists tend to stay in orchestras for several decades! I decided to go to graduate school to prepare for an academic career, knowing that I could always perform on the side, and so it was while I was doing my doctoral studies and for many years while I was a professor of geography.

Drawing upon my studies with Hildegard Johnson and nationalist historian Boyd C. Shafer at Macalester College and later with Alan C. G. Best in Michigan and Marvin Mikesell and Norton Ginsburg at the University of Chicago, I eventually found my niche as a geographer of regionalism, nationalism, and self-determination. Numerous journal articles, book chapters, and books on these topics have been published (e.g., Knight 1982; Knight 1991; Knight 1999; Knight 2008), as have co-edited books (e.g., Johnson, Knight, and Kofman 1988; Knight and Joseph 1999).

As a professor of geography, I taught undergraduate and graduate courses on political and cultural-historical geography, including a graduate course on Territory and Territoriality for students in international affairs, and was privileged to supervise dozens of theses. Over the years I was a professor at De Paul, Carleton, and Guelph universities and was a visiting professor elsewhere, and there were many interactions with some remarkable people at numerous conferences. In addition, I benefitted from my leadership roles in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University Press, the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Political Geography Specialty Group, and the International Geographical Union Commission of the World Political Map.

Truth be told, I had a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying career because of the congeniality of students and faculty colleagues I worked with and because of extra-university activities. I am grateful for the rich array of experiences and interactions. But life can throw “a monkey wrench in the works,” and so it was for me. Four years before I was to retire, I became gravely ill and was placed on Long-Term Disability. The shock was profound. I thought my life was at an end. In time, however, with good support and hard work I got better, surprising the doctors. Several years after the initial diagnosis the neurologist told me that my unexpected improvement surely benefitted from my researching and writing and musical performance so, as he put it, “Keep doing what you are doing!”

Initially I begged off performing, but the two conductors I was working with at that time encouraged me to keep playing. And, significantly, after a break of several months, I returned to writing a book manuscript begun tentatively in the late 1990s. Combining my geographical and

musical concerns, the book considers space, place, time and real, imagined, and mythical landscapes as represented in classical music (Knight 2006a). My interest in orchestras was explored too (Knight 2006b). I also completed the third edition of *Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences* (Northey and Knight 2007), which since then has appeared in two new editions, now with Diane Draper as co-author. With this little flurry of publishing activity I transitioned into formal retirement.

One may well wonder why I did not return to being professionally active. This is a painful issue. My academic colleagues were not helpful while I was seriously ill and by the time I was better I had lost touch with the discipline and so felt that I needed to move on to other things.

A friend of mine recently told me that retirement means that every day is like Saturdays of old, with one's wife's long lists of things to be done. A former neighbour died within a few months of retirement, surely due to not having any hobbies or a clear non-work purpose to his life. He just gave up. Nothing akin to these scenarios has affected me. My life is rewarding in ways that differ from the time when I was a professor of geography. I ended my university and disciplinary links but now enjoy good contact with a handful of cherished colleagues.

Janet and I get immense pleasure from our two children and two grandchildren. We appreciate a few TV programs: *Time Team*, *Shetland*, *Midsummer Murders*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Inspector George Gently*, and—me, not Janet—rugby games from New Zealand. Reading mystery novels, biographies, and histories of the twentieth century gives me pleasure, as does listening to orchestral music on the radio and CDs from my extensive collection. Five or six books are always in my vehicle, so I never want for reading material when stops are made, and orchestral music on radio or CDs fills my ears as I travel. When possible, I drive to Toronto to hear the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. On a different front, satisfaction comes from teaching timpani and mentoring the talented kids in the city's youth symphony orchestra.

During the regular (October–May) and summer seasons I perform in about 35 concerts each year, in a symphony orchestra, a chamber orchestra, and a concert band, and during the summers in a different symphony orchestra and a concert band. There are three to five rehearsals per week, plus of course practice time at home. The only limitation on the latter is that, since my at-home set of timpani are in our family room, I have to wait until Janet is out of the house before I can practise. The cats quickly disappear upstairs!

I still use my writing skills, but in a different way now. For the past decade I have been writing concert program notes. Doing the needed research and then writing the notes are pleasurable tasks. And as a volunteer with the Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program,

I have reviewed project proposals and written material and have spoken at public meetings.

Administrative skills gained while in academic and associated positions now are useful in orchestra administration. Specifically, I am the equipment manager for both the symphony orchestra and the concert band, and I am the symphony orchestra's production manager. Planning is needed to ensure rehearsals can function. More importantly, I must ensure that all of the physical supports for concerts are set in place so that the conductor and the musicians can simply walk on stage and do their thing. This entails a lot of planning for each concert. First, I liaise with the conductor, general manager, and chief technical officer at the concert venue and I enumerate myriad concert requirements. This includes creating a detailed stage plot that the professional technical staff use when assembling the needed number of risers and placing music stands and chairs in the correct locations. This may sound simple, but in reality, it can be a bit of a pain when certain musicians want things to be set differently, when some use specific chairs, or when tweaking has to occur from one concert to another due to the changing numbers (and locations) of musicians. The work is enjoyable for I get to work with some fine people at the performance hall, and I find that most musicians are willing to settle for my decisions.

A key person I work with is the superb stage manager. She and I identify the details of the running of each concert, including if and when the conductor will speak to the audience, when the flowers are to be presented to soloists and by whom, what is the timing of entrances and exits, what are the special lighting needs, and so on. She expertly runs the show on the day while I go on stage and perform!

Some concerts are simple (overture, concerto, intermission, symphony, end), but some are complicated, notably those with numerous works to be performed and with soloists, such as at the annual New Year concerts. Life gets tricky when choirs and soloists have varying entrances and exits, or when certain of the orchestra's musicians will be off stage and then come on stage at some point(s) during the program, and (always a challenge) there is set-up/tear-down during the concert when the youth orchestra joins the symphony part way through the concert for the annual side-by-side performance. It is good that I have a head for details—though I rely heavily on lists—and most importantly, that my spatial skills remain sharp.

I feel deeply grateful for the richness of my academic career. I think I had a good career! But now I am retired from academia and fascinating new things are happening. Just how long I'll be able to continue performing is an open question. Since I am now 75, my playing days surely are numbered. Just as I enjoyed most times as an academic,

although I struggled mightily during the period I was ill, life now is good again. Retirement for me is pleasant and rewarding. Perhaps one final comment: When I was the Dean of Social Sciences, I would think of certain troublesome faculty—yes, there were some—and imagine their faces were on the head of a drum and I would then enjoy hitting the instrument. Doing this was therapeutic and most satisfying!

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- . and Joseph, A. 1999. *Restructuring societies*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press.
- Northey, M., and Knight, D. B. 2007. *Making sense in geography and environmental sciences*, 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Brief Biography

David Knight was born in Scotland in 1941 but the family moved to New Zealand immediately after WWII. He received an excellent education at John McGlashan College in Dunedin before, in 1958, the family returned to Scotland where he completed his high schooling in St. Andrews while studying timpani at the University of St. Andrews. In 1960 he moved to the USA to study at Macalester College. While there he was the drumming instructor and, just after graduating in 1964 with a B.A. in History and Geography, he taught in an African Women's Summer Institute at the college. He then moved to Chicago to work for a year on the editorial staff of the Encyclopedia Britannica. He thereafter completed graduate

work in Michigan before studying for his PhD at the University of Chicago. A job at Carleton University in Ottawa beckoned so he and his wife moved to Canada in 1970. While beginning his teaching career at Carleton he undertook research in the National Archives of Canada for his dissertation (on the selection of Ottawa as the capital city). While at Carleton he held administrative positions in the Department of Geography, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, and the Carleton University Press. He has been a visiting professor at several institutions and in 1988-1989 he was honoured to be a Visiting Fellow at Corpus Christi University, Cambridge University, where he worked on geography and international law. In 1992 he was appointed Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Guelph. Over the years he has held a number of non-university administrative positions, not least Chair of the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group and Chair of the IGU Commission on the World Political Map. He retired in 2006.



FIGURE 1

David Knight about to perform in Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 with the Kitchener Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, 2008.



FIGURE 2

Karen, Andrew, Janet and David Knight



FIGURE 3

The Knight cottage in Vermont, which David designed and helped build



FIGURE 4

David assists a Vermont farmer with haying each summer

A Day in the Life of a Retired Political Geographer

Robert W. McColl

University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.

E-mail: rwmccoll@gmail.com

Just because we retire does not mean we quit thinking. Speaking for myself, thinking and pondering geopolitical problems—at all scales, from the global to the local—is an addiction, and for me a most welcome one. And with modern travel, email, and the Internet, it remains highly stimulating intellectually.

For part of every year I sit overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar—Morocco and the Mediterranean. On a typical day there is no real traffic; other days I watch the ebb and flow or gathering of oil tankers (both full and empty), massive container ships, even an occasional military ship. Now and then I see tuna-fishing ships ply an activity that goes back at least to the Romans and the Roman production of garum as food for their troops (legions). I watch the changing microclimates created by the massive rock and its sister mountains only fifteen kilometres (9.4 miles) away in Morocco that together create the choke point linking the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Today there is a strong “levanter” or wind from the east. It is early spring and the Mediterranean is warmer than the Atlantic; a bank of fog is visible at their boundary. My thoughts focus on the difficulties and seasons of navigation and on the use of these waters for trade and immigration by ancient Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans or the more recent North African Islamic empires. I am able to visit nearby archaeological sites and then ponder their geographic realities, especially how they must have been in times when travel was by ship, horse, or foot—not car, airplane, or high-speed train. Details such as tides, fog, wind, runoff from rains that would have affected ancient mariners but that sadly are lacking in the descriptions and analyses penned by most academics. This is when the breadth and depth of a Renaissance-like geographic education is most welcome.

While my terrace overlooks a golf course, I don't play golf; but I do enjoy walking a golf course or beach—thinking. Questions of why and how different peoples, cultures, and empires were drawn to Spain have led me to explore both ancient mines in the Rio Tinto region and historic cultural and political centres such as Cordoba and Grenada. Then, there are the Roman ruins and hydraulic works, both in Spain (especially Merida) and in what is modern Morocco (Volubilis). Those are more than day trips, but they provide food for thought and the places can easily be revisited.

Most often my day begins about 7:30–8:00 AM with a leisurely breakfast and conversation with other retirees—from many different walks of life, but all with a wealth of experiences. Since I live alone, it is cheaper and healthier to eat out than let food sit and spoil in my refrigerator.

Returning home, I sit on my terrace, enjoy the view, and read and think about a range of topics—historical and modern—and explore topics and places (via my photos, email, and Google Earth). I read some of the free geopolitical analyses issued by Stratfor and the Jamestown Foundation for a kind of “geopolitical” fix. I’ve led a rich life and have many memories and photos of places I have been—including Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and so forth. This means I can easily spot BS and geographically ignorant analyses, of which there is too much.

Some days (like today) I am pleasantly surprised to find an email inquiry from others (mostly non-Americans) still interested in and using articles and ideas I proposed and published almost 50 years ago. It reaffirms that the fundamentals of geopolitics (the geography behind politics) are ageless. Such inquiries (this one from an Italian journalist working on his PhD in Political Science) are like a drug fix and they prod me to more in-depth consideration of contemporary events in the Middle East and China, such as the nature and potential historic role of ISIS/ISIL—which, like its Islamic predecessors now spreads to North and Sub-Saharan Africa—or the meaning of increased Chinese maritime activity. Why?

These inquiries and current events focus my thoughts on the nature of conflict, especially in what we now refer to as the Middle East, an area that has seen such conflicts literally for millennia. Why, and why here?

The geopolitical creations of ISIS-like territories both in the Middle East and (for me, nearby) North Africa have forced me to recognize and remember that global political boundaries are recent creations imposed by Europeans and based upon a culturally idiosyncratic view of how the political world should be organized (map). And, as is evident from the often geometric boundaries of modern states, such boundaries were drawn recently and for the convenience of Europeans, not local people.

Now I have some new topics for tomorrow’s breakfast and coffee.

Needless to say, every day there is much gnashing of teeth over the ignorance and the lack of attention to history, geography, culture and the lack of insight among current political leaders (especially Americans). Some of my non-academic friends are retired British military, British reporters, or British film documentarians. The latter seek new topics or information on how to visit often obscure or dangerous places.

One simply does not stop thinking because one has retired. I have no interest in chasing after a little white ball, even if my ancestors did invent the game of golf.

The Value of the Internet and Google Maps: The Ultimate Research Assistant

Today, sitting literally any place in the world one can do more research with the Internet or WiFi and faster than in most physical libraries—IF you are careful and can avoid the search-engine’s bias, research done this way can often be more complete than working in a library. Without committee meetings, problems with Political Correctness, and teaching, my time and mind are free to go where they wish, when they wish. The World Wide Web is my magic carpet.

A new question arises? Search the Web.

Need a bibliographic reference or citation and no library is near? Use the Web.

Need to view a location you cannot visit due to cost or time or conflict—use Google Earth.

The Lesson?

The more you have travelled, thought, and written, the more different people and cultures have influenced and confounded you, the richer your retirement can be. When I am near Gibraltar, I have coffee with retired Military Officers, and with businessmen from all over Europe—occasionally Russia, the Middle East, and Africa.

I have yet to meet another retired professor, which probably is a good thing. In fact, most of my companions find that I do not fit their preconceived idea of a “professor.” I take that as a compliment.

Questions I Am Considering

What really is a STATE?

When is a GANG a political movement or merely a geopolitical tactic? (Here the lessons of Menachem Begin’s Irgun in Israel seem relevant.)

What Do I Read and How Do I Search?

Among my non-fiction reading addictions are analyses by George Friedman at Stratfor as well as books by Robert Kaplan, often regretting that more professional and academic geographers would or could write similar books, but do not. Another author who does a fantastic job writing about “place” is James Michener, who I recently discovered took some guidance from the geographer J. Russell Smith

In terms of fiction, I read mostly political adventure novels. But I just

did an “analysis” of what I do read. It is NOT focused on any specific geographic area but rather on contemporary geopolitics and intelligence thrillers. The stories seem all to take place in countries or areas I have visited and involve modern issues of geopolitics and conflict. They provide new data, new ideas, and are easily vetted for accuracy.

I find most of my web searches are generated by a need to answer or explain something I have noticed, or a question I could not answer from breakfast conversations, or a question one of my academic searchers has raised. And I find their country of origin an interesting stimulus to ask, “Why from there?”

Places I Have Visited and Come to Know

Americas

Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Brazil (Amazon), Ecuador (Galapagos Islands), Chile, and Easter Island

Caribbean

St. Croix, Antigua, Tobago, San Andres, Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Guadeloupe

Asia

Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Myanmar (Burma), Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, India, Nepal, Pakistan
Central Asia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan

Islamic World—“Middle East”

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Oman

Africa—Indian Ocean

Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana (Okavango), Zambia, Madagascar, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Seychelles

Europe

England, Ireland, Italy, Spain, France, Monaco, Greece, Danubian littoral, Malta, Menorca, Sardinia, Sicily, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, (Canary Islands)

Pacific Basin

Hawaii, Australia, Rapa Nui (Easter Island - Chile), Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Borneo

Selected Publications

McColl, R. W. 1969. The insurgent state: Territorial bases of revolution. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 59(4): 613–31.

This was used extensively in an analysis of SWAPO by professor W. S.

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Brief Biography

I have had the good fortune to be able to travel widely and often—always on my own dollar so that I would be completely independent. In addition to my primary travels in East and Central Asia, especially China, I took cruises in the Mediterranean so that I could get some sense of what ancient mariners faced and saw. I learned to study ship design as well as coastal navigation (e.g. there are no visible land markers for the Nile and Egypt; Phoenicians and Greeks geographically divided their control/influence over the Mediterranean).

To gain safe access to places in China, I led tours. I also lectured to train guides for China's National Travel Service. This gave me safe access to many places the average tourist could not visit. The best was a chance to visit where the Grand Canal crosses the Yellow River (whose muddy bottom is 10 metres above the plain and canal).

When possible I tried to visit new, mostly non-European places every year or on my return from China or Mongolia. The Middle East and Mediterranean held special fascination because of their ancient history and rich diversity of people and technologies. There is not enough space to list all the insights I have gained from these travels.

My BA was in East Asian Studies from Pomona College (1960). My PhD was in Geography and Chinese Studies from the University of Washington (1964). Geography met my desire for a Renaissance-like education. My first position was at UC Santa Barbara (1963). I moved to Kansas with a joint appointment in East Asian Studies and Geography in 1966. I became Chair of the Geography Department in

1996 and retired in 2003. My regional training and focus was China and Central Asia. My topical focus was on guerrilla warfare and began with my Dissertation on how the Chinese Communists used geographic tactics to further political ends. The model that emerged clearly applied to other regions—and even other times. Invitations came to apply the model to events in Africa and the Middle East. It is a model that has been effective in analysis and even prediction. An invitation to accept an honorary membership in the Mongolian Academy Sciences—Geography, led to visits and field study there.

Current events in China and the South China Sea, as well as the impact of ISIS/ISIL and its creation of a proto-modern state provide ample focus for continued political geographic analysis. Finally, my interest in the Mediterranean Basin and its ancient cultures has meant lots of on-site visits to Megaliths, and ancient Phoenician, Greek, and Roman ports and colonies.



FIGURE 1
Robert McColl at 77 – on his terrace near Gibraltar



FIGURE 2
Robert McColl in front of the Mezquita of Cordoba, Spain.
The Guadalquivir River (al-wadi al-kabir in Arabic) is in full Winter flood.
The re-constructed arched Roman Bridge can be seen in the background.

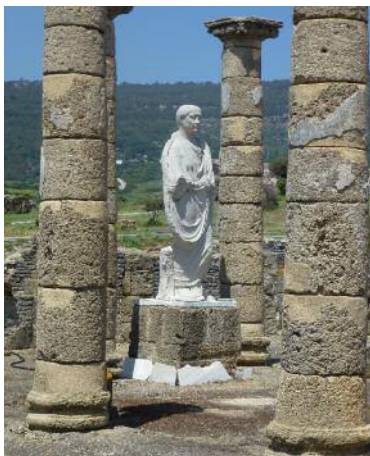


FIGURE 3
Roman Forum, Baelo
Claudia, Spain Just south
of Cadiz on the Atlantic



FIGURE 4
Rock of Gibraltar, ships ready for passage and faint outline of the Mountains of Morocco



FIGURE 5
Gibraltar creates many micro-climates and an atmospheric as well as naval “choke point”



FIGURE 6

Paloma Island, Tarifa Spain was an early Phoenician settlement – “choke point.” In the background is the Atlantic Ocean. The foreground is the Mediterranean. Most recently it was a Spanish fortress.

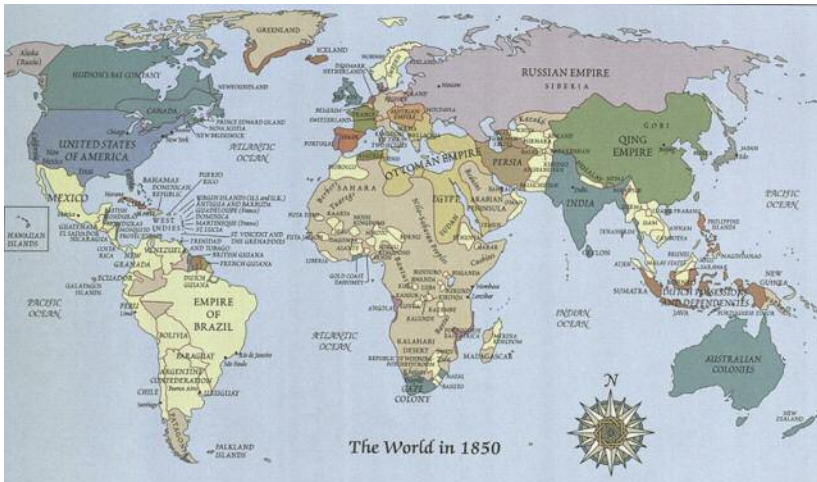


FIGURE 7

The World's Political “States” in 1850. This demonstrates just how new are our modern “States”

Finding the Way

Gunnar Olsson

University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden

E-mail: gunnolss@gmail.com

”Living forwards and understanding backwards,” such was the aphorism of Søren Kierkegaard, such is the guiding principle of my own explorations of the no-man’s land between categories, my own attempts to understand how I understand, my own mappings of the Realm of Power, my own cartography of what it means to be human. No small task for a country boy with no pre-set agenda; as Nils Ferlin put it, *Du har tappat ditt ord och din papperslapp, / du barfotabarn i livet. / Så sitter du åter på handlarns trapploch gråter så övergivet. // Vad var det för ord – var det långt eller kort, / var det väl eller illa skrivet? / Tänk efter nu – förrn vi föser dej bort, / du barfotabarn i livet.*¹

So where do these quotes take me? To the naïve optimism of the nineteen-sixties, to the dream of building a better world on the foundation of a social science as trustworthy as the laws of physics and genetics, these laws in my case exemplified by the relation between distance and human interaction, the social gravity model the analytical tool par excellence. As that work progressed, however, it became increasingly clear that the systematic variations in the model’s key parameter (the slope of the regression line) might say less about human behavior per se and more about the spatial matrix in which the interaction takes place, the good fits a product more of autocorrelation than explanative causation. What a thrill it was to see how the behavioral theory of migration turned into a map of origins and destinations, a point pattern of spatially distributed opportunities rather than a set of socio-economic principles, an abstract picture rather than a concrete story – not the answers hoped for, but a set of new and more fundamental questions. To be precise: How had the observed point pattern been generated? Which are the relations between form and process?

The original questions thus reformulated, all roads led to plant ecology where the analysis typically begins with the mapping of a particular species and then proceeds to the search for a stochastic function (primarily the Thomas’ Double Poisson) that captures the observed point pattern, often with an almost perfect fit – effectively an ambiguous picture translated into a precise equation, a spatial form seemingly turned into a generating process, the traditional two-stage approach of geographical description and interpretation transferred to a neighboring field. Fallacious nevertheless. For already in the autumn of 1968 the stochastic models indicated that identical forms can be generated through drastically different processes.

It follows that even the most perfect description of a spatial pattern does not provide a clear-cut answer to the question of how and why it came about. The conclusion is inevitable: although it is sometimes possible to reason from process to form, moving in the opposite direction is never appropriate. The geographic inference problem in nuce, the disciplinary ship *HMS Geography* hit below the waterline.

But wait! Is that revolutionary interpretation valid or a consequence of faulty reasoning, a projection of my own taken-for-granted? At issue is the relation between epistemology and ontology, between what I know and what I know something about, knowledge by definition an exercise in translation, the art of saying that something is something else and being believed when I do so, the expression $a = b$ the very paradigm of scientific truth. Not an easy trick, for it is in the ironic nature of every language – natural as well as formal – that no translation can ever be perfect; what comes to mind is not only the self-reference of Gödel's incompleteness theorems but Aristotle's sayings, first that what one cannot do perfectly one must do as well as one can, then that dialectics and rhetoric are the twin sisters of each other.

Minimizing translation mistakes is nevertheless the goal not only of logical positivism but of any methodology. This in turn means that one should strive for the best possible fit between the structure of the investigated phenomena and the structure of the idiom in which the investigation is performed; paraphrasing Samuel Beckett, the challenge is to learn to read and write in such a manner that it is not about something but is that something itself, Malevich's *White on White* an outstanding example. Beware, though, for the closer I am getting to that ideal, the likelier I am to discover that the allegedly objective analyses often reveal more about the logic I am writing *in* than of the phenomena I am writing *about*. Escape-proof is the prison-house of language.

*

From these formative adventures I am now launched to December 12, 2014 and the best geography lecture I ever heard. It was given by May-Britt and Edvard I. Moser who two days earlier had shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine with John O'Keefe, the award given for "their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain," *the* embodiment of our sense of place and navigational ability. It all began in 1971 when O'Keefe (crucially motivated by Edward Tolman's cognitive maps) discovered that when a rat was at a certain place in the room a type of nerve cell in the hippocampus was activated, while when the rat was at another place other cells reacted instead, a pictorial rendering of these so called "place cells" readily seen as a map of the room, an image very similar to the point patterns that during the same period were so exciting also to

the geographers. Then, in 2005, the Mosers and their coworkers found that when the place cells were activated, a reaction was triggered not only in the hippocampus but in a nearby part of the brain, the medial entorhinal cortex, as well. Even more remarkable, these “grid cells” formed a pattern of equilateral triangles, these in turn tessellated into a hexagonal coordinate system. The spatial logic of central place theory thus empirically verified not in the geographers’ world of human interaction but in the Centre for the Biology of Memory at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, not by distance minimizing shoppers out for the best buy on a non-isotropic plane, but by fourteen male Long Evans rats chasing pellets in a box (circular or square) with a flat floor. Marvelous achievement, the faculty of cartographic reason firmly anchored in the GPS of the brain.

But why did basically the same studies lead the geographers to the stumbling block of the inference problem and the neuroscientists to the glories of the Nobel? My hunch is that the answer lies in the respective *mappae*, the projection screens without which there would be neither points to observe nor interpretations to make, hence no map either. More specifically the cartographer’s *mappa* serves the same function as the painter’s properly prepared canvas, not merely a physical receptor but a re-presentation of the culturally taken-for-granted, like the map itself a merger of picture and story, the moods of indicative, imperative and conditional all in the same breath. And therein lies, of course, the neuroscientists’ reason for studying the rats, that by mapping the animals’ movement they will better understand their own thoughts-and-actions. Lo and behold, for there is now ample evidence that also human navigation is governed by the hippocampus and the enthorhinal cortex, the MES. If such is actually the case, then the Mosers would indeed have come upon a rare instance of perfect translation, the structure of the studied phenomenon one with the structure of the net in which it has been captured, their basic research pointing the way to a treatment of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, the hippocampus and MES of these patients frequently affected – with the grid cells gone, the points of place and time are in a haze, the connections between cause and effect non-graspable, Immanuel Kant himself a sad example. Recalling the tragic case of geography and social engineering, the inevitable question poses itself: Are the observed regularities a sign of causal factors or of statistical autocorrelation? Literally an issue of life and death, the ethics of intentional action in a nutshell. What comes first, the birds in the egg or the eggs in the bird?

Were I now thirty-six years younger, which I am not, I would arrange yet another Bellagio or Bagni di Lucca seminar, on this occasion entitled *Heads and Tails of Memory Creation*, the participants drawn from a range of backgrounds including the neurosciences of navigation (May-Britt and/or Edvard Moser), the history of cartographic reason (Franco

Farinelli), the palimpsest of Archimedean mathematics (Reviel Netz), the semiotic roots of violence (Marie-José Mondzain), the dialectics of power and submission (Svetlana Aleksievich). In addition, the living spirit of George Perec. Non-realizable fancy! As a substitute I shall continue to enjoy the almost weekly visitors from near and afar, a creative blend of scholars and artists, many of them never heard of before. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*, Janus the favorite god.

*

Who can tell, perhaps these strange associations are triggered by the mirror neurons in the old man's brain, an unconscious response to the bad dreams of not knowing where he is, of running after the departing train with his pants down, of being eaten by crocodiles, sucked into rusty machines, wasted in the *Waste Land*, haunted by Goya's *Caprichos*. At any rate an instance of the faculty of imagination, by definition the ability of making the absent present, a power more highly developed in homo sapiens than in any other species, the nightmares a novel experience more fascinating than enjoyable.

Be this as it may, for in spite of (or is it *because* of) the home-brewed analyses, his thoughts keep returning to the cave paintings in Lascaux and the Grotte Chauvet. Since all experts agree that those who there left their markings were blessed with (or is it *by*) a brain like his own, he now asks what he would have done if 36,000 years ago he had descended into the darkness. Presumably what he has always done: tried to grasp the unknown, tried to understand how he understands, not by painting the horses, mammoths, deer and bears that so excite the museum crowd, but by reweaving the categorical net in which those creations are brought to life by being caught, ordered and labeled. And imagine now, if you can, that this is exactly what these striking paintings actually are, images not of physical bodies catching the eye but the act of seeing itself, not indexical signs of extinct animals but icons of his mind. Nothing less than an explication of the *mappa* that has made the country boy whatever he is, a Sisyphos work if one ever was, Godot waiting in the wings.

GOGO, go on, go on, the next project a visit to the Pont d'Arc Cavern, the facsimile replica of the Chauvet cave itself, the latter forbidden to enter. Once there, when the guide looks the other direction, he puts his hand on the wall, thereby literally touching what it means to be human. A genuine gift not merely to himself, but to the accompanying daughter Ulrika and her children Idun and Disa, the first-born serving as chauffeur, the teenagers for the sheer joy. And whenever this quartet pauses for the best food money can buy, they will recall that in Norse mythology it was Idun who rejuvenated the aging gods by feeding them golden apples, in the present

instance assisted by the mom and the sissy. Munching is the octogenerian on the *tarte de pommes*, calvados his favorite avec.

Back home again he rushes off to the family forests, driven by the desire of one day passing them on in the condition that long ago they were entrusted to him. One century is the production cycle. Four generations.

*

And so it is that finding the way is to understand how we understand, to grasp that the power of power is lodged in the geometry of triangulation, *three* the first number in the social scientist's vocabulary.

Wipe your tears, you barefoot child in life.

Notes

- 1 Literally translated, regrettably without the rhymes: "You've lost your word and your memory slip, / you barefoot child in life. / Once again on the grocery door step / bewildered and silently weeping. // What was the word—was it long or short, / was it well or poorly written? / Beware now—before we chase you away, / you barefoot child in life."

Selected Publications

Distance, Human Interaction and Stochastic Processes: Essays in Geographic Model Building. Doctoral dissertation, Uppsala University, 1968.

Birds in Egg/Eggs in Bird. London: Pion, 1980.

Antipasti. Göteborg: Korpen, 1990.

Lines of Power/Limits of Language. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1991.

Abysmal: A Critique of Cartographic Reason. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

In addition there is Abrahamsson, Christian and Martin Gren, eds., *GO: On the Geographies of Gunnar Olsson*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2012.

Brief Biography

Gunnar Olsson (born 1935) is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. In previous incarnations he was a Professor of Geography at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1966-77), of Economic Geography and Planning at the Nordic Institute for Studies in Urban and Regional Planning, Stockholm (1977-97), and of Economic Geography at the University of Uppsala (1997-2000).



FIGURE 1
Kent Karlsson, *Absolut kunskap/Frihetens väsen*. 1992. Sculpture, mixed media, h. 127 cm. Bob Kelly Collection, Los Angeles. The artist's conception of his friend.

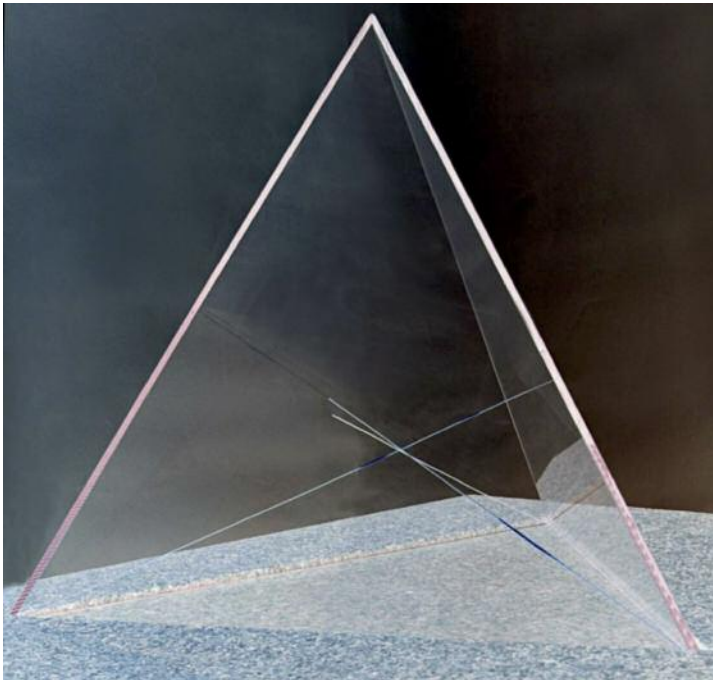


FIGURE 2
Gunnael Jensson (alias Ole Michael Jensen and Gunnar Olsson), *Mappa Mundi Universalis*. 2000. Glass tetrahedron on granite base, 64x64x49 cm. Mixed media (Kalmar granite, Weissglass, gold, ruby). Museum Gustavianum, Uppsala. Arguably my richest work.



FIGURE 3

Abstract points from the Niaux cave. Reproduced from *Geometric Signs: A New Understanding* by Genevieve von Petzinger.

(http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/geometric_signs/geometric_signs_france.php)



FIGURE 4

The Louvre. Photo: Idun Wahlgren, 2015.

Window onto the Everyday Life of a Retired Geographer

Jean-Robert Pitte

*Membre de l'Institut de France (Académie des Sciences morales
et politiques), Paris-Sorbonne University, France*

I officially retired from public academic life in France in August 2014. After a teaching career of 32 years that began in 1971, I had stopped teaching in 2003 when I became president of Paris-Sorbonne University, remaining for 5 years in this position. From 2008 to 2010, I managed, on behalf of the French government, the candidature of « The French gastronomic meal » for registration on the UNESCO list of intangible world heritage. We had success in November 2010. As of this writing, I am still president of the Mission Française du Patrimoine et des Cultures Alimentaires, which oversees French compliance with promises made to UNESCO, especially the coordination of the four « Cités de la Gastronomie » (Dijon, Lyon, Paris-Rungis, Tours), great cultural centres devoted to gastronomic living heritage. Between 2010 and 2014, I was appointed as Délégué auprès du Premier Ministre à l'Information et à l'Orientation, in charge of coordinating guidance and professional education between several ministries and local governments. I tried strongly to promote methodological reform in our country, but ideology and conservatism are so strong and educational professionals in France never want to work in collaboration with the employment sector (companies, continuous learning). To speak honestly, I found this last job a little bit disappointing, compared to the job I did on behalf of the gastronomic heritage.

In 2014, I began a new, double academic career. I became Distinguished Professor at Hokkaido University in Sapporo (Japan), where a Graduate School of Global Food Resources has been created within the Department of Agriculture. There, I teach in English about *terroir*, quality food, gastronomy, wine, and so forth. It's a great opportunity to meet Japanese and foreign academics, civil servants, farmers, and chefs involved in a sector in which I have been working in France for half a century ... and to indulge my missed vocations of cook and wine-maker or *sommelier*. I teach a course in Sapporo twice a year. As well, I participated in the creation of Ferrières, a new, private School of Gastronomy, Hospitality, and Luxury (ferrieres-paris.com) that opened in 2015 in the splendid former palace of the Rothschild family in the Paris East suburbs. I am honorary president of this institution, I advise the

president, M. Khalil Khater, a French-Lebanese businessman specializing in hospitality, luxury, and real estate in the city of Ferrières and environs, and I teach philosophy, history, and the geography of French gastronomy and wines at the school. This is a wonderful experience for me, directly related to the recognition of the « French Gastronomic Meal » by UNESCO. Working in such a dynamic, totally private school of higher education has convinced me a little bit more that public French universities are unreformable! I have tried since the deplorable 1968 revolution, but in vain.

Since 2014, I have been also invited to lecture at various universities and institutions outside of France: Belgium (Amitiés françaises), Israël (French embassy), Mauritius (French embassy), Japan (United Nations University, several prefectures), Taiwan (Taiwan Normal University, Ministry of Culture), the United States (French embassy, George Washington University, University of Virginia), and Canada (Université de Montréal).

My membership in the Institut de France (Académie des Sciences morales et politiques) occupies me every Monday afternoon. Since 2012, I have been the president of the online journal of the Institut de France: *Canal Académie*. I am also president of a foundation attached to the Institut de France: La Fondation européenne pour le patrimoine alimentaire which is the sponsor of L'Institut Européen d'Histoire et des Cultures de l'Alimentation, an important research network devoted to food studies. I'm the president of the jury delivering the Rabelais Prize. Since 2012, we have given the prize to Massimo Montanari, a great Italian food historian; to Michel Guérard, a famous French chef, to the Prince of Wales for his charitable foundation; to Aubert de Villaine, the owner of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, who successfully managed the bid of « Les climats de Bourgogne » to be included on the UNESCO world heritage list.

I spend quite a lot of time as president of the Société de Géographie (since 2009). Our society, created in 1821, is not easy to keep vibrant because young geographers are a little reluctant to be active in the life of the association. However, I try to enhance the attractiveness of our magazine, *La Géographie*, published every trimester, to organize travels and cruises, to invite good lecturers for our evening lectures or our lunch debates in Sénat. We also organize one or two annual symposiums: the most recent one on military geography, chaired by Philippe Boulanger; the next ones on energy, chaired by Christian Pierret, former minister of industry, and on Tintin, geographer, chaired by Françoise Ardillier-Carras, our vice-president. The image of geography in France is not good, and I'm very sure that our society has a mission to promote geographical knowledge as both fascinating and necessary. Academic

geographers don't make much of an effort at seduction ... We own the most important archives of French geography, which are on deposit at the National Library, and we should try to write a new beautiful page of the story of our field.

For six years, I have the president of the Académie du Vin de France, created in 1933 to promote quality wine and deeper knowledge about wine. Most of the 40 members (same number as the Académie française), own vineyards and are splendid wine makers. I learned so much about wine in their company and this helped me greatly in the preparation of my last books about wine: (*Le Désir du vin à la conquête du monde* (Fayard, 2009); *La Bouteille de vin, histoire d'une révolution* (Tallandier, 2013); and *Dictionnaire amoureux de la Bourgogne* (Plon, 2015). My next book—*Cent petites gorgées de bon vin* (Tallandier, 2016) is a collection of the chronicles of my travels published in the monthly magazine *La Revue du vin de France* over the six last years. During these six years, I organized six trips to different French vineyards, ending in three symposiums: the first on Roger Dion (*Le Bon vin entre terroir, savoir-faire et savoir-boire* [CNRS-Editions, 2010]); the second on love of wine (*L'Amour du vin* [CNRS-Editions, 2013]); and the third on wine and health (publication by our academy in 2014). The next one, about pairing between wines and dishes (history, geography, practices, etc.), will be organized in the Ferrières School. I will finish my presidency at the end of 2016.

I am a member of various other academies, but I haven't much time to attend the meetings: *Academia Europaea*, Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer, Académie Stanislas in Nancy, Académie des Sciences, Arts et Belles-Lettres in Dijon, and Académie du Vin de Bordeaux.

I find time for writing early in the morning, the best time of day, and during holidays. This year, and I hope in future, I have rented a small second home in a Bourgogne vineyard. From my office, I can look at the marvellous landscape of the Chambolle-Musigny and Morey-Saint-Denis *grands crus*, a very inspiring sight to contemplate. I have some projects for papers in mind and maybe for books about wine, but my two main projects are an atlas of French gastronomy and an essay about the geographical effects of Catholicism. There are quite a lot of works about the effects of Judaism, of Islam, of Protestantism, but very few about the Catholic religion. I often taught on this topic, but I was not ready till now to synthesize my thoughts.

It seems to be a very busy life for a retired professor and I'm sure it would be wise to decrease my activity in the future, for my family, for my health, and in order to give more time to *otium*, but I'm sure I should be depressed if I remained without any *negotium*. There is no real risk at the moment ... if, God willing, I keep my health and my optimism. *Vive la géographie* !



FIGURE 1
In Académie des Sciences morales
et politiques



FIGURE 4
Wine tasting during a meeting of
Académie du Vin de France



FIGURE 2
Meeting of the Awards Commission at Société de Géographie



FIGURE 5
With my wife Mayumi in Monbetsu (Hokkaido, Japan)



FIGURE 6
Presentation of my last book: *Dictionnaire amoureux de la Bourgogne*

The Wonderful Life of a Retired German Geographer

Fred Scholz

Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

E-mail: fh.scholz@gmx.net

Apart from the unavoidable petty quarrels with colleagues and the constant battle for research funding, my career as a university professor was positively wonderful. Probably no other career offers such manifold and interesting opportunities for personal development in the realms of research and teaching. It encompasses publications, lectures, research trips, excursions, meetings, and intellectual exchanges that transcend both national boundaries and those normally associated with my area of specialization. And it guarantees a unique intellectual freedom and independence. An occupation of this type is beguiling, which is why many colleagues fail to reflect on time in regard to “what comes afterwards” and to prepare for the opportunities available. Thus frequently, when retirement inevitably comes, they fall into an almost bottomless black hole.

Sad experiences of elder colleagues had served as warnings to my wife and me. We prepared ourselves early for what the French call the “*troisième âge*.” Many years ago, we gradually converted an abandoned sheepfold (*Bergerie*) in southern France into a habitable property where we now spend the six-month summer season in sunshine and warmth, with delicious wine and tasty cheese. When there, we can finally surrender to inclinations for which the full, dedicated professional life and social constraints of Berlin offered neither time nor repose.

Our daily schedule is completely relaxed and our clothing casual: loose linen trousers, espadrilles, a wrinkled shirt, and a floppy hat. At sunrise we begin our long, ecologically healthy breakfast. This is followed by a stroll in the garden, which is frequently sweetened by a snack of ripe cherries, apricots, strawberries, blackberries, or grapes. In the afternoons, we lie in the cool shadow and read extensively, occasionally sipping a glass of wine or following the kites, who float effortlessly in circles in the unbelievably blue sky. Later, the day slides into a meal we prepare together—often with neighbours or friends—and ends in the soothing cool of evening, to the sounds of a chorus of cicadas.

But the days so floridly described here, as much as we relish them, are not all that frequent because the passions we’ve had to defer for decades—the pottery so adored by my wife, Heidi, and my drawing, painting, and sculpting—lure us almost daily from an early hour. This allows us to

experience Provence's unmatched pure light and the magic of the colours that it engenders and which so inspire us. Such days extend far into the late evening, our not wanting them to end even when the owl screeches.

This is how the days pass that witness the production of a sculpture from clay, wood, or stone. However, due to our age, this physically challenging activity quickly gives rise to the desire—or the need—to pause and relax. And these interludes arouse new creativity, replenish our *joie de vivre*, and are perceived as truly enchanting.

Hundreds of sketches, watercolours, and pastels and numerous larger paintings inspired by the beautiful Provence landscape have been completed in a careful neo-Expressionist style over the past decades. And there have occasionally even been exhibitions.

The sculptures of grumpy bocce players, village idiots, prostitutes, and others now populate the garden and yard and cause some visitors to smile or just shake their heads. My wife's clay pots, except for some large vases and bowls, are mostly made for our own use. Occasionally, though, some of her colourful and grotesque steles arouse great interest.

In an atmosphere like this, I rarely have the impulse to write an article related to geography, though this is not due to a lack of requests or suggestions. Ample subject matter is certainly available: for example, transhumance and its modern transformation that occurs in southeast France, the booming tourism, the problem-laden suburbs of the larger cities, the large number of farmers' markets, or the transformation of viticulture. And requests are frequent. This is why—unfortunately—articles for magazines or contributions to anthologies based on current research and/or on research conducted in cooperation with local counterparts and institutes continue to appear. My most recently published book also emerged from the peace and quiet of our sheepfold-turned-home. Nonetheless, the desire to engage in artistic activities generally prevails and dominates our way of life in the south of France.

We aren't able to do this during the winter months in Berlin/Brandenburg, where we live in our cosy, familiar “old-Berlin” apartment. We enjoy the city's rich cultural offerings, meet with friends, and seek out Berlin's architectural and social innovations. We also explore the city's charming suburbs and surrounding countryside with great interest. The latter is a splendid natural landscape of lakes, *söles*, boulders (*findlingen*), wash plains, moraines, and dunes shaped by the glaciers of the Ice Age. There are also medieval monasteries, towns, and physiocratic estates, as well as the Renaissance and Baroque palaces of the Prussian nobility, which make this a region of great geographic interest.

The rich range of lectures at my alma mater, the Free University of Berlin, lead me back again and again to the familiar academic environment, where I am glad to encounter my former colleagues and

students. I have a very cordial relationship with the young successor to my professorship, and I regularly attend faculty events. I also maintain contact with the geography students who come to hear the lectures I occasionally hold or read the scientific articles I still manage to produce; for example, on the “Arab Spring.” I guess I should also mention the books on the subjects of underdevelopment and globalization, which seem to interest the younger generation of students. Always a serious challenge for me is the intermittent work I do as a consultant for several Arab embassies from the Gulf region.

The summer and winter months during which we alternate between southern France and northern Germany, however different they may be, are complementary for us in a refreshing way. To expand our geographical horizons, in spring and autumn we take short trips to the most beautiful European cities, especially in Italy, Spain, and Portugal, or we accept invitations from the Sultanate of Oman or from Mongolia. However, with the seasonal change of location, southern France and northern Germany, we dive into worlds that are very different geographically and culturally, and each challenges us in a different manner. Were it not for our recurring health problems and the constraints of doctors’ visits and hospital stays, we would be truly carefree. Notwithstanding these impairments, which unfortunately become more frequent with age, we are happy and can look back on a truly rich family life with our children—and I can look back with fulfilment on my professional activities. Since my retirement in 2004, I have been able to enjoy many intellectually, scientifically, and artistically rich years. If the gods existed, I would certainly thank them.

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- Scholz, Fred. 1980. *Sultanate of Oman, Part I: A geographical introduction to the country of Oman, its natural resources, its people, its settlements, its economy and its modern development*. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett. (In English and Arabic). 304 pp.
- . 1978. *Sultanate of Oman, Part II: Aerial photographic atlas: natural regions, and living areas in text and photographs*. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett. 137 pp.
- . 1999. *Die Kleinen Golfstaaten*. Stuttgart: Gotha. 304 pps.
- . 2002. *Nomadism and colonialism: A hundred years of Baluchistan 1872–1972*. Karachi: Oxford University Press. 328 pps.
- . 2005. *The theory of fragmenting development*. *Geogr. Rdsch. international* 1(2): 4–11.
- . 2008. *Nomadism—A socioecological mode of culture: Theory, phenotypes, change, decline*. Ulaanbaatar: IISNC. 235 pps.
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Brief Biography

Professor Dr., Dr. Honoris Causa Fred Scholz, b. 1939; PhD Technical University Karlsruhe (1967); Habilitation, University Goettingen (1973); apl. Professor (1975); Full Professor, Free University Berlin (1980); Head of Centre for Developing Studies (ZELF) Free University Berlin (1988); Visiting Professor at University of Kuwait (1982), Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat (2004/2010), and Nizwa University, Inner-Oman 2012; Honorary Professor at National University of Mongolia (2010); Honorary Doctor (Dr. Honoris Causa) from the Faculty of Earth Sciences National University of Mongolia (2010); Honorable Member of Baluch Academy, Quetta (1971); Brahui Academy, Quetta (1996); Oman-German-Society Berlin/Muscat; President of Geographical Society of Berlin (1986–89, 1995); Editor/Coeditor of *Die Erde* (1985–96); *Arab Journal for Humanities* (1982–91); *Erdkundliches Wissen* (1991–2004); *Sociologus* (1976–2004); Retired (emeritiert) 2004.

Scientific interests—*Regional*: old world dry belt (Mongolia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Arab Gulf States / Oman, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Somalia, Benin, Niger). *Thematic*: nomadism, urbanization, underdevelopment/third world problems, development theories, globalization/fragmentation.

285 publications in German, English, Arabic, French, Italian (1968–2016).

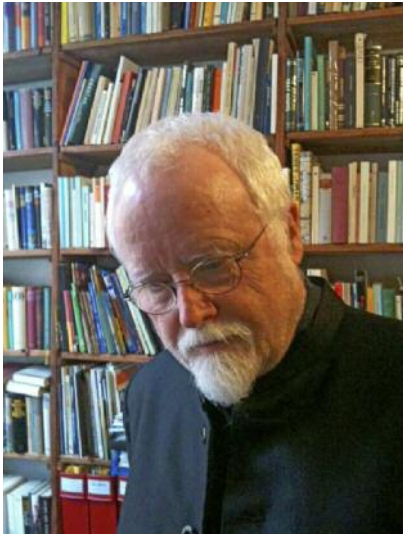


FIGURE 1
In my office in Berlin 2014



FIGURE 2
Relaxing in Lussan, 2008



FIGURE 3
Working on a sculpture in Lussan, southeastern France, 2011



FIGURE 4
Drawing in the countryside: Mutairib Oasis, Oman, 2012

I can Never Be a ‘Retired’ Geographer

Anngret Simms

University College Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: anngret.simms@ucd.ie

As the daughter of a publisher, I met intellectual women in our family home in Frankfurt, and later in Cologne, and I decided at a young age that I wanted to encounter life fully and that, by becoming a geographer, I had a better chance of doing so. From that perspective, I can never be a “retired” geographer.

By the 1970s I was an Assistant Lecturer in the Geography Department of University College Dublin (where my Irish husband David had enticed me to live). By that time, I had become an Irish citizen, which allowed me to be awarded a two-year Alexander-von-Humboldt fellowship in the Department of Historical Geography at the University of Bonn, while David worked as a guest professor in the Institute for Mathematics at the same university and while our three boys attended primary school, where they learnt German and a lot more. In Bonn I discovered copies of the German and European Historic Towns Atlas project. Ireland was not included in the project, and on our return to Dublin, I succeeded in convincing the then president of the Royal Irish Academy to allow a small group of Irish scholars to start such an atlas in Ireland. This was in 1992, and since then I have worked for the project as a joint editor, and until 2010, as chairman.

In 1993 I was elected a member of the International Commission for the History of Towns, and after the fall of communism, the medieval historian Adriaan Verhulst (at the University of Ghent), as president of the Commission, asked me to set up a working group that would provide guidance to colleagues from former Communist countries who, for the first time, had a chance to join the European atlas project. I asked to be joined in this task by Ferdinand Oppl (Vienna) and Katalin Szende (Budapest). With the help of younger colleagues from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas office, we maintain a bibliography of all town atlases as they are published (see Royal Irish Academy website).

The membership of the International Commission for the History of Towns connects me with colleagues all around Europe. In 2010 I taught in a summer school on medieval towns at the Central European University in Budapest. In 2013 I travelled to Lviv, where Professor Myron Kapral from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences presented progress on the Ukrainian Historic Towns Atlas, which has since been published, with an English translation by a colleague in Dublin! In 2014

I travelled to Wrocław, where I spoke on the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (and was booked into a convent for the night, where I had to be in by 10 pm!). In 2015 I flew to Zurich, where we debated the self-representation of towns through the centuries, and in 2017 I will speak in Kraków on the challenge of comparative urban studies.

Every May we hold a seminar at the Royal Irish Academy on the topic of comparing Irish towns with each other, and more recently, with continental towns (see Figure 1). Imagine comparing the town of Kilkenny in Ireland with the town of Lviv in the Ukraine! (see Figure 2). The motivation for this difficult work is to explore whether European towns have common origins and have been shaped by common processes in their development. I feel that this work is an important antidote to the growing retreat into national boundaries that we are witnessing in Europe at present. For an elderly person like me who experienced the horrors of World War II in the middle of the continent, this trend is extremely worrying.

In conjunction with one of the editors of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas, Howard Clarke, a medieval historian, we edited a volume (550 pages), which was recently published under the title *Lords and Towns in Medieval Europe: The European Historic Towns Atlas Project*.

There was a time, 40 years ago, when I was very happy to produce our children (three sons), but when they were grown, I became obsessed with producing books instead. I recognized the research capacity within my own and neighbouring departments in University College Dublin, and jointly with my colleague Joe Brady, we started a series on "The Making of Dublin City" with the first volume called *Dublin through Space and Time*. This year, after having been jointly responsible for five volumes, I retired from this venture, which will be carried on by younger colleagues.

Not long before my retirement I became a member of the Kildare Street and University Club, a traditional gentlemen's club, housed in a splendid eighteenth-century building on Stephen's Green in Dublin. I was one of the first 10 women to join. My husband felt, at the time, that the yearly membership I had to pay was the lesser evil, compared with my wish to make a contribution towards Georgian Dublin by moving into one of the decaying eighteenth-century houses with the intent of repairing it! When elected, I asked to be shown the library and was told that the library was the domain of the gentlemen. I swallowed hard and tried again, after a couple of years; when I succeeded, the Secretary sat in his office, ready to cope with an outcry that did not happen. Instead, I found that the gentlemen continued to hold their snoozes, in spite of my presence! To my surprise, a couple of years later, I was asked to become the convener of the Library Committee. It was a challenge—there was

neither a catalogue nor any policy. With the help of the Danish wife of a former Irish ambassador, our library was transformed into a more professional place. We began to honour our treasures, one of which was a volume that had been pierced by a bullet fired during the Easter Rising of 1916. I resigned this year, after 12 years on the committee.

After my retirement I explained to my parish priest that I wished to set up an ecumenical scripture-reading group in the parish, as a focus on primary-source material has always been a cornerstone of my life. My lovely parish priest was alarmed and informed me that this approach was not favoured by the Catholic Church. The Presbyterian minister in my suburb came to my rescue by meeting her Catholic counterpart over coffee, and jointly with her, and with the anxious blessings of my parish priest, we started an inter-church scripture-reading group that is now in its fifth year. I act as joint convener and secretary and suffer from anxiety every time I see how many e-mail addresses bounce back after I send out a circular. I am particularly fascinated by the interface between the Judaic and the Christian tradition and wonder, over and over again, why the Holy Spirit did not intervene at the earliest stages of the formation of the Christian church in order to prevent so much suffering in later centuries.

Two years ago, I was elected to the council of my local parish, as I wanted to offer my services at a time of crisis in the Catholic Church in Ireland that was aggravated by the abuse of children. I was surprised by the deep divisions among the members of my council, with the chairman belonging to Opus Dei and most of the women either being viewed as suspect by the clergy because of their charismatic leanings or finding themselves in a continuous battle for acceptance as lay people. Also, I had not been aware previously of the psychological difficulties our priests had with having lay people share responsibility for the spiritual life of the Church. It is estimated that, within 15 years, many churches in Dublin will have no priest at all. But attempts to prepare for this situation are as still being resisted. So we rejoice in small successes. Together with a friend, I found an old table in the clock tower of our church that now stands at the back of the church and provides information on various issues, and we make prayers available, such as, for example, prayers of Edith Stein, a Carmelite of Jewish descent who died at Auschwitz, and of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran clergyman who was hanged by Hitler for his resistance to the regime. We are involved in a constant effort to raise consciousness in spiritual matters.

My greatest loss after my retirement was my research students. I am delighted that younger colleagues from as far as China now ask for digital copies of my publications via the internet and engage in discussions of their work via e-mail. Some younger colleagues on the Continent have become friends—for example, Daniel Stracke, from the Institute for

Comparative Urban Studies in Münster, who courageously tries to organize funding for the "digital turn" in our Historic Towns Atlas work.

I was delighted when I found out that my 10 grandchildren (Figure 3) were, at least at times, prepared to be "students." The oldest will enter Oxford next autumn to read German Studies, and the younger ones are keen to do gardening with me or do projects. Last week we planted potatoes, peas, and beans. Last year I invited four of the younger ones into an old farmhouse on the heights of the Eifel Mountains near Cologne, from where we visited the Roman remains in Trier, where they promptly got lost in the underground of the old baths. Also last year I took my older grandchildren for a visit to Münster and asked a medieval historian, a colleague and friend, to give them an introduction to the Westphalian Peace Treaty. It was a terrible flop, as the boys only came alive when, over ice-cream in a café, they debated the nature of American tanks during World War II with my bewildered colleague.

We live in a rambling old house in an old suburb of Dublin that has space enough to allow us to hold house concerts, given by the Russian/German pianist Elisaveta Blumina and her musical friends. In March we listened to French music composed for piano and clarinet. After the concert the audience of 16 people went to the kitchen, where we enjoyed a little supper and a lot of talk—never a problem in Dublin! I spend a lot of time on the maintenance of the house—with slates missing, windows needing painting (as the fierce westerly winds coming in from the Atlantic strip off the paint), drains blocked, and the big trees needing surgery if they are not to annoy the neighbours!

My relationship with our three sons is dynamic. As the photo taken recently by my husband at our fiftieth wedding anniversary shows, they tower over me (Figure 4). Brendan, the eldest, is Professor for International Relations at Cambridge and publishes books that try to reform the faltering European Union on the lines of the United States. Daniel is Barrister-at-Law, and when asked by a law professor at the University of Cologne why he wanted to do a PhD, answered, "Would you like to be the only one in your family without a one?" The youngest is Ciaran, who is Associate Professor of Bioengineering at Trinity College Dublin and travels around the world discussing the impact of car accidents on the human body!

Over Easter I went with David, Daniel, and Ciaran and their families, as well as my cellist sister and her violinist husband (both from the ABEGG Trio in Germany), to our house in Donegal on the west coast of Ireland. Mobile phones were decommissioned for the visit. I invited the children for riding lessons at a nearby farm. We searched for Easter eggs in freezing weather. Since there were 15 people giving eggs to each other, a lot of searching was needed. We met around the kitchen table for a reading from

the Acts of the Apostles, describing St Paul's journey by boat (interesting for a sailing family) from Palestine to Rome. We painted pictures that will be sold at an auction, usually for less than 1 Euro, to loyal parents. I spend a lot of time every year trying to improve our garden in the wilderness of Donegal, which gets battered by wild storms (Figure 5).

From time to time I love to be in our house in Donegal alone with David, who suffers from a serious illness; I have also battled health problems in recent years, and we are conscious that time together is a precious gift. David, who was born in India, where his father attempted to keep the British Empire together while his mother encouraged the children to squat in the street and spin yarn in support of Gandhi, survived a German U-boat attack that left him adrift for 13 days in a sailing boat in the South Atlantic. I survived Russian and English air raids in my native town of Rostock on the Baltic. Thanks to my mother's determination, we succeeded in leaving the Russian-occupied zone of Germany, in a cattle train, by the end of 1945, and went to join my mother's parents in Cologne on the Rhine, where all the bridges were still down. In my old age, these previous phases of my life echo in my memory, and I know that I have a lot to be grateful for: survival; a deeply respected partner for life; a large, integrated family; and a professional career that provided creative relationships with colleagues who became friends.

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Brief Biography

Anngret Simms, born in 1937 in Rostock on the Baltic, is Professor Emeritus of the School of Geography at University College Dublin. She is a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Her long-term research interest is in the comparative study of the evolution of the landscape in Ireland and in East Central Europe, both regions that experienced colonization during the Middle Ages and beyond. Her ongoing research project is the joint editorship of *The Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (27 volumes so far and a number of ancillary publications). She is a member of the International Commission for the History of Towns and, jointly with Ferdinand Opll (Vienna) and Katalin Szende (Budapest), she coordinates the international Atlas Working Group set up by the Commission. Recently she published papers on comparative urban studies that attempt to explore the data made available by the European Historic Towns Atlas project. Her research questions concern the relative location of medieval churches and market-places, cartographically expressing a clear chronology of development; and the unity in diversity in comparative analyses of towns as far apart geographically as Kilkenny in Ireland and Sopron in Hungary, but linked by the unifying political and cultural system of medieval Europe. Most recently she jointly edited a substantial volume entitled *Lords and Towns in Medieval Europe* (2015) focusing on the contrast in urban development between the core of Europe and its periphery.

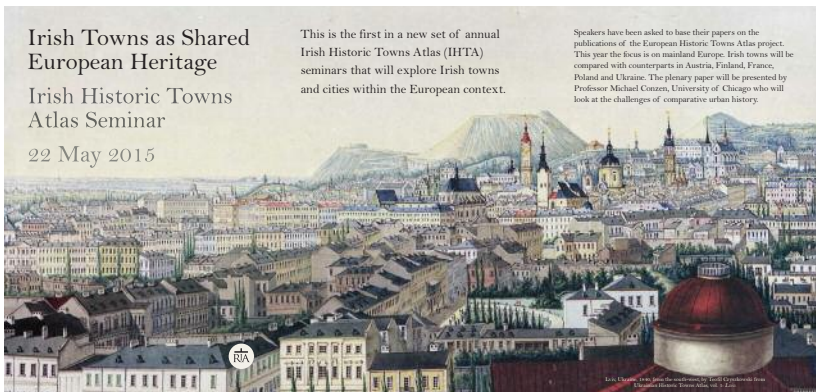


FIGURE 1

Invitation for the annual Irish Historic Towns Atlas seminar (2015), showing Lviv, Ukraine, 1840, (*Ukrainian historic towns atlas*, vol. 1).



FIGURE 2

Anngret Simms with members and staff of the Royal Irish Academy at the launch of Dublin, part III: 1756–1847, by Rob Goodbody (front row with tie) (2014). Her former student of Geography, Roddy Doyle, now a well-known Irish novelist, introduced the volume (front row, far right).



FIGURE 3

Anngret and David Simms with their three boys (and wives) and nine of their 10 grandchildren at their house in Donegal (2015).



FIGURE 4

Anngret Simms with her three sons at her 50th wedding anniversary in July 2015.



FIGURE 5

'Scotty's Hill,' Anngret and David's house in Donegal; (Watercolour, 2006).

Retiring to work

Peter J. Taylor

Northumbria University, U.K.

E-mail: crogfam@gmail.com

I have experienced three episodes in my career that involved considering retirement. In the early 1980s, just after I had launched *Political Geography Quarterly* and as I was putting the finishing touches to my sixth book, *Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State and Locality*, Newcastle University offered me “early retirement” so I could contemplate an alternative career to academia. It was the time of the Thatcher government’s squeeze on U.K. higher-education funding, and some universities responded but trying to cut their labour costs. I was not personally targeted (I think I was sent a general letter for staff 40 and over), but I was upset: I decided to try the U.S. academic labour market but was met with four failed applications before deciding to stay in U.K. academia by simply not responding to Newcastle’s unkind offer. A quarter of a century later, in 2010, having moved to Loughborough University in 1995, I was required by that university to retire at 65: with Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) research going from strength to strength and with several books in press or nearing completion (*The Globalization of Advertising*, *Political Geography* (6th ed.), *Global Urban Analysis*, *International Handbook of Globalization and World Cities*, and *Extraordinary Cities*), I was simply not ready for such a move. Northumbria University provided an opportunity to continue, and I jumped at their offer of employment. The next five years (2010–14) proved to be one of the most productive times in my career, with 22 academic journal articles. But with my 70th birthday looming, I finally retired from Northumbria in 2014. This was my initiative and it was prompted by two changes: I had begun to feel teaching to be more a chore than a joy, and the ever more prevalent bureaucratic practices in U.K. higher education were becoming excessively irritating. And so here I am, officially retired.

I have always loved both researching and writing, and retirement has enabled me to continue these endeavours. The key difference now is that I decide my own working practices. I have a new flexibility, where work fits into my wider life pursuits rather than vice versa, as tended to be the case when I was formally employed. This means more family time and more holidays: as a typical northern European, I find travel to Mediterranean islands irresistible, in my case combining swimming with reading. At home I live near a mile-long beach, which I try to walk every

day for health reasons. But in addition, the walk is always fascinating because beaches continually change depending on weather and tide—I sometimes wish I had been a physical geographer! So, without any pressure but my ongoing practice of always “being behind” in my work, I have embarked on three projects that I am thoroughly enjoying. They are very, very different from each other, and this adds to my overall enjoyment of them. One is quite personal and could be viewed as “not academic”; but it is, although I would never be advised to pursue it in a formal academic environment. The other two are continuations of previous academic work but are taking new directions: a detailed empirical project for which I would likely not find time if still employed, and a broad, vast theoretical narrative schema of the sort I have always found engrossing. In the case of the latter, I purposely “think outside the box” (explicitly following Immanuel Wallerstein’s call to “unthink” nineteenth-century maxims), an approach that is not always rewarded in academia, but that matters less to me now. Retirement means concentrating just on work I want to do and taking risks without a second thought.

The personal project relates to my enduring love of popular music and nostalgia for the music I grew up with. But I have not been able to resist going beyond the enjoyment and turning this into a social science exercise. There are three ideas I bring together to make sense of my own experience of growing up in a pit village in the English midlands and being devoted to early American rock n’ roll. These are (a) the birth of teenagehood in the early 1950s, (b) the human tendency to process in groups of 150 people or items, and (c) the memory bump of biographical recollections of years 14 to 21. My memory bump is from c. 1958 to 1966, in which I remember c. 150 records that defined me as an everyday teenager. This fun work had a simple empirical beginning. Confined at home for three months after a hip-replacement operation, I decided to compile my top 50 favourite records. Without keeping count, I made a list that totalled 153 records; it was this number that aroused my social science antennae—hunter-gatherer groups of 150, Christmas lists of 150, and so on that define Dunbar’s Law. Adding memory bump and teenage to this provides a framework for exploring the meanings of popular music in the late fifties and sixties through the experience of an ordinary consumer. This work is progressing in fits and starts—it appears my other projects take precedence within my flexible writing time—but I expect a productive outcome, perhaps an e-book.

The more academic empirical project taps into my continued fascination with Jane Jacob’s concept of explosive growth in the economic development of cities. My city, Newcastle upon Tyne, experienced two or more such periods of growth in the nineteenth century. There was a changing

of the political guard in mid-century, and the project involves identifying various networks—cultural, political, economic—across the century to decipher the nature of this urban change through the dominant agents making and remaking the city. The idea is to collect a large amount of relational data (hundreds of individuals in scores of institutions) and use the latest network analysis techniques to discern different patterns of inter-personal connections over time. Look out for academic papers from this work over the next couple of years.

The large-scale theoretical work is the latest manifestation of my ongoing experiment of putting cities first in understanding macro social change. Bringing together two minority positions, Jane Jacobs on early cities and William Ruddiman on long-term anthropogenic climate change, these highly contrarian arguments enable me to contend that, during the Holocene, climate change has been an artefact of urban process over eight millennia. With urban demand at centre stage, this provides a fundamental critique of supply-orientated climate science and policy, notably the overwhelming focus on carbon reduction. These ideas are so outside conventional thinking that publication has proved difficult, sometimes the manuscript doesn't even getting past an editor's initial scrutiny. This is the first time in my publishing career that I have experienced such rejection, but, as a retiree, I can afford to carry on. And things are looking up: it now seems publications *will be* forthcoming. In the past I put much effort into writing one major book a decade—"major" meaning the amount of time and effort I devoted to them (see bibliographic sketch below). If I repeat this pattern through to the 2020s, it will be about cities in anthropogenic climate change. Clearly, I think my new research is important; this is the one time I wish I was a couple of decades younger to fully explore its development into a big project.

By its nature, this short essay has been all about me but I must emphasize that I am not, nor ever have been, a lone scholar; I rely on collaborators, and the projects mentioned above would not be going ahead without current research friends. Thus, in the teenage project, I am working with Tom Bell (Western Kentucky University), who adds a Mid-West American take on becoming an everyday teenager; in the Newcastle project, I am collecting data with Mike Barke (Northumbria University), who knows Newcastle better than I do, and Zachary Neal (Michigan State University) will come on board for the network analysis; in the climate change project, there is much discussion with Geoff O'Brien and Phil O'Keefe (both Northumbria University), who understand land use and environmental issues much more than I do. The research logistics vary. In order, these are international conference meetings and e-mail conversations; research every Wednesday in libraries or archives; and

frequent but irregular contrarian sessions at Northumbria University. The overall result is that I continue to research and write with people whose knowledges complement mine, and thereby, we create genuinely valuable collective outcomes.

This is a cross-section, a snap shot now, of my work in retirement, but research is dynamic and always changes as ideas develop and opportunities arise. In my case, there will be a new episode in the world city network research with Ben Derudder (Ghent University) and involving other GaWC colleagues, as the collection of the next round of service-value data for cities and firms gets underway. Currently being planned, data collection should take place later this summer, so analysis will begin towards the end of the year, with a new stream of papers to follow. And I am planning a seventh edition of *Political Geography* with Colin Flint (Utah State University).

Retirement? It's great!

Bibliographic Episodes

For each 'major' book I list two articles where I initially tested ideas and/or engaged with different audiences.

- 1974 "Electoral bias and the distribution of party voters" *Transactions, Institute of British Geographers*, 63, 53-73 (with Graham Gudgin)
- 1976 "The statistical basis of decision making in electoral districting" *Environment & Planning A*, 8, 43-58 (with Graham Gudgin)
- 1979 *Seats, Votes and the Spatial Organization of Elections*, (pp. 240, with Graham Gudgin), London: Pion (reprinted in 2012 as an ECPR "Classic" - Colchester UK: European Consortium of Political Research)
- 1982 "A materialist framework for political geography" *Transactions, Institute of British Geographers*, ns7, 15-34 (selected in 1996 as a "Citation Classic" for the discussion series in *Progress in Human Geography*)
- 1984 "A politics of failure: a political geography of Ghanaian elections, 1954-79" *Annals, Association of American Geographers*, 74, 574-89 (with Peter Osei-Kwame) (reprinted in Agnew, J. (ed.) *Political Geography: a Reader*, London: Arnold)
- 1985 *Political Geography; World-Economy, Nation-State, Locality* (pp. 238) London: Longman (now in its sixth edition (with Colin Flint))
- 1994 "Ten years that shook the world: the United Provinces as the first hegemonic state", *Sociological Perspectives*, 37, 25-46
- 1996 "What's modern about the modern world-system? Introducing ordinary modernity through world hegemony", *Review of International Political Economy* 3, 260-86
- 1996 *The Way the Modern World Works: World Hegemony to World Impasse* (pp. 276) London: Wiley

- 2001 "Specification of the world city network", *Geographical Analysis* 33, 181-94
- 2002: "Measurement of the world city network" *Urban Studies* 39, 2367-76 (with Gilda Catalano and David Walker)
- 2004 *World City Network: a Global Urban Analysis* (pp. 241) London: Routledge (second edition with Ben Derudder)
- 2010: 'Explosive city growth in the modern world-system: an initial inventory derived from urban demographic changes' *Urban Geography* 31, 865-84 (with Ann Firth, Michael Hoyler and Dennis Smith)
- 2012: "Extraordinary cities: early 'city-ness' and the origins of agriculture and states" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36, 415-47
- 2013: *Extraordinary Cities: Millennia of Moral Syndromes, World-Systems and City/State Relations* (pp. 424) Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar (included as one of the American Library Association's "Outstanding Academic Titles, 2013")

Brief Biography

Peter Taylor is Emeritus Professor of Human Geography at Northumbria University and at Loughborough University. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (U.K.).

He obtained his PhD from Liverpool University in 1970 and taught at Newcastle University from 1968 to 1995. He has held visiting positions in the United States (Iowa, Clark, Dartmouth, Illinois, Binghamton, Virginia Tech, Delaware), Canada (Alberta), France (Paris), The Netherlands (Amsterdam), and Belgium (Ghent) and has been an Advisor to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He was the founding editor of *Political Geography (Quarterly)* in 1982 and *Review of International Political Economy* in 1992. He is founder and director of the Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) research network.

From 1994 to 1996 he was a member of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Future of the Social Sciences. Designated for Distinguished Scholarship Honors by the Association of American Geographers in 2003, he was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers in 2010. He has honorary doctorates from Oulu University (2006) and Ghent University (2008).

His recent and current research has focused upon the nature of cities, past and present, in relation to other cities, regions, states, and climate change.

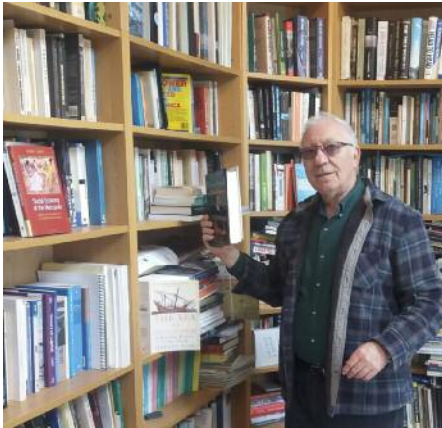


FIGURE 1
Peter checking something from Braudel (2016)



FIGURE 2
Peter's local haunt - Tynemouth Long Sands (2016)



FIGURE 3

Peter working in his office with Enid watching from behind (2016)

Do You Believe in Life after Love?

Richard Walker

University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.

E-mail: walker@berkeley.edu

I retired in 2012, and I have never been happier than during these last years. Not that life doesn't always have its travails and sorrows, but beneath the rocky surface, the good life has a solid foundation, and that, thankfully, I have. No wonder one of my favourite songs is the last hit by the inimitable Cher, and I can only answer the musical question in the positive. I loved my many years as a professor of geography at the University of California, but I am ever so happy with my life as a retiree.

The invitation to write about retirement is, of course, an invitation to talk about oneself, but perhaps the most important thing is to speak to those who look upon retirement as a problem. There are many in our line of work as academics who view retirement as a regrettable loss of status, as professional invisibility and a void to be filled. I think they are wrong, and I am here to defend the state of retirement as something to be eagerly awaited and embraced.

There are, of course, those who cannot retire for lack of an adequate pension. So I ask the reader for a certain indulgence, since I was able to retire without fear of impoverishment. Those lacking decent pensions are numerous and are growing more so with the inadequacy of funding for public social security systems in most of the world and mounting failures of private corporate pension schemes in the United States. That retirement should be a time of want in the wealthy countries of the world is nothing less than scandalous. The struggle for a decent living for everyone, especially the young and the old, continues to be one of humanity's most pressing issues.

So, clearly, I am speaking from a position of privilege as a professor emeritus from a large and famous public university that was well funded during the heyday of the American Century. Many, if not most, of my generation of academics enjoyed the same good fortune of riding the wave of post-war social democracy or the New Deal order. One can only hope that this favoured cohort is cognizant of the political achievements of the past that made our success possible—and that have been so badly eroded under the neo-liberal regimes that followed. But since it is the case that we have good pension plans, how foolish it would be to waste the opportunity we have been given to retire at a good age and be paid for the privilege!

University professors are doubly privileged by having one of the best jobs available, working in islands of relative autonomy and learning, in a sea of business and bureaucracy, profit making and hierarchy. What is more, the kind of work we do can, for the most part, be carried over into retirement—we can keep the best bits, like reading, writing, teaching, mentoring and research, while discarding the drudgery of classes, faculty meetings, student hand-holding, committee work, and administration. Remaining actively involved in research, writing, and publishing depends very little on being formally employed. And one can, in most circumstances, continue to mentor graduate students as an emeritus, participate in research teams, and so forth. Four years into retirement, I still serve on several doctoral committees and still direct a major public-service research project called the Living New Deal.

While some faculty fear being “put out to pasture” (as Jim Parsons put it to me, when he retired), the loss of professional status and public visibility is widely exaggerated. Even if one is no longer a pillar of an institution or a department, at conferences one is treated in the same way as before, journals and presses do not discriminate, and journalists continue to call. Moreover, there are any number of opportunities for teaching outside the university and for public speaking, and the audiences are usually much more eager to listen than the undergraduates one has left behind. The hard-earned status of university professor still carries considerable weight with the general public and generally earns more respect than within the competitive walls of academe.

At the same time, it is important for us elders to make way for younger generations of scholars. One of the greatest sources of friction within departments is the aged colleague who refuses to go gracefully and continues to plague his/her fellows with intrusions into faculty and student affairs. A timely retirement can open up a spot for a new hire from among the current crop of PhDs and bring new vigour to a program.

There is another important privilege that we retirees enjoy: not being tied down to one place. If the kids are grown, the divorce settled, and the house paid off, retirement brings with it an exceptional freedom to travel or relocate. I now split my time between Berkeley and Burgundy, where I bought a house in a village. I had been travelling back and forth to France for many years to visit my French partner, and when I retired, it made sense to spend more time there. Nevertheless, picking up and moving for half of the year to a village in the countryside where I knew no one was by no means a sure thing; but I was determined to make a go of it and the adventure has worked out most admirably.

One could say that this shows extreme privilege, and it does, but it also means making the best of one of the world’s worst housing markets

in the Bay area. For years, I could not afford to buy a house in Berkeley, even on a good professorial salary, so I used my savings for a down payment to buy into a depressed property market in rural France. Meanwhile, my daughter lives in my rental house in California because she cannot afford Berkeley rents on a young person's hourly wage these days. Turning lemons into lemonade, as they say.

Thanks to another privilege, living in the age of the Internet, I can keep working on both sides of the Atlantic. My biggest worry is the low-grade network in my rural area—which is to say, I have no worries at all. Indeed, I can get much more done here than back home in Berkeley, where personal, public and professional demands are more pressing.

The most important thing is that, wherever I am or whatever the demands on my time, I no longer run from meeting to meeting, worry about tomorrow's lecture or deadline, or feel compelled to work evenings and weekends. The sense of permanent relief, of a kind of glacial rebound from the endless burdens of the job, is palpable.

More importantly, I'm no longer looking over my shoulder to see who's gaining. By this age, you had better be satisfied with what has been accomplished and let go of unquenched ambition, which is an admirable trait for the young but unseemly in the grey-haired. What *we* should be cultivating is a sense of contentment with life and confidence in the knowledge that we did our best over all those years. If another book, grant, or prize is added to our lifetime CV, so much the better, but it's not essential. If no one looks up to you now, they never will, that's for sure.

The French (and other Latin cultures) have a phrase for life after retirement; they call it "the Third Age." I never heard that term used in the United States, where work is life, money is god, and aging is anathema. The country is so much the poorer for its collective mania. For me, the Third Age means a new life, a time of renewal, and a chance to look up from the books and take stock of the world afresh. Above all, you had better be aware that we all face the ultimate abyss, and that this is your last chance to come to terms with life and flourish.

Selected Publications

- Sayer, A. and Walker, R. 1992. *The new social economy*. New York: Blackwell.
 Walker, R. 1989. *The capitalist imperative*. New York: Blackwell.
 ———. 2004. *The conquest of bread: 150 years of California agribusiness*. New York: New Press.
 ———. 2007. *The country in the city: The greening of the San Francisco Bay area*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.
 Walker, R. and Lodha, S. 2013. *The atlas of California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Brief Biography

Richard Walker is Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught from 1975 to 2012 and served as Chair of Geography, Global Metropolitan Studies, and California Studies. He has written on a diverse range of topics in economic, urban, and environmental geography and is co-author of *The Capitalist Imperative* (1989) and *The New Social Economy* (1992). He has written extensively on California, including *The Conquest of Bread* (2004), *The Country in the City* (2007), and *The Atlas of California* (2013). His awards include Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships, the Distinguished Scholarship Award of the Association of American Geographers, the Carey McWilliams Award from the California Studies Association, and the Hal Rothman prize from the Western History Association.



FIGURE 1
Walker speaking to students from
Montreal on the
Berkeley campus, 2015



FIGURE 2
Walker and friend from
San Francisco working
the BBQ in front of the
house in Burgundy, 2015



FIGURE 3
Walker and Gray Brechin at a New York radio
interview about the Living New Deal project, 2015



FIGURE 4
Walker at commencement,
on his retirement, 2012



FIGURE 5
Walker with village
friends in Epineuil,
France, 2015



FIGURE 6
The village of Epineuil amidst the vineyards, 2014

Some Notes on Being Retired

Herman van der Wusten

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

E-mail: H.H.vanderWusten@uva.nl

When you retire from the university in the Netherlands, you cannot really hang on. There is a clean break. In my former university you can only stay connected as a guest researcher, which essentially means a library card and a mail address. But that at least provides continued access to important sources, and you can study from home as well. Retirement, it should be added, is nothing like a dry desert here. Pensions for university personnel are still good. All this, by the way—a clean break and a good pension—is currently somewhat shifting and in doubt.

When I retired, I gave an official last lecture and there was a party. At the end I said that I still liked to study (which was the case) and I indicated that from now on I would study as an amateur scientist—no longer as a professional. This is what I have done ever since. After a number of years it still suits me fine.

The first thing that strikes you as a retiree is an immense sense of freedom. No obligatory meetings in the calendar, no last-minute, coordinated efforts to get things right that tend to go wrong, no interaction that feels like one small phase in a long drawn-out negotiation, and no piles of papers to correct where sizeable numbers of candidates have, at best, a vague impression as to the knowledge base assumed by the exercise. Also, of course, fewer professional contacts, no intense discussions with PhD candidates or bright undergraduate and graduate students about important questions, no longer the proverbial (but, in fact, exceedingly rare) brainstorm at the coffee machine where the best ideas seem to ripen, and less sense of what's going on, as you tend no longer to be in the 'natural' loops where academic life unfolds.

Leaving behind these fortunate losses and times of often deep satisfaction, you start a new life. One great thing that accompanied my freedom was the presence of a young son—he was four at the time. Our first common adventure under the new rules was his mastering of the bike. As he was moving forward on his very small machine, I had my hand in his neck—quicker and quicker I ran, and then I withdrew my hand and he moved himself and I ran alongside as I could and he did not fall. Freedom for two. In the following years I brought him to school and collected him in the afternoon. In between and afterward I studied at home with my electronic link to the university library and access to the rapidly expanding wonders of the Internet. From then on I mainly visited the university to collect books and return them.

What, in fact, had I meant when I announced my amateur status and renounced my professional habitus? At the time I thought it self-evident, did not think very much about it, and went to work. On second thought, it is intriguing that both terms have a partly religious background. Professionals profess their special knowledge to the outside world and take vows to respect the rules of conduct in the specialized activities that they enter based on acquired standards of education and training. Following in the footsteps of religious associations, they are organized in professional societies. Once accepted in these societies they work autonomously within the larger community but remain subject to the internal rules of their professional societies. One of the earliest uses of the word “amateur” was in the Calvinist churches, where people took part in church services either as full members or as observers and listeners: amateurs, who were excluded from the sacraments (holy communion and baptism).

In this light my loss seems serious. The term denotes the difference between the inner and outer circle of a highly valued community. It is also serious from the dominant perspective in our secular and thoroughly monetized age, where the distinction between professionals and amateurs is generally read exclusively as one between those who get and those who don't get monetary compensation for the practice of their specialized activities. Professionals themselves within the academy are now especially keen on defending their autonomy against encroachments by the seemingly ever-growing bureaucratization of their work environment. This is an ongoing issue. In fact, it had struck me in my professional life how much emphasis there always was on this “right” of the true professional as compared to the often slight concern with maintaining professional standards and attitudes evinced by internal oversight bodies that were deemed legitimate.

The funny thing of course is that, with your relatively luxurious pension, you can ensure that you have complete work autonomy in retirement. What about your amateur status (no monetary compensation, no access to the sacraments)? In science, sports, and the arts, where this distinction between professionals and amateurs is most visible, the habitus of professionals, including high income from their activities and access to the secularized sacraments (prizes, invitations to the most highly regarded scientific events, etc.), is undeniably superior. In many instances, this is a recent development. Professions for those in the arts were already well established by the late Middle Ages. Scientific research was only slowly professionalized in the nineteenth century. In Europe, access to academic positions was, until the twentieth century, largely via the position of *Privatdozent* (as it was called in Germany), a mixture of superior amateur and salesman relying on personal wealth and student fees. In sports, professionalization came late. In the Olympic movement, in particular, it was until recently resisted.

In short, my retirement has brought me autonomy in my work at the cost of some loss of status in light of views and approaches that are often of recent date, a predicament that I can easily accept. Amateur or professional? Who cares? I have up, until now, been actively involved in the writing and production of three Dutch-language books (one on environmental geography, one on geopolitics, and one on a new extension of a university in another city). I have explored a couple of partly overlapping themes that were new to me and on which I have published rather extensively (on the formation of political centres, on diplomacy, and on the development of the European Union). I have frequently responded to people who asked me to write on some topic or I have taken up topics that intrigued me as they passed me or I passed them: for example, the notion of geographical determinism, the reception of books and ideas (like Haushofer in the inter-war Netherlands, Siegfried's book on electoral geography outside France), terrorism, the spatial distribution of war monuments in the Netherlands, the distribution of colonial street names, the procurement of a new generation of fighter jets for the Dutch air force, the Dutch predilection (if any) for meetings (the so called *polder* model) and their evolving conventions, and finally, the succession of general models in urban planning since Le Corbusier. I have been very fortunate to cooperate with colleagues in a number of these endeavours, particularly with Virginie Mamadouh.

As I grow older, I become increasingly attached to the life style and literary practice of Montaigne: stay at home surrounded by your most trusted friends and your books and write essays, personal reflections on whatever hits your attention under the rubric "*Que sais-je?*" What do I know? The enormous amount of information now available as you push the right buttons is overwhelming and requires careful sifting, but then also opens windows for insight and appreciation that could not be imagined a generation ago. From time to time, I am seduced to engage with a larger project, and I very occasionally give a lecture, do a paper presentation, attend a seminar, or socialize with former colleagues—geographers and others. I avoid academic ceremonies as much as possible.

The continuing curiosity that urges me to engage in projects and plans provides a certain sense of direction, but the urge to engage with society at large has almost vanished. I write this piece next to an issue of a *Médecins sans frontières* magazine that reports on ebola in Sierra Leone and ethnic violence in South Sudan, their bombed facilities in Afghanistan and Yemen, and their actions in Greece for refugees. I cannot but admire the effort, but it seems easier to put aside than it used to be. The jihadist bombings a couple of days ago in Brussels leave me with a sense of sadness, as do the cruelties across the world that fill the news. But they hardly interrupt my daily concerns. It is weird to be so

globally connected and at the same time so unconcerned by what reaches you from all directions. I also feel a growing aversion of hyperbolic language, a register so often now preferred.

Life as a retiree is obviously distinctly framed by the household within which you find yourself. Olga and I have raised our son, who has now left for university. We are part of a larger circle of children and grandchildren that live elsewhere. Olga still works as a grant advisor at my old university. After she successfully helped to manage a large European research grant that resulted in a comparative study of creative city formation in 13 cities across Europe, she now advises jurists and communication scientists on their proposals and presentations for national and international grants. This has turned out to be a new profession in the making. I remember meeting an American historian in the 1990s who had become what was then called a “proposal writer” and I thought it ridiculous. But acquiring funding for research has now become such a vital element in the functioning of the university and the process has indeed become so competitive and complicated that this development is amply warranted. It is, in fact, extremely interesting to become involved in the thinking in other disciplines, so working on proposals is an intellectually rewarding activity, a form of specialized expertise in its own right. I am happy to assist occasionally in these endeavours.

Recently visiting my student son Alexander to inspect his new lodgings, I again walked the streets of Bristol that I had visited nearly 50 years earlier with a student group on the way back from an excursion in Ireland (flying was no option for such purposes at the time). Peter Haggett gave us an impressive lecture. I remember his careful handwriting with chalk on the (real) blackboard. Progress in Geography had just been launched. I had totally forgotten the city until I walked up steep Park Street, with a view of the tower of Wills Memorial Building at the right end near the top, and suddenly I was on familiar ground. More and more, you pick up observations, experiences, impressions that quite easily connect to earlier parts of your life. Sometimes you come back to places visited earlier, sometimes you make the connections in other ways, but they all contribute to the web of experience that is a person’s life. I am still glad to extend the web by bits and pieces.

As a former professional, I feel extremely grateful to have participated for a while in the contemporary version of the centuries old Republic of Letters (and numbers, one now has to add; perhaps it would be better to rename it altogether after e- mail and whatsapp). At the time when I was still “working,” we had a small corner there that we called political geography. Being involved in the exchange of views that occurred provided you with a sense that progress was, indeed, being made. This was useful. Whether it was true, is another matter.

Selected Publications

For various reasons I particularly value the following publications but I should add that none really made waves:

- C. Stoppelenburg & H. van der Wusten, Continuïteit en verandering in de politieke kaart van Nederland 1897-1913, *Acta Politica*, 21 (1986), 431-448.
- John O'Loughlin & Herman van der Wusten, Political Geography of Panregions, *Geographical Review* , 80,1 (1990), 1-20.
- Herman van der Wusten, Variations of territoriality: states and borders in Present-day Europe, In: W.A. Gallusser (ed.) *Political Boundaries and Coexistence*. Peter Lang Berne 1994, 402-412
- Herman van der Wusten, Political world cities: where flows through entwined multi-state and transnational networks meet places, In: P.J. Taylor a.o. (eds.) *Cities in Globalization. Practices, policies and theories*. Routledge Abingdon 2007, 202-218.
- Herman van der Wusten & Virginie Mamadouh, Siegfried et les études électorales au-delà de l'hexagone, to be published in: Michel Bussi e.a. (eds.) *Le Tableau politique de la France de l'Ouest d'André Siegfried*. Presses Universitaires de Rennes Rennes 2016. 17 pp.

Brief Biography

I was born and raised in Amsterdam, and lived for a while in two other Dutch cities (in Maastricht, long before the treaty; and in The Hague, when the Dutch government had already been there for some centuries). I studied at the University of Amsterdam, wrote my PhD and worked there from beginning to end, finally as Professor of Political Geography and then as Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. In between I studied in the archives in London and Dublin on Irish resistance movements in the 19th century, did field work in the West of Ireland as European Agricultural Policy was introduced there and in the Rif and Anti Atlas in Morocco in the places of origin of what at the time were called 'guest workers' in the Netherlands. I also spent some periods at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. I have been journal editor (GeoJournal, TESG) and chair of the IGU Commission of Political Geography, I have got the Plancius Medal of the Royal Dutch Geographical Society, the Mattei Dogan Prize of the IGU and I am a Member of the Academia Europaea.



FIGURE 1
EUGEO Congress Budapest 2015



FIGURE 2
At home 2012



FIGURE 3
Holiday in Italy with Olga 2011



FIGURE 4
Walk in the dunes with Alexander 2013



FIGURE 5
Holiday in Italy with Masha 2014

Commentary

Learning from the Emeriti

John Agnew

*Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles,
1171 Bunche Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095 U.S.A.
E-mail: jagnew@geog.ucla.edu*

Getting older has only meant retirement relatively recently. Partly this is about the lengthening of life spans. Many of our ancestors even a generation ago barely made it to 55. Retirement (and the pension that might fund it) was also one of the rewards that came from diligent work habits. Before Bismarck saw off the German socialists with his state pension, retirement was a narrow privilege for those few with the assets to see them through old age. Of course, many of them had never worked that much anyway. So, retirement for them was more *de jure* than *de facto*. Today we live in a world where improvements in healthcare and public health have led to the lengthening of life spans for much of the population well beyond those of even twenty or thirty years ago.

Particularly in countries such as Japan with declining birth rates and low immigration, the elderly are a burgeoning share of the population. Given that pensions are funded by those still working, those of pensionable-age are also an increasing fiscal burden. Living costs nevertheless often exceed the pensions that people have to live on. In Japan, press reports suggest, this has led to a geriatric crime wave as older people, predominantly men without family support, commit crimes in order to go to prison where they can get free board, lodging, and health care. In Japan 35 % of all shoplifting is committed by those over 60.

Worldwide the effective age of retirement has begun to creep upwards. Some of this is down to the fact that many people, particularly those in office jobs, do not wish to retire or want to postpone it for as long as they can. But it is also because of increasing pressure from the baby-boom generation whose exploding numbers threaten the solvency of pension plans both public and private. The days of the defined benefit pension seem numbered. Future academics may have to labor on into their 80s if investment plans and state pension funds go south.

Academics as yet are a sheltered group. American professors do not have a set year to retire from the classroom or from research and writing. Elsewhere, in the wealthier countries with state and private pensions of

one sort or another, the magic age is somewhere in the late 60s or 70. Of course, as Ghazi-Walid points out in his Introduction, things are not so great for retiring academics in the rest of the world. So, retirement has been and will be a choice for many of us and yet a potential loss of livelihood for others.

Most of the stories here are of “comfortable” retirements with continuing intellectual challenges and an absence of social isolation. These memoirs are not filled with a sense of loss or bereavement of a life left behind. Indeed, many of them seem positively joyous. Yet, I have long thought of retirement as a closing of doors rather than an opening of new ones. Perhaps my own father’s experience of being “important” one day and seemingly “redundant” the next as he received the proverbial gold watch for a lifetime of service has colored my view. Fred Boal speaks for many of the essayists gathered here when he writes: “I think we university folk are immensely privileged in that, in retirement, we can continue our life-long interests—here is no sudden disjunction, just continuities with quite gentle change.”

Interestingly, there is not much attention in the essays to the conditions under which people came to retire. Did they jump or were they pushed? Within the University of California, there is an entire bureaucracy committed to “retirement planning.” Some of this includes episodic reminders to the over-60s that they will soon be eligible for this or that seminar geared towards not simply suggesting but strongly encouraging steps towards the fateful day. The University may be expanding the intake of students but as of now the more expensive elderly faculty can be replaced with cheaper lecturers and early career Assistant Professors. This is justified in terms of “intellectual turnover” and finding jobs for one’s own graduate students. The pressure is on.

It is overwhelmingly true of these essays that retirement is anything but about having one foot in the grave. The overall level of activity seems well beyond that of most academics when still “gainfully employed,” as the phrase would have it. The travel itineraries, the reading lists, the talks given, and the books written (or at least, begun) all speak to active and purposeful retirements. I wonder if there is not something of a “selection bias” at work here? Many of my academic friends who have retired spend much of their time sitting around watching television or listening to classical music on the radio. They are more like how Eleanor Roosevelt imagined the typical retiree when she said in 1934: “It means so much to sit in the same chair you sat in for a great many years.” So, sitting around waiting for the Grim Reaper and talking about health ailments is not the message from our emeriti. Theirs is a retirement in which the demands on the day, without all those terrible meetings and pointless classes to distract one, are to be celebrated and not decried.

The fact that the essayists are all card-carrying geographers may also set them apart. I am impressed by the continuing commitment to inquisitiveness about the world in general that comes through in the essays. The content differs from person to person depending on their backgrounds and specialties. But the focus on keeping “in touch” with the world is pervasive. In retirement then as in earlier life a desire to find out about things and engage with others in that task is infectious and immunizes against just sitting around waiting for the end.

In high-school Latin class one of my texts was Cicero’s *How to Grow Old*. This suggested that with proper preparation (i.e. listening to Cicero) old age could be more satisfying than the earlier years. He recommended reading and gardening in particular. But what he really had in mind was preparing for the later years. One of the most impressive features of the essays is the degree to which people seem to have had some conception of what their retirement would involve. Perhaps this is what separates the apparently enjoyable from the seemingly bleak retirement? I should have taken Cicero more seriously.

Finally, Kevin Cox’s treadmill running – at his “athletic club” in Columbus Ohio – reminds me that the working life, particularly that of the academic whose promotions and reputation are based on “keeping at it,” can be very much like a treadmill: simply running in place to stay ahead. If our emeriti are a good guide retirement gives the welcome opportunity to get off that treadmill. What a relief.

It's the Money that Makes No Difference: Thoughts from 'Paid Retirement'

Ron Johnston

University of Bristol, UK

E-mail: R.Johnston@bristol.ac.uk

When Ghazi-Walid asked me to be one of the contributors to this collection of essays on the everyday lives of retired geographers I declined, because I am still (at the age of 75) in a paid post at the University of Bristol. So he asked me instead to be one of the commentators on the collection and, having read all of the essays, I realised that there is really little difference between me and their authors other than that I have a small amount of remuneration. We are very largely on the same trajectories and our lives are in many ways very similar.

In one sense I have been retired for more than twenty years since I left the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Essex in 1995 in an era when it was possible to start drawing one's pension at the age of 55 – albeit a substantially smaller one than I would have got if I had stayed in full-time employment until I had forty years of service under my belt. I was looking for a base where I could restart my research career and do some teaching, but never again take on major administrative responsibilities or attend unending streams of meetings. I knew that the University of Bristol had an 'exceptional talent' appointment stream and approached friends there to see if there was any chance of my being appointed. Within a week I had been told 'yes', although they insisted that to get the title of professor I had to endure a formal interview.¹ The terms were excellent – professorial status but a lecturer's salary – and I quickly agreed. I have never for a moment regretted that.

For the first ten years I taught two courses and rebuilt my research career, initially mainly through my well-established links with Charles Pattie and Dave Rossiter: we did a lot of work on redistricting in the UK – leading to a major book, *The Boundary Commissions* – and combined with my then-Bristol colleague Danny Dorling on some innovative work on voting patterns – brought together in another volume *From Votes to Seats* (1991); Charles and I brought a lot of our electoral work together in *Putting Voters in their Place* (2006). The collaboration with Charles and Dave continued, and in 2010 we started a major project involving first influencing legislation that changed the UK's redistricting process and then assessing its impact – for which the Political Studies Association gave me its 'Political Communicator of the Year' award in 2011. And a

conversation between the four of us stimulated some path-breaking work, for which we won ESRC support, on bespoke neighbourhoods.

In 2000 both Danny Dorling and Paul Longley departed Bristol, and Les Hepple and I were left as the only human geographers with strong quantitative interests. The curriculum was restructured and my courses phased out, and I became – in effect – a researcher with no other responsibilities. For a short while, although my position was secure and I still enjoyed commuting to Bristol two or three days a week to interact with my colleagues and continue my long-distance collaboration with Charles, the local prospects for collaborative work looked thin. By then, however, I had started a productive collaboration with Jim Forrest and Mike Poulsen on the measurement of ethnic residential segregation during a research visit to Macquarie University and had agreed to collaborate with James Sidaway on a new edition of *Geography and Geographers* (that came out in 2004 and he convinced me a decade later to do another, which appeared in 2016). And I went on, enjoying, co-editing *Environment and Planning A* until 2004 and *Progress in Human Geography* until 2006; what better ways to keep up with research trends and make contact with new researchers?

But Bristol then appointed both Kelvyn Jones and Paul Plummer, and things changed markedly. Paul convinced us that we – along with Les Hepple and Tony Hoare – should meet weekly to talk about our interests, along with any graduate students and others who cared to join us. This was a great success and we soon gained a semi-formal status within the School as the Spatial Modelling research group – alongside those in hydrology, glaciology and climate change. We convinced successive heads that the group should grow, which led to the appointments of Rich Harris, Winnie Wang and David Manley, and quantitative human geography was re-established as a major thread in the undergraduate curriculum² – although I did none of the formal teaching! Very sadly Les died prematurely and Paul decided to move on, but the later appointment of Clive Sabel and the decisions by Malcolm Fairbrother and Sean Fox to associate with the group meant that it grew in strength, and with an increasing number of postgraduates and post-docs the average attendance at our Monday lunchtime meetings now is about twenty.

Kelvyn's arrival also heralded the development of a new research programme. We were put in contact with two economists – Simon Burgess and Carol Propper – in the university's Centre for Market and Public Organisation, and won a large research grant to study neighbourhood effects; that was highly productive, thanks to two excellent researchers, Rebecca Sarker and Anne Bolster. After this ended and David Manley joined us, path-breaking work on the analysis of large contingency tables and the measurement of segregation got under way,

very largely the result of serendipity and the benefits that can emerge from interacting regularly and informally in the departmental common room and elsewhere. Jim Forrest had raised a problem about exploring for order within large contingency tables, and after a lot of discussion and experimentation, along with a graduate student, Dewi Owen, we found a way forward. And on segregation too, informal discussions regarding the poverty of existing measurement procedures, stimulated by a literature that we contested, led us to a new approach, which we were pleased to get published and recognised very quickly.

As I approached the crucial age of 65 the then head of the School told me that they wanted me to remain, and so I did.³ A few years later, when the university was experiencing one of its periodic financial 'crises', I volunteered to go half-time, and three years later negotiated a reduction to 20 per cent.⁴ The only thing that changed was my income: my working practices – commuting to Bristol twice-weekly from Salisbury and working a few hours most days at home on the other three – continued. In 2013 that appointment was made permanent – though how long I can keep going is a moot point.

So as I read the essays by 'retired' geographers I realised that my last decade or more has been very little different from their post-employment experiences, except that I have been fortunate that the University of Bristol's School of Geographical Sciences has been willing not only to employ me and provide the facilities for continuing my research but also to provide a first-class environment, with excellent colleagues, in which to do that.⁵ Who knows what would have happened if like most of the others who have written here I had become a lone scholar. I'm sure I would have gone on, but to the same effect: I doubt it? My last decade has been extremely rewarding and productive because of the context in which I have been privileged to work. It has also been less focused than the continuing work of most of those recorded here: I have – as always through my career – been interested in a wide range of things at the same time and somehow been productive in them, largely through the generosity of my colleagues. (Almost all of my publications in the last decade have been joint: this essay is a rare exception!)

And are we – paid or unpaid – so different? For the last nine years I have been editor of the *Proceedings of the British Academy*. This involves the annual production of a volume (5-600 pages in some years) of biographical memoirs of deceased Fellows, an absolutely fascinating and rewarding task that has involved not only working with the wide range of distinguished authors of those memoirs (which average some 8,000 words

in length) but also learning a great deal about the lives and work of distinguished scholars in the arts and social sciences. With the exception of a small number who died prematurely, all have continued to do research and write long after 'normal' retirement age – several published books well into their nineties – having escaped the daily administrative and teaching routines. A change in their status and income source didn't end their curiosity about the world and determination to explore it: only ill health or family circumstances could do that.

Every year the Vice-Chancellor holds a lunch for the University of Bristol's Fellows of the Royal Society and British Academy – respectively the UK's leading learned societies for the sciences and humanities/social sciences, to which election usually occurs when scholars are in their fifties or early sixties. Most of the 40-50 who attend are 'retired' but still 'research-active', whether in libraries or archives, at laboratory benches or computers.

And so my personal story, those of the authors of the reminiscences published here, and my wider contacts all point towards the same conclusion. 'Retirement' for many scholars does not mean the end of working, merely a change in its conduct. Some continue teaching, even administration – I recall when I was a visitor at a US university a decade or so ago meeting a 'retired' professor who was in his eighties but still taught his course on China to undergraduates; and I know of another still acting as a Dean in a major university in his eighties – but for most research and writing becomes the predominant activity. And without the rigours of a fixed timetable for teaching and administrative activities – at a range of temporal scales – this work can be undertaken within a flexible schedule of family commitments, holidays and other activities.⁶

Of course, those who have contributed to this collection are not a random sample of our generations and/or cohorts. We know of many who, for a variety of reasons, have not continued with their scholarly activities after 'retirement', of many unfulfilled projects, as well as others who took the opportunity to take up other interests. But for many scholars – especially the most productive – 'work' has also always been 'pleasure' and their enjoyment of it means that they have not stopped asking questions and writing about the conclusions they have reached from their exploration of the answers. And, whatever our moans about the increasing bureaucratisation and privatisation of university systems they remain among the most privileged places in which to work.⁷ Long may it last.

Notes

- ¹ The interview was brief and fine. The Vice-Chancellor then asked me to wait in his office while the committee deliberated. The wait was some 20 minutes and I thought I had blown it! But when he eventually came in and apologised, he said the discussion was over what terms would ensure I came to Bristol and wasn't attracted elsewhere: I said I was committed to Bristol anyway.
- ² Always in the background is the benign presence of Peter Haggett, who for family reasons only visits rarely.
- ³ UK universities no longer have formal retirement – under EU legislation (this is being written before the June 2016 referendum!) – although 65 is the age at which members of the pension scheme can retire and start drawing their pensions. They can ask their employer if they can remain in employment, but that request can be rejected, with no reason required.
- ⁴ 20 per cent was important because only those employed for that percentage or more of their time could be entered for the Research Excellence Framework (the successor to the RAEs – the regular Research Assessment Exercises) and the School wanted me for both my publications and as an impact case study – based on my work on the redistricting legislation.
- ⁵ This includes a large room over-filled with books and paper, which will take much effort to dispose of once I do 'retire'.
- ⁶ For me this has meant more visits to the south of France where Rita and I enjoy relaxing in the warmth and ten long trips to stay with our daughter in New Zealand. And I have continued with my main hobby of change-ringing, although it is not the obsession it once was, largely because arthritic knees and wrists mean I can no longer undertake the three-hour non-stop performances ('peals') of earlier decades – and, hard though it is to admit it, concentration for such periods on difficult methods becomes more difficult to sustain. And I have become involved in both the management of the block of flats in Salisbury's Cathedral Close where we have lived since 1995 and the preservation of the unique environment in which it is set. Rita has built a social life in Salisbury around the University of the Third Age – art, books and exercise: our grandchildren are now adults and – like our son and daughter-in-law – live some 200 miles from us.
- ⁷ And, perhaps, the difficulties of getting work published. I have lost count of the number of articles recently that have had to be 'revised and resubmitted' because they are 'under-theorised': reviewers seem much less interested in work that just describes the changing world, while journal editors are less willing to make their own decisions, which delays the process even more.

Biographical Note

I was born in Swindon, Wiltshire, in 1941 and spent the first eighteen years of my life in a village post office, just outside the town. After eight years at a local grammar school I went to the University of Manchester, graduating with a BA in Geography in 1962. I then obtained a scholarship to undertake research for an MA, which was awarded in 1964. Rita

and I met on an undergraduate field course to Dublin and Killarney in 1961, and married in 1963. A year later we emigrated – on the £10 scheme – to Australia where I held a sequence of posts in the new Department of Geography at Monash University, completed a PhD on Melbourne's residential mosaic; our son and daughter were born during those three years. In 1967 we moved to the University of Canterbury, in New Zealand, where we had a very enjoyable life raising our children in that (then) relaxed and equal society with its superb environment and I rose through the ranks to a Readership. I spent the first semester of the 1972–1973 academic year at the University of Toronto – an eye-opener to me in so many ways – and the first six months of 1973 at the London School of Economics – more eye-opening. Just before we returned to New Zealand I was interviewed for a chair at the University of Sheffield; it was offered to me a few weeks after we got back to Christchurch – I accepted, for a variety of reasons (academic and family) and we returned to the UK in August 1974. I spent eighteen years at Sheffield, heading the department for three and then serving as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor and chairing the university's main academic planning committee during a period of substantial cuts – and then one of rapid growth. In 1992 I was invited to apply for the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Essex – among the UK's top universities for social sciences, and occupied that post for three years after which I took early retirement and joined the University of Bristol's School of Geographical Sciences, to which I continue to commute from our home on the tranquil beauty of Salisbury's Cathedral Close. I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1999, the same year in which I was awarded the Prix Vautrin Lud; in 2010 the Association of American Geographers gave me a Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2011 I was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to scholarship.

Life After Academia: An Enduring Geographical Habitus

Virginie Mamadouh

*Department of Geography, Planning and International Development
Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

E-mail: v.d.mamadouh@uva.nl

I must admit that when two months ago Ghazi-Walid Falah came up with the idea to celebrate the 70th issue of *The Arab World Geographer* with a special issue about the everyday life of retired geographers, I was not entirely convinced. Not that I did not believe that they would have anything interesting to tell. I was just unsure whether he would find enough retirees willing to participate and foremost, that they would find the time to write their essay at such short notice. I know some of them and they are very busy!

I should have known better. Ghazi-Walid is pretty convincing. For the 50th issue in 2010 he had managed to get a few Western geographers to write about their Arab roots (Falah 2010), although that was a smaller pond to fish in and the incentives to stay in the closet were greater. I was wrong to doubt. The responses were overwhelming and the resulting collection is a great read.

Life after academia

There are many ways to read these personal essays. Some readers, contemplating retirement in a not too distant future, especially those fortunate enough to have a good safety network, may be grateful to find out that there is life after retirement. Others, like me, look at it from a much greater distance; we have parents from the same generation as the contributors and – if we are fortunate enough to still have them – we may compare the experience of the emeriti with the way our own parents have negotiated their retirement in different walks of life. Still younger readers may see the essays as messages from a very remote territory and compare these stories to the retirement of their own grandparents, people they have never seen “working”. And they may actually see this as an invitation to ponder their grandparents’ working lives and how they re-invented their lives when they retired. No doubt, we have here an extremely privileged group that not only has been fortunate enough to do particularly rewarding work as their paid employment for decades, but also are able to keep doing the best part of it after retirement. These are

truly fortunate people – and most contributors acknowledge it explicitly one way or the other.

As an academic geographer, it was particularly refreshing to read and think about life after academia in this light. Despite the recent “wave” of retirements at my home university, where the baby boom generation overrepresented in the faculty arrived at the compulsory retirement age, farewells to colleagues nowadays generally concern much younger colleagues moving to the next (temporary) position at another university or to other sectors. Over the past decade, I have discussed “life after academia” a lot with (former) colleagues, but more often than not, it was about looking for employment elsewhere, either because of the lack of academic jobs, or the precarity of academic life becoming ever more unbearable, making the founding or maintenance of a family impossible.

Academic survivors

Although the essays implicitly or explicitly reflect on some apprehension about the big leap into formal retirement, leaving academia after the conclusion of a long and rewarding academic career is presented here as an attractive destination. No doubt those for which it did not go well, those who did not reach that phase, and those who opted for a clear break and a completely different life, remain invisible.

The composition of the group of contributors has indeed a strong slant. By definition, geographers who did not maintain contact with former colleagues and have terminated their institutional email address (or have not been allowed to keep it) were out of reach. Among this generation, women were less numerous than men, especially in higher academic ranks and in international networks, and geographers affiliated to universities in the US and the UK dominate so-called international geography. In addition, there were curious self-exclusion mechanisms at work: those (mostly in developing countries) who declined because they have to keep working to make a living, those who declined because they felt they did not qualify, since they were still very active (apparently assuming that ‘a genuine retiree’ must have stopped doing geography), and those who declined because they did not want to write about themselves.

It is nonetheless a very pleasant surprise to read individual testimonies from people who in their geographical work were not inclined at all towards qualitative methods or storytelling. And it is particularly valuable that diversity has been maintained when it comes to the breadth of the discipline and the many approaches in geography. Even if there is a slight overrepresentation of political geographers – Falah’s own specialism – but actually this applies mostly to the commentators, not to

the retirees – we read testimonies ranging from geomorphologists to historical geographers.

A geographical habitus

Clearly one conclusion sticks out: life after retirement is about continuity. Few move away from their last residence, even if second houses seem widely available and circular migration patterns well established. Activities – reading, writing, teaching, fieldtrips, archival works... service in academic and civic organizations – seem just more of the same than before retirement, but under much better circumstances: a relaxed tempo, less anxiety, according to one's own priorities, and without the less attractive bits (endless meetings, grading and other less rewarding facets of administrative service). Paradise!

The collection is also a clear case against the expensive and extensive audit culture of present-day academia: without being paid for it, but freed from the need to get paid for their work to make a living, these academics continue to do geography and publish great work! If that needed to be demonstrated to university managers, there are many reasons other than a pay check, a bonus or an award to try to make sense of the world and to advance one's discipline.

A geographical habitus is clearly omnipresent: a restless interest in places – big and small, an immense drive to explore and research, and the urge to share interrogations, knowledge, and insights. There are incremental changes in content. Different foci, different data, more archival work, especially for those who were dependent on fieldwork and are now more limited in their mobility.

But life after academia is not only academia. Other activities are widely represented: music, arts, sports, a lot of travelling, some politics, and of course activities around the house (building, gardening, caring), and family and social life. The available pictures also testify to a lot of travelling, although most landscapes (including several vineyards), gardens, cityscapes, and beaches are close to home. Moreover, most pictures show people: the retiree, of course, sometimes alone, lecturing, at a desk, behind the laptop and/or in front of bookshelves, busy with a hobby or enjoying the good life, but most often than not in company, with colleagues and students, and with partners, children and grandchildren, with a family pet, with an unnamed person met during a trip, or with celebrities like Nelson Mandela or John Paul II. Still, the pictures submitted by the contributors at the request of the editor also include book and report covers ... and one world political map!

The terms under which retirees keep doing geography seem, however, very different – even if we acknowledge the narrow selection of

high-income countries under consideration. There is, of course, the divide between countries enforcing a compulsory retirement age and those where academics can keep working as long as they want (although under managerial pressure because they are expensive and under social pressure because they are blocking the way for younger colleagues). In the first case, retirement seems at first less empowering than in the second. There are also differences regarding the ties one keeps with one's university: some universities provide an affiliation and institutional accreditation for publications, access to a wealth of digital resources and libraries, but few provide a workplace. Some universities and organizations seem to be more dependent on the voluntary work of retirees than others.

It was also interesting to learn that the notion of a University of the Third Age (or Third Age courses) is used far beyond France where it was invented in Toulouse in 1973, and Québec. The British model of the University of the Third Age (U3A) seems however to be much more removed from the university and focuses more directly on peer learning – learning among retirees. In both variants, in the Netherlands it still needs to be invented.

Everyday life and life stories

The essays focus on everyday life as a retired geographer. That was the original assignment. Fortunately, most essays reflect implicitly or explicitly upon the career that preceded retirement; but very few hint at the next stage in life. Looking back in time, one striking element there is the relative stability of the academic careers. True, several contributors (especially British-trained geographers) were particularly adventurous and accepted a position on another continent (a few retirees lived and work on three of them!), and some in Europe have worked in different languages - which is generally not the case of those hopping between the British Isles, North America, Oceania and/or South Africa. In general though, the contributors have worked at the same university for most of their career – something that seems in sharp contrast with current practices where people seem to jump from one university to the other. Whether similar pensions can be expected in twenty or thirty years is therefore very unlikely, even in countries where pensions are paid through capitalization (and do not really depend on those working but on the investment made with past contributions). Partial pensions collected from different pension schemes in different countries as a result of such fragmented careers do not add up to much.

Another striking element when some contributors tell us a little more about their background, is the incredible social elevator that schooling and university have been in the postwar period – a function that is disap-

pearing under our eyes with the present-day privatization of the way higher education is financed through individual debt. Are these essays messages in the bottle from the sinking welfare states of the postwar period?

Finally, only few contributors mention the ever changing circumstances of retirement. Health problems, new physical and mental limitations, the loss of love ones and friends are hardly mentioned. In short, the focus is on the ‘third age’ – as several Francophile contributors have labeled it, *le troisième âge*, which is the phase of life when one is freed of work and parental obligations, but still in relatively good health. Some lament that the American culture has little appreciation for this phase of life and for what senior citizens have to offer. Is it a coincidence then that the collection appears in *The Arab World Geographer* on the occasion of the 33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing, linking international geography to two cultures, Arab and Chinese, that until recently paid much more respect to the wisdom of the elderly than Hollywood’s cult of youth?

But it is also telling that the period hereafter (that of physical and mental decline), the phase that, now that it is getting longer and longer thanks to better care and medical interventions, the French routinely call *le quatrième âge* (the fourth age), remains out of sight. The shadow of this next phase makes retirement an uncertain period – just as the rest of life. Only few contributors spell it out – Evans, for example, when he writes “I do not know when I will give up academic activity”. This reminds me of Yi-Fu Tuan who published last year *The Last Launch* (Tuan 2015). He introduces it as his last book, in which he reflects on a lifetime of learning, teaching and writing and doing geography, a theme he had addressed explicitly earlier in his Charles Homer Haskins Lecture (Tuan 1998), when he retired at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At least ten books were written and published in these seventeen years of retirement, but a threshold has now been marked and another phase begins. Hopefully those entering this fourth age are aware that their legacy is much valued by their younger colleagues, their former students and their readership.

This also prompts a sense of urgency: there are many more stories about doing geography – now as a retiree and in the recent past as a professional geographer – that need to be told. In the 1970s and 1980s, Ann Buttimer – one of the contributors to this issue – collected such stories in interviews for a project on the History of Geographical Thought at the University of Lund in Sweden. These interviews have recently been posted on youtube by the International Geographical Union (see Dialogue Project IGU), although unfortunately not always mentioning clearly the date of recording. A few of the contributors were

already interviewed in that project, but no doubt much more of such documentary work is needed, so that we do not need to rely only on an encyclopedia, no matter how well documented (Johnston & Sidaway 2015), to get to learn from our predecessors. Publications are not enough to get a sense of their context of discovery, and we are in dire need of knowing more how ways of doing geography have dramatically evolved since the early 1960s to inspire the much-needed reinvention of academia. Having had the privilege of knowing several of the contributors very well as teachers and later on as colleagues and co-authors, having met some others at conferences and on other occasions, and having read between the lines of many essays about life decisions and trajectories, power relations, working habits and ways of life, I am sure we can learn much more. I hope that the editor will commission a series of academic autobiographies right away, without waiting for the 100th issue of *The Arab World Geographer* to have an excuse to do so.

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Geography as Profession and Way of Being

Alexander B. Murphy

Department of Geography, University of Oregon,

Eugene, OR 97403 U.S.A.

E-mail: abmurphy@uoregon.edu

When I joined the faculty of the University of Oregon's Department of Geography some 30 years ago, I had the pleasure of getting to know Ed Price, a cultural-historical geographer who had retired near the beginning of the 1980s. Even though Ed was no longer teaching, he was a regular presence in the department—attending seminars, joining other faculty for lunch, and working on a book. He was interesting and engaged (he often asked some of the best questions at public talks) and he delighted in learning new things. He even enrolled himself in a physics class in retirement so that he could understand how that field of study had evolved since his pursuit of an undergraduate degree in the subject in the 1930s. Ed's example served as a reminder that the career of an academic geographer had the potential to be something more than a job held until retirement; it could be a life-long way of being.

The essays in this collection remind me of the lesson exemplified by Ed. Each was written by a geographer who has had a distinguished academic career, but the ideas, interests, and passions at the roots of that career continue to resonate into retirement. Of course, individuals who would respond favorably to an invitation to join a forum of this sort would likely be those who still feel tied to the discipline and who remain professionally involved. But the contributions clearly show that retirement, while transformational in some practical senses, need not signal the end of one's career as a professional geographer. They also attest to the privileged nature of an academic career—at least in select settings—and even to some special qualities that append to having that career rooted in the discipline of geography.

Most of the essayists look back with satisfaction on their pre-retirement careers—explicitly so in some cases (e.g., Knight, Simms, Taylor, Walker) and implicitly in most others. And it is clear that satisfying pre-retirement activities continue to shape many post-retirement undertakings. Most of the contributors are active in researching themes of longstanding interest, some have given considerable time and energy to professional institutions tied to their areas of expertise and interest (e.g., Buttimer, Kinda, and Pitte), and others have drawn on their knowledge and skills to advance specific civic ends (e.g., Baker, Dijkink, Taylor).

Many of the activities described in the forum's essays are undoubtedly typical of retired academics more generally, but certain cross-cutting themes with a particularly geographical bent attracted my attention: commitment to place, passion for Earth exploration, and eclecticism of interest. I offer below a few words about each of these before turning to some closing reflections on what the essays tell us about what retirement can mean for those who have worked in the privileged settings shared by contributors to this forum.

Commitment to Place

At least in the more prosperous, industrialized world, it is not uncommon for retirees from reasonably remunerative positions to move away from the place where they spend much of their career. Against this backdrop, it is rather striking that virtually all of the contributors to this forum have kept their home base in, or close to, the place where they were previously employed. Yes, many report spending some substantial period of time each year away from their home base, and a few say nothing about their current geographical circumstances, but the vast majority of the contributors' lives have clearly remained anchored in their pre-retirement places of work.

The reasons behind this geographic stability are undoubtedly complex; among the factors at play are the familial and personal ties that link individuals to the places where they have long lived. But the geographer's concern with place might also be a factor. If one views places not just as points on Earth's surface but as evolving concatenations of characteristics and meanings, the urge to explore and seek understanding from them grows. It is thus not uncommon for geographers—even those with research interests rooted in distant places—to be more attuned to the features and idiosyncrasies of the places where they live than is the norm. One consequence of that proclivity might well be a deepened sense of attachment to the places where they have put down roots.

The research and civic activities of a number of the contributors to this forum are indicative of the depth and breadth of their place attachments. From Alan Baker's work with the Cambridgeshire County Council to Frederick Boal's developing book on "Frontier City" Belfast, and from Annegret Simms' long-standing studies of Dublin to Peter Taylor's continuing work on Newcastle, this forum provides ample evidence that place matters to geographers. And then there are the attestations of deep connections to the neighborhoods and environs of the contributors' places of residence. Anne Buttimer's discussion of social ties in Dublin's Glenomena Park, Ian Evans' account of explorations of natural areas around Durham, Peter Holland's description of his work on cemetery conservation in New Zealand, Roy Jones' explanation of his

contributions to the Western Australia school system, and Fred Scholz's description of the continued joy of exploring Berlin/Brandenburg all attest to a connection with place that likely helps to keep these individuals geographically anchored.

Passion for Earth Exploration

The study of geography encourages a fascination with the variable character of Earth's surface. That fascination surely helps explain Roy Jones' compulsion to return to the British Columbia wilderness on a regular basis, Stan Brunn's quest to discover "places little known," and Kevin Cox's interest in "making up for lost time in terms of travel." Some form of the word travel appears 36 times in the 21 essays that make up this forum. That figure may not have any great significance by itself, but the only theme more common to these essays than travel is research and writing.

Of course travel is a fairly typical activity of relatively affluent retirees. Nonetheless I was struck by how many of the contributors point to significant travel—or extended periods of time spent in faraway places—as central to their retirement lives. The way the contributors write about their experiences in different places resonates with the geographer's concern with Earth exploration. The focus is not so much on sites visited as it is on the rewards that come from careful observation and reflection. We see this in Bob McColl's account of what it means to look out across the Straits of Gibraltar, A. J. Christopher's travel-inspired fascination with the social insights that come from studying the Sri Lankan census, and descriptions of the insights gained by Gertjan Dijkink as a result of his wanderings in southern France or by Blair Fitzharris during the course of his periodic (and continuing) encounters with Southeast Asia.

Eclecticism of Interests

A set of essays from almost any group of retired scholars would likely reveal a diverse set of interests on the part of the writers, but this forum reminded me again of what it means to be affiliated with a discipline that is not defined by a topic, but instead by a perspective. We see on display the exceptionally wide-ranging interests that are characteristic of almost any grouping of geographers: philosophical (Olsson), humanistic (Buttimer), physical-environmental (Evans), technological (Brunn), urban (Boal), historical (Baker), demographic (Christopher), socio-political (Van der Wusten), and on and on. That same eclecticism translates into a variety of extra-disciplinary interests—some closer to geography than others. What is it about geography and music? David Knight writes

about his musical involvements at length, but music as an avocation continually crops up (Brunn, Cox, Holland, Taylor, and others). And then there is painting (Scholz), gardening (Dijkink), novels (Knight, Cox), hiking (Fitzharris), and any number of other life-enriching activities.

Taken as a whole, the forum serves as an inspiring reminder of the interesting people who find their way into the geography guild. I have the (perhaps unfair) advantage of having met a good number of the contributors to the forum, so I know firsthand some of the human richness that lies behind it. Even without the benefit of personal connections, however, who could read the forum and not want to take a walk through the streets of Kyoto with Akihiro Kinda, share a French meal and a glass of wine with Jean-Robert Pitte, discuss the evolution of geographic thought with Gunnar Olsson, take an architectural tour of Dublin with Annegret Simms, or explore rural New Zealand with Peter Holland?

Academic Retirement More Generally

Though not particular to geography, the essays in this forum paint a picture of retirement, at least for those who have occupied academic privileged positions in comparatively wealthy parts of the world, that is reassuring. It's a "third age" (to use the French term referenced by two of the contributors) that can be enriched by the geographer's passion to make sense of the world (Dijkink). Indeed, it's a time when academics can take risks (Taylor), embark on new research (Evans), embrace eclecticism (Brunn), dig down deeper (Christopher), expand on longstanding interests (Boal), and embrace new professional and institutional challenges (Buttimer, Pitte, and others). It's an opportunity, as Dick Walker reminds us, to leave aside some of the more mundane, unrewarding aspects of academic life, while continuing on with enriching activities and developing new passions.

Of course retirement can bring potentially disquieting changes as well. It can be more isolating (a point made by Boal—though other contributors minimize this concern), and it limits the possibility of certain kinds of professional involvements. Perhaps the most nuanced treatment of the subject comes (by virtue of the alphabetical ordering of essays) at the end of the forum: Herman van der Wusten's thoughtful "notes on being retired." Neither glorifying nor disparaging retirement, Van der Wusten has written what struck me as a notably balanced, perceptive portrait of retired academic life. Reading his account against the backdrop of the other essays shows what retirement can be—perhaps particularly as a geographer—if one does not approach it as an abrupt end, but instead embraces it in the manner that is so obviously the norm for the contributors to this forum.

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts

The Arab World Geographer invites the submission of manuscripts on any topic of geographical interest. All manuscripts submitted will be subject to independent review by referees, following the “double blind” system. Contributions should be sent in triplicate to AWG’s Editor-in-Chief at the Department of Geography and Planning, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325–5005, U.S.A. On the title page provide the full names of the authors, academic or other professional affiliations, and the complete address of the author with whom the editor should correspond.

It is understood that manuscripts and book reviews submitted to *The Arab World Geographer* have not been and will not be submitted simultaneously or published elsewhere, unless otherwise agreed. It is further understood that opinions expressed in *The Arab World Geographer* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, members of the International Advisory Board, and or the publisher. Any necessary rights or permissions to reproduce quoted material or illustrations published elsewhere remain the responsibility of the author(s). Manuscripts submitted to *The Arab World Geographer* should embody the results of sustained research into matters of interest to social scientists and geographers. Authors should note that they are writing for an international readership and they should therefore communicate in clear, straightforward English (Canadian spelling), avoiding whenever possible the extensive use of professional jargon.

The use of appropriate illustrations is encouraged.

All material submitted should be typed with lines double-spaced, have wide margins, and use one side of the paper. The manuscript’s several parts (abstract, list of references, tables, and list of figure captions) should begin on separate sheets, and all parts should be typed and double-spaced. Tables should be prepared with a minimum of rules, following the format of tables in existing issues of the journal. The total length of a manuscript, including references, should not exceed 7000 words. The journal will consider longer manuscripts (to 9,500 words) exploring critically informed theoretical issues of importance to an international readership. Each article should be accompanied by a 200-word abstract in English.

References

References should be indicated in the text by the surname of the author(s) with the year of publication, as shown below. References to more than one publication by the same author in the same year should be distinguished alphabetically with a, b, c, etc. The abbreviated author and the date references should be placed in parentheses unless the name forms part of the text, in which case, only the year should appear in parentheses. The relevant page(s) may be given if necessary. Examples:

(McColl 1995a); (Dewar and Watson 1990, 12–13); As Rana (1994, 17) remarks,...

At the end of the main text, the references should be listed in alphabetical order by author’s last name and in ascending chronological order for each author. Only cited references should be listed. Full reference details should be given, including all authors, titles, publisher, and city of publication. For unpublished material, details of availability should be supplied. Examples of references are given below. Authors should follow this format in the preparation of their typescripts.

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