Exploring the expression of cultural and ethnic identity in Montreal’s Inuit population

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BA Honours Thesis

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Montréal (Québec)

2008

Abstract

Very little investigation has been done with regards to the recent and unprecedented migration of Inuit to Canadian southern metropolitan areas, a demographic shift that is indicative of changes occurring in communities of the north with respect to the special relationship between Inuit and their local environments. Interviews with six individuals relevant to Montréal’s growing Inuit community were conducted from January to March 2008 in order to explore the different ways Inuit cultural and ethnic identity are expressed in an urban centre (Montréal) and to contribute to the currently limited literature of the Inuit experience of southern migration.

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A Comparative Study of Haitian Immigrant Communities in Montreal and Miami

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Abstract

This thesis seeks to examine how those in the Haitian communities of Montreal and Miami differ in their lived experiences. I focus on: (1) their residential patterning in the contexts of segregation theory with an analysis of census tract data; (2) factors affecting Haitian migration to each city with an analysis of survey data; and (3) on the relative labour market performance of Haitians in Montreal using log-wage regression analyses of Canadian Census Public-Use Microdata Files from 1991 and 2001. While Montreal’s Haitian community does not appear to be as prone to the negative neighbourhood effects of segregation as the Haitian community in Miami, it nevertheless suffers from a sizable wage differential in the labour market. My findings raise questions concerning the roles of segregation and spatial assimilation of an ethnic minority upon its socioeconomic status. I show the tenuousness of assuming a causal relationship between the spatial distribution of a community and its overall wellbeing.

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The Societal Response to Human papillomavirus Vaccine:
A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Canada and the United States

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2008

Abstract

In June and July of 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada granted approval for Gardasil, a quadrivalent recombinant vaccination for Human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16 and 18. This vaccine garnered attention in the United States and Canada even before its approval because of the causal relationship between HPV and cervical cancer. This research project sought to reveal how the societal characteristics of Canada and the United States, such as universal versus tandem public-private healthcare, and varying legislation for direct-to-consumer advertising, directly impact the reception of this vaccine in each country. The methodology of this study included a thematic content analysis of newsprint media coverage from regional and nationally circulated newspapers. It was observed that any discussion of the HPV vaccine in the United States was entangled in politics whereas in Canada it remained a cost-benefit analysis from a public health perspective. This topic is situated within the realm of health geography as it compares how public health discussions are framed by jurisdictional characteristics.

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Symbolic Space, Collective Memory: Monuments, Politics and Identity in Montreal

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at the symbolic landscape of Montreal and the ways in which conflict over collective memory is waged between the Anglophone and Francophone population of the city. I contribute to the existing geographic literature on politics and memory by analyzing four monuments: the Nelson Column, the monument to Queen Victoria, the Monument aux Patriotes and Debout (Monument à Félix Leclerc), illustrating the development of dual symbolic landscapes in Montreal. I argue that it is the existence of two distinct symbolic landscapes that has diffused most potential conflict between the two dominant linguistic groups, noting that it is only where the symbolic landscapes overlap (near the Nelson Column) that overt conflict has occurred. I aim to show how monuments act as spatial anchors for the collective memories of particular groups, and that these locales are sites of powerful symbolic negotiations of cultural and political legitimacy.
Infiltration of fine sediment (<2mm) into river substrate has been documented to have deleterious effects on the survival and emergence of salmonid embryos. This research was designed to provide insight into two factors that control infiltration of fines in the very fine sand to silt size range into substrate - hydraulic gradient of water across the substrate and substrate composition, in particular the sand filter or clogging layer. The research was conducted in three parts. The first two parts were designed to assess the impact of hydraulic gradient and sand content on the infiltration of fine sediment. The experiments showed that infiltration amounts were inversely related to both. The third and final experiment was to use the relationships demonstrated in the first two experiments to explain the natural patterns of substrate found in a trout stream, by analyzing the vertical composition of freeze cores taken from that stream. The effect of hydraulic gradient was not obvious in the natural substrate, and clogging layers were only present in one of the cores. The composition of the gravel framework was the most important factor determining the infiltration of fines.
Development of Global Maps of Fertilizer Application

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BA Honours Thesis

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2008

Abstract

Agriculture has had a tremendous impact on soil nutrient balances around the world. In some regions, soil nutrients have been depleted from overuse of the land resulting in lower fertility, while in others chemical fertilizer application has led to an accumulation of excess nutrients causing water quality problems. To understand these impacts, scientists calculate soil nutrient balances at scales ranging from individual fields to entire continents. Scarcely literature exists, however, describing spatially-explicit balances at a truly global scale. This paper presents some initial work towards calculating agricultural impacts on global soil nutrient balances. Spatially-explicit fertilizer inputs of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) are presented, important components of such a budget.
The Past, Present and Future of Social Housing:  
A Spatial Analysis of Downtown Vancouver

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BA Honours Thesis  
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2008

Abstract
The focus of this study is to debate the benefits and disadvantages of concentrated non-market housing in poor inner city neighbourhoods, using Downtown Vancouver, British Columbia as a case study. The line between segregation and community preservation was examined, as well as the role that gentrification, displacement, and closely linked social mix theory play. This was performed by analyzing the spatial and temporal distribution of non-market housing in relation to socioeconomic characteristics (average rent) over time using Geographic Information Systems. Regression and Nearest Neighbourhood Analysis was conducted on non-market housing points in relation to average rent data from the 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001 censuses. My results were that non-market housing in Downtown Vancouver is spatially clustered and that there is a statistically significant relationship between non-market housing placement and average rent values per census tract. Moreover, that non-market housing has become increasingly concentrated in low-income neighbourhoods in the last 20 years.