Opportunities for graduate study at Memorial University’s Department of Geography

Considering graduate study in geography? The Department of Geography at Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland, is offering fully funded studentships for MA, MSc., and PhD programs, starting in Spring or Fall 2017. The Geography graduate program attracts students from across Canada and around the world, and provides opportunities for field-based scientific and social scientific study in a wide variety of areas. Learn more about our graduate program at www.mun.ca/geog/graduate/. For more information and applications for graduate study at Memorial, visit www.mun.ca/sgs.

Students attending Memorial receive instruction in geographical practices and methods appropriate to their field of study, leading to field research opportunities and the preparation of a master’s or PhD thesis. Our program offers the chance to interact with a diverse group of fellow students, and to live and study in St. John’s, the culturally vibrant capital of the ruggedly beautiful province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Our graduates go on to further advanced study, university faculty positions, and government and private sector employment.

Our application deadline is listed as January 15, but we will consider applicants for the positions below on an ongoing basis until filled. We also welcome general inquiries for graduate study, and encourage interested students to contact faculty members for more information directly via their webpages: http://www.mun.ca/geog/people/faculty/.

Current graduate opportunities (details below)

- **Local Immigration Practices (MA)**
- **Place-based knowledge (natural and/or social sciences) (PhD)**
- **Social Licence and Community Planning in Newfoundland’s aquaculture sector (MA/PhD)**
- **Community participation in mine remediation in Northern Canada (MA/MSc.)**
- **Anthropocene and Decarbonization (MA)**
**MA Position on Local Immigration Practices: Dr. Yolande Pottie-Sherman**

I am seeking 1 MA student to collaborate with me on a SSHRC funded cross-national research project comparing local immigration practices in mid-sized North American cities. This is a funded position, starting in September 2017. The successful candidate will work towards a Master of Arts in Geography and will produce a thesis-based study.

MA will be part of our department’s newly founded urban geography research lab on Adaptive Cities and Engagement (ACE). Potential research themes include, but are not limited to: 1) Responses of city governments to immigrant integration; 2) Integration challenges for immigrants and refugees in mid-sized cities; 3) Local immigration practices in contexts of austerity; 4) Attitudes towards immigration in mid-sized cities.

Some position highlights: Competitive funding ($17,500 minimum per year), funds to support the MA’s thesis project, and travel to Quebec City to attend the International Geographical Union Conference (8/2018). MA’s training will focus on the complementary skills needed to be successful after graduate school, including the skills to marshal immigration research for policy, NGO, and academic audiences.

Interested candidates should email Yolande Pottie-Sherman at ypottiesherm@mun.ca as soon as possible, in advance of the application deadline (January 15, 2017) to discuss the project. When inquiring, please attach a CV, unofficial transcript(s). Inquirers should also outline briefly any prior research experience, expertise or interest in urban studies/immigration.

**PhD position in place-based knowledge (natural and/or social sciences): Dr. Max Liboiron**

Place is not just the surface upon which life happens, but an ongoing state created by process and relations (Massey 1994, 2005; Rose 1993); places are practices (Dehyle 2009). In Indigenous studies, Land refers not only to soil, but to water, air, animals, and most importantly, the relations between them, as Land constitutes the life of the collective (Bang 2014). Land refers not only to the material aspects of Landscape, but also “to its spiritual, emotional, and intellectual aspects” (Cajete 2000; Styres & Zinga 2012; Tuck 2015 and many others). As such, knowledge is situated in place and Land, and inextricable from it. Dr. Max Liboiron invites applications to an open PhD position in place-based knowledge. There is no predetermined project for this position other than that it should use a place or Land-based lens to consider knowledge and/or the creation of knowledge. For more information, see: https://civiclaboratory.nl/2016/09/24/phd-position-available-place-based-knowledge-natural-social-sciences/

**MA and PhD position in Social licence and aquaculture: Dr. Charles Mather**

Charles Mather is principal investigator of the ‘Social Licence and Community Planning’ research module of the Ocean Frontier Institute (https://www.dal.ca/research/centres_and_institutes/ofi/research.html).
The OFI is a very large initiative funded through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, and is based at Dalhousie, Memorial and the University of Prince Edward Island. I will be recruiting fully funded MA and PhD students to work on various aspects of the social licence research with a specific focus on aquaculture in Newfoundland. Some of this work will be coordinated through the Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (https://civiclaboratory.nl/), and it will support Memorial University’s Waste and Science, Technology and Environment (WaSTE) research hub. Please contact me if you are interested in opportunities starting in September 2017 (cmather (at) mun.ca).

**MA/MSc. opportunity: community participation in mine remediation: Dr. Arn Keeling**

One MA or MSc. student is sought to participate in a project on community perspectives and participation in mine remediation through the NSERC TERRE-Net (“Towards Environmentally Responsible Resource Extraction”) Network. The goals of this sub-project include: investigate First Nations and Inuit perceptions of risk related to reclamation mine sites in northern Canada; identify strategies for enhancing the integration of local and indigenous knowledge holders (e.g., elders, youth, women) into the reclamation process; and to develop strategies for improved cross-cultural communication about the risks and benefits of historical and future reclamation scenarios between technical experts and Indigenous communities. This competitively funded studentship comes with opportunities for fieldwork, network training activities, and conference attendance.

We particularly welcome northern and/or Indigenous applicants, and/or applicants with background or interests in northern issues, political ecology and/or northern and Aboriginal studies. Students would join Dr. Keeling and colleagues’ group working on topics related to environmental change in Northern Canada, and would have the opportunity to participate in Memorial’s interdisciplinary research hub, WaSTE (Waste and Science, Technology & Environment). For more information, please contact Arn Keeling (akeeling@mun.ca).

**MA positions: Anthropocene and Decarbonization: Mapping the Controversies: Dr. Mario Blaser (archaeology/geography)**

We invite applications for two MA positions on “Anthropocene and Decarbonization: Mapping the Controversies.” Decarbonization (through the shift to ‘green energies’ and the enhancement of ‘carbon sinks’ in the form of forest conservation) are among the most important strategies being promoted by governments and international bodies to curb climate change. The latter is one of the paradigmatic phenomena of the so-called Anthropocene, a label marking the geological consequentiality of human activity on the planet. Both the notion of the Anthropocene and the strategies of decarbonization are embroiled in controversies with multiple dimensions. We seek applicants who would be interested in ‘mapping’ these controversies: that is, how different positions in the arguments form clusters (of
spokespersons; institutions; groups); what is the relation between different clusters; how positions are
translated into policies and concrete interventions, and so on. Under the supervision of a team of
researchers that will provide training on the various aspects of the project, applicants will develop their
own projects within this general umbrella (for instance they might be interested in how these
controversies relate to Indigenous peoples in particular places; or how they are gendered in particular
ways; or how science and politics are entangled differently in different places; or how funding flows
across the field of controversies; to mention a few possibilities). We will give priority to applicants that
have some background on so called material-semiotics versions of Science and Technology Studies (as
represented by Actor-Network Theory, or authors such as Donna Haraway). We strongly encourage
Indigenous students to apply. Funding is 17K per year (2 years).

Students must pay tuition out of their stipend. International students will have the differential fee in
their tuition covered by the project. Applicants might join the project through various departments and
are thus encouraged to contact Dr. Mario Blaser before applying to the School of Graduate Studies in
order to determine the best route to follow. Email: mblaser {at} mun.ca. Applications should include:

1. A cover letter including: statement on your familiarity with material semiotics version of STS (i.e.,
courses you took, or material you have read); some initial idea on what aspect of the controversies
would you be interested in researching; disciplines through which you would prefer to join the
project.
2. A CV and a break down/unofficial transcript of grades in the last two years.