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## Laurier geographers inducted into the prestigious College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

WATERLOO – The Royal Society of Canada has named two eminent geographers from Wilfrid Laurier University to the prestigious College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Alison Blay-Palmer and Alison Mountz will be inducted into the College at a ceremony Nov. 18 in Kingston, Ontario.

[Blay-Palmer](#) is an associate professor in Laurier’s Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. She is also the [CIGI Chair in Sustainable Food Systems](#) and founder of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. She has over a decade of experience studying sustainable food systems and conducting research grounded in the needs of communities. She has shifted the literature of economic geography to relocate food systems in a dynamic and complex city-region context. She is the principal investigator of a research and knowledge-sharing partnership known as FLEdGE (Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged).

In her nomination letter, Lenore Newman, Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment at University of the Fraser Valley, described Blay-Palmer as “one of the most important food scholars in Canada [having] a global impact in the realm of food security.” Newman also noted that “almost every food scholar in Canada has been involved with Blay-Palmer’s work.”

[Mountz](#) is a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Canada Research Chair in Global Migration. She is affiliated with Laurier’s [International Migration Research Centre](#). As a political geographer, she researches the decisions, displacements, and desires that drive human migration and the policies and practices designed to manage migration. Key areas of her work are human migration and displacement, border crossings, border enforcement, political asylum, detention, detention on islands, and U.S. war-resisters in Canada. In 2015-16 Mountz was the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Harvard University.

Mountz’s nominator David Ley, Canada Research Chair in Geography at the University of British Columbia, described Mountz’s work as being “on the forefront of academic research into vexing questions of human security and enforcement at the border by the nation state.”

As members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, Mountz and Blay-Palmer will address issues of particular concern to new scholars, artists and scientists, for the advancement of understanding and the benefit of society, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary approaches fostered by the College.

**About the Royal Society of Canada:** Founded in 1882, the Royal Society of Canada comprises the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, and Canada's first national system of multidisciplinary recognition for emerging Canadian intellectual leadership, The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Its mission is recognize scholarly, research and artistic excellence, to advise governments and organizations, and to promote a culture of knowledge and innovation in Canada and with other national academies around the world.