Social geography focuses on the relationship between social life and geographical patterns of change at various scales. At McMaster we are interested in both rural and urban settlements, present and past, and continue to do research in North America and the developing world. We are using a variety of theoretical perspectives including feminism, political economy, and postcolonialism, and diverse methodological tools, in order to understand topics that include disability, urban quality of life, health and health care, formal and informal caregiving, gender and legal issues, housing, suburban development, and colonial urbanism. Social geographers with graduate degrees from McMaster obtain jobs in a range of fields including housing, public health, planning, and education. Many have gone on to academic careers in leading departments of Geography in Canada and around the world.

Vera Chouinard, Professor, Email: chouinar@mcmaster.ca
- Theories of the state and law
- Feminist, materialist, 'post-structuralist', and postmodern perspectives and their implications for geographic research (conceptual, methodological, substantive and political)
- Urban policy, policy struggles and social consequences
- Methodologies of historical research in human geography
- Explanation of trends in Canadian social housing policy
- Urban social movements

Richard S. Harris, Professor, Email: harrisr@mcmaster.ca
- Housing, suburban development, urban social geography, urban historical geography
- Canadian and US cities in the twentieth century
- British colonies, 1920-1960s

Allison M. Williams, Professor, Email: awill@mcmaster.ca
- Gendered aspects of caregiver-employees
- Therapeutic landscapes, informal/family caregiving
- Home/community health care, palliative/end-of-life care
- Urban health/quality of life, health determinants
- Women’s health, sense of place, rural health/care

Robert D. Wilton, Professor, Email: wiltonr@mcmaster.ca
- Geographies of disability
- Geographies of addiction and mental health
- Social geography of exclusion