

VIEW FROM ABOVE

Researchers document
the extent of urban sprawl
in the United States

CANADA

A7

Using satellite and aerial photography, researchers — including two from the University of Toronto — have created the most comprehensive picture of urban sprawl in the United States to date. Until now, most debate on the subject has been speculative, the researchers argue. “If you wanted to actually look at land use, nobody has the data,” contends Matthew Turner, a U of T assistant professor of economics. With three other researchers, Prof. Turner merged high-altitude photos taken in 1976 with satellite images from 1992 — the most recent available — to create a grid of 8.7 billion 30 x 30-metre plots of the U.S. Their research, “Causes of Sprawl: A Portrait from Space,” appears in the May issue of *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. *CanWest News Service*

