

Premier Awards

Professor William A. V. Clark Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award and Medal 2015

Nominated by Professor Philip S. Morrison, Wellington Branch, Wellington University of Victoria.

Citation

As a human geographer his research has focused on migration and the nature of demographic change in large cities. His work which is reported in more than 400 research articles, reports and 9 books examines the impacts of urban structure on population flows between cities and suburbs, white flight and the impact of legal intervention on the urban mosaic, and analyses of the local outcomes and impacts of large scale international migration, especially in California. He has combined his dual interests in geography and demography to study residential segregation in U.S. cities, as well as patterns of migration, mobility, and labour force participation, especially of two-worker households. Recent papers link mobility and migration in US and British housing markets and confirm much of the current research on why families and individuals move their residence. To the long-standing arguments about race and class in residential segregation, his recent papers demonstrate that class is a powerful explanation for patterns of separation for both the foreign born and native born residents.

In addition to his contribution to academia Professor Clark has played a very active role in the courts of the USA, testifying in many cases associated with residential and school district jurisdictions. These are detailed in his CV.

There are few New Zealand geographers who have attained such a prestigious and sustained standing not only in human geography but in population and migration studies more generally. Not only his productivity as a researcher but his leadership, both within UCLA and within the demographic community more generally has meant he is one of the best known geographers in the USA and possibly Europe as well.

I have known Bill since I was a PhD student at the University of Toronto in the 1970s. We meet at Queens University through his long-time friend Professor Eric Moore who had invited him to demonstrate the latest developments in log-linear modelling. We kept in touch since and have recently written a number of papers together. Our joint research plans now extend through 2016.

Bill is both a US and New Zealand citizen who throughout his career has kept in touch with New Zealand Geography and New Zealand geographers in many parts of the world. After a BA in 1960 he obtained an MA (with first class honours) in 1961 and a PhD from the University of Illinois in 1964. Bill is presently Distinguished Research Professor at UCLA where he has held appointments

since 1970. In between he has held positions elsewhere including the University of Utrecht and the University of Auckland. Prior to 1970 he held positions at the University of Wisconsin, University of Canterbury, University of Iowa and University of Illinois.

There are probably few New Zealand geographers who have been honoured in the USA and Europe to the degree that Bill Clark has. Steller among his awards are his election to the National Academy of Sciences 2005, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2003 and his receipt of the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship 1994-5. He has held several Fulbright awards and was elected Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, 1997. He also holds a DSc at the University of Auckland, 1994, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Utrecht.