

Nomination of Professor Philip S. Morrison for Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award 2013

Nominated and cited by Professor William A.V. Clark, University of California Los Angeles.

Citation

Professor Philip Morrison is an outstanding researcher, teacher and graduate supervisor, and a leader and strong advocate for Geography both inside and outside the university sector, and an ambassador for New Zealand geography internationally.

Professor Philip Morrison has an excellent record of productive scholarship- more than one hundred research papers, reports, and conference proceedings. His research articles are in a wide variety of prestigious journals including Urban Studies, Housing Studies, Labor Economics and Geoforum. He also has an excellent co-edited book – *Geographies of Labor Market Inequality*, published by Routledge Press which followed his book, *Labor Adjustment in Metropolitan Regions*, published by the Institute of Policy Studies and Victoria University Press. His work on housing and labor markets is ground breaking and important, not just in Geography, but more broadly across the social science disciplines.

Like all good geographers Philip Morrison has wide ranging interests from local policy to rural development in Sarawak Malaysia. He is most well known internationally for his work on two broad issues – (1) labor markets and (2) housing and housing markets. In both these areas he has made important contributions. More recently he has developed a research interest in the geography of “happiness” and hosted a successful conference at Victoria a year ago. I expect that there will be a flow of interesting and important papers from this research endeavor.

He is particularly interested in how the organization of local labor markets affects the opportunities for young, unskilled and what he describes as “vulnerable workers”. This interest began in the 1980s and culminated in his co-edited volume with Ron Martin in 2003. Most recently, a paper published in Urban Studies – *Unemployment and urban labor markets*- is an important contribution to the debate about how local labor markets work. It is quite possible that this paper will become a seminal work in the debate about local labor markets. On the second topic he has addressed a wide variety of housing and housing related issues from issues of deprivation to the way in which development changes the inner city neighborhoods of our cities. These studies provide a context for his current interest in how residential sorting is creating and re-creating urban structures in large metropolitan areas. There is a tendency in social science research within New Zealand to emphasize the unique aspects of New Zealand’s development and indeed to play down the global similarities of processes in New Zealand’s metropolitan areas. What Philip has done is bring relevant New Zealand research to international attention. His papers provide important research on New Zealand using New Zealand data (some of the best in the world, I might say) and will likely inform international

thinking on residential sorting. To uncover and interpret these changing patterns is enriching both New Zealand social science scholarship and that of the international community.

Often research in the academy has only a limited circulation but Philip Morrison has always been concerned with the policy implications of his work and over two decades he has been a leader among New Zealand geographers in demonstrating the value to be gained from the analysis of large data sets (over and above the usual census). These have included the World Value Survey, and European Commission surveys, the New Zealand Quality of Life Survey, the New Zealand General Survey, and the Household Travel Survey. To these data sets he has applied contemporary analytical methods for the purpose not only of testing prevailing theory but to contribute to public policy debate. He worked with both Treasury and the then Department of Labor to sponsor the biennial conferences he initiated and organized on Labor, Employment and Work. These conferences have been an opportunity for academics and those in local and government work to interact and learn from one another. The 15 Volumes of LEW conference proceedings alone are a signal achievement.

His research and teaching have always been intertwined and he has brought his strong analytic training to supervising and helping more than 50 graduate theses. This is a testament to his interest in and concern for geography and geographic learning. Many of these students have gone on to productive and careers themselves and this is in no little part because of Philip Morrison's skilled mentoring.

As a senior member of the geography staff Philip was at different times, head of the VUW human geography program and director and head of the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences. His tenure as Head of School spanned two PBRF (Performance Base Research Funding) rounds where the human geography group was ahead of the rest in the country in 2006 and first equal with Auckland in 2012. Clearly, his administrative role has been every bit as effective as his research and teaching roles.

Individually, his research has been recognized in the award of several substantial research grants beginning with a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1973 which funded his PhD, the first Hodge Fellowship from the New Zealand Social Science Research Fund Committee in 1985, the Association of Commonwealth Universities Development Fellowship in 1990, visiting fellowships for research at the Centre for Urban Studies, University of Toronto and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in 1995. He had an Urban Studies Journal Visiting Fellowship to the University of Glasgow in 1999 and a visiting fellowship to University of Cambridge in the same year. He held a Henry Lang Fellowship at the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 2002-2003 and a Royal Society of New Zealand International Science and Technology (ISAT) award in 2009.

His contributions to New Zealand geography more broadly have included organizing NZ Geographical Society Conferences, including the 2008 conference. He also served as editor of one of the country's two leading geography journals, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, for over 17 years

including jointly editing the 1985 book on *Mobility and Identity in the Island Pacific* (Chapman and Morrison, 1985). He currently serves on the board of several other international journals as well as regularly reviewing manuscripts for the leading journals in the field.

Academic Achievements and Career History

1971-1972	Department of Geography, Massey University, Junior Lecturer
1977	Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Part-time Lecturer
1981	Public and Urban Policy Program, University of Pennsylvania, Research Assistant Professor
Since 1982	School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)
Since 1982	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i>
1985	Hodge Fellowship, Social Science Research Fund Committee
1985	Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, VUW
1989	Visiting Research Fellowship, University of Melbourne
1990	Association of Commonwealth Universities Development Fellowship
1992-1993	Chairperson, Department of Geography, VUW
1995	Visiting Fellowship, Centre for Urban Studies, University of Toronto
1995	Visiting Fellowship, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
1999	Visiting Scholarship, University of Cambridge, UK
1999	<i>Urban Studies</i> Journal Visiting Fellow, University of Glasgow
2001	Program Director, Geography, School of Earth Sciences, VUW
Since 2001	Member of the <i>Advisory Committee on Economic Statistics Advising Government Statisticians</i>
2002-2003	Henry Lang Fellowship, Institute of Policy Studies, VUW
2002-2006	Head of (then) School of Earth Sciences, VUW
2005	Chair of Malay Studies travel grant
2006	Awarded 'A' rating in the 2006 PBRF assessment
2007-2011	Member of the Advisory Board of <i>Centre for Housing Research Aotearoa, New Zealand (CHRANZ)</i>
2008	Chair of Malay Studies travel grant (\$5000) awarded for 2009
Since 2008	Co-convenor of the Research Committee (SGEES), VUW
Since 2008	National Advisory Committee on Official Statistics
Since 2008	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy</i>
2009	ISAT award, Royal Society of New Zealand
Since 2009	Graduate coordinator, Geography Programme (SGEES), VUW
2011	International Academic Advisor to the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Sarawak Malaysia
Since 2011	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Land</i>
Since 2011	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>international Journal of Wellbeing</i>
2012	Awarded 'A' rating in the 2012 PBRF assessment
Since 2012	Research Associate Industrial Relations Centre, VUW
Since 2012	Research Associate New Work Research Institute, AUT
Since 2012	Research Associate, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA, University of Waikato)
Since 2012	Member of the Advisory Board of <i>Migration Studies</i> (Oxford, UK)