

Citations

Nomination of Professor James Anthony (Tony) Binns for Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award 2012

Nominated by Otago Branch of the NZGS (represented by Branch President Dr Guil Figgins); cited by Emeritus Professor Peter Holland and Associate Professor Etienne Nel.

Citation

Professor Tony Binns is one of the most internationally distinguished geographers currently working in New Zealand. Over a long and productive career he has made an exemplary contribution to Geography at the tertiary and the secondary levels in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and internationally. He has recently completed terms as the President of the NZGS (2010-2011), the President of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (2008-2012) and has previously served as the President of the Geographical Association in the UK. His disciplinary contribution has been exemplary, helping to promote geography at schools and universities and he played a key role in ensuring that the subject is retained within the secondary school curriculum in the UK. He is an enthusiastic, popular and well liked teacher and has received teaching awards at the Universities of Sussex and Otago. In sum, Tony has made a significant contribution to all facets of the discipline of Geography both in New Zealand and abroad.

Career Details

Tony holds a BA Hons from Sheffield and a MA and PhD from Birmingham. He spent a year as a school teacher in Doncaster before joining the staff at the University of Sussex in 1975 where he was Reader in Geography from 2000 to 2004. In 2004 he was appointed to the prestigious position of the Ron Lister Chair of Geography at the University of Otago, the second appointment in the University's "Leading Thinkers Initiative".

His research career has focused on a range of key developmental themes primarily as they relate to Africa, including, desertification, the human-environment interface and community-based development, and another important thread has been in geographical education.

Tony has published 14 edited or authored books, including *Geographies of Development* (1999), *Issues in Geography Teaching* (2000) and *African Diversity and Development* (2012). He has also published 36 book chapters, 98 peer reviewed papers, and numerous reports, book reviews and conference proceedings. He currently serves as the editor for the Routledge *Perspectives on Development* book series, a post which has held for over 10 years and which has generated more than 20 titles.

Tony has served as a consultant for tertiary educational organisations, publishers and government departments in this country, Great Britain and across Africa, and is a member of the editorial boards of five academic journals.

He was President of the Geographical Association in 1994-95, President of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau in 2008-12, President of the New Zealand Geographical Society in 2010-11, and was elected to the council of Volunteer Service Abroad in October 2011.

In New Zealand he has made a significant contribution to international community development and student advancement through the establishment and promotion of the Univol programme in collaboration with Volunteer Service Abroad and NZAid.

Other Distinctions

1. July 1991: Elected President of the Brighton and District Branch of the Geographical Association (1991-2004).
2. April 1997: Elected Honorary Vice-President of the Geographical Association, UK (1997-2002).
3. May 1998: University of Sussex Alumni Society award for 'Excellence in Teaching'.
4. April 1999: his book *Journey through Africa* (with R Bowden) was awarded 'Highly Commended' in The Geographical Association's 1998 Awards. The citation reads; "...*Which has been judged as likely to make a significant contribution to Geography*".
5. October 2001: Elected President of the Geographical Field Group (2001- present)
6. September 2006: Awarded the 'Distinguished Lecturer Fellowship' at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
7. June 2006: Appointed Visiting Professorial Fellow, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK (2006- present).
8. March 2007: Appointed Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).
9. October 2011, awarded 'Top Ten Teacher Award' by Otago University Students Association (OUSA).