

CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction

Dr Philip Dearden

Philip Dearden has produced a steady output of innovative academic research over his 35 year career, generating more than 240 publications and nearly 3,400 citations. His research accomplishments are extensive, but also remarkable in generating direct policy outcomes.

Dearden was one of the first scholars to pay serious attention to assessing non-market values related to landscape planning. He published extensively in this area, including *Landscape Evaluation*, a book co-edited with Sadler some 30 years ago. This field is now generating significant interest, particularly related to payment for ecosystem services.



Best known for extensive work in protected area management, he has been a member of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas for over 30 years. He is lead editor of *Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Planning and Management*, the standard textbook in this area, published by OUP and in its fourth edition. His article analyzing changes in policy and practice in Canada's national parks (with Dempsey, 2004) remains one of the most downloaded from *The Canadian Geographer*. Of particular note in his PA work is his emphasis on:

1. *Community-based conservation, governance and the need to provide incentives* – a leader in recognizing the need to involve local communities, particularly indigenous people, in planning/management
2. *Ecosystem-based approaches to planning/management* - a strong advocate of PAs being considered part of the broader landscape matrix and a plurality of PA types needing to be recognized for different locations.
3. *Protected area effectiveness* - despite his strong advocacy for community-based approaches to PA designation/management, strong biodiversity protection has remained the core priority of PAs. His critical analysis of the IUCN Protected Area categories (with Locke, 2005) led to a global summit, and tightening the international definition for PAs.
4. *Marine Protected Areas* - an early advocate of extending PAs from terrestrial to marine management. His paper for the Convention on Biological Diversity on defining global Ecological and Biologically Significant Areas (with Topelko, 2005) provided the platform for current global and national efforts.

Nationally, Dearden has provided consistent leadership in MPA establishment, including being Chair of the National MPA Working Group of the Ocean Management Research Network and Co-Chair of Parks Canada Marine Conservation Area Science Advisory Group. Most recently, he was Expert Advisor to the Auditor General of Canada for the national progress on MPA establishment.

Dearden's expertise in PAs is recognized by government and international authorities in many parts of the world, and he has been involved in implementing many applied projects, from park management plans to World Heritage nominations. He recently completed the *Protected Area Master Plan* for the Royal Thai Government submission to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Dearden was a pioneer in non-consumptive wildlife-oriented recreation approaches to conservation that provided a platform for the later development of ecotourism. Starting with whale watching in the Pacific NW, Dearden developed a framework for examining potential sustainability of wildlife tourism 25 years ago still widely recognized as the leading work in this area. He initiated the rapidly developing literature on shark diving as conservation tool, and is a global leader in this field. SSHRC-funded research in this area focuses on community-based whale shark tourism in the Philippines and dugong conservation in Thailand.

Although he has made significant contributions to research on Canada, Dearden is best known for his work overseas, particularly in the tropics. His main focus has been Southeast Asia, especially Thailand. Recent studies supported by significant SSHRC grants have extended his work to include Africa.

A field geographer with countless hours of experience throughout the world, he mainly focuses on SE Asia, with studies ranging from tropical forest fragmentation in Thailand, indigenous people and conservation in Cambodia, through the marine environment in Thailand, the Philippines, and Myanmar.

As a biogeographer, Dearden has made many contributions to physical geography literature, and continues to do so. However, recognizing that effective resource management comes from understanding and managing humans, much of his research has been on the human side, and often his work combines knowledge and approaches from both sides.

Dearden's excellence in research and scholarship is augmented by exceptional achievements in undergraduate teaching and graduate supervision (29 PhD and 34 MA/MSc students). He has introduced many students at both undergraduate and graduate levels to field studies, including leading month-long undergraduate field schools in India. He is a top performer in undergraduate teaching, having won teaching awards, and his textbook *Environmental Change and Challenge* is a standard for first year courses.

Dr. Philip Dearden is a rare academic that excels in all aspects of academia.