

CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction In Geography Dr Barry Boots

Dr. Barry Boots' contributions to geography both in Canada and internationally have been truly outstanding and multifaceted. Summarizing Barry's contributions to geography is a difficult task; however, even a brief overview of his career demonstrates that he is eminently deserving of the Canadian Association of Geographers' Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography.

Barry Boots began his career at the University of Bristol in England. During his time at Bristol, Dr. Arthur Getis was a visiting lecturer. Their meeting led to a productive research period at Rutgers where Barry completed his PhD under the supervision of Arthur Getis. This was to lead to their classic book, *Models of Spatial Processes*, published in 1978.

Barry has distinguished himself by contributing heavily to the spatial analytical literature. He is sought by some of the outstanding spatial analysts in the world to create memorable books and papers. Each book he has authored or co-authored has become a standard in the field of spatial analysis. If citations are any guide, Boots' work has proved to be invaluable to a large number of spatial analysts. His co-authored book on spatial tessellations is a landmark in the area of spatial form. According to Google Scholar this book has been cited 1,192 times. His co-authored articles on Moran's I, the most important spatial autocorrelation statistic, is necessary reading for anyone concerned with spatial dependence and spatial heterogeneity. Recently, he has co-authored several papers on map comparison and has developed local pattern measures for categorical data that equip researchers with the statistical tools needed for accurate testing of hypotheses about patterns on maps.

A central theme that runs throughout Barry's research is his overriding interest in spatial patterns and the processes associated with these patterns. His status as one of the foremost authorities on point pattern analysis, spatial autocorrelation, and Voronoi diagrams has been earned not only through his nearly 100 scholarly publications, but also through the remarkable diversity of application areas and disciplines that his work has advanced. To demonstrate his remarkable intellectual dexterity, consider the following sample of journals in which he has published: *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Modelling and Simulation*, *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, *Economic Geography*, *Journal of Glaciology*, *Journal of Environmental Management*, *Journal of Retailing*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, *Ecological Modelling*, *Geographical Analysis*, *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, *Soviet Geography* and *Metallography*.

Dr. Boots has become one of the leading quantitative geographers in Canada. In North America, among geographic researchers, he is considered one of the foremost proponents of spatial analysis. This field has been growing rapidly of late, stimulated by the technological developments in the geographical information sciences. Boots' name goes hand-in-hand with these developments. In addition, his former co-editorship of *The Canadian Geographer* has placed his name before most research geographers in North America. Internationally, beyond North America, Boots is highly regarded as a leader in modeling spatial systems. He was the chair of the IGU Commission on Modeling Geographical Systems and in that capacity organized important international conferences, books, and special issues of journals. He continues as the only Canadian member of that Commission. His work is cited by a cadre of international specialists in spatial analysis. In particular, his work has great prestige in Japan where he has developed a long term productive collaboration with leading Japanese spatial analysts.

Barry Boots has also made extensive contributions to the community of geography. His generosity in advising graduate students and mentoring young faculty is second to none and for this contribution alone he deserves recognition. While all of us aspire to excel as scholars, few are able to make sustained and significant impacts across all aspects of the profession. Barry Boots is one person who has achieved this goal, and in doing so, he has helped shape geography in Canada and worldwide.