

CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography Dr Richard Harris

Dr. Richard Harris is one of Canada's most distinguished geographers who has earned national and world-wide respect and acclaim for his many outstanding scholarly contributions as a researcher, author, editor, and reviewer of books. Richard continues to make path-breaking and sustained contributions to the fields of housing, suburban development, and the social and historical geography of Canadian, American, and world cities.

Richard Harris was born in England in 1952. He completed his undergraduate training at Cambridge University in England and then engaged in MA work at Ohio State in the United States. He completed a PhD at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1981. Most of his teaching career has been spent at McMaster University, where he moved quickly through the ranks, becoming Full Professor in 1992. Along the way he has been a recipient of a SSHRC Canada Research Fellowship and prestigious Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships. He was recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Over the past three decades, Richard Harris has personally received close to \$1 million in research grants from major research agencies, and published six books, twenty-nine chapters in books, nearly 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and more than 150 book reviews. His body of research has been published by leading university presses and in the finest international journals. Important books include *Unplanned Suburbs* (Johns Hopkins: 1996), *Changing Suburbs [Ed.]* (Spon: 1999), *Creeping Conformity: How Canada became Suburban* (Toronto: 2004), and *Building a Market: the Rise of the Home Improvement Industry* (Chicago: 2012).

The quality of this output has been recognized nationally and internationally: Richard has won a number of awards for 'best journal article,' 'best book,' or 'best conference paper.' The sheer weight of his many scholarly contributions places him easily atop his field. He is a recognized authority on the historical dimensions of self-built housing, Canadian and American suburban development, housing issues in British colonies, and most recently, the social geography of Bombay and Calcutta, India.

Added to this very large and sustained research output is Richard's varied and scholarly editorial work: as the editor of a journal (*Urban History Review/Revue d'histoire urbaine*), as a member of the editorial boards of important national and international journals, and as the organizer of various book projects, conference sessions, and workshops. He is now the coordinator of the land development component of a vast international research project on world suburbanization processes that has garnered \$3.5 million in research funds.

Richard has lectured and travelled widely around the world, sharing his research knowledge in many settings: at conferences, on adjudication committees, and in university lecture halls. University College of London, Australian National University, and National University of Singapore, amongst other world institutions, have invited him to lecture or visit their campuses as a Research Fellow.

Besides the more obvious features of Richard's scholarship—the sorts of categories appearing on a Curriculum Vitae—there are many intangibles that also speak well and highly of his scholarly contributions: his support of graduate students; his willingness to share ideas through the media; informal discussions and friendship with colleagues that spur them onto better research; and incisive comments made from the floor at a conference. These and other qualities help round out a career that is truly remarkable, noteworthy, and of course, continuing.