

**ALAN RODNEY DOBELL**  
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Rod Dobell was born in Vancouver, B.C., and took B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of British Columbia (in economics and mathematics) before going on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for his PhD in economics. After a five-year appointment as Assistant Professor of Economics at Harvard University, he returned to Canada as Associate Professor of Mathematics and Political Economy, and subsequently Professor of Political Economy, at the University of Toronto. There he served as a member of the founding faculty of the Institute for Policy Analysis, directed a research project which analyzed and recommended a national contingent repayment student financial assistance scheme for financing of post-secondary education, and subsequently developed some of the first working models for longitudinal microsimulation methods in the analysis of social policy. Since then he has alternated between academic work and policy applications, with six years in the Government of Canada (including appointments as special adviser to the Deputy Minister of Finance for long-range economic planning, and Deputy Secretary (Planning) in the Treasury Board Secretariat) followed by two years (1976-78) at OECD as Director of the General Economics Branch, seven years as Director of the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, and subsequently a seven-year term as President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, before returning to the University of Victoria in 1991 to take up the first appointment to the Francis G. Winspear Chair for Research in Public Policy, for a six-year term to 1997.

In the early eighties he also served as Director of Research for Parliamentary Task Forces on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements (the Breaux Task Force) and on Pension Reform (the Frith Task Force). He was the founding President for NAMI-Canada, the Canadian section of the North American Institute, exploring the emerging structures of a North American community. In 1992 he was awarded the Governor-General's Canada 125 medal for service to the country. He was a founding member of the Board of the tri-national Environmental Education and Training Institute of North America and presently serves also as a member of the Research Committee for the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. From 1995-99 he served on an inter-disciplinary Panel on Marine Resources for the Canadian Global Change Program of the Royal Society of Canada. He has been a member of the National Statistics Council, at the invitation of the Minister Responsible for Statistics Canada, since 1989.

In the course of this academic career interspersed with extensive field trips, Professor Dobell developed his specific research interests in the philosophy and processes of public administration and policy formation, and the way in which collective decisions are influenced both by changing views of scientific evidence and democracy, and changing structures for consultation and public participation. Social capital, social cohesion and social learning in the management of global environmental risks and in the stewardship of cultural and natural capital are subjects at the centre of his current work.

### **Selected executive positions and publications:**

- Chair, Scientific Committee for the Human Dimensions of Global Change, Canadian Global Change Program, Royal Society of Canada, 1989-91
- Member, National Statistics Council, 1989 - present
- President, North American Institute (Canada), 1991-99
- Member, Research Committee, Institute of Public Administration of Canada, 1995 -
- Founding Board, Environmental Education and Training Institute of North America
- Member, Royal Society of Canada/Canadian Global Change Program, Expert Panel on Global Change and Canadian Marine Fisheries, 1995-99.

(with E. Burmeister) Mathematical Theories of Economic Growth, MacMillan, 1970.  
Reprinted 1993 by Gregg Revivals Series, Classics in Economic Theory.

"Organizing Government for Sustainable Development: Recent Canadian Experience",  
Canberra Bulletin of Public Administration, Vol. 69, May 1992, pp. 152-161.

Rodney Dobell and Michael Neufeld (eds), Transborder Citizens: Networks and New Institutions in North America, Lantzville, Oolichan Books, 1994.

"Environmental Degradation and the Religion of the Market" in Coward, Harold (ed),  
Population and the Environment: Resource Consumption, Religions, and Ethics,  
SUNY Press, 1995.

"Complexity, Connectedness and Civil Purpose: Public Administration in the Congested Global Village", Canadian Public Administration, Vol. 40, No. 2 (Summer 1997) 346-370.

(with Darcy Mitchell) "Resource Management and Sustainability in British Columbia",  
Public Administration in Canada, Jacques Bourgault, Cynthia Williams and Maurice Demers (eds.) IIAS, Quebec City, 1997.

(with Luc Bernier) "Citizen-centered governance: Implications for inter-governmental Canada" in Alternative Service Delivery. Robin Ford and David Zussman (eds.). IPAC-KPMG, 1997.

"Compliance and Constraint: Economic Instruments in Context", in Chris Tollefson (ed)  
The Wealth of Forests: Markets, Regulation and Sustainable Forestry. Vancouver:  
UBC Press, 1998.

"Implementing Principles for Sustainable Fisheries", in Randall Peterman et al (eds)  
Canadian Marine Fisheries in a Changing and Uncertain World. National Research Council: NRC Press, 1999.

"Implementation," in Social Learning in Management of Global Atmospheric Risks,  
Clark, W.C., Jaeger, Jill and van Eijndhoven, J. (eds), MIT Press, forthcoming, 2001.

"Social Learning and Social Capital in a Full World", OECD/HRDC Symposium on The Role of Human and Social Capital in Economic Growth and Sustained Well-being, March, 2000. Forthcoming in the Symposium Proceedings edited by John Helliwell, to be published by OECD.

(See also "Formation of Social Capital and Institutions for Sustainability" at [www.sdri.ubc.ca](http://www.sdri.ubc.ca))