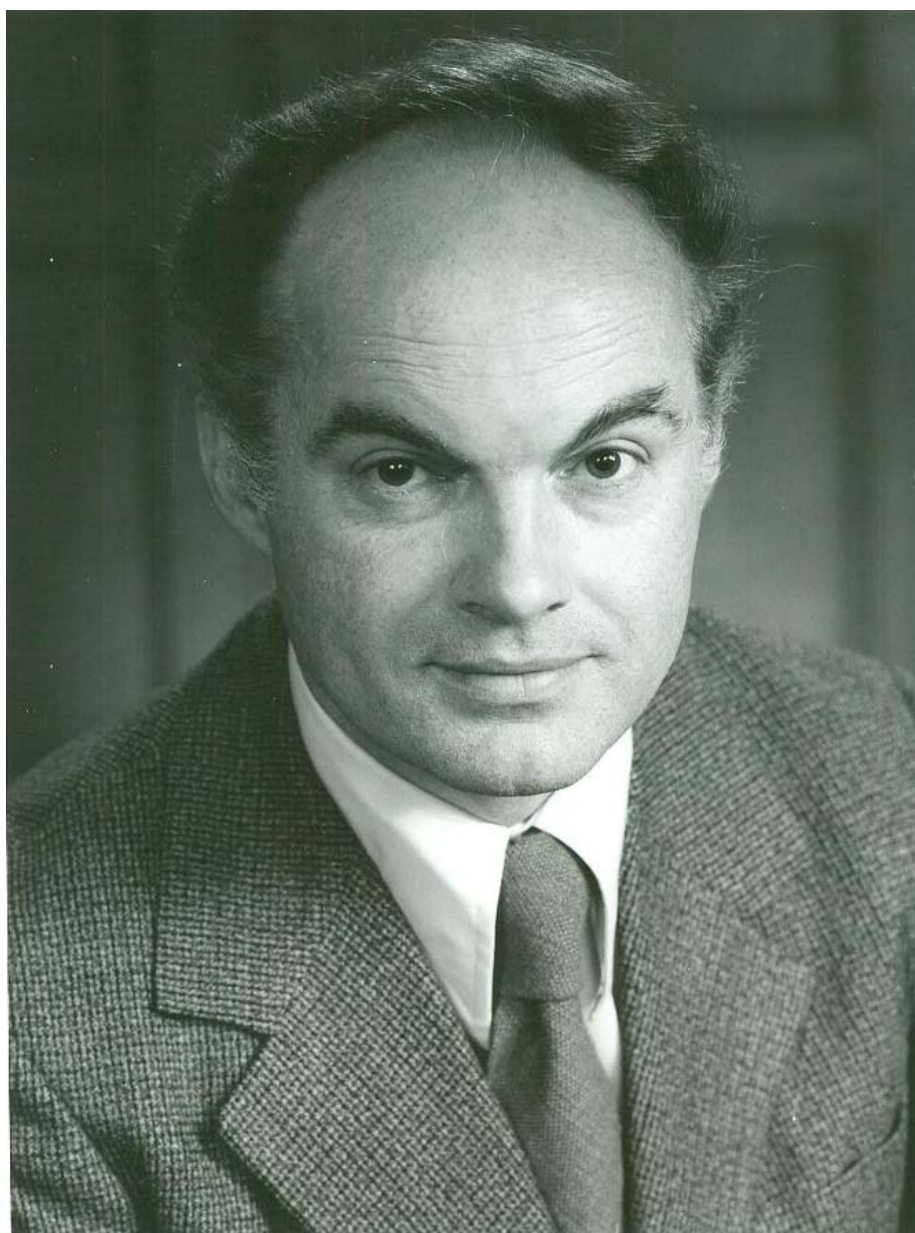


ROBIN W. BOADWAY, OC, FRSC

David C. Smith
1931-2000



Dr. David Chadwick Smith, B.A. (McMaster University), M.A. (University of Oxford), Ph.D. (Harvard University), Principal Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Economics at Queen's University, died on May 22, 2000 at Kingston, Ontario at the age of 68. He was born on August 12, 1931 in Ootacamund, India to Canadian missionary parents, and moved back to Simcoe, Ontario with his parents when World War II broke out. Apart from his university studies abroad and an initial teaching appointment at the University of California at Berkeley, he spent virtually all his professional life at Queen University.

Dr. Smith was an outstanding institution-builder and an advisor to federal and provincial governments. He was well known for his unwavering commitment to excellence and his ability to foster collegiality and cooperation in the quest for common goals both for the university community and for society at large. He arrived at Queen's in 1960 as an eager young Harvard-trained Assistant Professor of Economics, and did influential early work on unemployment. He was quickly seconded to be Head of the Department of Economics in 1968, and proceeded to build it into one of the best Economics departments in Canada, using his legendary ability to attract and keep high-quality faculty and to nurture their teaching and research skills at a time when many universities were expanding. The graduate program in Economics flourished, becoming the largest in Canada at the Ph.D. level, whose graduates can be found in many Canadian universities as well as among the country's leading policy-makers. While he was Head, he was instrumental in raising the funds for and establishing the John Deutsch Institute for the Study of Economic Policy, which was a fitting tribute both to a former colleague and principal of Queen's and to the tradition of public policy work among Queen's economists.

He completed his Headship in 1981 and was soon named as Research Director for the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development prospects for Canada (the so-called Macdonald Commission). He succeeded in engaging many top economists and political scientists in the work of the commission, which produced one of the most influential Royal Commission Reports in Canadian history. Among other things, it recommended free trade with the United States, an idea that was acted on by the Canadian government in 1989 and which changed the nature of Canadian economic policy irreversibly. Dr. Smith was also a member of the Ontario Economic Council for a decade and Vice-Chair of the Ontario Royal Commission on Workers' Compensation.

Dr. Smith was appointed Principal and Vice Chancellor of Queen's University in 1984 and served with distinction for ten years. He oversaw the evolution of Queen's into a research-intensive university with a much expanded graduate program. He never lost sight of the teaching mission of the university, and firmly insisted that research and teaching were complementary. These were challenging times, as university funding was tightened and universities were expected to do more with less. One of his responses to this was to seek intensive and continuous funding assistance from alumni and other donors, rather than to focus on campaigns for specific purposes, a tactic that was emulated by other universities. It was also a period of some tension among emerging constituencies in the university, which he handled with openness and conciliation and with respect for arguments from all sides. He worked tirelessly to enhance Queen's reputation as a truly national university with an outstanding reputation. Among other things, his achievements included the magnificent Stauffer Library, Walter Light Hall, the Biosciences Complex, the International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle in the UK, the enhancement of the Agnes Hetherington Art Centre, and the School of Policy Studies. More than

anything, he strove to improve that quality of the human capital at the University and put great emphasis on attracting the best young scholars possible. He initiated the Queen's National Scholar programme for that purpose.

On completing his two terms as Principal, he lent his talents out to many other endeavours. He was appointed by the Ontario Government to chair an advisory panel on postsecondary education. The visionary Smith Report of 1996 was aptly entitled *Excellence Accessibility Responsibility*, and contained a blueprint for action that led to some important policy innovations. He also served as senior policy advisor to the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and chaired the Council of Ontario Universities. He served as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University in 1997-98.

Over his career, Dr. Smith received many honours. He was awarded honorary degrees from five universities, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1976, and became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994. The Council of Ontario Universities instituted the David C. Smith Award to his memory for his distinguished contribution to scholarship and policy in higher education. The Queen's Department of Economics established the David Chadwick Smith Chair in Economics in 2007, a fitting tribute to his role in building the Department.

Dr. Smith was a quiet and unassuming person who maintained his private life while being a sought-after public figure. No doubt his early upbringing can be credited for his strong sense of what was fair and right. His untimely passing was a shock to colleagues and friends alike, and cut short a career of true public service. He was survived by his wife, a daughter and a son, and three grandchildren, and will be missed by all who knew him.

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(Author's title given as of the time of writing)