

Citation for Professor T.R. Balakrishnan, recipient of the 2010 Canadian Population Society Award.

The CPS Award honors a Canadian scholar every two years who has shown outstanding commitment to the profession of demography, and whose cumulative work has contributed in important ways to the advancement of the discipline in Canada, through publications, teaching and/or service.

The Canadian Population Society Award Committee has chosen Professor T.R. Balakrishnan as recipient of the 2010 CPS Award. I am honored and delighted to be asked to give the citation to Bala, colleague, friend and mentor to many of us.

Bala represents the high mark of a distinguished career as researcher, educator and in service to the profession.

With an Honours B.A. in Mathematics in 1952 and M.A. in Mathematics and Statistics in 1953 from the University of Madras, then a two-year post graduate Diploma in Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta, Balakrishnan then obtained his PhD in Sociology-Demography in 1963 from the University of Michigan, as a Population Council Fellow.

Professor Balakrishnan worked as a statistician for the National Sample Survey of the Indian Statistical Institute before obtaining his PhD, then he was Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta for 1963-65. It was in 1965 that we first knew him in Canada, as he joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario, becoming Associate Professor in 1967, Professor in 1971, Faculty Research Professor in 1988-89, and Professor Emeritus in 1997.

Bala was the Founding Director of the Population Studies Centre at the University of Western Ontario, a position that he held for 1974-1984. For 1989-1992 he served as Chair of the Department of Sociology. He was also visiting scholar or research associate at Indiana University (1969-70), University of California at Berkeley (1972), United Nations Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE, 1973) and East-West Population Institute (1980-81).

As an educator, Professor Balakrishnan was the senior demographer who ensured graduate education in population studies at the University of Western Ontario as of the beginning of the MA program in 1966, and in establishing a PhD program in Social Demography in 1978. At the undergraduate level, Bala ensured that population studies would be a real program within sociology, placing population, along with social organization and social psychology, as core areas of the Sociology program at the University of Western Ontario.

As a researcher, Dr Balakrishnan has made a mark in several areas, but especially in fertility studies and in ethnic settlement patterns.

Already in 1955-58, he was involved in the National Sample Survey through the Indian Statistical Institute. Along with Jack Kantner and J.D. Allingham, he obtained a Canada Council

grant in 1967 for the Toronto Fertility Survey that produced *Fertility and Family Planning in a Canadian Metropolis* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1975). With G. Edward Ebanks and Carl Grindstaff, he was responsible for the 1971 census monograph on fertility (*Patterns of Fertility in Canada*, Statistics Canada, 1979). Then in 1983-85 he obtained another SSHRC grant with Karol Krotki and Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk, to undertake a national fertility survey, and to write *Family and Childbearing in Canada: A Demographic Analysis* (University of Toronto Press, 1993).

Balakrishnan has clearly been the foremost demographer from English Canada in the area of fertility and family studies. He has documented the trends and determinants as the family context of Canadian fertility underwent significant changes. From contraception and family planning, his research went on to include cohabitation, union formation and dissolution. In 1993, he was associated with the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, producing reports that have appeared in *The Prevalence of Infertility in Canada* (Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, 1993).

In terms of Professor Balakrishnan's work on ethnicity, let me quote from Feng Hou, now Senior Researcher at Statistics Canada:

Bala is the pioneer in the studies of Canadian urban neighbourhoods. He has systematically examined the socioeconomic differentiation and neighbourhood changes in urban Canada over the 1950s through 1990s. Most importantly, he has done extensive studies on racial/ethnic concentration in Canada's large metropolitan areas. His research shows that ethnic concentration in urban Canada has gradually increased over recent decades and the variations in residential concentration across cities and ethnic groups have remained relatively stable. From his studies we know that Canadian urban society is likely to exhibit an increasingly strong multicultural dimension in its spatial structure. His research findings also suggest that unlike in the United States, ethnic concentration in Canada is mostly voluntary in the sense that group differences in residential concentration primarily reflect own-group preference and capacity to build ethnic communities. His over 20 publications on minority residential patterns have become the knowledge foundation for Canadian studies on immigrant settlement patterns and neighbourhood effects.

Let me cite from others who wrote letters supporting the nomination of Bala for the CPS Award:

Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk, now Professor Emeritus at Université de Montréal, writes that it was Bala's early involvement in fertility surveys that initially inspired her as an example of careful and meticulous analysis of complex data. Evelyne and Bala were colleagues in carrying out the 1984 Canadian fertility survey. She writes: His knowledge of the field was immense, he had read everything, and he was a master in the use of statistical tools, always conscious of their power as well as of their limitations.

Rajulton Fernando says: I still assign his works as essential readings in the courses that I teach. Bala's contribution to training and developing demographers over time is clearly visible in the number of demographers now working in renowned academic institutions all over the world.

Carl Grindstaff, Professor Emeritus at UWO, writes in admiration of Bala's excellent leadership role in the Canadian Population Society. Carl says: if you asked people who worked with him in this period, you will find that he is universally respected for his honesty, integrity and good work.

Anatole Romaniuk, retired from Statistics Canada and now Adjunct Professor at University of Alberta, writes that "we, Canadian demographers, can pride ourselves in having built a strong institutional network that reflects this country's linguistic configuration. Dr. Balakrishnan has been a major player in the institution building process.

Tom Burch, professor Emeritus at both UWO and University of Victoria says: I can think of no one who has worked longer or made greater contributions to demography in Canada.

Similarly, G. Edward Ebanks, Professor Emeritus at UWO writes that "I cannot think of anyone who is more deserving of the Award".

Jiajian Chen, now Senior Fellow at University of Hawaii writes that he was strongly motivated by Bala's excellent teaching in Demographic Techniques and Population and Development, which brought me to work in the field of population as of the first year of my MA program at UWO in 1984. Speaking for many others, Jiajian observes: he taught and encouraged me to think critically and creatively and to be thorough and thoughtful in data analysis.

Quoting again from Feng Hou: Professor Balakrishnan's legendary command of demographic techniques and a remarkable ability to examine sharp analytical questions with empirical data has had profound influence on his students.

There are many other things to say, but let me stop here and Zheng Wu will now present the award on behalf of the Canadian Population Society.

Read by Roderic Beaujot at the Meetings of the Canadian Population Society, Montreal, 2 June 2010.