

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Geographical Society Award The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal to Prof. Andrew Blowers

Description: *The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced Prof. Andrew Blowers, Emeritus Professor at The Open University, received the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal on November 16, 2018. The medal was presented to Prof. Blowers in a ceremony held during the Society's annual Fall Symposium, held at Columbia University November 16th and 17th.*

[New York City, NY] — [December 3, 2018]– The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced that Prof. Andrew Blowers, Emeritus Professor at The Open University, was presented with the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal at a ceremony held on November 16th during the Society's annual Fall Symposium held at Columbia University.

Established in 2002, the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal is the newest award created by AGS. This medal is awarded to individuals who examine the influence of humans on the natural world. It recognizes “outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources.” Over the past 16 years the Medal has been awarded 4 times including Prof. Blowers.

Prof. Andrew Blowers has made extensive contributions in the application of geographic principles to energy, planning, and humankind - working in academia, politics, government, and in his retirement, as an anti-nuclear campaigner. Prof. Blowers was one of the ‘pioneer’ academics who helped set up The Open University (OU) in 1970, where he taught and held numerous positions over the years. Among his prolific publications is his most recent book *The Legacy of Nuclear Power*, which takes a historical and geographical perspective on the dynamic relationship between local communities and the nuclear industry. Prof. Blowers worked with the Government to deal with the management of radioactive waste, and drafted policy on partnership and voluntarism. ***See below to contact AGS for more information about Prof. Blowers.**

In his remarks to the audience after receiving the Melamid Medal, Prof. Blowers said, “My lifelong interest as a geography and social scientists has been the relationship between place, environment, people, and communities. My core concern has been with inequality and especially with the idea and reality of ‘peripheral’ communities, places at the margin which experience economic, social, political, and environmental disadvantage.” Dr. Deborah Popper, AGS Vice President, Chairman of the Honors & Exploration Committee noted, “Andrew’s work has pushed the public’s understanding of how we manage radioactive waste and what that means for society. AGS is proud to honor him for his contributions and meaningful dedication to education, public service, and our understanding of the complex interactions between energy and humankind.”

The American Geographical Society (AGS) is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for over 166 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so

as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



Prof. Andrew Blowers

***For more information about Prof. Blowers and the American Geographical Society, please contact Ms. Joanna Green, AGS Special Projects Coordinator (jgreen@americangeo.org).**

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