NARRATIVE CV

Richard K. Smith, PhD

Professor, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University

1. Contributions to Knowledge

My research career has focused on understanding how communication networks shape technological innovation and how emerging technologies transform society. This work bridges communication studies, science and technology studies, and innovation policy.

My most significant scholarly contribution is co-authoring *New Media: An Introduction* with Terry Flew (Oxford University Press). Now in its fourth edition (2021), this textbook has become a foundational resource for undergraduate and graduate programs worldwide. The Canadian editions I developed address the distinct policy and cultural contexts of media in Canada, filling a gap in available teaching materials. The book's longevity reflects our commitment to updating it as the media landscape evolves—from early internet studies through social media, mobile platforms, and current debates about AI and platform governance.

My empirical research on innovation clusters and regional development has produced frameworks now used by multiple research groups studying how geographic proximity and collaboration networks drive technological innovation. Through nearly two decades directing the Centre for Policy Research on Science & Technology (CPROST), I led interdisciplinary teams investigating broadband policy, elder health technologies, and the social dynamics of economic performance. This work has attracted over $10 million in research funding, including SSHRC Partnership Grants, Insight Grants, and provincial funding.

Earlier work on mobile and wireless communications, culminating in *Mobile and Wireless Communications: An Introduction* (McGraw-Hill, 2006), helped establish this as a legitimate area of communication scholarship in Canada at a pivotal moment in the technology's adoption.

2. Contributions to Developing Others

Mentoring emerging scholars and building research capacity has been central to my academic practice. As Director of the Master of Digital Media (MDM) program at the Great Northern Way Campus (2011–2020), I led a comprehensive curriculum reform that better prepared students for rapidly changing creative industries. The MDM program, a unique collaboration among four Vancouver-area universities, required navigating complex institutional relationships while maintaining educational quality and industry relevance.

Through CPROST, I supervised numerous graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom have gone on to academic positions and policy careers. The Centre functioned as a training ground where emerging researchers gained experience in interdisciplinary collaboration, policy engagement, and knowledge mobilization—skills often underemphasized in traditional graduate programs.

My teaching spans communication theory, research methods, and technology policy. I have developed courses that help students critically examine technological change rather than simply celebrating or fearing it. Student evaluations consistently note my ability to make complex policy and theoretical issues accessible and relevant.

3. Contributions to the Research Community

I have contributed to building research infrastructure and fostering scholarly community both nationally and internationally. My service includes editorial roles, conference organization, and institutional leadership. I have delivered over 120 peer-reviewed conference presentations and numerous invited lectures across Canada, the US, Europe, and Asia.

International engagement has been particularly important to my practice. I have served as a visiting professor at ENSGSI in Nancy, France, and maintained collaborative relationships with researchers in the UK, France, Colombia, and China. This work was recognized in 2020 when I was appointed Chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government for contributions to education and international academic exchange.

Within Canada, I have contributed to scholarly publishing initiatives and served on review panels for SSHRC and other funding bodies. I received the SFU President's Award for Public Affairs and Media Relations (2009) for making research accessible to broader audiences, and the BCNET Faculty Recognition Award (2005) for contributions to research networking infrastructure.

4. Contributions to Broader Society

I am committed to ensuring research reaches beyond academic audiences. My work on Canadian broadcasting policy contributed to public debates about the future of the CBC, documented in *A Tower Under Siege: Technology, Policy and the Future of the CBC* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001). This book provided historical and policy context during a period of significant uncertainty about public broadcasting in Canada.

More recently, I have engaged in public education about technology and society through lectures at public libraries, Eldercollege programs, and community organizations. These activities reflect my belief that communication scholars have a responsibility to help citizens navigate an increasingly complex media environment.

My involvement in the SSHRC Partnership Grant on the hidden costs of supply chains (2018–2025) exemplifies research designed for societal impact, bringing together academic researchers with civil society organizations to examine labor and environmental issues in global production networks. Similarly, work on citizen education regarding corporate data use addresses urgent questions about privacy and digital rights that affect all Canadians.

[Approximately 950 words]