

# Obituary: Professor Norman Feather, 1930-2023

November 1, 2023

It is with deep sadness that I must share the news: Prof Norm Feather passed away this past weekend (28 Oct) at the age of 93. Norm was a recent recipient of our 2021 ISJR Lifetime Achievement Award, having long been one of our thought leaders in the field of justice, which he considered to be one of his greatest honours.

Norm launched his professional career at the University of New England (UNE), as a lecturer in 1952, and helped develop the distance education offering for psychology. Progressing to a senior lecturer and then Associate Professor, he took leave in 1958 to complete his PhD with the University of Michigan as a Fulbright scholar (the first of two such scholarships), but returned to UNE in 1960 and gave another seven years' service before joining what is now Flinders University as the foundation professor in psychology.

His most notable academic contributions have been to the psychology of values, expectancy-value models of motivation, the psychological impact of unemployment, justice concepts of deservingness and entitlement, and pioneering research in Australia into "tall poppies" or high achievers. Over his career, he authored or edited six books (the last published in 1999, on values, achievement, and justice) and 230 published articles, attracting over 37,000 citations.

In addition to being an ISJR Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Norm also received the UNE Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998 and a year later earned the Australian Psychological Society's Distinguished Science Contribution Award. He was an Honorary Doctor of Letters from UNE and Flinders University; an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society; a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science in Australia; and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2016 for his significant service to higher education as an academic, author and editor, to the social and behavioural sciences, and to professional bodies. Many also credit Norm for putting Australian Social Psychology on the map, being a founding member of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists.

Norm spent the last two years of his life living in Melbourne where he could be close to his son, Mark.

