



Nelson served on the Advisory Board for *Research Policy* for much of its existence, supporting the editors in their efforts to build and strengthen the reputation of the journal. A total of 21 of his articles are published in this journal, the first and most highly cited being the 1977 paper with Sidney Winter, In search of useful theory of innovation, a precursor to their book *An Evolutionary Theory of Economic Change* (1982).

The links that Nelson developed with researchers at SPRU during his regular visits there, and with others elsewhere in Europe who were part of the SPRU network, have

In 1986, Nelson moved from Yale to Columbia University, first as Henry Luce Professor of International Political Economy, and later as George Blumenthal Professor of International and Public Affairs in the School of International and Public Affairs. There he was to work for the rest of his career, including serving as Director of the Program on Science, Technology and Global Development in the Columbia Earth Institute from 2005 onwards.

His remarkable research output continued undiminished indeed, it accelerated as he collaborated with an ever-widening range of innovation scholars on key issues in the fast-evolving field of innovation studies. During his time at Columbia, he continued to interact with SPRU, serving on the International Advisory Board, providing invaluable advice to successive SPRU Directors and others, and mentoring early-career researchers.

In an academic world characterised by increasing competitive pressures and beset by petty rivalries, Dick Nelson remained the most approachable of individuals, always willing to listen, to advise, and to encourage. As his career advanced, he collaborated not only with those at the top but also with young emerging talents. Despite the effort required to produce such a prodigious research output, he always seemed to have time for others and be willing to help. Particularly indebted to him are all the PhD students he supervised at Yale and Columbia and the other young researchers he mentored over the years.

Dick Nelson was universally liked and admired. His values and norms, and his openness and intellectual generosity, were shared by other key figures in the and now more

, Chris Freeman and Nathan Rosenberg. As a result, our community today is fortunate to be far less afflicted by the hypercompetitive ethos and accompanying unpleasantness that permeate numerous other research fields.

Dick Nelson will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues. Without him, and his immense contributions, the field of innovation studies would be very different. Schumpeter is generally credited with being the founder of innovation studies; in certain respects, his was

1950 his legacy was unclear. It took the efforts of Dick Nelson in the United States and Chris Freeman in Europe to revive the Schumpeterian school of thought and set innovation studies on a firm footing. Today it is a thriving community of thousands of scholars throughout the world. We are all in debt.