

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gerald (Paddy) Scannell, Ph.D., professor of communication studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2016.


Professor Scannell received his B.A. (1965) degree from Oxford University and his Ph.D. (2006) degree from the University of Westminster. He taught at the University of Westminster from 1967-2006. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 2006.

Professor Scannell is an internationally recognized scholar whose books and articles have had an enormous impact on the field. In 1975, he and his colleagues at Westminster launched the first, and for a decade the only, undergraduate honors degree course in media studies in Britain. His areas of specialization include broadcasting history, the analysis of media texts and the construction and impact of broadcast talk, and theories of communication and media. He has been a leader in British communication and media studies since the 1970s, and is the founding editor of the top international journal *Media, Culture & Society*. His publication record has paved the way for a more interpretive, nuanced, production-focused based history of broadcasting. His book, *Radio, Television and Modern Life* (1996) reshaped how scholars studied media production, and opened up the study of talk on radio and television; most recently, *Television and the Meaning of "Live"* (2014) is a brilliant analysis of how the "care structures" of TV production help constitute our experiences of "liveness" and, indeed, being alive.

At Michigan, Professor Scannell was best known for his lecture class, "Media, Culture and Society" and his hugely popular class analyzing the phenomenon of and values embedded in reality television. He regularly taught the graduate course "History of Media Theory and Criticism," and his book *Media and Communication* (2007), described by one reviewer as "a magisterial history," became the core text for the class. He supervised numerous doctoral students, chairing and co-chairing dissertation committees and was especially respected as a dedicated mentor to Ph.D. students and junior faculty.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Gerald (Paddy) Scannell, professor emeritus of communication studies**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2016