

Citation: Professor Alan Scott

Professor Scott was employed as Professor of Sociology at UNE from 2010 until August 2025, a position he occupied with dedication, skill and impact. During the time he held this position, he served the UNE with distinction providing exemplary leadership in a number of capacities, with respect to administrative service, teaching and PhD supervision, and especially research.

Soon after arriving in Armidale, Professor Scott found himself elected to the Academic Board, and for a time was the acting chair of its Teaching Committee. In 2018 in a period of reconstruction at the UNE he found himself Head of the Department of Social and Philosophical Inquiry, and went on, amongst other roles to become convenor of both sociology and the Bachelor of International Studies. His tenure of all the positions he held was characterised by a mixture of conscientiousness, insight and level-headed calmness. Without exception he came to earn the respect of his colleagues for the leadership he invariably provided, for his unfailing collegiality, and for his passionate commitment to the traditional values of the university.

In terms of teaching and curriculum development, Professor Scott played a leading role in helping to maintain the UNE's reputation as a centre of excellence in the field of sociology. Creating and co-ordinating three units on significant topical aspects of sociology, in 2024 he produced a new edition of a volume of key sociological sources - *New Critical Writings in Political Sociology* (Vol.2); it and two other volumes in this series that he also edited constitute essential reference texts for students of sociology.

A prolific researcher, Professor Scott came to UNE already with 79 publications to his credit, to which he added in his 15-year tenure here a further 36 publications, including 2 substantial monographs, 5 edited books and 29 peer reviewed articles and book chapters. To sum up, as a world recognised expert on theories of the state, governance, democracy and capitalism, Professor Scott helped enhance and strengthen the UNE's reputation, both nationally and internationally, as an institution producing scholarship of the very highest quality.

Professor Scott was always at the forefront of breaking new ground. From investigating the rise of populism in Europe, a somewhat crowded path, he went on in 2024 to co-edit a large study of *Populism in Asia and the Pacific* — the very first on this region in fact — in the prestigious Routledge Handbook series. Simultaneously he began critiquing and translating from German into English key Austrian theorists of the 1920s and 1930s like Otto Bauer. One of Professor Scott's most influential works was his 2018 co-authored book *Remaking Market Society*, a study inspired by the Hungarian economic historian Karl Polanyi.

All this is impressive enough, but perhaps the most telling testament of Professor Scott's research strength and stature came when he was head-hunted to become Vice-President for humanities and social sciences of Austria's National Research Fund - the equivalent of the Australian Research Council— from 2013 to 2016.