



Royal Holloway, University of London
18 May 2017

Citation for Professor Jane Broadbent

Chairman of Council, it is my privilege to present to you, Professor Jane Broadbent.

The reasons for this honour include firstly, Professor Broadbent's contributions to the field of accounting, especially her work in understanding and providing powerful critiques of the roles of accounting in public sector bodies, including the early and prescient problematizing of private public partnerships. And, secondly, her major contributions to Royal Holloway in several senior management roles, including that of Senior Vice-Principal.

Jane was born in Yorkshire and brought up on a Yorkshire farm as the eldest of six siblings. I'm not sure whether her heritage as a proud Yorkshire woman, or her taking the responsibilities as eldest sibling from a very early age, had the most influence on her enduring ability to cut directly and with no nonsense to the core of any issue and quickly identify solutions – and always in a highly collegial and constructive manner. These are attributes that have been very effective during her career, especially in frequently and successfully challenging entrenched gender barriers.

Jane left school at 17 and trained as an accountant in the NHS, where she qualified as an ACCA professional accountant. As an indication of the gender barriers she was breaking down from this early age, when trying to collect her coat at the end of one of her professional exams she was told that she could not collect it because all the coats had been hung in the gentlemen's cloakroom – clearly they did not expect women to be qualifying as professional accountants!

By the age of 22 Jane was leading the management accounting department of the Kirklees Area Health Authority in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, to the dismay of some of the older men in her department.

When her daughter, Katie, was born, Jane turned to part-time teaching at a technical college and art school and then decided to go to the University of York to take a sociology degree when her daughter went to school. She therefore had what was then an unusual background mixing practical experience of accounting with rigorous sociological insights.

After graduating, Jane discovered the innovative combination of sociology and accounting in the research and teaching undertaken in the accounting department at the University of Sheffield. She moved there to take a part-time Masters degree in Accounting and Financial Management while working full-time at Leeds Trinity and All Saints and bringing up her daughter. Clear Yorkshire grit!

On completion of her Masters degree she was appointed a lecturer at Sheffield where she developed highly influential and enduring research collaboration with Richard Laughlin. This blossomed into something even more powerful, and they married a few years later. As well as researching aspects of what has been called 'New Public Management' within schools, hospitals, GP practices and universities, Jane has also had a continuing interest in aspects of gender and how it is reflected in the nature of accounting information and the accounting profession. The desire to ensure research has an impact on policy and practice is a major aspect of Jane's research.

Jane moved from Sheffield to a Readership at Essex in 1995 and then to a Chair in Royal Holloway's young School of Management in 1997. In 2000 she was appointed to the role of Dean of History and Social Sciences and then to the role of Vice-Principal (Academic Affairs) in 2002 and to Senior Vice-Principal in 2004.

She left Royal Holloway to become Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of Roehampton in 2006 before returning in 2012 to continue her research career in Royal Holloway's School of Management. She retired from that role in 2015 but retains an active interest in academic life at Royal Holloway as an Emerita Professor.

Jane's contributions to accounting are considerable. She has published extensively in the top journals in our field. She has served on the editorial boards of top journals and was the editor of *Public Money and Management*, a journal that very effectively bridges the worlds of academia, policy and practice. She has served in three UK research assessment exercises, including as Vice-Chair of the REF2014 business and management panel, as well as similar exercises in Hong Kong and Australia. She has held numerous visiting appointments across Australasia and Europe.

Her professional activity was recognised by the award of honorary membership of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting. Jane is also a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a winner of the British Accounting and Finance Association's annual Distinguished Academic Award.

In recognition, therefore, of her exceptional contribution to the field of accounting, her outstanding achievements in senior management roles in higher education, and her ongoing support for the College, may I invite you, Chair of Council, to induct as an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Professor Jane Broadbent.

Professor Jeffrey Unerman
School of Management
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