

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Citation for the Award of Degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*

Emeritus Professor Rodney Brooks BSc, MA *Flinders*, PhD *Stanford*

Professor Rodney Brooks graduated from Flinders University in 1978 with an Honours degree of Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in pure mathematics. He followed this with further postgraduate studies at Stanford University, completing a PhD in computer science in 1981.

Professor Brooks has a long and impressive list of achievements. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he co-founded iRobots in 1990, commercialising research in artificial intelligence, where he was variously the chief technical officer, chair and board member. From 1997 to 2007 he was the Director of the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, renamed the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

He is the founder, chairman and Chief Technical Officer of Rethink Robotics, with the intention of providing an entirely new type of automation to manufacturers. He is one of the leaders in the collaborative robot industry; most known for popularising the actionist approach to robotics.

He has been recognised with membership of the National Academy of Engineering and fellowship of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is also a Corresponding Member of the Australian Academy of Science and Foreign Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

He was the co-founding editor of the International Journal of Computer Vision and currently serves on the editorial boards of many journals including Adaptive Behaviour, Artificial Life, Applied Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Robots and New Generation Computing.

In 1991 he received the Computers and Thought Award at the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, in 2008, the IEEE Inaba Technical Award for Innovation and Leading to Production, in 2014 the Robotics Industry Association's Engelberger Robotics Award for Leadership and 2015 the IEEE Robotics and Automation Award. His lectureships include Cray lecturer at the University of Minnesota, Mellon lecturer at Dartmouth College, Hyland lecturer at Hughes and Forsythe lecturer at Stanford University.

Outside the scientific community Professor Brooks is also known for his appearance in a 1997 film directed by Errol Morris, 'Fast, Cheap & Out of Control', featuring him and his work.

The award of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* recognises Professor Brook's contribution to robotics.