

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation  
The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts,  
conferred on Dr. Sut Jhally  
Thursday, October 8, 2015

Madam Chancellor, at its most ennobling, the university is a site of citizenship, a place from which social transformation is not only imagined, but realized; and the educational project of the university is nothing less than the very progress of democratic society. This aspiration for the contemporary university depends on scholars who understand that the university is not a place apart from society, never an isolated commission, but rather a force of social change at the very centre of society.

There is no finer exemplar of this aspiration than Dr. Sut Jhally, professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and founder and the Executive Director of the Media Education Foundation.

In terms of scholarship of consequence, scholarship that has a forceful and decisive impact on the public sphere, on cultural and political currents in media, Dr. Jhally's work is irrefutably pre-eminent.

Over twenty years ago, Dr. Jhally founded the Media Education Foundation to create documentary film and powerful educational resources that inspire and impel critical reflection of media, and provoke and instigate urgent and sustained change in media and society. Dr. Jhally's productions have addressed the power of media and popular culture in some of the most compelling issues of our time: ranging from gender and sexuality, to race and class, to advertising and propaganda, and much more.

Dr. Jhally's work has been unwavering in its commitment, and brilliantly creative in its execution. His work is ground breaking, and his social and political vision—indelible in all that is produced at the Media Education Foundation—has been global in reach, and enduringly influential.

His prolific production work is seamlessly connected to the authority of his scholarship. Dr. Jhally is among the world's most important and celebrated scholars in media ! / a \$ n