



HONORARY DEGREE CITATION
Catharine R. Stimpson
DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Born and raised in Bellingham, you began your professional life of academic accomplishment and critical inquiry as one of seven Stimpson siblings at the Campus School, a John Dewey-influenced laboratory for progressive teaching and learning at what was then the Western Washington College of Education. The Campus School's nurturing atmosphere, combining intellectual rigor with deep compassion, helped to instill the confidence, curiosity, and joy in learning that has propelled you to an extraordinary career in academia, leadership, and public service.

After earning degrees with high honors from Bryn Mawr College, Cambridge University, and Columbia University, you became a pioneer in the study of women and gender in the English Department at Barnard College. There you became the first Director of the Women's Center and founding editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Armed with quick wit, fierce intellect, and eclectic interests, your prolific scholarship includes eight books, more than 150 monographs, essays and stories, and your editorial contributions include the authoritative two-volume Library of America edition of the works of Gertrude Stein. A champion of graduate education, you served as Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Rutgers University/New Brunswick, President of the Association of Graduate Schools, and are Dean Emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, where you are University Professor.

Your commitment to public service is equally distinguished and diverse, including service as chair of the New York State Council for the Humanities and the National Council for Research on Women, and as President of the Modern Language Association, among many other appointments. As Director of the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Program from 1994 to 1997, you helped bring the public's attention to the many varieties of 'genius' in our midst. Your lifelong dedication to opening hearts and minds through critical inquiry continues in your seminars on Law and Literature at NYU's Manhattan and Abu Dhabi campuses, and through your service as chair of Scholars at Risk, which provides sanctuary and assistance to threatened scholars worldwide.

In recognition of your ground-breaking contributions as a scholar, academic leader, champion of the humanities and the transformative value of education, Western Washington University is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Dated this 16th Day of June, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabah Randhawa".

Sabah Randhawa, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan K. Sharpe".

Susan K. Sharpe, Chair, Board of Trustees