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The American Geographical Society Awards 2023 John E. Gould Medal to Dr. Robert Bullard

Description: The John E. Gould Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious awards given by the Society. Dr. Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Climate and Environmental Justice at Texas Southern University, received the prize during the AGS Fall Symposium, held November 16-17, 2023 in New York City, NY.

[New York City, NY] - [December 29, 2023] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) presented Dr. Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Climate and Environmental Justice at Texas Southern University, with the 2023 John E. Gould Medal for exhibiting the highest ethical standards in the practice of geography. AGS Vice President and Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Dr. Deborah Popper, remarked, “His was the first major monograph of environmental racism linking hazardous facility locations with historical patterns of segregation, work that provided the intellectual underpinnings for the field of environmental justice: a movement, a field, and a quest for justice…We celebrate Bullard giving us the intellectual structure to hold our society to account.” This medal was presented on Friday, November 17, 2023 during the Society’s annual Fall Symposium held in New York City, NY.

The John E. Gould Medal, the AGS medal established in 2021 by Ilse Melamid to honor long-time AGS chair John Gould, brings ethics to the center of our concerns. It recognizes exemplary work, whether academic or applied, that addresses the ethical implications of geographical or geospatial technologies and decisions.

Dr. Bullard is a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Climate and Environmental Justice, Texas Southern University. His fields of study include Sociology, Environmental Justice, Climate Change, Sustainability, Just Energy Transition, Resilience. Professor Bullard’s cross-disciplinary research, writings, policy and civic engagement work in the built environment, housing, transportation, land use, industrial facility, energy, health and social vulnerability over four decades helped found a new field of study and a movement. He is often called the “father of environmental justice and has authored 18 books. In 2020, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) honored him with its Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2021, President Biden appointed him to serve on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and in 2022 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is
recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

Professor Robert Bullard

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