The file below was compiled by www.inovasyon.org.

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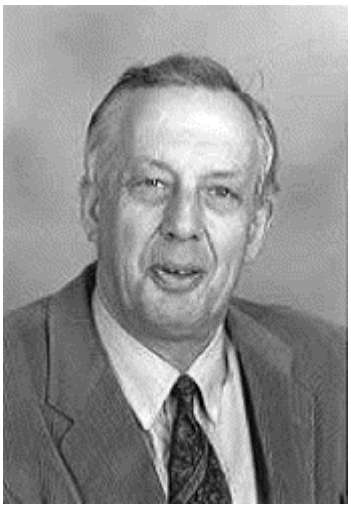
Keith Pavitt died[(*)]

Richard R. Nelson
Columbia University, New York, USA



13th January 1937 – 20th December 2002

Keith Pavitt died on 20 December, 2002, in his home in Lewes. His leaving is a great loss to the community of scholars who study technological change. Members of this community reside in many different countries, and have their original training in a wide variety of disciplines. Yet the community speaks a common language, and is held together by strong bonds of mutual respect and appreciation. That we do is in large part due to Keith.

Thirty years ago there was no such community. Keith was one of the original founders. His research and teaching, centered at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, played an absolutely central role in its development and shaping. Many of us are Keith's students, literally. All of us are Keith's students in that we have learned so much from him.

Research Policy for many years has been the primary journal of the community. We all read it, and when we want especially to communicate our research to fellow members, we try to publish here. Keith is a central reason why Research Policy is the communication nexus of our community. It is appropriate, and sad, to commemorate him here.

Perhaps more than any other person, Keith had a feel for the scope and diversity of the community, as well as for what held us together. We all will miss him. And we will remember him with appreciation and deep affection.

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[(*)] **Research Policy**, Volume 32, Issue 2, February 2003, Page iii.

Keith Pavitt: International figure in science policy research[(*)]

Chris Freeman, Pari Patel and Ben Martin

Keith Pavitt, Professor of Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex; born London 13 January 1937; married 1964 Michelle Rouffignac (one son, one daughter); died Lewes 20 December 2002.

In the field of science policy research, Professor Keith Pavitt was one of the world's leading figures. The field is concerned with such issues as the allocation of resources to science and technology, the nature of the innovation process, how advances in science and technology are translated into economic and social benefits, and the management of research and development (R&D) in the firm. In all these areas, Pavitt made fundamental contributions. He was prominent in many of the great debates that have characterised the field over recent decades. He inspired several generations of postgraduate students from round the world. In addition, he was the key figure in establishing Research Policy as the main journal in the field.

The son of a seamstress and a print worker, Pavitt grew up in Hackney, much of his childhood being spent in bomb shelters. He was an accomplished pupil of Hackney Downs School, winning an open scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge. During national service, he qualified as an RAF pilot. At Cambridge University, he obtained a first in Engineering in 1959 and was Senior Scholar at Trinity College.

By then, his intellectual interests had begun to broaden. After a further year at Cambridge studying industrial management, he won a fellowship in economics and public policy at Harvard University in 1960-61. He then joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. In the early 1960s, this was carrying out pioneering policy research, in particular on the development of policies for science, engineering and innovation. He joined a small team that was responsible for putting such policies on the agenda for governments.

During this time he started a lifelong collaboration with Chris Freeman, a British economist who was developing some of the first international statistics on research and development. Their collaboration led to the publication of the OECD report on 'Government and technical Innovation'. This was influential in getting economists and policy makers to recognise the importance of technical change in economic growth.

After a year at Princeton University, Pavitt moved to the University of Sussex in 1971. There he rejoined Freeman who, a few years earlier, had become the first Director of the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). In 1984, Pavitt succeeded Freeman as the Reginald Phillips Professor of Science and Technology Policy, the post he held until his formal retirement in 2002.

For 30 years Pavitt was at the forefront of SPRU research, making to analyse and explain differences among firms, industrial sectors development. He believed that the starting point for this was to generate better data (or 'indicators') on science, technology and innovation. Among the numerous SPRU projects which Keith participated in or led were the development of a comprehensive data-bank on British innovations, an influential critique of the 'Limits to

[(*)] **MINT*/TIM Past E-Mail Transmissions,** Volume 9 / Number 3 (January 16, 2003).

Growth' thesis, and incisive analyses of the sources of economic growth, of the role of technology in international trade competition, and of the management of innovation within the firm. In all these, he collaborated with colleagues at home and abroad, including Luc Soete from Belgium, Giovanni Dosi in Italy and Richard Nelson in the United States.

In the literature on innovation, Pavitt's 1984 paper on the taxonomy of innovating firms has become a classic, drawn upon by scholars and policy analysts around the world. Other papers with Pari Patel analysed the technological activities of countries and firms using patent statistics. They demonstrated that technology is not apparently subject to the same process of globalisation as other functions in large firms. They also identified the importance of 'multi-technology' firms and products. His most recent work focused on the co-evolution of technologies, products and organisation in the business firm.

Pavitt thrived on debate. He argued with all his colleagues but they invariably came away having enjoyed the argument and feeling that conventional wisdom. For example, his passionate insistence on the continuing importance of curiosity-driven science went against conventional wisdom among policy makers that scientific research should primarily support technology and economic growth.

This combination of active debate and passionate engagement spilled over into his relationship with graduate students. All Masters Students at SPRU were initiated into the subject through Pavitt's vigorous lectures and classes. He was an inspiring supervisor to 50 doctoral students, many of whom now occupy senior positions in academia and government in this country and abroad.

In all matters, Pavitt was truly international in outlook. A fluent French speaker, he held several visiting appointments at universities in that country and elsewhere in Europe and North America. He was awarded an honorary degree by the University Complutense of Madrid and other similar awards were in the pipeline. He was much in demand as a speaker at international conferences where he could be guaranteed to enliven proceedings. With his many friends around the world, he loved to discuss not only work but also culture, sport (he was an ardent Arsenal fan and a keen tennis player), wine and food.

Keith Pavitt was a loving family man. It was while working at the OECD that he met his French wife, Michelle, whom he married in 1964 and to whom he was devoted. Although they lived for 30 years in Sussex, France was his second home. He ensured his two children were instilled in its culture and were raised to speak the language fluently, holidaying there every year. As at work, he encouraged his children to challenge the world around them and never to take things at face value. In recent years, he was beginning to revel in his new role as grandfather.

A few months ago, he reached the official university retirement age. However, he continued to carry out research, to teach and to make overseas visits with the same energy as ever.

One of his favourite quotations was that without science and technology, "the life of man [would be] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short". Here was someone who, through his humanity, enthusiasm, wit and generosity, did all that he could to ensure that we should not suffer this fate.

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Books by K. Pavitt[(*)]:

Managing Innovation: Integrating Technological, Market and Organizational Change, 3rd Edition

ISBN: 0470093269
Author: **Joe Tidd** **John Bessant** **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons
Edition: 3
Date published: 2005-05-04
Number of pages: 600

Technology, Management and Systems of Innovation

ISBN: **1858988748**
Author: **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing
Date published: 1999-08
Number of pages: 250

The Economics of Technical Change and International Trade

ISBN: **0814718345**
Author: **Giovanni Dosi** **Keith Pavitt** **Luc Soete**
Publisher: New York Univ Pr
Date published: 1991-03
Number of pages: 303

Technical Innovation and British Economic Performance

ISBN: **0333333810**
Author: **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan
Date published: 1982-07-08
Number of pages: 364

Multinationals and Industrial Property: The Control of the World's Technology

ISBN: **0391035827**
Author: **Gilles Y. Bertin** **Sally Wyatt** **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Harvester/Wheatsheaf
Date published: 1988-07
Number of pages: 177

Science, Technology and the Modern Industrial State (Science in a Social Context)

ISBN: **0408712996**
Author: **Keith Pavitt** **Michael Worboys**

(*) http://www.campusi.com/author_Keith_Pavitt.htm; 22.03.2006.

Publisher: Butterworth-Heinemann
Date published: 1977-01
Number of pages: 64

Industrial Organisation and Innovation: An International Study of the Software Industry

ISBN: **1858988942**
Author: **Salvatore Torrisi** **Preface by Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing
Date published: January 1998

Comparative Economics of Research Development & Innovation in East & West

ISBN: **0415274680**
Author: **Pavitt Hanson** **Keith Pavitt**
Volume 39 of a 60 Volume Set
Series: Harwood Fundamentals of Pure and Applied Economics
Publisher: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London, U.K.
Date published: 5/3/2002
Number of pages: 112

Technology and the Future of Europe: Competition and the Global Environment in the 1990's

ISBN: **0861870751** (Hardcover)
Editors: **Christopher Freeman, Marie Jahoda, Keith Pavitt, Margaret Sharp, and William Walker**
Publisher: Thomson Learning
Date published: July 18, 1991
Number of pages: 450

Technological accumulation, diversification and organisation in UK companies, 1945-1983 (DRC discussion paper) (DRC discussion paper)

ISBN: **B0007BQA2Y**
Author: **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex
Date published: 1987-01-01
Number of pages: 57

Technical Innovation and British Economic Performance

ISBN: **0333262255**
Author: **Keith Pavitt**
Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan April 1980 London
Date published: February 1981

Trade, Technology, and International Competitiveness

ISBN: **0821334182**
Author: **Irfan ul Haque** **Martin Bell** **Sanjaya Lall** **Keith Pavitt** **Carl Dahlman**
Publisher: World Bank Publications
Date published: February 1996