

C.S. “Buzz” Holling- Pioneer Award

Crawford Stanley Holling was born in 1930 in the United States to Canadian parents. He grew up in Northern Ontario where he became interested in nature. Buzz Holling was a member of the Royal Ontario Museum’s Toronto Junior Field Naturalists as a teenager. He received a B.A. and M.Sc. at the University of Toronto by 1952 and a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia in 1957. Upon graduation, he worked for a brief time with Forestry Canada, became Professor and Director of the Institute of Animal Resource Ecology, University of British Columbia was the first Director of the Institute of Animal Resource Ecology, Director of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, Austria, and Eminent Scholar in the Department of Zoology at the University of Florida. In 1999, he retired as Emeritus Eminent Scholar from the University of Florida.

C.S. Holling is best known as the co-founder of ecological economics. His doctoral research into predation and later work led to the development of functional response, the relationship between prey density and the rate at which prey is eaten. This idea or concept continues to be the basis of modern population ecology. Buzz Holling is also credited with a number of important ideas in the application of ecology and evolution, including resilience, adaptive management, the adaptive cycle and panarchy. He was the founding editor-in-chief of the open access on-line journal Conservation Ecology (recently renamed Ecology and Society). He was also the founder of the Resilience Alliance, an international science network.

Holling was a student of Ian McTaggart Cowan. He received a number of prominent awards during his career. Most notable are the Volvo Environment Prize, induction as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Order of Canada in 2009.

Buzz Holling died on August 16, 2019, in Nanaimo, British Columbia at the age of 88.