

Nancy Roberts earned her degrees in French from the Sorbonne (Diplôme Annuel, 1966) and the University of Illinois (BA 1967), in South Asian and Latin American History from the University of Illinois (MA 1968), and in Education with a specialization in change from Stanford University (PhD 1983). She has been at the Naval Postgraduate School since 1985 as a Professor of Strategic Management in the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy, a Professor of National Security Affairs in the School of International Graduate Studies, and a Professor of Defense Analysis in the Graduate School of Information and Operational Sciences where she currently resides. Her previous faculty appointments have been at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University as a visiting associate professor of Organization Behavior and the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota as an assistant professor.

As a co-founder and co-director of the CORE Lab from 2006-2010, an academic start-up within the Defense Analysis Department at the Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Roberts developed and designed new courses and launched a research program that employs analytic methodologies such as relational, geospatial, and temporal analyses to counter terror, insurgency, arms, and drug networks. With her colleagues at NPS, she currently is building an interdisciplinary program in Design Thinking that focuses on innovative problem solving in the military. Her teaching assignments include courses on Coping with Wicked Problems, Network Design, and Design Thinking.

Dr. Roberts' books include: Transforming Public Policy: The Dynamics of Policy Entrepreneurship and Innovation (1996); The Transformative Power of Dialogue (2002); and Direct Citizen Participation (2007). She currently is working on two books: Tackling Wicked Problems by Design and Network Design. She has published extensively in the areas of public entrepreneurship and innovation, strategic management and planning, leadership, stakeholder collaboration, complex networks, dialogue and deliberation. Her recent work, focusing on "wicked problems," won her the Freider Naschold Award at the International Public Management Network Conference in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Roberts also serves on the editorial boards of Public Management, The American Review of Public Administration, and the International Public Management Network Review.

In terms of her applied work, Dr. Roberts has served as a consultant to various U.S. organizations that include military commands, universities, Silicon Valley businesses, and state governments. Her international work includes assignments at the UN College in Turin Italy and membership on a UN mission team charged with developing a strategic framework for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Known for her research on wicked problems, she serves as a keynote speaker for international conferences focusing on development and transformational change.