



The ITC Archives: Interviews with the Early Leaders of the ITC



MARISE BORN

As explained in the cover e-mail, the ITC Council would appreciate your providing detailed answers to the following questions:

1. During what year did you become involved with the ITC, how did this affiliation occur (e.g. were you asked to join the ITC, were you a representative of another organization, or did you elect to become involved), and what was the nature of your initial work on the ITC?

“I became involved in the ITC the year before the Winchester Conference, so in 2001. I was elected as a Council Member.”

2. What were your initial impressions of the ITC, including its organizational structure, missions, and personnel?

“I remember the truly very international character of the ITC, the excellent organization of the Winchester Conference, and the trouble I had to get in the beginning to get a good full impression/ full view of the activities of the ITC. I remember the activities to be extremely broad, varying from hard core psychometrics to applied topics in emerging and developing countries. Also, I remember the strong dedication of council and also that all members were volunteers, i.e., they were active and committed to the ITC without having time/ salaries to do so.”

3. Who were some of the key leaders in the ITC at that time and what were their roles?

“Dave Bartram was very prominent at that time during Winchester Conference. Those (8 people) at the meeting confirmed they would be attending. Jose Muniz, Ron Hambleton, Barbara Byrne and Jacques Gregoire were active in council at that time. I do not recall exactly who had which roles.”

4. Every organization and association goes through growing pains. During your first few years on the Council, what were some of the impediments that you felt limited the ITC’s work and needed to be changed?

“The inefficiency of the meetings. They took many, many hours.”

5. What prominent changes have you seen in the ITC between when you first were a member and now?



“The most important difference is that it has greatly professionalized, e.g. having office support, a structured way of biennial conferences, and financially more solid. One big asset is that is that Guidelines have developed in a more structured and systematic way.”

6. Where has the ITC done well? What do you think the ITC’s biggest accomplishment has been over the years?

“Professionalization of the field; Building a large network of stakeholders not only psychological associations but also test publishers and other associate members. Developing a large range of guidelines which are available to all.”

7. Where has the ITC possibly made “wrong steps” or mistakes?

“Still a small group of Council members, need for more diversity. This is very difficult given the time and dedication needed.”

8. What do you perceive to be current challenges facing the ITC and what role should the ITC play in this regard?

“After 2012 have lost track somewhat; Now [2016] it already is four years later almost. Testing still can be one of the most influential factors in a person’s educational and work life. Given the effect of Internet technology and many different ways to measure individual differences (social media, games) and the ease with which “tests” which do not adhere to quality standards can be sold digitally, the ITC has an even more important mission to guard standards. Would certification be feasible (e.g. compare EuroPsy)?”

9. What do you believe should the ITC be focusing on right now and who are the key stakeholders that should be involved?

“See under 8; Strong collaboration between psychometricians, IT specialists, psychological and educational associations across the world. Get Africa and Asia and South America more strongly involved.”

10. If there was one thing you could change with regards to the ITC, what would it be?

“A more non-western presence in council.”

11. What structural or organizational changes to the ITC should be considered to further its effectiveness?

“I believe the professionalization which started more than five years ago should continue.”



12. To what extent did you find it difficult to dedicate your time to the work of the ITC?

“Good question – overall it was not easy at all in many respects: time (given one’s paid tasks at University), communication across cultures/ understanding each other/ priority differences.”

13. How would you compare the first ITC conference you ever attended with the one hosted in San Sebastian in 2014?

“Unfortunately, I could not attend the 2014 conference.”

14. Among your various contributions, what do you believe may be your lasting legacy?

“The helping of Avi Allalouf with the quality control guidelines and a powerful financial injection for the ITC, helping further professionalization, due to the financial success of the Amsterdam 2012 conference. [Suggesting the idea of a guideline for second language testing hopefully this will come about still].”

2nd April 2016?