

# Testing International

Vol 33, July 2015 Editor: Jan Bogg



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**President's Letter**  
**Dave Bartram, President (2014-2016)**



Dear ITC Members and Friends,

The most significant news to report was the terrible murder of Tom Oakland. We heard with shock and disbelief of this earlier this

year. Tom was killed in his home in Gainesville, Florida on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015. It appears from the news reports that he was murdered by someone he had befriended some time ago and to whom Tom had been offering help and assistance. A man has been arrested and charged.

Tom will be known to many of you. He was a stalwart supporter of and contributor to the ITC. Only last year did he step down from decades of membership of the Council and contributions to its work.

Right up until his death he was still working on two new sets of ITC guidelines – which will now make a fitting posthumous tribute to him.

Tom had friends around the world and was a man of generous spirit, always willing to spend time with people and to support and assist them in their work. He literally spanned the world in his work and his influence, dedicated to helping those in emerging nations. He was a true international and his loss will be felt very deeply around the globe. Tom's life has been remembered and commemorated by others since his death. However, we remember him particularly for his contributions to the ITC and its development.

In my last Report I marked Tom's departure from the ITC by noting some of the highlights of his time with the ITC: "Tom Oakland joined the Council in 1991 and worked with Ron to prepare the first ITC conference in Oxford in 1993. He was President in 1998, serving as a

co-opted member from 2002 until he took over as IAAP liaison in 2010. He leaves the Council as his IAAP liaison role comes to an end. Tom was instrumental in setting up the ITC as a formal 'not for profit' organization and has been a major contributor to Council policy developments as well as leading some recent guideline developments. Tom has always championed the need for ITC to become more involved in emerging nations."

As a tribute to him I am presenting below just some of the many comments received from members and friends of the ITC. These have come from North and South America, from Europe, Asia and Africa and from Australia:

- *I am terribly sad. He was an important mentor and a hugely significant person for me. It is a terrible loss for all of us.*
- *I am presently in Europe doing a workshop, something that Tom Oakland would have done. I am terribly saddened by this news. He was a sequoia in our forest of regular trees. The only good that I can think of at this time is that he died in the midst of doing the work he loved and with people about whom he cared deeply. Perhaps ITC needs to find a way to memorialize him.*
- *The last couple of days have been very sad for me since I found out, I just saw Tom two weeks ago in Orlando and we had a wonderful chat as always. He was such a beautiful person inside and out.*
- *I spoke with Tom two weeks ago at the NASP convention in Florida and he looked and sounded great and we spoke of his many plans for the future so this is hitting particularly hard. Learning he was bludgeoned to death is particularly disturbing for a man I knew to be gentle and kind and a champion of children's rights and needs. I know you and others at ITC worked closely with Tom and are also disturbed by this tragic news. ITC,*

- international school psychology circles, and psychology worldwide have lost a brilliant man to senseless violence. I mourn with you and others.*
- *Our condolences and sympathies for Tom's friends, collaborators and family. Tom was friend of many Lithuanians, working in the field of psychological assessment. Big loss for all of us.*
  - *Very sad news. I'm from Argentina and I met him in Peru in 2011. Tom was very generous with me and will always remain in my heart. I'll pray for him.*
  - *A true gentleman, warm and welcoming, wonderful mentor, great teacher.*
  - *I spent most of my class today to talk about Tom's personality and contributions;*
  - *This is especially tragic if I am remembering the details correctly from what Tom told me. I believe that Tom had befriended Stephen Underwood [the alleged murderer] when he was asked for bus fare a couple of years. Instead of just ignoring the request or simply providing the bus fare, Tom took an interest in Stephen's life story and offered to help him get back on his feet, going so far to help get him a car so he could get a regular job. My best guess is that Tom had to set limits on how much he could help Stephen financially. If I have the events correct, it is such a tragedy that Tom's unusual kindness resulted in his death.*
  - *I just can't believe that anyone could be so evil and particularly with someone like Tom who obviously turned himself inside out to help this man. Tom was always so generous with his money and time in helping everyone. This entire trauma is so very painful. I am still in absolute shock and can't seem to shake it.*
  - *I am still trying to grapple with this shocking news. Such a wonderful,*
- enlightened and giving soul - and person. All future ITC events and initiatives will be so much poorer for his absence. My sincerest condolences to his family and (close) friends - of whom I am sure there are plenty. As for his many friends and colleagues - they, like me, will be dumbfounded and very sad. This has saddened me deeply - and I will endeavour to let some relevant Australians know, particularly within the testing and Ed Psych community.*
- *This is the kind of event that one reads about; it is not something happening to your friends and colleagues. It is overwhelming and sad. Tom has been one of the driving forces making ITC what it is today.*
  - *I didn't know Tom that well, but met him over the years at International School Psychology Association conferences. In addition to his work for the ITC, he was instrumental in supporting educational psychology all over the world through ISPA. A sad loss and I know that his many close friends will miss him.*
  - *Tom was for me the scientific/psychological father. His supports, encouragements, and trust in me were unconditional and unlimited. No matter how busy he was, he would reply to my request for guidance and help within 24 hours. I met him for the first time when I applied to the School Psychology Doctoral Program at The University of Texas at Austin. His support, along with Dr. Sylvia Ramirez', was instrumental in getting admitted to this highly-ranked program. All along, he mentored my progress and involved me in various academic and scholarship work aspects. His support and mentorship continued even after he moved to The University of Florida, Gainesville. I finished my doctoral program and started a job at UAE*

*University (UAEU) but his support never ended. When I became the Chair of the UAEU Department of Psychology & Counseling, he visited me in UAE and he left a positive impression with everyone who met him. I can't stop talking about his merits. It may suffice to say that he was a true, passionate human being who cared for all humans across all diversities. My heart is hollow for the loss. He is unforgettable because his quality merits are going to always be memorable. Like all of us, he had rough times in his life but he always maintained passion, care and love for all.*

- *What shocking news and what a horrible way to die. We were just talking about him at the Psychometrics Committee meeting today. My colleagues will be shocked.*

**In memory of his contributions, Council has agreed to establish the Tom Oakland Award for Exceptional Contribution International Testing.** More details of this will be provided elsewhere. We also include in this edition of TI an interview with Tom which was completed very shortly before his death.

On a more mundane note, we will be holding our first mini-Council meeting in July. As I noted in my last report, we have become concerned at the increasing costs of annual Council meetings. As a trial we are now going to hold a full Council Meeting biennially at our conference and to have a smaller meeting in the in-between years. This will consist of just the Executive, the Committee Chairs and the leader of the group preparing for the next conference. Our 2015 meeting will be held in London, again for economy reasons, rather than being tied to the biennial EFPA Congress, as in the past.

Finally, our thanks to Dragos Iliescu and his colleagues for the great job they have done in updating and refreshing our website. Do

take a look if you have not already done so: [www.intestcom.org](http://www.intestcom.org).

If you have any comments or ideas or suggestions for improving the website please get in touch.

Dave Bartram. President, ITC.  
[President@InTestCom.org](mailto:President@InTestCom.org)

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**ITC Interviews**  
**Tom Oakland**



The following interview with Tom Oakland is one of a series that are being carried out by the ITC with its early leaders for the ITC Archive project. It was carried out earlier this year a few weeks before his death. In his responses

Tom is open and frank in describing his views of the ITC, warts and all. His suggestions will be picked up by the Council. It is sad though that we will no longer be able to debate them with him. His responses have been presented unedited apart from some minor changes.

*During what year did you become involved with the ITC, how did this affiliation occur and what was the nature of your initial work on the ITC?*

I believe I became involved in the ITC in about 1991 or 1992. I was a member of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Psychological Assessment



and Testing. At that time this committee funded one member to attend the ITC Council meeting. I believe I was co-opted at a Council member during my first meeting. Ironically, some members opposed my membership, voicing objections to my serving as director of research for MENSA.

I felt the Council was mired in activities that lacked an international impact, had little vision, and spent too much time and energy engaged in in-fighting. However, I saw considerable potential in the organization. For example, its goals, if achieved, could materially impact test development and use internationally, especially in developing countries.

Test development and use in developing countries constitute one of my abiding interests. I recognized the ITC had considerable potential to create policies and programs and thus needed resources that were beyond the ability of many resource-limited countries to accomplish on their own yet were needed by them.

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

Jean Cardinet, a Swiss psychologist, envisioned the need for an international association of national test commissions that would address important regional and international issues. His efforts during the late 1960s and 1970s were instrumental first in promoting this vision and then helping to form the ITC. Leadership was transferred to Ype Poortinga and the Dutch Committee on Testing when Cardinet decided to discontinue this leadership. Ype became its first president in the mid-1970s, thus officially forming the ITC (Oakland, T., Poortinga, Y., Schlegel, J., & Hambleton, R., 2001).

Young organizations, similar to infants and toddlers, typically display growing pains. For example, both attempt to define their roles and to obtain needed resources. The early

years of the ITC displayed growing pain: in-fighting and bickering among the senior members, failure of the officers to perform their duties, limited financial and professional resources to develop and sustain meaningful programs, and a lack of vision. Organizationally, Council seemingly devoted more time to proposing revisions to its constitution and by-laws than to shaping and instituting meaningful policy. Our stated missions rarely were realized.

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

My Council membership occurred years after Iraj Ayman (Iran), Jean Cardinet, Ken Miller (United Kingdom), and E. Belvin Williams (United States) met in 1975 at the request of Ype to form an advisory board. Only one of these members, Ken Miller, was on Council when I joined it. He served as president after the abrupt departure of Iraj Ayman, ITC's first president. My early memories are strongest in reference to Justin Schlegel (France), a somewhat quiet and gentle man who sought harmony and who served as the editor of the fledging ITC Newsletter (which became the *ITC Bulletin* [and has now evolved into the *International Journal of Testing and Testing International*]), John Keats (Australia) who served as president, Ronald Hambleton (a Canadian who was and remains living in the US) who also later served as president, and later Barbara Byrne (another Canadian living in the US) who served effectively as treasurer.

The views of Ken Miller and John Keats were inseparable and often inconsistent with those held and expressed by Ron Hambleton and me. The ITC languished also due to a lack of unified programs, limited finances, and misuse of them. The *ITC Bulletin* may have been the ITC's most visible program. It served as both a newsletter and a scholarly journal. The ITC's annual revenues generally were in a \$5000 to \$6000 range. Approximately 30% of this budget was spent, I thought misspent, on funding the *Bulletin*,

edited by Ken Miller, which had 27 subscribers. Other financial appropriations included 20% each for administrative, newsletter, and annual Council meeting expenses and 10% for special projects. Elected officers and Council members generally were not reimbursed for travel or office expenses.

*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?*

As noted above, impediments included backbiting, divisions of opinions as to viable program goals, leadership lapses, and a lack of financial and other resources.

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

The ITC currently can be described by terms that are the antitheses of those used above: greater comradeship among Council members; understanding and unity in defining and working toward the realization of important goals, missions, and products; stronger and sustained leadership; and more ample resources to fund deserving programs.

*Where has the ITC done well? What do you think the ITC's biggest accomplishment has been over the years?*

The ITC's success can be seen in various important accomplishments. They include holding successful conferences that advance and disseminate knowledge, serve to socialize its members, promote understanding, provide pride in the association, increase the association's visibility and membership, and increase income.

The development and promotion of guidelines that address various issues that impact test development and use have increased the ITC's capacity to impact other

professional associations and applied practices. Their impact may be greatest in countries that are resource-limited yet are striving to attain international standards.

The formation and quarterly publication of ITC's scholarly journal, *International Journal of Testing*, also is important. The ITC and its individual members have been engaged in various other forms of scholarship through their own publications of journal articles, chapters, and books. The association's efforts to publish a handbook on testing are laudable yet years behind schedule.

*Where has the ITC possibly made "wrong steps" or mistakes?*

My summary of earlier 'wrong steps' can be found above. In contrast, I believe the ITC has not made grievous organizational errors within the last 10 to 15 years. Although the ITC has not made 'wrong steps' in reference to the following issue, it is one about which I have expressed concern.

I have been critical of the limited role and thus the limited impact of the *International Journal of Testing*, given my belief that it fails to provide scholarship that promotes an understanding of the international status of test development and use. For examples, articles that others or I co-authored that help promote this understanding were rejected by our journal and subsequently published in more prestigious journals. I continue to submit my articles on this topic to other journals, believing their content is likely to receive a more receptive review from other journals and will reach a larger audience. This outcome is ironic in that I suggested the ITC establish this journal and, as president, signed the initial contract—one negotiated by Bruce Bracken.

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

Test development and use are well established in most Western countries, Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, New Zealand, and to some extent in the Republic of China. However, test development and use are not strong in most countries, especially in smaller developing countries. Their status is especially dire in countries in Africa (with the exception of South Africa), the Middle East, and many countries that comprised the former Soviet Union. Test development and use are not strong the Peoples Republic of China (except within I/O psychology), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, or other Southeast Asian and Pacific Perimeter countries. The ITC should continue and increase its efforts to help advance test development and use in those countries that are poised and want assistance in its efforts to develop an infrastructure needed to contribute in these areas.

The ITC also should establish policies that help guide graduate preparation in psychometrics, including the identification of courses and applied experiences that contribute to the needed attainment of expertise in this area.

Additionally, the ITC should establish a program to accredit exemplary psychometric programs, thus further establishing high academic and professional standards for preparing persons with this specialty.

Lastly, the ITC has access to most of the leaders in test development and use. It should develop education and training modules that address specific issues important to test development and use, thus assisting interested students as well as faculty in acquiring needed knowledge and skills important to their practices—a resource that is especially important in developing countries.

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

Although richer than before, the ITC's professional and financial resources remain limited. Although its missions could become far-reaching, the association must limit its focus to what is most needed, what it does best, to continue its successful work, and to jettison work that is not done well or no longer is critical. It should continue to conduct self-evaluations as to the relevance and effectiveness of its programs in an effort to identify those that are most needed and achievable. I believe programs identified above should be considered if the ITC decide on pursuing one or more new areas.

*If there were one thing you could change with regards to the ITC, what would it be?*

I would strive to make better use of the professional resources over which the ITC has considerable control. Our Council members and those with whom they are associated together with our ITC members either include many, perhaps most, of the world's most talented in test development and use or have access to this talent. The utilization of this talent is needed to achieve our international goals. Council tends to look inwardly for professional resources. Its effectiveness will increase as it looks more outwardly. Continued reliance on the efforts and resources of those on Council, while important and remain necessary, are insufficient.

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

The creation of an assistant to the secretary and the employment of Ananda Van Tonder were strokes of genius and led to important structural organizational changes that increased the association's effectiveness and efficiency. However, I have advocated for membership changes since joining the Council. Some changes have been made. For example, at first, membership largely was limited to national professional associations of psychology or others national

agencies devoted to testing issues. Slowly, over the years, additional membership categories were created. The number of individual members increased dramatically as a result of providing two-year membership following a person's attendance at an ITC conference. However, such membership rarely is renewed. ITC leadership seemingly continues to envision membership to be restricted largely to persons who are psychologists. Although psychologists are instrumentally engaged in test development and use, professionals who have other credentials also contribute importantly to these efforts. Thus, ITC leadership should continue efforts to broaden membership and thus better respond to the needs as well as impact of professions beyond psychology.

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

All professional behaviours occur within a personal context. Additionally, all lasting and important relationships are reciprocal. Thus, the following description of my personal context may help to understand my response to this question.

I have two personal goals: to be a good father and to strive to be competent. My temperament qualities include intuition and thinking—qualities universally associated with striving to be competent and to be an architect—a change agent. I value leadership opportunities, knowing that through them I learn much, thus nurturing my competence, and am able may influence the formation of institutional infrastructures, may help shape the future, and thus serve as an architect. I was able to strive toward these goals through my work with the ITC. Thus, I approached my work with the ITC with a deep sense of honour and appreciation. I believe my relationships with the ITC have been reciprocal: we both seemingly benefitted.

My initial association with the ITC occurred at a time when the ITC was growing from early childhood to adolescence—a time during

which considerable parental guidance is needed. I felt a passionate commitment to the ITC and felt honoured to participate in the maturation of an organization that had considerable potential. Thus, at times I felt I was exerting a parenting role.

I also felt honoured to work alongside some of the world's most gifted scholars from whom I learned much. For example, my work with Ron Hambleton, later with Barbara Byrne, along with countless other colleagues helped elevate my academic and professional abilities.

In summary, although I devoted considerable time to the work of the ITC, I always found this work to be consistent with my personal values, thus to be personally valued, and never an onerous intrusion into my time.

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

Although all Council members have attended their first ITC conference, few attended the first ITC conference. I along with Ron have. This conference, organized by Ron and me and held in June, 1993 at Oxford University, was the best conference I ever attended—and I have attended hundreds.

Its significance is due to various conditions. Early on I wanted to contribute to the ITC and proposed three ideas to Ron. He thought my desire to sponsor an international conference was ambitious yet the most viable and encouraged me to submit a conference proposal at the next Council meeting. My plan was accepted albeit with reservations. The ITC had no experience sponsoring an international convention and thus had little confidence of or expectation for its success. Additionally, the ITC lacked the financial capacity to properly fund the conference. For example, the Council awarded me less than US\$300 for this effort. Ron and I were able to obtain financial support from 14 other agencies and associations, thus allowing us to reduce conference registration and to



provide travel support for many participants from developing countries.

I felt confident that a proper location (e.g., Oxford University) and the selection of some of the brightest stars in our profession to provide keynote addresses on the conference theme (i.e. Test Use with Children and Youth: International Pathways to Progress) could serve as a magnet that would draw at least one hundred participants (Oakland & Hambleton, 1995 provides a review of this conference). Ron's work in obtaining excellent keynote speakers was critical to the eventual conference success. One hundred fourteen participants from 40 countries attended.

This conference was organized before the widespread use of the Internet. I prepared and printed all conference materials, obtained mailing lists, sent conference announcements by mail multiple times, responded to conference inquiries by mail, and received most conference reservations by fax to my home.

We all resided at St. Hugh's College. Thus, we ate together, had all conference activities there, and spent considerable time socializing throughout the days and nights. I arranged nightly events to complement daily conference activities. These included an opening reception on the lawn of St. Hugh's, attendance at a Shakespeare play at Stratford-on-Avon, walking tours of the city that focused on the city's mythology, visits to well-known pubs, and an evensong event at the college.

Many conferees expressed sadness at the ending of the conference, having formed common and strong bonds personally and professionally with colleagues from many countries who they may never see again. The success of this conference enabled Council to plan other conferences with confidence of their success. For example, six year later, in 1999, Ron and I organized the second ITC conference, held at Georgetown

University in Washington DC, on test adaptations, thus building on his important work on this topic. The ITC also co-sponsored another conference that year in Graz, Austria with the International Association of Cross-cultural Psychology, again discussing test adaptation. Subsequent conferences have been held, on average, every two years.

Thus, although the San Sebastian conference was excellent in every way, no conference can compare to the importance of the ITC's 1993 conference for the ITC and me.

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

I believe the following may constitute lasting legacies: the co-leadership of the 1993 and subsequent ITC conferences, my leadership in proposing and subsequently signing the contract with Erlbaum to publish the *International Journal of Testing*, and leadership in developing two guidelines (i.e. on practitioner use of test revisions, obsolete tests, and test disposal as well as on the assessment of immigrants and second language learners).

Oakland, T. & Hambleton. R. (Eds). (1995) *International perspectives on academic assessment*. Boston: Kluwer.

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### **Tom Oakland Remembered**

**Gary L. Canivez, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology  
Eastern Illinois University**

While a graduate student in the early to mid 1980s and then as a practicing school psychologist until the mid-1990s I was well aware of Tom's professional and academic work but I had not met him until I attended the conference of the International Test Commission in Brussels, Belgium in 2006.

One of the more memorable situations was where during a presentation in which Tom was involved an audience member abruptly interrupted by yelling out most angrily, complete with an “F-Bomb,” about their displeasure with George Bush and Tony Blair’s escapades in Iraq; Tom calmly and single handedly defused the tense situation and went on with the presentation without missing a beat.

Since that time I was able to talk with Tom numerous times at conferences of the International Test Commission, International School Psychology Association, International Association of Applied Psychology, American Psychological Association, and National Association of School Psychologists and Tom was never too busy to stop and share his thoughts. In fact, it was always a highlight of a conference to catch up with Tom and his travels. He was always genuinely gracious, congratulatory, enthusiastic and encouraging of my academic pursuits for which I will always be grateful. I am so fortunate to have talked with Tom at length during the 2015 NASP convention and as it turns out the last time I will be able. He was a kind, caring, and giving man whose life was tragically cut short while he still had so much more (and intention) to give. His loss is felt by many in the U. S. but also by many around the world with whom he worked diligently through facilitating and improving school (educational) psychology practices in numerous countries. *I will always remember Tom as a kind and gentle soul and for his championing improvements in school psychology and assessment practices with a keen eye on ethical psychological practices as well as his concern for others. We would do well to follow his examples.*

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**Barbara M. Byrne,  
University of Ottawa**

Tom Oakland, a longtime friend and colleague on the ITC Council, dedicated his life to helping others whether it be as a teacher, a conference speaker/presenter, a mentor, a counselor, a committee member, an expert witness for someone on death row, or as the key person in a myriad of other roles that he filled. Following his retirement in 2010, this pattern of giving continued to further expand and happily enabled him to combine his love of travel with his never-ending love of helping others. During this period, Tom dedicated much of his time helping educators and psychologists in emerging nations in their efforts to develop appropriate measurement scales as a means to improving their testing standards. In total, Tom worked with others in over 45 countries and held honorary professorships at the Universidad Iberoamericana in San José, Costa Rica, The University of Hong Kong, the Universidad Lusíada do Porto, Portugal, and the Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal, Lima, Peru. Indeed, the world could certainly benefit from more Tom Oaklands! From a more personal perspective, I always thought of Tom as a virtual tree of knowledge having many branches, each of which extended in a different direction and represented a different area of expertise. I never ceased to be amazed at the vast breadth of his knowledge base, his ever-constant ability to remain calm, cool, and collected at all times, and the ease with which he could adapt his modus operandi in the face of sudden and ever-changing situations. Finally, I have always been appreciative of the many ways in which Tom helped me in the 17 years that I knew him as a member of the ITC Council. In particular, I am grateful for his encouragement to participate in various international events, two of which involved presenting workshops in Brazil and Romania. Among my most memorable souvenirs is a picture taken during a week of workshops arranged by Dragos Iliescu in the picturesque

mountain area of Moldavia in northern Romania. The picture below was taken at the grand finale dinner barbeque where at least 100 of us were fortunate enough to experience this Romanian tradition. *Tom, you will forever serve as a role model for all of us who share a love of the intriguing and multifaceted world of testing!*



In Romania at the barbeque, Barbara is 1<sup>st</sup> left and Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> right

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**Thomas D. Oakland: a stepping stone for  
Brazilian Psychology growth 1986- 2015  
Solange Wechsler &  
Raquel Souza Lobo Guzzo  
Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas**

This story begins when Thomas was looking for liaisons in South America to develop school psychology internationally. He was able to locate Solange Wechsler, a school psychology professor at the University of Brasilia, who had graduated in the USA (University of Georgia). He invited her to write about school psychology in Brazil. In 1986, he made his first visit to Brasilia for 15 days, and returned in 1988, as a Fullbright scholar for two months. Tom's stay in Brasilia was a very productive time. He taught at the University of Brasilia to the graduate students and gave courses to school psychologists working in public schools. He also visited some school

psychology programs in the countries. In Campinas, he met another important collaborator, professor Raquel Guzzo, who invited him to contribute to the elaboration of the basic training of a specialization in School Psychology in the PUC-Campinas. He had important inputs to the final format of this graduate program, which opened in March 1990. Thomas saw the need to create a Brazilian strong school psychology association and helped Solange to define and write the bylaws of the Brazilian School and Educational Psychology Association-ABRAPEE, In July 1990, he invited Solange and Raquel to participate at the colloquium of the International School Psychology Association – ISPA in the US. These two professor's come back from the conference with the decision to organize an international school psychology conference in Brazil, which occurred in 1991. From this date on, Thomas was a key person in developing school psychology in Brazil, linking us to international collaborators, who were contacted to come to Brazil, to other bi-annual national school psychology conferences. He also searched for participation from other South American colleagues and promoted publication of our work to international audiences. He participated in various conferences organized by ABRAPEE, coming to Brazil every two years to presenting key lectures, as well teaching courses.

Thomas' activities extended beyond School Psychology. He had another major contribution, which was to the psychological assessment movement starting in Brazil, in 1998. He gave important feedback to the foundation of the Brazilian Institute of Psychological Assessment - IBAP, and introduced to us the work done by the International Testing Commission - ITC. Then he invited Solange to become a member of this association. He represented ITC in all conferences organized by IBAP and contributed to strengthening links. During 29 years, Thomas was always participating in conferences, involved in school psychology



and psychological assessment, answered our doubts and published with us. He always believed in the capacity of Latin-American psychologists to deliver quality services in school psychology. In addition, he helped IBAP develop standards for test use based on his ITC experience of writing guidelines.



*IV Brazilian Conference of Psychological Assessment  
Farewell dinner with Solange Wechsler*

*Considering our long life experience with Thomas and his immense contribution to Brazilian school psychology and psychological assessment, his name can never be forgotten in this country. His ethical attitude, his honesty and his willingness to collaborate and answer our doubts will always be remembered. He will be alive in our publications and in our memories, which are full of unforgettable moments with him. Tom will be missed by all of us.*

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### **International Journal of Testing**

The latest edition of IJT (Volume 15, Issue 2) is a themed issue on the assessment of linguistic minorities.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/hijt20/current>

### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Test Commission (ITC 2016) Vancouver, July 1-4, 2016**

**Kadriye Ercikan  
ITC 2016 conference chair**

**Call for Proposals:** workshops, symposiums, papers and posters.

All types of submissions should be an APA style abstract in text only format of no more than 300 words. The closing deadline for all types of submissions is **December 21, 2015 (except for the workshop, which is October 20, 2016)**. All submissions will be subject to a blind review process by at least two independent peers. The ITC Scientific Committee will notify the authors on the decision by **February 28, 2016**. Early bird registration for the conference begins on **November 01, 2015**.

### **Call for Reviewers**

The International Test Commission is seeking volunteers to serve as peer reviewers. We rely on your breadth and depth of expertise in testing/assessment to scrutinize the contents and quality of the submissions for the conference program. We deeply value your participation in shaping the program for the conference and contributing to the field of testing, assessment and measurement. The deadline to sign-up to become a volunteer reviewer is **October 20, 2015**: <http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca/reviewer>.

Volunteers selected to join review panels will receive an invitation in **early December, 2015**. Reviewers will have a **3-week time** period to complete the reviews. Please keep this in mind as you consider volunteering your service and contribution.

**E-mail:** [itc.2016@ubc.ca](mailto:itc.2016@ubc.ca).

**Conference Website:**  
<http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca/call-for-proposals/>





# The 10th Conference of The International Test Commission

*Second Announcement*

## IMPROVING POLICY AND PRACTICE Opportunities and Challenges in an International Context

JULY 1-4, 2016  
Vancouver | Canada

Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown &  
Pinnacle Vancouver Harbourfront Hotel

### WELCOME TO VANCOUVER

Vancouver is honored to invite you to the next conference of the International Test Commission. The 10th Conference promises to be an unforgettable professional and scientific experience in a unique cultural setting.

Under the theme of Improving Policy and Practice: Opportunities and Challenges in an International Context, ITC 2016 will showcase new frontiers of assessment as a means for improving and developing psychological and educational tests and test uses.

The ITC 2016 Conference venue is centrally located in Vancouver's Coal Harbour, offering spectacular views and close proximity to the *Burrard Inlet*, the *North Shore Mountains* and the 1,001-acre *Stanley Park*, surrounded by the waters of the *Pacific Ocean*.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*The following distinguished scientists are confirmed to present at the 2016 Conference in Vancouver:*

**ANNA BROWN**

*University of Kent*

**FANNY CHEUNG**

*University of Hong Kong*

**KURT GEISINGER**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

**RONALD K. HAMBLETON**

*University of Massachusetts*

**DIRK HASTEDT**

*International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement*

**ANDREW DEAN HO**

*Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA*

**DENIZ S. ONES**

*University of Minnesota*

**MARIA ARACELI RUIZ-PRIMO**

*University of Colorado Denver*

### THEME

IMPROVING POLICY AND PRACTICE: Opportunities and Challenges in an International Context

### SUB-THEMES

- Educational Testing and Assessment
- Psychological Testing and Assessment
- Testing in Employment and Credentialing
- Testing in Program Evaluation and Public Policy

### THE PROGRAM

|                |                                                               |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 1, 2016   | Conference Workshops                                          |
| July 1, 2016   | Welcome Reception and Fireworks                               |
| July 2, 2016   | Opening Ceremony/Cultural Event                               |
| July 2-4, 2016 | Lectures, Symposia, Oral Presentations & Poster Presentations |
| July 3, 2016   | Gala Dinner                                                   |
| July 4, 2016   | Closing Ceremony                                              |

### IMPORTANT DATES

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| July 20, 2015     | Call for Proposals and Reviewers |
| November 1, 2015  | Conference Registration Opens    |
| December 21, 2015 | Call for Proposals Closes        |
| February 28, 2016 | Authors Notified                 |
| April 30, 2016    | Early Registration Ends          |

### CONTACT

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