

# Testing International

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

Dear ITC Members and Friends,



We held our first mini-Council meeting in July. This was a trial to help reduce the costs of annual Council meetings. We still plan to hold a full Council Meeting biennially at our conference but wanted to try having a smaller meeting in the in-between years. This consisted of just the Executive, the Committee Chairs and the leader of the team preparing for the next conference. Our 2015 meeting was held in London, again for economy reasons, rather than being tied to the biennial EFPA Congress, as in the past. The success of this will be evaluated when we have our full meeting in Vancouver next year. However, it seemed to work well and we got through a great deal of business. Fortunately there were no contentious matters requiring the full Council to vote, though we had the option of putting matters to the full Council after the meeting through virtual voting.

For some time now we have been discussing issues relating to our current conditions for Full Membership. Council will be bringing a proposal to the General Meeting in Vancouver to modify our rules for Full Membership. We propose relaxing the requirement that only one organization in each country (the IUPsyS member association) can be a Full Member. In many countries there is more than one organization that operates as a professional body with interests in tests and testing (for example, within the US we have in addition to the APA, NCME, AERA, SIOP and others). While the IUPsyS member would retain an automatic right to Full Membership of the ITC, other professional associations involved in tests and testing would become eligible to apply as well. Prior to the General Meeting we will be circulating a proposed modification to our Constitution for your consideration.

Plans for the Vancouver conference are progressing well. We are looking forward to this being a bigger and better conference than ever, with the location being such an attractive one and being back in North America for the first time since we met in Williamsburg, USA, in 2004. Plans are already well in hand for our 2018 conference and we have a potential site for 2020.

One of the key projects the ITC has been engaged with has been the production of the *ITC International Handbook of Testing and Assessment*. Fred Leong has been leading this project with a team of co-editors. The Handbook is being published by Oxford University Press and is scheduled for publication next year – hopefully in time for a launch at the ITC conference. It addresses the many challenges facing the cross-cultural applications of psychological and educational testing in this era of globalization. It also represents and showcases the concerted efforts of the ITC in tackling the wide range of problems and complexities in international psychological testing. Finally, the Handbook has been designed to provide information and resources to help guide professionals and graduate students regarding testing and assessment from an international and global perspective.

The Handbook reviews the historical and contextual factors surrounding the development of international psychological and educational testing in six sections covering (a) Overview and historical context, (b) Domains of testing and assessment, (c) Settings, (d) Special populations, (e) Methodological advances, and (f) Problems and challenges. Within each of these sections, the chapters address the unique problems, issues and challenges related to testing from an international and global perspective. Recognizing the importance of cultural and international contexts, the authors have described how cultural, economic, political, and social factors in different countries frame

the science and practice of testing and assessment. As an international Handbook, the contributors have also been selected to represent not only different domains and settings of psychological testing but also different geographical regions of the world.

More details of the work of the various ITC Committees over the past six months are contained in the various reports contained in this edition of Testing International. It is perhaps worth highlighting the growing interest and involvement we are having with countries in South America.

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

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## ITC Committee Chair Reports

### **Publications Committee Neal Schmitt**

The publication of the ITC International Handbook on Testing and Assessment as mentioned in David Bartram's column is finally due to be published. This has been a multi-year project; we owe the authors the chief editor (Fred Leong), section editors, Ananda Van Tonder, and others who worked on this volume a debt of gratitude for completing this important volume.

We have also begun a search for a new editor of the International Journal of Testing. The announcement below should be appearing in the journal and can be shared with any one that might be interested in editing the journal over the four years beginning in 2017.

The International Test Commission is seeking nominations for the editor of *International Journal of Testing*. You can self-nominate or nominate colleagues. The editorship is a four year appointment. The journal now receives about 125 submissions a year and publishes

around 20 articles. We are looking for someone who can manage the editorial process efficiently, but also promote the journal to colleagues and readers around the globe. This promotion might take the form of inviting special issues or review papers by prominent researchers, but may also include publicizing the journal through various forms of social media and other means. The editor, if he or she wishes, may appoint an associate editor(s). Nominees should send a vita and a vision statement for the journal to Neal Schmitt, Department of Psychology, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824-1116 or [Schmitt@msu.edu](mailto:Schmitt@msu.edu). The editorial term begins January 1, 2017. Nominations are due by March 1, 2016.

Finally we signed a fourth book proposal contract with Cambridge University Press as part of our book series. This book will be authored by William Schmidt and is titled: *Marrying the Measurement of Schooling, Social Class, and School Achievement in Large Scale International Assessment*. If others of you have an idea for a book in this series, I hope you will send a note to me with your thoughts and we can work on a proposal to Cambridge.

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### **Membership, Marketing and Involvement Committee Dragos Iliescu**

The ITC website has received an add-on on its payment module: payment of membership dues is now possible not only with Paypal, but also directly with a credit card through a Stripe module. The website is now also secured with a Geotrust certificate.

The ITC has set up a track at the 31st International Congress of Psychology to be held during July 24-29, 2016 in Yokohama, Japan. The ITC track is built around one workshop and two invited symposia, one on the ITC Guidelines and one focused on cross-cultural testing.

Progress has also been made on the Young Scholars program for 2016, associated with the ITC conference in Vancouver, and the announcement for this scholarship program has been disseminated to the ITC membership.

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### **Research & Guidelines Committee** **Anna Brown**

The ITC Research and Guidelines Committee have been coordinating projects developing new best practice guidelines, updating the existing guidelines, and working to increase the impact of our guidelines on good testing practice around the world.

Since the December report in TI, we have completed and published the following guidelines and practice guides:

*Guidelines on Practitioner Use of Test Revisions, Obsolete Tests and Test Disposal:* This guideline by the late Tom Oakland deals with the issues involved when a test becomes outdated or obsolete.

*Assessment in Multi-Cultural Context: On the Assessment of Immigrants and Second-Language Learners:* This book chapter for the forthcoming ITC Handbook authored by the late Tom Oakland will be a great theoretical and practical help to specialists engaged in providing one-to-one assessments of persons who are assimilating and acculturating to a new culture and are second language learners.

Ongoing guideline projects:

*Guidelines on Adapting Tests, Second Edition:* This long-anticipated update to the ITC's most popular guideline is near completion. Ron Hambleton and Jacques Gregoire presented a draft to the ITC Council in July 2015, which has been through a round of reviews. We anticipate sending a revision for public consultation at the end of December 2015.

*Guidelines on Testing in Non-native Language:* These guidelines by María Elena Oliveri and colleagues from the ETS are designed to promote fair and valid standardized assessments for linguistic minorities around the world. The team completed a first draft in June 2015, which is now in review by our members.

*Translations:* We are also making slow progress in translating our guidelines into additional languages. We have approached national professional bodies in many countries, prioritising major world languages to enable access to the content for as many test users and takers around the world as possible. Thus, we have two sets of guidelines translated into simplified Chinese, with the work on translating them into traditional Chinese still ongoing. The translations of several guidelines into Japanese and Brazilian Portuguese are also being carried out.

*Google Scholar Citations Tracking:* To monitor citations of our guidelines and other best practice documents, we have created a public Google Scholar profile, where all the publication of the International Test Commission are tracked automatically.

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### **Conference Committee** **Aletta Odendaal**

We are pleased to inform that preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> ITC Conference in Vancouver, Canada from 1-4 July 2016 is progressing well under the guidance of Kadriye Ercikan, Chair of the Conference Organising Committee. With beautiful conference surroundings, a scientific programme representing different areas of testing and assessment as well as new awards linked to the conference, we are indeed looking forward to a state-of-the-art experience for everyone.

**Conference registration is now open** so please visit <http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca> and

register, as there are limited spaces available for the Gala Event and workshops.

Please note the following important deadlines:

- The closing deadline for symposium, single paper and poster submission is **January 15, 2016**.
- You can go to our website at <http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca/call-for-proposals/> for submission information or you can download a PDF version of the guidelines at <http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca/guidelines>.
- **ITC Scholarship Nominations.** Directed towards early career scholars in the domain of Psychological and/or Educational Testing from developing and emerging economies. The main focus of the prestigious ITC Scholarship Program is to enable recipients to attend the 2016 ITC Conference in Vancouver, Canada and to participate in a special program for scholars. Deadline: **20 January 2016**
- **ITC Thomas Oakland Award for Distinguished Contributions to Testing and Assessment.** This Award recognizes an individual that has made one or more significant and noteworthy contributions to research or practice in educational or psychological assessment. Deadline: **31 January 2016**
- **ITC Best Student Paper Award.** Aimed at encouraging active participation of graduate students within the ITC community, the awardee is therefore required to present his/her paper or poster at the conference. Deadline: **31 March 2016**

Full information available on the conference website: <http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca/awards/>

The ITC2018 conference location will be announced at the Vancouver conference and we also have a potential 2020 conference host.

The conference committee have been finalising participation of the ITC, at the *31<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Psychology* to be held

in July, 2016 in Yokohama, Japan, in the format of two symposia and an invited workshop.

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### **Outreach and Capacity Building Task Group Aletta Odendaal**

The main focus of the Task Group has been on coordinating outreach and capacity building activities in areas where the ITC does not have a major presence. Noteworthy activities since the last report in TI have been the growing interest and involvement of ITC at regional conferences in Iberian Latin American countries and a research project on test use in Africa.

Regarding activities in Iberian Latin American countries we have huge appreciation for the involvement and continuous work of Solange Wechsler (Brazil) and Paula Elosua (Spain) over the last two years in establishing visibility for the ITC in countries in South America. Specific activities in this regard have been:

- Invited symposium at the VII Brazilian National Conference on Psychological Assessment, 1 – 4 July, 2015 in Sao Paulo.
- Society of Interamerican Psychology (SIP): Interamerican Congress of Psychology (Lima, Peru from 12-16 July 2015).
- Support in the formation of the Society of Psychological Assessment of Peru. In recognition for the involvement of ITC both Paula Elosua and Solange Wechsler received founding member status.
- Paula Elosua was invited as ITC representative to an institutional meeting with the President of the Colombian Psychological Association, and the President of the Peruvian Psychological Association.
- As recognition for contribution to the development of Psychology in Latin America, an honorary professorship was granted to Solange Wechsler by the Federal University Federico Villareal.
- Paula Elosua was invited to Federico Villareal University to give a talk about ITC,

its history and current projects. Great interest was shown by attendees in improving testing in Peru, and problems and limitations of the Peruvian context were expressed.

- Previous recipients of the ITC Scholarship award are currently involved in the translation of guidelines on the use of test and other assessment instruments for research purposes.
- We have gained valuable experience from our involvement in South America that we would like to capitalize on in reaching our aim of building capacity in measurement and psychometric expertise across the globe. To this end we are engaging in on-going capacity building initiatives going forward with specific emphasis on networking and collaboration in areas where we do not have a major presence.

**We encourage members to engage with us and provide input, towards future capacity building activities that will make a difference in your specific region.**

Please forward comments and ideas to  
*Aletta Odendaal, chair:* [aodendaal@uj.ac.za](mailto:aodendaal@uj.ac.za)

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## Articles

**Multi-criterion Online Expertise (MONEX):  
An innovative system for transparent  
evaluation of psychometric tests by the  
Russian Psychological Society.**

**Anna Brown, University of Kent &  
Alexander Shmelev, Moscow State  
University**

A project for “Multi-criterion Online Expertise” (MONEX), was initiated to improve the quality of psychometric tests used in the Russian Federation. Another important aim of the project was to create and maintain a functional professional community of experts in the field of psychological testing, who would

carry out objective and independent evaluation of test quality.

The idea for MONEX was born from five-year long discussions within the Internet-based community of Russian psychologists specializing in assessment of individual differences, crystallized by their cooperation during work on two editions of «The Annual of Reviews» (Eds. N.A. Baturin & E.B. Eidman). In June 2014, a pilot evaluation of the Russian adaptation of the 16PF Form C (author A.N. Kapustina) took place. In September 2014, evaluations of two further instruments took place. Following positive feedback from the professional community, the project took off and developed into the present system of transparent online-based evaluation.

Many countries have their own bodies for evaluation and certification of psychological tests; bodies transcending national borders also exist (e.g. EFPA). Such bodies endeavor to put in place a rigorous and comprehensive process of evaluation, carried out by two or more experts. Usually, with these behind-the-scenes reviews, it is not known whether and to what extent the reviewers agreed about certain features of the instrument under evaluation. Performance of the individual reviewers in this process is also unknown to the public.

What is different and innovative about MONEX is that the process is completely transparent. Not few but many reviews for each instrument are encouraged; this enables reliable assessment not only of the test’s features but also of the reviewers’ personal “performance” for each review and overall, which are published on the website. The authors of the concept believe that only by achieving high levels of agreement between the reviewers can we convince test developers and test users in the objectivity and quality of test reviews. At present time, 9 instruments – 2 adapted and 7 indigenous – have been assessed using the system.

### How MONEX works

An online application <http://monex-online.ru/> developed by Y.A. Tukachev allows interactive analysis and instant visualization of the results for any given instrument. Authors register and submit a test for review; reviewers register and receive information about the test submitted for review. Having evaluated the information, they mark the test using 20 criteria (including the usual criteria of construct and criterion-related validity, reliability, norms, documentation etc.) using the online platform.

The software analyses the marks given, and produces interactive reports of the test, as well as of the reviewers. The reviewer performance statistics are calculated (i.e. indices of participation, inter-rater reliability on separate criteria, index rwg proposed by James, Demaree and Wolfe, 1984, and overall consistency, index rwg(J) proposed by Lindell and Brandt 1997). Reviewers can build their reputation by producing reviews with good statistics; three “best” reviewers for each instrument are rewarded with small grants. In this process, “beginner” reviewers can become “experts” over time.

### References

- James, L.R., Demaree, R.G., & Wolf, G. (1984). Estimating within-group interrater reliability with and without response bias. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 69, 85-98.
- Lindell, M. K. , & Brandt, C. J. (1997). Measuring interrater agreement for ratings of a single target. *Applied Psychological Measurement* , 21,271–278.

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

Visit the conference website for detailed information, including registration and submission of proposals

<http://itc2016.educ.ubc.ca>

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

#### Improving Policy and Practice: Opportunities and Challenges in an International Context

##### Conference Sub Themes:

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

#### Vancouver 2016 Awards and Scholarships Nominations Invited

The International Test Commission is seeking nominations for the following awards and scholarship linked to the ITC 2016 Conference:

##### *ITC Thomas Oakland Award for Distinguished Contributions to Testing and Assessment*

This Award recognizes an individual that has made one or more significant and noteworthy contributions to research or practice in educational or psychological assessment.

##### *ITC Scholarship Nominations*

Directed towards early career scholars in the domain of Psychological and/or Educational Testing from developing and emerging economies. The main focus of the prestigious ITC Scholarship Program is to enable recipients to attend the 2016 ITC Conference in Vancouver, Canada and to participate in a special program for scholars.

##### *ITC Best Student Paper Award*

Aimed at encouraging active participation of graduate students within the ITC community, the awardee is therefore required to present his/her paper or poster at the conference.

*Awards information and application:*