



## Obituary

# Douglas N. Jackson, 1929–2004

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Available online 5 November 2004

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Douglas N. Jackson, professor of psychology at the University of Western Ontario for over 30 years, died on August 22, 2004 at his home in London, Ontario from complications due to pancreatic cancer. He was 75.

Jackson devoted much of his career to research in human assessment, developing psychological tests in intelligence, personality, psychopathology, and vocational interests. His Multidimensional Aptitude Battery (MAB) has been cited in *Intelligence* many times by researchers requiring a group-administered test that maps similar cognitive terrain as the Wechsler individual test. The MAB was once used to select astronauts for NASA. One of Jackson's most cited tests, the Personality Research Form (PRF), broke new ground through its use of convergent and discriminant validity. Another of his tests, the Jackson Vocational Interest Survey (JVIS), influenced the career planning of more than half a million young people. Still another, the Employee Screening Questionnaire (ESQ), helped identify high-risk applicants and so reduce workplace problems such as absenteeism and turnover. The companies he founded, Research Psychologists Press and Sigma Assessment Systems, continue to distribute these instruments throughout the world.

Jackson was born into a middle class family in Merrick, New York on the South Shore of Long Island. He graduated from Cornell University in 1951 with a BSc in Industrial and Labor Relations and from Purdue University in 1955 with a PhD in Clinical Psychology. He worked as an intern at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas with Gardner Murphy and returned there as a post doc but soon realized that his own interests did not lie in being a clinician and so turned to psychological assessment. Jackson taught at Pennsylvania State University (1956–62) and Stanford University (1962–64) before becoming the uniquely titled Senior Professor of Psychology at the University of Western Ontario in 1964.

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Over his career, Jackson published 200 articles, several edited books, and dozens of technical reports. He was particularly proud of his long collaboration with Samuel Messick at the Educational Testing Service (ETS), where, together, they added significant new knowledge about construct validity. Noteworthy were Jackson and Messick's (1958) *Psychological Bulletin* article which showed the danger of social desirability response set and Jackson's (1971) *Psychological Review* article which established that item responses were samples of behavior rather than "signs" of underlying categories. In the debate over whether the trait construct usefully applied to people's behavior, Jackson was in the forefront of showing how aggregated data established that people's personalities were cross-situationally consistent (Jackson & Paunonen, 1980; Rushton, Jackson, & Paunonen, 1981). He maintained a strong interest in the scientific enterprise, hosting a conference on *Scientific Excellence* in 1985, the title of the subsequently edited book on the proceedings (Jackson & Rushton, 1987).

In the field of intelligence research, Jackson made a substantial contribution to the study of sex differences. In 1993 (Jackson, 1993), he reported a 12-percentile point advantage for men in a general factor (*g*) extracted from 180,000 German medical school applicants, and, from the same data set, Stumpf and Jackson (1994) reported a half-standard deviation advantage for men in reasoning ability. Subsequently, he showed an 8-percentile point advantage for men on *g* extracted from item scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT;  $N=102,516$  individuals). Jackson (2002) updated these analyses at the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR) in Nashville, where he reported that the male–female difference was to be observed throughout the entire distribution, across several different ethnic groups, and at each and every socioeconomic level. He concluded that, while the magnitude of the male–female difference in *g* was not large, it was real and nontrivial.

Jackson also made important contributions to defending academic freedom in Canada. When the US-based National Association of Scholars, an academic freedom society, intervened on behalf of Canadian researchers challenged by "political correctness" (Hunt, 1999), he lent his considerable prestige to founding a sister organization in Canada, the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship. As the founding Secretary-treasurer of the nascent society, Jackson drafted its Deed of Incorporation as an official charity and also its first constitution. He was active in many of its early cases, writing letters on its behalf, proffering expertise, and counselling injured parties. Since this took time from an already very busy schedule, he demonstrated his personal commitment to ensuring personal liberty and freedom of enquiry for his colleagues.

Jackson's substantial contributions to psychology have been well recognized. He served as a member of the Executive Council of the International Test Commission. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1989). He served as president of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Research (1975–1976), which awarded him the Saul Sells Award for Lifetime Contributions (1997). He was elected President of APA's Division of Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (1989–1990) and was awarded that division's Samuel J. Messick Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions (2004).

Jackson's vibrant life included a love of travel, scuba diving (especially in Mexico, but also in Australia and Fiji), fishing, reading (especially biography and history), and playing chess. He was admired and respected by his many graduate students and colleagues. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, his children Douglas, Jr., Lorraine, and Theodore (Ted), three children from a previous marriage, Malcolm, Lisa, and Timothy Bang, and five grandchildren.

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