

Douglas N. Jackson
1929-2004

Dr. Douglas N. Jackson, BSc (Cornell University), PhD (Purdue University), Senior Professor of Psychology at the University of Western Ontario, died August 22, 2004, at his home in London, Ontario, from complications due to pancreatic cancer. He was 75.

Dr. Jackson was born August 14, 1929, 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, and returned there as a post doctorate 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 Senior Professor of Psychology at the University of Western Ontario in 1964. In this role, he founded and directed the Research Unit on Work and Productivity to apply knowledge from the behavioral sciences to address organizational problems. His career at Western spanned over 30 years.

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 and 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 discriminate validity.

Another of his tests, the Jackson Vocational Interest Survey (JVIS), influenced the career planning of more than half a million young people. Another, the Employee Screening Questionnaire (ESQ), helped identify high-risk applicants and so reduce workplace problems such as absenteeism and turnover. These assessments are distributed through two companies he founded: Research Psychologists Press and SIGMA Assessment Systems which are now owned by his youngest son, Ted Jackson.

In addition to authoring more than 20 widely used tests and questionnaires, he published roughly 250 articles in scholarly journals, several dozen book chapters, and co-edited two books. He also served on the editorial boards of approximately 23 psychological journals. The impression he left on the thinking of others is evident in some 3,000 publications that have cited his work over the years.

Of the hundreds of publications Jackson produced in his career, there are a few of which he was particularly proud. The first was Jackson and Mesick's (1958) *Psychological Bulletin* article on the social desirability response set in personality measurement. The second was Jackson's 1971 *Psychological Review* article articulating his influential position that psychological theory should be the foundation of personality test construction.

Jackson served on the Executive Council of the International Test Commission and became a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1989. He served as president of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Research (1975–1976), which awarded him the Saul Sells Award for Lifetime Contributions in 1997. He was also 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 in 2004.

Admired and respected by his many graduate students and colleagues, Jackson was a staunch advocate of freedom of speech and was a founding member of the Society for Academic Freedom. His energetic life included a love of scuba diving, fishing, reading on a wide range of topics, and playing chess.

At the time of his death, Jackson was survived by his wife, Lorraine, his children Douglas III, Lori, Ted, and three children from a previous marriage, Malcolm, Lisa, and Timothy Bang, and five grandchildren.

Credits to the University of Western Ontario