

David Andrich: A Genius From Down Under

Linda Webster, Ph.D.

David Andrich has accomplished more in his first fifty-seven years than most expert teams might hope to accomplish in several lifetimes. From research grants to fellowships to award-winning research, Andrich is worthy of note in the field of measurement.

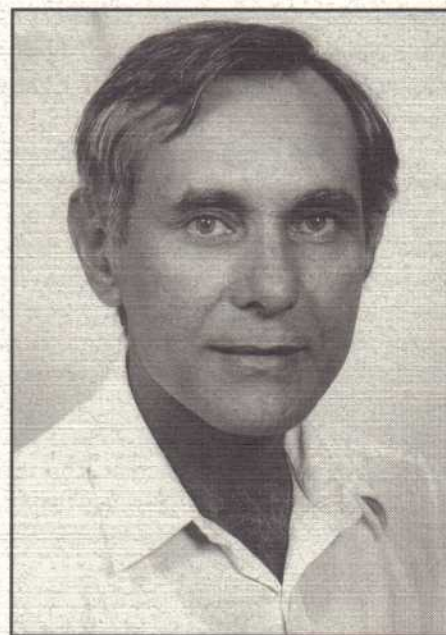
David Andrich was born in Perth, Western Australia in 1941. Earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from The University of Western Australia in 1961, he began teaching math while working on additional curricula. In 1968, he completed a Bachelor of Education Degree with First Class Honors and was awarded the Cameron Prize for his B.Ed. Honors Thesis.

Three years later, in 1971, he completed an M.Ed. at Western Australia and headed for the United States as a Fulbright Fellow. Over the next two years, 1971-1973, Andrich completed the Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and earned the Susan Colver Rosenberger Prize for the best Ph.D. thesis in the Division of Social Sciences. His internationally known Ph.D. committee included psychoanalyst and physicist B.D. Wright, statistician Shelby Haberman, and R. D. Bock, a quantitative psychologist.

In 1977, Andrich spent six months working with Danish mathematician, Georg Rasch, at the Danish Institute for Education Research. He has twice been invited to six-month stints at the University of Chicago in 1977 and 1986. The University of Trento, Italy, appointed him Visiting Professor in 1991 for two months and in 1993 for three months. He has given lectures or workshops in Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, Italy, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

His "day" job has kept him rather busy, as well. In 1985, he was appointed Professor of Education at Murdoch University in Western Australia, and he held the position of Dean from 1988 through 1990.

Elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia in 1990, Andrich has an extensive research resume to support that election. In 1989, he completed a commissioned study of Upper Secondary School Certification and Tertiary Entrance for the Minister of Education in Western Australia. Last year, he completed the International Perspectives on Selection Methods of Entry into Higher Education for the Higher Education Council, DEETYA. He serves on the editorial boards of *Psychometrika*, *Applied Psychological Measurement*, the *Journal of Educational Measurement*, the *Australian Journal of Education*, and *Education Research and Perspectives*.



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In 1988, Sage Publications brought out his *Rasch Models for Measurement under the Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences Series*.

Andrich has contributed chapters

to a variety of books and conference proceedings, as well as writing articles for eight major journals.

He has been awarded research grants by the Australian Research Council beginning in 1985 and has completed research on the Intellectual Development of Pre-Adolescent and Adolescent Children, Advancing Psychometric Theory for Studying Profiles of Performance and Structuring and Assessing the Latitude of Acceptance.

His professional memberships and appointments are international in scope. These include the American Educational Research Association, Research Methodology Chapter of the International Sociological Association, the Australian Association for Research in Education, and the National Council for Measurement in Education. He served on the National Consultative Council of the Federal Government from 1989-1991.

His current research includes the affective development and assessment of opinion, attitude and preference and choice, educational and social processes including assessment and selection, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods in the social sciences, the development of models for the measurement of processes in the social sciences, and the philosophy of social measurement. He is known for his innovative work in modern test theory and, in particular, Rasch models for measurement.

Dr. Linda J. Webster is an associate professor of speech and director of the university Honors Program at the University of Arkansas, Monticello. She was installed as first vice-president of the Arkansas State Communication Association on March 6 and will be assuming the office of president in 1999. She is the editor of the *Journal of Communication Studies* and is a practicing journalist who teaches introductory newswriting along with courses in rhetoric, women's studies, museum management, and interdisciplinary studies in the Honors Program.