

**Society for
Interpersonal
Theory and
Research**

SITAR Newsletter

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President's Message Terence Tracey

I was recently conversing with some close colleagues and the question arose "What are the most influential books or articles for you?" I found this a fascinating question. It led to a vivid recollection of a progression of books and papers that marked much of my thinking. Old texts, from long ago, were pulled out and reread. While some did not weather well over time, several were as exciting today as they were when I first read them. I wondered why I had taken so long to reread them. It is also a sobering examination. I continually rediscover that many ideas that I think are novel or unique have been proposed by many others, usually in far better form and with greater clarity. The examination of the sequence of impactful books and papers has proven to be an important exercise for me. What books and articles have been the most impactful for you? What

source(s) made you rethink many of your previous truisms? How did these sources stimulate your thinking to evolve?

This introspective process revealed, not surprisingly at all, that some of Jerry Wiggins' writings figured prominently in my list of influential works. As you know from our last newsletter, Jerry died over the summer. We all miss him dearly. He is one of the very few individuals that defined the interpersonal focus. My thinking has been strongly shaped by him. Four works I found particularly impactful when I first read them years ago and again when I reread them. Jerry's text on *Personality and Prediction* (1973) is a remarkable work. It put the field into perspective for me like no other work. Although Thomas Widiger (cited in Wiggins' Bruno Klopfer Award address) may have viewed the text as "painful" for students, I had none of that. The text was

the best source I had found for the field and I deeply regretted it going out of print. It is still timely as I found in rereading it. The other two works were papers and more specific to my research interests. His 1979 article in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* entitled "A psychological taxonomy of trait-descriptive terms: The interpersonal domain," served as a powerful start to the grounding of the interpersonal circle in sound measurement principles. Jerry brought his psychometric skills to bear on the interpersonal circle and the Interpersonal Adjective Scale was born. The other article was one that frequently gets

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Robert C. Carson 1930-2006



Dr. Robert Charles Carson, 76, died Saturday, September 23, 2006, at his home. Dr. Robert Carson was one of the original group of researchers who met to discuss the development of an interpersonal society about ten years ago, which eventually led to the formation of SITAR. One of the true giants of the interpersonal tradition, he was also among the first generation

of Leary followers. His well-known book *Interaction Concepts of Personality* (1969) has been an enduring contribution to the interpersonal literature. Our sincerest condolences go to his colleagues and friends. More about Bob Carson's academic contributions will be published in the next SITAR newsletter.

A Brief Review of the Covert and Overt Processes (COP) Model by Christy Hofsess and Debbiesiu Lee

The historical emphasis in interpersonal theory has focused on overt processes involved in interpersonal interactions. Most interpersonal models describe the observable behaviors of two interactants in a dyad and how each influences the other in interactions by examining the concept of complementarity, the proposition that one individual's behavior invites a certain kind of response from another person (Carson, 1969; Kiesler, 1983; Leary, 1957; Sullivan, 1953).

While the primary unit of study in interpersonal theory and research continues to be examined at the behavioral level, a number of interpersonal theorists have explored the ways in which intrapsychic dynamics, such as motives, goals, and emotional reactions influence and affect interpersonal interactions. Growing attention to the covert processes that underlie interpersonal interactions has led to a number of new models (Kiesler, 1986; Dryer & Horowitz, 1997) and a reformulation of interpersonal theory (Horowitz, Wilson, Turan, Zolotsev, Constantino, and Henderson, 2006).

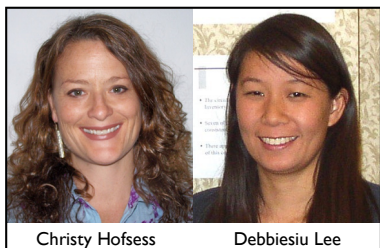
We have introduced and tested a model, called the Covert and Overt Processes (COP) Model of Interpersonal Interactions, to examine the covert and overt processes involved in interpersonal interactions. Core tenets of interpersonal theory and its reformulation form the basis of our conceptualization. We incorporate current theoretical and empirical conceptions of interpersonal goals, and introduce a new construct called intrapersonal congruence, which is the concordance of an individual's interpersonal goals with his/her overt interpersonal behavior in a given interaction. Our model includes three stages of covert and overt processes involved in interpersonal interactions.

Three-Stage COP Model

We refined elements of the existing models of the internal dynamics of interpersonal interactions and enumerated a series of three stages that occur in given interpersonal interactions. A given interaction is mainly defined by the other person's behavior toward the

participant, which initiates the three stage process below. The COP Model examines: (1) the complementarity of Person A's behavior with Person B's goal (behavior-goal complementarity), (2) the congruence of Person B's goal with Person B's behavior (intrapersonal congruence), and (3) the complementarity of Person A's behavior with Person B's behavior (behavior-behavior complementarity). See Figure 1 for a visual depiction of this process.

Stage One: Goal-Behavior Complementarity. Drawing from the work of Kiesler, one person's behavior (A) evokes covert reactions (e.g., feelings, attributions, action tendencies) in individual B. We propose that these reactions result in an identifiable interpersonal goal, a mental representation or cognitive script (Miller & Read, 1991; Fitzsimons & Bargh, 2003) about how one wishes to relate to the other in a given interaction. Kiesler (1986) discusses action tendencies (e.g., behavioral considerations) as part of the covert reactions that seem akin to the



interpersonal goal, though the similarity is only inferred. Research has been conducted on the interpersonal goal as a construct (Miller & Read, 1991; Bargh, 1990; Kruglanski, 1996)

and there is evidence to suggest that interpersonal goals can be activated nonconsciously or consciously (Fitzsimons & Bargh, 2003). Acknowledging the work of Dryer and Horowitz (1997), who claim that the goals of one person and the behavior of the other need to be examined, we propose that the first stage of the interactional process is the identification of goal-behavior complementarity, defined by Dryer and Horowitz (1997). That is, the match between one participant's interpersonal goals and the other's overt behavior is identified during this first stage. For example, based on the principles of complementarity, one might expect the goals of person B to be similar on affiliation and reciprocal on dominance to the interpersonal behavior of person A.

For example, say A acted hostile and cold (e.g., DE; a hostile cold behavior) toward B. According to the principles of complementarity, a goal to act aggressively or assertively with the other person (e.g., BC; a hostile dominant goal) is an interpersonal goal that complements A's behavior. The interpersonal goal can either be complementary or non-complementary with the behavior of person A. For example, a goal to be warm toward Person A is one possible non-complementary interpersonal goal (e.g., LM; a friendly goal). According to Dryer & Horowitz (1997) those participants whose goals were complemented by their partners' behavior were more satisfied with the interaction than those whose goals were not. Thus, the goal-behavior complementarity stage is important to assess.

Stage Two: Intrapersonal Congruence. Once identified unconsciously or consciously, the interpersonal goal is subjected to a cognitive filter or mediational process. The cognitive mediation process essentially either confirms the person's goal and enacts it, in which case the person is identified as exhibiting intrapersonal congruence, or because of an array of other factors, enacts an alternate behavior that is incongruent with the person's goals. The interpersonal goal is either enacted as imagined (e.g., I wish to get close and so I act accordingly) or thwarted (e.g., I wish to get close but I instead retreat). Therefore, the second stage to assess in the dynamic model of interpersonal interactions is intrapersonal congruence. The match between the goals and behavior within the individual is assessed for congruence (match) or incongruence (mismatch). An incongruent behavioral response can be the result of various factors including: skill, anxiety, relationship constraints, inhibition, or in the case of a non-complementary behavior, the goal of avoiding the tension of a complementary interaction (Horowitz, Dryer, & Krasnoperova, 1997).

Stage Three: Behavior-Behavior Complementarity. In the third stage of this process, the enactment of the behavior is assessed for complementarity with the original behavior of the other interactant. Most studies of complementarity

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Hofsess and Lee (cont.)

measure it at the behavioral level (Moskowitz, 1988; Strong et al., 1988; Tracey, 1994; Tracey & Hays, 1989).

Influence of Context on the COP Model

We were also interested in examining the influence of context on the three stages. The research done by Fitzsimons and Bargh (2003) suggests that people pursue different interpersonal goals within different types of relationships. Previous research has substantiated that the accessibility of goals varies depending on the situation or context (Bargh, 1990; Higgins, 1996). Context, social situations and the behavior of others are important factors that affect an individual's behavior (Tracey, 1993). However, many empirical studies within interpersonal theory have not explicitly examined the impact of contextual variables on interpersonal processes or factors. The contextual variables of interest include relationships and situation.

Preliminary Analyses and Results

We have conducted some analyses to validate the three-stage model. A sample of 120 undergraduate students (49 men and 71 women) completed the Interpersonal Repertoire Questionnaire (IRQ), a 24-item instrument created for the purposes of this study. The IRQ asks respondents to rate their interpersonal goals and behaviors in response to four different relationships on four subscales, which are four different interpersonal scenarios. The four relationships include an interaction involving a lover, a friend/family member, a stranger, and a co-

worker/colleague/classmate. The four subscales include interactions where the other individual acted dominant/firm/assertive, warm/accommodating/friendly, cold/quarrelsome, and inconsistent/doubting. These four scenarios reflect four dimensions of the interpersonal circumplex. Respondents were asked to recall an interaction with a person across the four relationship contexts in which the other individual acted in one of the four ways. The respondents were then asked to select how they responded (what was their behavior) to each of the scenarios and to select what their intention (goal) was during each interaction. The options for the responses (behaviors) and goals reflect the eighth octants of the circumplex. The interpersonal goal choices were developed using the taxonomy of interpersonal traits. Six raters were solicited to ensure that the description of the interpersonal goal accurately reflected the corresponding interpersonal octant it was intended to reflect. We modified our descriptions of the interpersonal goals until we reached 100% rater agreement for each goal.

We conducted a series of analyses to begin to validate our three-stage model and to assess the influence of context on the model. The first main question we asked was: To what extent do stages one (behavior-goal complementarity) and two (intrapersonal congruence) contribute to our understanding of stage three (behavior-behavior complementarity)? Results of a series of regression analyses indicated that stage one (behavior-goal complementarity) contributes about 37% of the variance

in stage three (behavior-behavior complementarity) while stage two (congruence) contributes about 7%. Together both stages explain 44% of the variance in our understanding of the traditional concept of complementarity.

We were also interested in how the patterns of each stage vary according to context, defined by relationships with varying degrees of intimacy and situation. We conducted a series of repeated measure MANOVAs across each stage. There were no significant differences in congruence across situations, but there were significant differences in congruence across relationships or levels of intimacy. Congruence was highest for lovers and friends and lowest for bosses. We found similar patterns across stage one (behavior-goal complementarity) and stage three (behavior-behavior complementarity). Summarizing the results, we found that with lovers and friends, the dominance/control dimension appears to be more salient than the affiliation dimension in explaining variance in the stages of complementarity. That is, complementarity for both stages is significantly lower when lovers and friends are dominant. The participants in this sample reported that they did not have a goal to enact a behavior that was submissive with lovers and friends. With bosses and strangers, the affiliation dimension appears to be more salient than dominance in explaining variance in complementarity. That is, complementarity is significantly higher when bosses/strangers are warm.

Our overall results lend preliminary support to our model and suggest that in assessments of interpersonal interactions, it is important to take context into consideration and to include assessments of interpersonal goals, which allow for assessments of stage one (behavior-goal complementarity) and stage two (congruence). Finally, in understanding the traditional concept of behavior-behavior complementarity, it is essential to consider the unique contribution of behavior-goal complementarity, as well as intrapersonal congruence.

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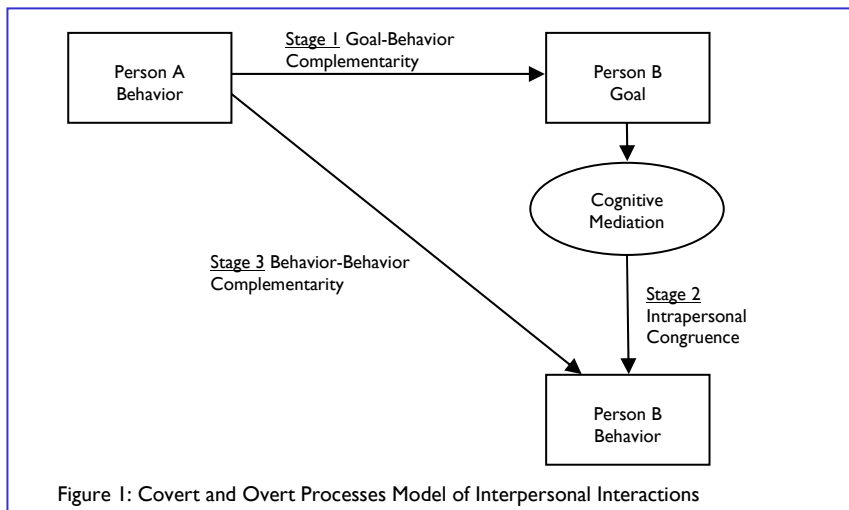


Figure 1: Covert and Overt Processes Model of Interpersonal Interactions

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Remembering Jerry S. Wiggins 1931-2006

As mentioned in the last newsletter, pioneering personologist and founding member of SITAR, Dr. Jerry S. Wiggins, died peacefully on June 15, 2006, after a long illness. He was 75 years old. After consulting with his wife and several others who knew him well, we decided to remember him in this newsletter in a way that seemed in keeping with what he would have enjoyed: We asked eight people if they would be willing to write short pieces about the ways in which Jerry influenced them. All eight people agreed (most within hours of the request), and their responses were peppered with statements such as: "I will be very, very happy to do this," "I'd love to be able to write a short piece on Jerry Wiggins," and "How can one decline an invitation to pay tribute to Jerry Wiggins!!" These initial responses and the following pieces speak volumes about who Jerry Wiggins was and how he affected those who knew him.

Once a Wiggins Student, Always a Wiggins Student by Aaron L. Pincus

Jerry Wiggins was my doctoral advisor and working with him was by far the most important experience of my professional life. Jerry was a gracious and generous mentor who opened doors and offered me opportunities I would never have had otherwise. In our profession, he not only taught me *what to do*, he also taught me *how to do it*. In psychology, it was something special to be a "Wiggins Student," something I did not understand when I left for UBC in 1987. But in 2006, I certainly realize this in all its magnitude.



San Francisco 1998. From left: Krista Trobst, Steve Strack, Leni Ferrero, Len Horowitz, Susan Horowitz, Jerry Wiggins.

I could go on and on about what I've learned from Jerry. I will just name a few of the things that come to mind.

1. Professionally speaking, it's better to make friends than enemies.

2. Always be supportive to those who are counting on you. Professionally, this means I treat my students as Jerry treated me. He is still my role model in that regard.
3. Find a way to be yourself in the different professional roles you play.
4. Balance work, play, and love. But when you work, do it really really well; when you play, do it really really well; when you love, give it your all.
5. Jerry also taught me the pleasure of a good vodka martini.

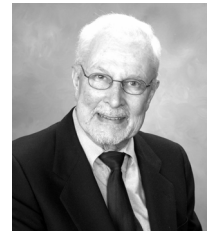
For the last 16 years, I considered Jerry my colleague and friend. We worked together through his 2003 book, *Paradigms of Personality Assessment*. I cherish every moment I've spent with him to this day—whether it was serious phone calls regarding a co-authored chapter, or closing the hotel bar in the wee hours (yet *again!*) at a conference, surrounded by the "Wiggins Entourage" as one person called it. I am deeply grateful to have been part of that entourage.

A Testimony to Jerry Wiggins: A True Scholar by Sidney J. Blatt

Jerry Wiggins was an extraordinary person. His remarkably creative and highly influential contributions to personality theory and personality assessment are so well established that they need no amplification. So I direct my comments to Jerry's somewhat less known, but equally remarkable, personal attributes—his impressive intellectual and personal range and depth. While maintaining his own perspective and deep commitment to a particular orientation, Jerry was unusually knowledgeable about and respectful of other perspectives.

I first met Jerry a number of years ago during a meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research on the campus of the University of British Columbia (UBC). I somewhat reluctantly called Jerry to ask if he was available to meet. I, of course, was keenly aware of the enormity of Jerry's contributions as well as his very strong empirical emphasis. So I expected him to be, like many others in our field, very partisan and somewhat disdainful of my more psychodynamic orientation. Much to my surprise, Jerry seemed pleased that I called and was very accommodating in setting a time when we could meet. But I still went to Jerry's office with considerable trepidation.

What a surprise! Jerry was not only respectful of my approach, but very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about my contributions. I then realized that I was not only in the presence of a great investigator and scholar, but a truly remarkable human being. Rather than a typical narrow partisan orientation, Jerry was open to and curious about a wide range of perspectives and ideas. It was a wonderful, but all too brief, visit and I left Vancouver with the hope that I would have occasion to meet Jerry again.



Several years later, now formally retired from UBC, Jerry called to tell me that he was in New Haven for the year accompanying his wife, Krista Trobst, who we, unaware of her connection to Jerry, had accepted into our predoctoral internship program. We arranged for Jerry to present, on occasion, to our class of interns on psychological assessment and Jerry and I met often, both formally and informally, and became close friends.

Somewhere in mid-year, Krista, who was specializing in neuropsychological assessment during her internship, asked to meet to discuss a particularly perplexing Rorschach protocol she had just obtained from a patient. I am always delighted when one of our interns expresses interest in unstructured methods of personality assessment, so I eagerly met with Krista. Fortunately, it was a relatively clear protocol and Krista seemed pleased and impressed with my interpretation of the test. I think, based partly on that meeting with Krista, Jerry invited me to represent the psychodynamic orientation in his monumental, ground-breaking book, *Paradigms of Personality Assessment* (2003). The book is a landmark contribution to personality assessment because it represents not only the work of a truly outstanding scholar, someone of remarkable range and depth, but someone of equally impressive personal openness and curiosity. The book is testimony to a career of remarkably creative contributions and the openness of a true scholar, but it is also a very painful reminder of how much we have lost, both professionally and personally, in Jerry's tragically premature death.

Jerry Wiggins Remembered
by Donald J. Kiesler

Jerry Wiggins was the most admirable, generous, and supportive colleague I encountered! His enthusiasm about my original publication of the Impact Message Inventory – my first contact with him – was for me a bolt of approval and support out of the blue from a distinguished contributor who had already authoritatively established the area of circumplex study.

What I learned I could bank on from Jerry was a non-self-serving, objective, unbiased, authoritative, often enthusiastic, and always supportive reaction to whatever ideas of mine crossed his desk. As I once wrote him, “As always, I trust your opinion, expertise and good will.” Numerous times we asked each other for, and received, frank feedback, evaluation, and help. Jerry’s published review of my 1988 *Therapeutic Metacommunication* book accurately characterized frequent instances of my “decretal tone.” In another exchange, Jerry identified himself as Reviewer B whose evaluation had been decisive in rejecting one of my journal manuscripts, “and I stand by the comments that I made.” I replied that “whenever I’ve had the task of delivering negative feedback to someone I care about I’ve found the process somewhat risky and scary. To the extent that you felt any of that, I appreciate your effort ever more.” Jerry’s quick response: “I was really quite relieved to hear from you, because the conveying of my earlier negative feedback was indeed quite scary. In my experience, relationships that survive this sort of thing become deeper.”

It was a rare pleasure to constantly expect, and not be disappointed by, this kind of encounter with a colleague. I am lucky to have had Jerry Wiggins as my friend.



APA 1994. Clockwise from top: Bob Carson, Len Horowitz, Maury Lorr, Jerry Wiggins, Timothy Leary, and Lorna Smith Benjamin.

Next Door to a Shepherd
by Delroy L. Paulhus

In 1982, while I was a post-doc at the University of Georgia, I received a job offer over the phone from a party claiming to be Jerry Wiggins. I was skeptical at first because the soft, gentle voice didn’t seem to match the hard-nosed authority of his book *Personality and Prediction*. A few years earlier, my advisor, Richard Christie had handed me the book and instructed “read this before you talk to me.” Good advice in so many ways.

The call was indeed from the masterful author and I wasn’t about to say no to Jerry Wiggins. I accepted and journeyed diagonally across the continent to the University of British Columbia. For 15 years, I had the privilege of working next door to Jerry. Of course, there are pros

and cons to working next door to the 500-pound gorilla of personality. One big plus was that every major player in the field of personality came to visit at some point, and I was a grateful beneficiary. Many lively dinners and parties ensued. In such settings, no one could be more entertaining than was Jerry -- at least partly because his humor was not handicapped by political correctness. He also attracted top-notch graduate and post-doc students, several of whom I continue to call friends and collaborators.

On the other hand, to be evaluated relative to Jerry Wiggins was always an invidious comparison. Every new topic he took on eventuated in a seminal program of research. In need of tenure, I had to differentiate myself from the topics Jerry was cultivating. Nonetheless, I have come to realize how deeply I had assimilated his conceptual perspective -- especially, the agency and communion framework.

More like a shepherd than a gorilla, Jerry was protective of the field that he led, and gently encouraged his junior personality colleagues to stay within the fold. *Connect, collaborate, and nurture* were his career recommendations. In both an agentic and communal sense, Jerry Wiggins provided broad shoulders for his successors to stand on.



1998 APA symposium "40 Years of Personality Assessment: Honoring Jerry S. Wiggins" From Left: John McNulty, Tom Widiger, Paul Costa, Jerry Wiggins, Aaron Pincus, Michael Gurtman

On Knowing Jerry Wiggins
by David M. Buss

Jerry Wiggins, author of the best book ever written on personality assessment, was a giant and a gentleman in the field of personality psychology. My first contact with Jerry occurred when I was a graduate student. The personality program at Berkeley had voted to invite Jerry in for a three day visit. Dan Ozer and I had the honor of picking him up at the airport. We did not know what he looked like, so we drew a picture of a circumplex and held it high.

From that year on, Jerry became simultaneously my mentor, colleague, and dear friend. I will always treasure the letters he wrote, which contained brilliant insights, tactful feedback about how to improve my research program, and classic Wigginsian turns of phrase. One ex-

ample: he explained how my entire research program was actually contained within a single quadrant of his circumplex model; he called it “the art of subsumptionship.” His words were always wise, witty, and genuine.

What I remember most about Jerry is our friendship that took place in the moments that make life worth living--hanging out with him at conventions and conferences in cities such as Bielefeld, New York, Montreal, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Jerry Wiggins is irreplaceable. I will always miss him.

Why I Miss Jerry Wiggins
by Thomas A. Widiger

Death sucks. It’s by far the last thing I ever want to happen to me, and I really hate that it happens to so many, many, good people. I really hated that it happened to Jerry.

I miss him because he was so personally inspiring. I was planning on becoming an interpersonal and/or family systems researcher (having trained under Jim Coyne and Roger Knudson). However, I loved Jerry’s text, *Personality and Prediction*. It was so rich, so engaging, and yet so tough-minded. As a result, I switched to personality disorders, with the intention of bringing to psychiatry what I learned from Jerry Wiggins.

I miss him because of who he was. I still remember when I first met him. I was talking with another young colleague who

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Jerry Wiggins (cont.)

pointed out the presence of Jerry Wiggins at the reception, over by the bar. I approached cautiously and with considerable trepidation.

I could not have been more pleasantly relieved. He was such a dear, kind, and friendly man. Thereafter, we often seemed to find some time to get together; not to work, but to enjoy. Our only joint project was F-cubed (the FFFM), in collaboration with Paul Costa, Dan Ozer, Krista Trobst, and Bob Kaiser.

It's so sad that he died soon after his latest book (*Paradigms of Personality Assessment*); unable to experience the full pleasure and praise with which it has since been received. If you have not yet read it, you are really missing out. It is such a masterful text that is so impressive with respect to its creativity and its thoughtfulness, and, most importantly, its grace.

And it's so sad that he died too soon after his marriage to Krista, who I know he loved very much and was so grateful for how much she loved and cared for him.



Jerry Wiggins: Mr. Personality by Paul T. Costa

Jerry was a huge influence: mentor, great friend and confidant of mine. I loved his witty and offbeat sense of humor, and his charming distinctively cool style. We had many small but important things in common—love of dogs, jazz, saxophone and piano stylists, micro-brewns, elegant writing and loyal friends. I loved getting calls from Jerry and especially preprints with clever quips written in his beautifully clear and distinctive script. His wonderful openness and intelligence helped the whole field to understand personality. I prize the memory of his friendship and collegiality more than I can convey. Jerry was as complex and multidimensional a person as researcher and theorist. Of all the psychologists I know, he was the most deeply knowledgeable and skillful with an MMPI, a TAT, the IPC, Rorschach, and even a NEO-PI-R. He was not only a nimble and versatile assessor but a deeply wise, clear and precise thinker and writer.

In the early days of my career when traits were in disrepute, Jerry's classic

book *Personality and Prediction* not only kept the field alive for a generation of personality psychologists but also served as my personal guide and handbook. As everyone reading this knows, Jerry had an abiding interest in interpersonal behavior and the interpersonal circumplex. But he was not dogmatically limited or tied to that model. His extension of the IAS-R to the IASR-B5 was extremely important and an example of his integrative thinking unfettered by conventional disciplinary boundaries. He was a major force bringing order to disparate conceptual approaches as can be seen in his edited volume on theoretical perspectives for the FFM.

I treasure the two years that Jerry and Krista spent in my NIA Lab in Baltimore. Not only was it a great honor to have them but it was also stimulating and great fun. In between analyses and discussions of personality and health psychology topics, we collaborated on several empirical papers. Jerry also nearly completed his latest masterpiece, *Paradigms of Personality Assessment* in Baltimore. But it is his wife Krista Trobst who deserves recognition and great credit for seeing *Paradigms* through to publication.

My life has been greatly enriched by Jerry Wiggins and I will always miss him.

Jerry Wiggins: Psychometrics and the Study of Lives by William M. Runyan

Jerry Wiggins is best known through his landmark volume on *Personality and Prediction: Principles of Personality Assessment* (1973). This book opened my eyes to the field of personality assessment when I first encountered it by chance in 1973 in a bookstore in Amherst, Mass. As a postdoc at UC Berkeley, I first met Jerry around 1976 when he was an invited scholar at the Institute of Personality Assessment and Research. I

greatly enjoyed talking with him on later visits to Berkeley, and at APA conventions where it seemed the "Wiggins group" was usually having more fun than the others, much of it due to Jerry.

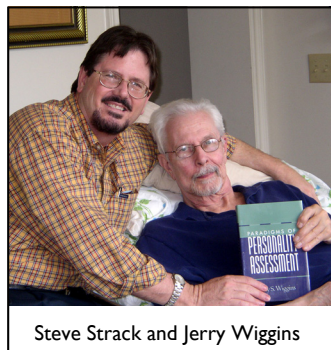
My comments here, though, are focused on another side of his work. How did an expert on psychometric theory also manage to make substantial contributions to the

study of lives in his last book, *Paradigms of Personality Assessment* (2003)? First, Wiggins included an insightful discussion of personology as one of the five paradigms along with psychoanalytic, interpersonal, multivariate, and empirical (MMPI) paradigms. While personology or the study of lives is too often marginalized or omitted from personality textbooks, Wiggins argues that Henry Murray had more influence across this whole set of paradigms than any other single individual.

Second, he provided a useful decade-by-decade sketch of milestones in the history of personology, from its origins with Freud and psychoanalysis, through founding texts in the 1930's by Allport, Murray and Dollard, to notable contributions in each decade through the 1990's, including books by Alexander (1990), McAdams (1993), and Elms (1994). I was flattered that he mentioned Dan McAdams and me as individuals who helped develop his interest in the study of lives. In a recent *Handbook of Psychobiography* (2005), I elaborated on Wiggins' historical framework and added his 2003 book as a significant contribution to the study of lives.

One remarkable thing about *Paradigms of Personality Assessment* is that he invited contributions from five different theoretical perspectives to the assessment and interpretation of an individual life, that of a flamboyant Native American lawyer, Madeline G. This comparison of five approaches to a single life is a fundamentally important approach, and rarely done even by those specializing in the study of lives. We can be grateful for Jerry's broad-ranging intellect and extensive social contacts which made this book possible.

At conventions and in correspondence over the years, I'd hear about this book in progress, sometimes accompanied by entertaining stories about his own encounters with each of the different traditions. At first, he was reluctant to include any of this personal experience. "Who would be interested?" From my perspective, the stories are both humanly interesting, and illustrate the processes we all go through in interacting with different traditions. I wasn't sure what he'd decided, but was delighted to see in the published book that he



Steve Strack and Jerry Wiggins

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Meet SITAR's New Vice President: Pamela Sadler

After completing her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Waterloo and clinical internship at the Calgary Health Region, Pamela Sadler began a tenure-track position at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario in 2002. Pam also holds an adjunct appointment at the University of Waterloo, where she supervises the clinical work of graduate students. Her research interests include interpersonal theory, personality and psychopathology, social interaction, politeness



Pam looks forward to helping maintain the many enjoyable aspects of the society, while exploring some new initiatives. Some ideas include inviting interesting colleagues to attend our annual meetings who are research-

theory, individual differences in hypnosis, and applications of structural equation modeling and item response theory.

ing areas related to interpersonal theory, supporting and expanding the role of graduate students in the society, and exploring possibilities for the development of a specialty journal devoted to interpersonal theory and its diverse ramifications. Pam is eager to hear from SITAR members about their ideas for future directions for the society, too.



Terence Tracey's President's Message (continued)

glossed over but that I found invaluable in my attempts to think about and evaluate circumplexes. The 1981 article by Wiggins, Steiger, and Gaelick entitled "Evaluating circumplexity in personality data" appeared in *Multivariate Behavioral Research*. This article was one of the first that rigorously examined the circumplex structure and it served as a basis for much of my work years later. The final paper is one he wrote with Phillips and Trapnell in 1989, "Circular reasoning about interpersonal behavior: Evidence concerning some untested assumptions underlying diagnostic classification," which appeared in *JSPS*. This manuscript carefully articulated many key interpersonal assumptions and was really the first to empirically evaluate them. This work served as a stimulus for me in my own research. Indeed, rereading these pieces demonstrates very strongly to me how much Jerry's hand was apparent in much of my work. His approaches guided mine and when I

would finally grasp a subtle point he made, I would spring off in that new direction. I did not know Jerry well. Really I only got to have some drinks with him in the recent past. But his influence on my work extended far beyond the recent past and those drinks (which were great fun by the way). I owe much to Jerry Wiggins and I think I can say this for all SITAR members, we will dearly miss him. This is evident as this newsletter is dedicated to Jerry and several of our members have written of him here.

Certainly one of the other very influential books for me was Bob Carson's book *Interaction Concepts of Personality*. This text served to hone much of my early thinking as well as define our theory and subsequent research. And alas, here too, one of our intellectual forefathers has very recently died. I owe much to Bob and his work will continue to serve as a guide for me.

On a happier note, I wish to inform all of our newly elected incoming Vice-President, Pam Sadler. The position of member-at-large that she vacated will be filled by Martin Grosse Holtforth. Both will be formally "installed" during our annual meeting which will be June 18-19 in Madison Wisconsin. We decided to put our meeting immediately prior to the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR) meeting which is also occurring in Madison. Michael Gurtman has again proven invaluable in his working out the details of our meeting. These details will follow soon via the listserv and our next newsletter.



Jerry Wiggins (continued)

included at least some of the stories. Jerry describes his encounter with Freud and the psychoanalytic paradigm as beginning in high school,

...probably because of his emphasis on sex...I had somewhat of a "peak experience" in a course in English literature during my freshman year when I elected to write a term paper on "Hamlet and Oedipus," which I now know is part of the personological paradigm...A few years later, when Lawrence Olivier's film version of *Hamlet* appeared, I was able to impress the young lady who accompanied me to the film by my in-depth knowledge of its "Oedipal implications." By that time I had adopted the affectation of smoking a pipe, often referred to James Agee's articles on film...and generally behaved as an obnoxious teenage "intellectual." (p. 17).

He has similarly irreverent accounts of his encounters with other major traditions.

One thing I appreciated about Jerry was his personal openness as well as his conceptual and historical interests. In *Personality and Prediction* (1973) his account of five "American Milestone Studies" in personality assessment brought the field to life in a wonderful complement to the earlier more theoretical chapters on prediction and techniques in assessment.

Jerry has contributed enormously to personality theory and assessment, to the study of lives, and also to our his-

torical understanding of each of the five paradigms reviewed in *Paradigms of Personality Assessment* (2003). Lee Cronbach discussed the "two disciplines of scientific psychology," correlational and experimental. There are few more important contributors to the psychometric and correlational tradition than Jerry Wiggins. There are complexities of his character and relationships which I don't claim to understand, but I admire and was shaped by his work, greatly enjoyed talking with him, and will miss him greatly.



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Recently Published Graduate Student Corner Work (cont.)

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Greetings SITAR Members!

I hope you all enjoyed the first entry of a new series in the Graduate Student Corner published in the June newsletter.

In it you were introduced to four graduate students from the University of Waterloo. This time around you'll be introduced to the students from the lab of Dr. Aaron Pincus at Penn State University. Thank-you to Aidan, Claudia, Mark, and Nicole for agreeing to be the second lab featured in this new series in the newsletter. We hope that by introducing graduate students to the membership that we will become more than just familiar faces at the annual conference. As each student is also including information about their current research and interests, collaborative projects will hopefully be initiated. It would be great to see students giving presentations at future meetings with students and faculty from other labs as their co-authors! If you'd like to volunteer to have your lab featured in the next newsletter, or simply would like to offer some feedback on the series or share any other ideas you may have, please don't hesitate to contact me at layearst@yorku.ca.



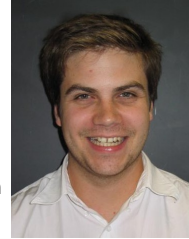
Hi! My name is Mark Lukowsky. I am beginning my third year of the graduate program in clinical psychology at Penn State University where I am supervised by Dr. Aaron Pincus. Be-

fore arriving to Happy Valley I completed my Master's thesis at Hunter College in NYC where I examined the relationship between reflective function, empathy, mindfulness, and interpersonal self understanding. My minor project at Penn State examined the role of mindfulness in cognitive functioning and personality including interpersonal problems and attachment style. At the most recent SITAR conference I presented a poster that included some of the findings from this study which revealed that mindfulness is associated with interpersonal adjustment, while anxious and avoidant attachment are associated with maladjusted interper-



sonal styles. When I don't have my head buried in research and clinical work I enjoy being with my wife and strumming my guitar.

Hello, my name is Aidan Wright, and I am the newest member of the Personality Laboratory at Penn State. I have recently begun



my studies in the clinical PhD program under the advisement of Dr. Aaron Pincus. My arrival at PSU closely follows my completion of Villanova University's Master's program, where I worked under Dr. Patrick Markey. Broadly, my interests are in clinical personality, with an emphasis on personality disorders, their assessment, taxonomy, and how Interpersonal Theory can inform practitioners in case formulation and treatment of personality pathology. I am a member of SITAR and have been in attendance at the past two meetings. I look forward to continued participation in the society and collaboration with other members.



Hello, my name is Nicole Cain, and I am a member of the Personality Laboratory at Penn State. I'm a fourth-year graduate student in the clinical PhD

program under the advisement of Dr. Aaron Pincus. My research and clinical interests focus on personality disorders, with a particular emphasis on different subtypes of narcissistic personality. In my research, I have used the interpersonal circumplex to examine the similarities and differences between two forms of pathological narcissism: grandiose narcissism and vulnerable narcissism. In 2005, I presented my Master's data at the SITAR conference in Montreal. This study used the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems – Circumplex Scales to distinguish vulnerable narcissism from avoidant personality. I look forward to attending future meetings of SITAR and collaboration with other members of the society.

My name is Claudia Pimentel and I'm a seventh year graduate student at Penn State University's clinical psychology

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Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

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SITAR: Mission, Aims, and Activities

The Society is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific association devoted to interpersonal theory and research. By encouraging systematic theory and empirical research, it seeks to clarify the processes and mechanisms of interpersonal interactions that explain interpersonal and intrapersonal phenomena of normal and abnormal psychology.

The goals of the Society are (1) to encourage the development of this research, (2) to foster the communication, understanding, and application of research findings, and (3) to enhance the scientific and social value of this research.

The activities of the Society include: (1) regular meetings for the communication of current research ideas, methods, and findings; (2) discussion of work in progress; (3) maintenance of an inventory of data and data-gathering resources available for use by members of the Society; and (4) facilitation of collaborative research.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martin Grosse Holtforth successfully completed the Habilitation process this summer, receiving the "Venia Docendi" as well as the academic title of a "Privatdozent" from the University of Bern, Switzerland. The Venia Docendi enables him to give lectures independently of any other full professor at the University of Bern, and allows him to apply for tenured positions anywhere in the German-speaking world. In addition, Martin received one of two *Outstanding Early Career Achievement Awards* at the 37th international meeting of the *Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR)* in Edinburgh (Scotland) in June 2006. Our congratulations, Martin!

Editor's note: We welcome news about your academic and personal accomplishments. Please feel free to contact the editor about any such announcements for upcoming SITAR newsletters.

Graduate Students (cont.)

program, where I am supervised by Dr. Aaron Pincus. I am currently on internship at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center. A main research focus of our lab has been expanding the field's narrow definition of narcissism by finding validity for a vulnerable form of phenotypic expression of narcissistic pathology that differs from the grandiose form depicted in the DSM. In this vein, our lab developed a measure, the Vulnerable Narcissism Scale (VNS), which taps into the more vulnerable characteristics of narcissism. I am currently in the process of finishing my dissertation, which focused on finding additional evidence for the construct validity of the VNS and identifying the core similarities and differences between these two forms of phenotypic expression of narcissistic pathology. Outside of my clinical work and research, I am in the process of discovering New York City, its amazing neighborhoods, abundance of cultural activities, delectable restaurants, and fascinating people.

Hofsess and Lee (continued)

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