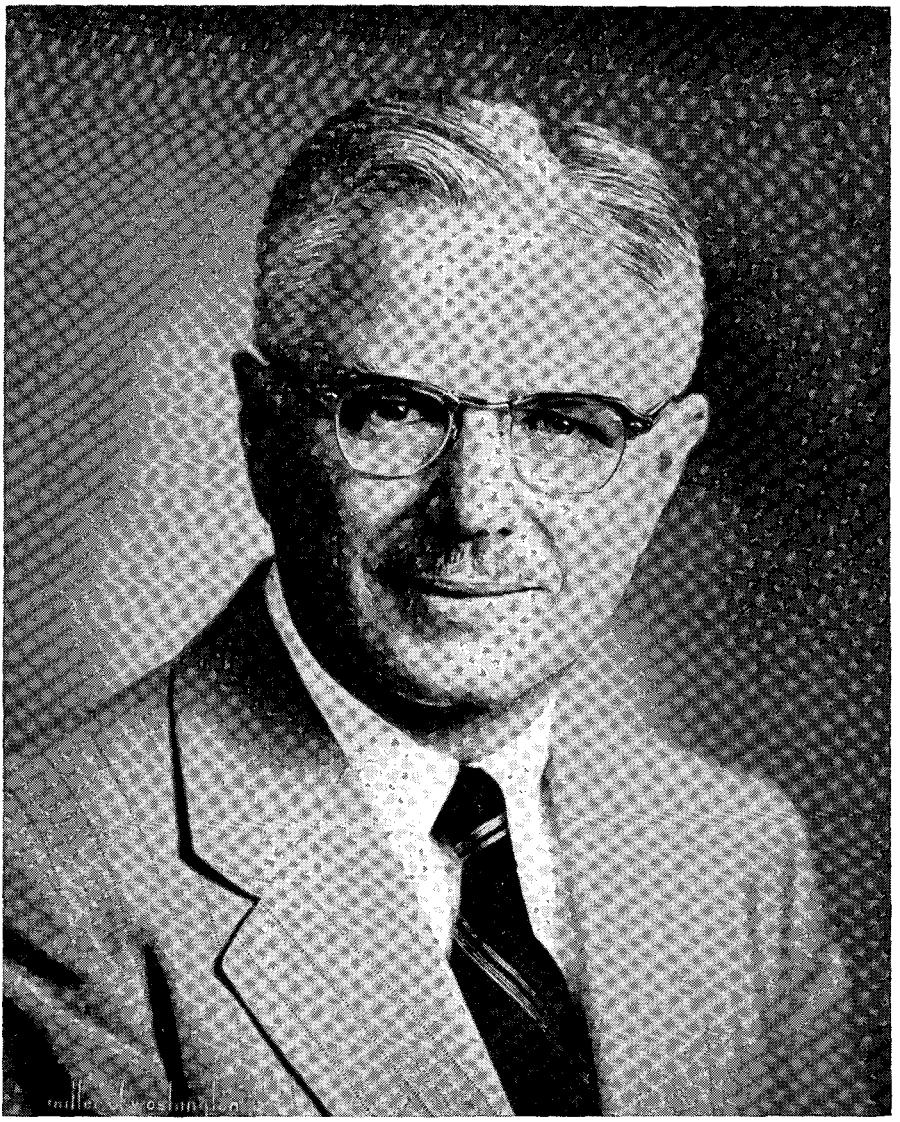


Herbert S. Gonrad

https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02306780 Published online by Cambridge University Press

PSYCHOMETRIKA—VOL. 37, NO. 3
SEPTEMBER, 1972

Herbert S. Conrad

(1904–1970)

Active in the Psychometric Society since its founding in 1935, Herbert Spencer Conrad was on its Council of Directors, 1949–52. He was president of the Psychometric Corporation, 1951–55, and served on the editorial board of *Psychometrika* from 1944 until his death, May 4, 1970.

Herbert Conrad was born January 7, 1904 in New York City and was graduated from Boys' High School in Brooklyn. At age 16 he began evening study at New York University, followed by a period of full-time study in agriculture at Cornell. In 1924 he transferred to Columbia University where he took courses with Harold Ellis Jones, then a young instructor in psychology. Conrad's choice of major fields, psychology and English, foretold the range of his future work as scientist, author, and editor.

After earning his B.A. *cum laude* in 1926, Conrad continued as a graduate student and collaborated with Jones in their classic study of mental performance throughout childhood, maturity, and senescence.

In 1928 Conrad followed Jones to the new Institute of Child Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley (in 1958 renamed the Institute of Human Development). While working as statistician for the Institute, Conrad completed the doctorate in psychology (1931) with his dissertation on sibling resemblances in intelligence. His future wife, Mildred Helen Earley, was a colleague at the Institute and also a graduate student in psychology; they were married December 23, 1933. Conrad stayed at the Institute as research associate until 1943, by which time he was also associate professor of psychology at the University. In this long and fruitful association with Jones and others at Berkeley, Conrad helped stimulate some of the most significant research ever done in the field of human development.

In 1943 the Conrads, with daughters Alice and Mary, moved to Princeton, New Jersey, where he was invited to work with Harold O. Gulliksen on NDRC Project N-106 with the College Entrance Examination Board on the development of aptitude and achievement tests for the selection and training of naval personnel. A senior member of the project staff, Conrad contributed to other CEEB activities as well and in 1947 was founding editor of *The College Board Review*.

In 1948 Ralph C. M. Flynt of the U. S. Office of Education asked Conrad to head the Research and Statistical Service there. In that capacity until 1960,

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Conrad developed many aspects of the statistical program which continue today. In the succeeding decade he was chiefly concerned with the Office's educational research program, with responsibilities for program development and evaluation. His contributions were recognized by the Superior Service Award, first in 1964 and again in 1968. His was a strong personal commitment to the role of civil servant. He wrote, "· · · there is a functioning federal government of the United States which is *not* something remote, monstrous, and concerned exclusively with collecting the income tax, but which is responsive to the needs of the nation, to the voice of the people · · ·" (Research in education: Directions and misdirections. *Teachers College Record*, 1962, 64, 13–19.)

Herbert Conrad placed a high priority on service to professional associations. He was founding editor of *Applied Psychology Monographs* (1942–48), followed by the editorship of *Psychological Monographs* (1948–58). His many other activities included, for example, the presidencies of four divisions of the American Psychological Association, the chairmanship of the APA-AERA committee on test standards, and a vice-presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with the chairmanship of the AAAS section on education.

Conrad's extensive bibliography includes research contributions, statistical evaluations, and critical reviews, related to the spectrum of his interests: genetic, environmental, and personality factors in mental development; psychometric methodology; and development of tests, rating scales, questionnaires, and interview techniques.

In honor of Harold E. Jones, who died in 1960, Conrad worked tirelessly to compile selections from Jones's most significant studies for a memorial volume, *Studies in human development* (1966). With professional excellence and fortitude the guiding lights of his own life, he had profound respect and appreciation for the work of others. He often expressed the value to himself of having worked with persons of such stature as Jones, Gulliksen, and Flynt. And his generous and spirited support of colleagues, particularly when a principle was at stake, is well known. Herbert Conrad will be remembered for these qualities, and also for his enjoyment of family, friends, books, and theater and his exuberant sense of humor—that robust laughter so often heard well down the corridors from his office.

EDITH M. HUDDLESTON

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