

IN MEMORIAM

Donald E. Super (1910-1994)

Donald E. Super, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York (USA), died in June, 1994. Known mainly for his research in the vocational guidance field, he was the author of several widely used diagnostic instruments for vocational counseling, more than a hundred journal articles, numerous book chapters, and several books and monographs. His most significant contributions include *The Psychology of Careers* (1957), *Appraising Vocational Fitness* (1949, revised in 1962), *The Vocational Maturity of Ninth-Grade Boys* (with P.L. Overstreet, 1960), *Computer-assisted guidance* (Ed., 1970), *Measuring Vocational Maturity* (with others, 1974).

A scholar of remarkable drive and enthusiasm, Prof. Super has indebted us in three important ways. First, he formulated the most influential theory of occupational choice which - contrary to the traditional, static view - treats occupational choice as a developmental process and delineates its most important stages and influences. Second, he conducted major longitudinal studies resulting in important empirical findings. And, finally, he developed a number of instruments for the measurement of career maturity, work values and other relevant traits. In the past thirty years, Super's theory and his instruments have strongly influenced the counseling work in numerous countries, and it seems that they will continue to be influential in career psychology long into the future.

In parallel with his research, Donald Super actively worked on the international scene for many years promoting mutual understanding between scholars from different countries. His efforts in favor of international cooperation have taken many different forms, including service as vice president and then president of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (1964-1983); member-

ship on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Applied Psychology (1964-1986), and various UNESCO projects. Donald Super was actively affiliated with some institutions abroad, such as the National Institute for Careers Education and Counseling in Cambridge, England, where he was Senior Fellow and Honorary Director (1976-1979). While in Cambridge, Prof. Super launched the Work Importance Study (WIS), a network of researchers from eleven countries (including Croatia) concerned both with values, or rewards which people seek from life, and with importance assigned to work and to several other salient life activities or roles. Multilingual himself, and able to understand people from various cultures, Donald Super superbly coordinated this large-scale, cross-cultural project. Unfortunately, he died before he could see the final result of his last venture: the multiple-authored, cross-national volume *Life Roles, Values, and Careers in International Perspective* scheduled by Jossey-Bass for mid-1995.

Official recognition of Super's contribution came in various forms. He received honorary doctorates from Lisbon (1982), Oxford (1985), and Sherbrooke (1989). In 1983, he received the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology, and in 1994, International Association of Applied Psychology conferred him the award for „recognised international impact in Applied Psychology“.

All of us who had the luck to know Don Super and work with him will always cherish his memory.

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