

ADAPTING TESTS IN LINGUISTIC AND
CULTURAL SITUATIONS

This book explores test adaptation, a scientific and professional activity now spanning all of the social and behavioral sciences. Adapting tests to various linguistic and cultural contexts is a critical process in today's globalized world, and requires a combination of knowledge and skills from the disciplines of psychometrics, cross-cultural psychology, and others. This volume provides a step-by-step approach to cross-cultural test adaptation, emphatically presented as a *mélange* between science and practice. The volume is driven by first-hand practical experience of the author in a large number of test adaptation projects in various cultures, supported by the consistent scientific body of knowledge accumulated over the last several decades on the topic. It is the first of its kind: an in-depth treatise and guide on why and how to adapt a test to a new culture in such a way as to preserve its psychometric value.

Dr. Dragoş Iliescu has been working with tests, testing, and test adaptation for more than 20 years as both a scientist and entrepreneur. He founded or contributed to the founding of several test publishers in Eastern Europe and with test adaptation publishers and firms all over the world. He co-edited the *ITC Handbook of Testing and Assessment* (2015) and is presently President of the International Test Commission (ITC) as well as an associate editor of the *European Journal for Psychological Assessment*. *Adapting Tests in Linguistic and Cultural Situations* is his first monograph.

EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING
IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Editor

Neal Schmitt, *Michigan State University*

The Educational and Psychological Testing in a Global Context series features advanced theory, research, and practice in the areas of international testing and assessment in psychology, education, counseling, organizational behavior, human resource management and all related disciplines. It aims to explore, in great depth, the national and cultural idiosyncrasies of test use and how they affect the psychometric quality of assessments and the decisions made on the basis of measures. Our hope is to contribute to the quality of measurement and to facilitate the work of professionals who must use practices or measures with which they may be unfamiliar or adapt familiar measures to a local context.

Adapting Tests in Linguistic and Cultural Situations

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To the memory of Tom Oakland: mentor and friend.

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Series Editor's Foreword

In the last several decades, globalization has influenced the lives of all people. Business and education, as well as scientific disciplines, have all experienced the need to understand and work with people whose political, social, cultural, and linguistic origins are often very different. This has been true of psychology, education, and other social science disciplines. These developments also have important implications for the development and use of measures of human individual differences. Business and educational institutions using tests and institutions interested in certifying or accrediting test users have all experienced the challenges and opportunities generated by increased globalization.

Recognizing the need for the education of psychometricians and users of tests, Jean Cardinet spearheaded the formation of the International Test Commission (ITC) in the late sixties and early seventies. It was formally established in 1978. Current members include scholars and institutions from most of the European and North American countries as well as some countries in the Middle and Far East, Africa, and South America.

The major goals of the ITC are the exchange of information among members and furthering cooperation on problems related to the construction, distribution, and use of psychological measures and diagnostic tools. To accomplish these goals, the ITC has initiated several educational activities. ITC has also developed and published guidelines on quality control in scoring; test analysis and reporting of test scores; adapting tests for use in various linguistic and cultural contexts; test use in general; and computer-based and Internet-delivered testing as well as a test taker's guide to technology-based testing. The ITC publishes a journal, *International Journal of Testing*. This peer-reviewed journal seeks to publish papers of interest to a cross-disciplinary international audience in the area of testing

and measurement. In 2016, the ITC led the effort to produce the *International Handbook of Testing and Assessment*.

In 2013, ITC proposed to Cambridge University Press a series of books on issues related to the development and use of tests. The goal of the series is to advance theory, research, and practice in the areas of international testing and assessment in psychology, education, counseling, organizational behavior, human resource management, and related disciplines. This series seeks to explore topics in more depth than was possible in the *Handbook* or in any single volume. The series will explore the national and cultural idiosyncrasies of test use and how they affect the psychometric quality of assessments and the decisions made based on those measures. As such, we hope the series will contribute to the quality of measurement, but that it will also facilitate the work of professionals who must use practices or measures with which they may be unfamiliar or adapt familiar measures to a local context. We have asked both ITC members and other scholars familiar with a topic, and who are also familiar with the global situation related to various topics, to be the editors and contributors to individual volumes.

We are especially pleased to see this series develop and are confident that the books in this series will contribute to the effectiveness of testing and assessment throughout the world. We hope to publish a book at least biennially and encourage scholars who might be interested in developing a book proposal that addresses assessment in an international context to talk with the series editor, the ITC president, or other ITC leaders.

Neal Schmitt

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