

Guttman's "Last Paper": A Commentary and Discussion Editor's Introduction

On April 28, 1986, Louis Guttman submitted an article entitled, "The irrelevance of factor analysis for the study of group differences" to *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences* in the hope that it would provide a "continuing commentary" to the discussion surrounding a target article by Arthur R. Jensen (1985), "The nature of black-white difference on various psychometric tests: Spearman's hypothesis." In his letter to the Editor of *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, Guttman commented on Jensen's article and the subsequent discussion:

Careful study of the paper and of the commentaries... shows a deplorable lack of scholarship on the part of all concerned, both with respect to the theory of intelligence tests and with respect to the technique of factor analysis on which the target paper is based. Since Jensen's paper may be the first major contact many of your readers may have had with both these topics, it may be safe to hypothesize that the paper may succeed in giving them a completely false picture of what is involved.

Guttman offered his own article "... in an attempt to help remedy the matter."

The article was not accepted in the form in which it was submitted. Having come into possession of Guttman's article in a manner I will shortly describe, I inquired of the Editor of *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences* why the article had not been accepted. He indicated that it was not accepted partly because of its length and also because of its apparent overlap with a commentary by Peter Schönemann that appeared in the discussion of Jensen's target article. There were also some technical criticisms by a reviewer, which we do not have.

For whatever reasons, Prof. Guttman did not or was unable to make changes in the article to meet the Editor's objections and resubmit them to *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. In 1987 he came down with a sudden, serious illness, from which he died in the Fall of 1987.

In November of 1990, I was contacted by Professor Peter Schönemann, acting as an intermediary for Dr. Ruth Guttman, Louis Guttman's widow, who had found the article among her husband's effects and was seeking opinions as to the possible publication of the article. This may well be regarded as Professor Guttman's *last paper*. Schönemann sent me the article and asked my opinion. I consulted one of my associate editors, Robert Cudeck, to get his opinion, and read the article myself. Both of us agreed the article is quite interesting. Since we had been experimenting at MULTIVARIATE BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH with using commentaries of target articles as a

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way of dealing with controversial matters in the application of multivariate statistics in behavioral research, we thought Guttman's article would be an excellent target article. It would also enter into the published archive views Professor Guttman had on intelligence and its measurement that were known to some specialists in that field, but were unfortunately not widely available in print. It would also be a final tribute to Louis Guttman, who was held in high esteem by many in the community of multivariate behavioral statisticians.

It goes without saying, that a commentary on this article without a commentary on it from Professor Arthur R. Jensen would be completely remiss. I have therefore asked Prof. Jensen to be one of the commentators on Professor Guttman's article. And he has agreed. I have also solicited commentaries from Dr. Peter Schönemann of Purdue University, Dr. John Loehlin of the University of Texas, Dr. Edward E. Roskam of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and Dr. Jan-Eric Gustafsson, of the University of Göteborg, Sweden.

The commentaries are organized in two parts. In the first part the commentators submitted commentary on Guttman's article itself. These commentaries, were then reproduced and sent to all of the commentators. These were then given the opportunity to comment briefly on the comments of the other commentators. Their comments appear in the second part. Each commentator provides a different perspective on the issues raised by Guttman's article. While none seems to completely resolve the issues, each one's insights should provoke further discussion in the literature.

Stanley A. Mulaik, Editor

References

Jensen, A. R. (1985). The nature of the black-white difference on various psychometric tests: Spearman's hypothesis. *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 8, 193-263.