BOOK REVIEW

Introduction to Psychological Assessment in the South African context
by Cheryl Foxcroft and Gert Roodt (Eds.)

Reviewed by Mariana Petersen-Waughtal
Directorate: Curriculum and Learning Development
University of South Africa
Peterm1@unisa.ac.za

My ‘relationship’ with Introduction to Psychological Assessment in the South African context began in the 1990s when I prescribed the first edition for my Honours students. I was excited to find a textbook that did not just ‘jump in’ with the different areas of assessment and tests. Rather this book explains Psychological Assessment as a journey or a process. This journey, or process, is something that new assessment practitioners do not always grasp! In addition, the textbook includes self-assessment questions, feedback and critical thinking exercises, as well as navigational tools (or signposts as they are called in the book) that promote independent study. Furthermore, the inclusion of topical issues in Psychological Assessment in general and specifically in South Africa is very enriching and a good platform for class discussions.

The latest edition of Introduction to Psychological Assessment in the South African context continues its winning recipe from the 1st edition in terms of content and navigational tools. Eighteen contributors, all of whom are respected names in
the field of Psychological Assessment in South Africa, provide balanced views and
discussions of topical issues. Some of these issues in this latest edition, address
questions such as:

- Which professionals are permitted to use psychological tests?
- To what extent are computers used in assessment?
- How are tests applied in a culturally diverse country such as South Africa?

*Introduction to Psychological Assessment in the South African context* covers the
expected range of Psychological Assessment topics in the form of a journey divided
into three zones. The Foundation zone introduces the reader to the basic concepts
and language of assessment, including the development and adaption of measures.
The Assessment Practice zone focuses on the different uses of measures and the
different contexts in which assessment can be used. The Types-of-Measures zone
examines the different types of measures, including computer-based and Internet-
delivered assessment. Additions in the new edition include:

- A focus on multicultural test development and use.
- Increased content on ethical considerations, bias and fairness.
- Further information on basic concepts such as validity and reliability.

This book, which is aimed at a range of audiences, from undergraduate students
to practitioners, is a must for every person who wants an up to date reference and
practical guide on Psychological Assessment in South Africa.

**Title:** *Introduction to Psychological Assessment in the South African context*

**Editors:** Cheryl Foxcroft and Gert Roodt

**Publisher:** Oxford University Press

**Date:** 2009

**ISBN:** 9780195988369

**Pages:** 301

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Mariana Petersen-Waughtal is an Educational Consultant
at the Directorate: Curriculum and Learning Development (at
Unisa). Prior to being an Educational Consultant, she lectured
for seven years in Psychology. Her research interest areas focus
on determining student needs, students’ learning experiences,
experiences of specific aspects of campus life and emotional
intelligence within a group context.