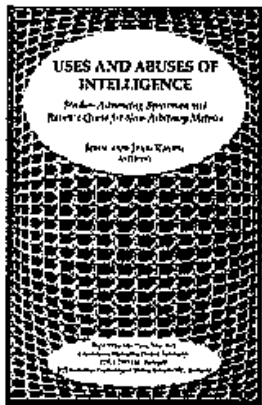


Uses and Abuses of Intelligence: Studies Advancing Spearman and Raven's Quest for Non-Arbitrary Metrics

Reviewed by Alexandre Heeren*



John and Jean RAVEN (Eds).

Uses and Abuses of Intelligence: Studies Advancing Spearman and Raven's Quest for Non-Arbitrary Metrics

ISBN: 978-0-89824-356-7

594 pages

Royal Fireworks Press, USA, 2008

New principles, issues, methods, and a new focus on Raven's Progressive Matrices make this a 'must-have' book for everyone in the field. This volume presents a thoroughly fresh, cutting-edge vision of what Spearman and Raven's quest is and where we are heading in the 21st century. The list of topics is innovative. The book exemplifies the hard-nosed attitude toward theory, process, and evidence that characterizes flaws of modern measurement paradigm, while eloquently illuminating the principles that make measurement of human abilities knowledge relevant across all facets of human life. This textbook will become a primary reference text for everyone in the field, from senior undergraduates to senior scientists.

The content of this book is divided in six parts. In a first part, the book begins with a clarification of what Raven's Progressive Matrices seek to assess. Theoretical and psychometric principles deployed in their construction are particularly examined. In a second part, it is presented how J. C. Raven, in developing his test, anticipated the emergence of Item Response Theory. The book also focuses on Spearman's critiques of the dominant measurement paradigm in Psychology. Evidence supporting the inadequacy of a factorial model of human ability is particularly well-discussed. Through this new perspective, problems in the measurement of individual intelligence's change are cheerfully examined. In a third part, ten chapters provide numerous evidence supporting the use of Raven's Progressive Matrices in psychological sciences. Indeed, stability and change in performance across time are examined. Moreover, issues about cultural and sub-cultural differences in performances are well-documented. For instance, chapters report the results of norming studies recently conducted in Slovenia, Lithuania, Turkey, Kuwait, South Africa, and Tribal areas of India. In a fourth part, Jim Flynn highlights the importance of numerous personal and environmental variables

modulating the performance. In this part, it is also shown that, in both the workplace and educational system, other qualities besides *g* factor are important but remain invisible. John Raven proposes that this phenomenon is maintained by the adoption of an inappropriate psychometric model and limited criteria of performance. Then, a fifth part discusses future applications. Rich in its scope and imagination, the book ends with remarkable discussions of ethical issues about applications of Raven's Progressive Matrices in developmental, occupational, and scholar perspectives.

To summarize, *Uses and Abuses of Intelligence: Studies Advancing Spearman and Raven's Quest for Non-Arbitrary Metrics* provides a useful overview of the key issues involved in using Raven's Progressive Matrices. The strength of this book is that it relies the comprehensive and sophisticated views it offers on different issues of the field.

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