

# Acknowledgments

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This book contains work carried out in collaboration with a group of outstanding people over a period of 10 years.

What makes the Human Factors Group special is that it was a set of constantly changing temporary researchers, scientific visitors, and PhD or graduating students, who remained for a number of years to work in the group or collaborated from their universities and labs before going on either to start a family or to become researchers, managers, university professors, engineers, or psychologists.

All these people shared one common characteristic: They fell in love with the study of human factors. The professor who guided me in my graduation thesis in nuclear engineering was very careful in warning me that neutron physics is a science that traps people and makes them want to do nothing else in their professional life. This is what happened to me. However, all that changed when I discovered human factors in the early 1980s. Nowadays, I say to all the students I work with: “Be careful, because you may fall in love with human factors.”

This common interest and locus of attention is what makes this group of people remarkable – probably not unique, but certainly exceptional. The results of the work that we performed together are condensed in this book.

It is impossible to name all the members of this ever-changing group without risking that someone may be left out. It is much better to thank the Human Factors Group as a whole.

I am in debt to all of them for their support, help, contribution, enthusiasm, and encouragement, especially when the group has had to be temporarily dismantled at various stages. But the group has always been rebuilt with new faces, brains, and hearts because the work may have sometimes been interrupted, but the spirit never died.

Thank you, Human Factors Group – this book belongs to us all.

Pietro Carlo Cacciabue  
Varese, Italy

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Cacciabue, C.

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