

Preface

This volume represents presentations given at the 77th annual meeting of the Psychometric Society, held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska, during July 9–12, 2012. The annual meeting of the Psychometric Society typically attracts participants from around the world, and the 2012 conference was no exception. Attendees came from more than 15 different countries, with 149 papers being presented, along with 50 poster presentations, three workshops, two keynote speakers, six state-of-the-art speakers, five invited presentations, and seven invited symposia. A full list of the conference presentation titles can be found in the January 2013 issue of *Psychometrika*, pp. 188–201. We thank the local organizer Ralph de Ayala, along with his staff and students, for hosting a successful conference.

The idea for the present volume began with the recognition that many of the useful ideas presented at the conference do not become available to a wider audience unless the authors decide to seek publication in one of the quantitative journals. This volume provides an opportunity for the presenters to make their ideas available to the wider research community more quickly, while still being thoroughly reviewed. The 31 chapters published here address a diverse set of topics, including item response theory, reliability, test design, test validation, response styles, factor analysis, structural equation modeling, categorical data analysis, longitudinal data analysis, test equating, and latent score estimation. For the published chapters, we asked the authors to include the ideas presented in their conference papers, and we also gave them the opportunity to expand on these ideas in the published chapters. Psychological measurement is playing a larger role internationally than ever before, not only in educational applications but also in medicine and neuroscience. It is important that this expanding role be supported by rigorous and thoughtful research. We thank all of the chapter authors for their fine contributions to this volume. We hope that the contents of this volume will stimulate wider interest in psychometric research, both theoretical and applied.

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