
John Orr Crites (1928–2007)

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John Orr Crites, a preeminent vocational psychologist, succumbed to pneumonia on March 15, 2007, at his home in Boulder, Colorado. He was born on July 22, 1928, in Kansas City, Missouri, and soon moved to New York City when his father became vice-president of Maytag Corporation. After earning a bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University in 1950, he joined the Air Force and served for two years as chief of career guidance at the Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. In 1957, he earned a doctoral degree in counseling psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. During his career, Jack served as a professor of counseling psychology at the University of Texas (1957–1958), the University of Iowa (1958–1971), the University of Maryland (1971–1981), Kent State University (1981–1985), and Northwestern University (1985–1989).

A highly productive researcher, Jack made several landmark contributions to counseling psychology. His masterwork was *Vocational Psychology: The Study of Vocational Behavior and Its Development* (1969), a momentous book that codified and defined the field. Rather than concentrating on occupation or career, Jack concentrated on vocational behavior from the perspective of logical positivism articulated by his University of Iowa colleagues Kenneth Spence and Gustav Bergmann. Prior to publishing *Vocational Psychology*, Jack had co-authored two books with his mentor at Teachers College, Donald Super. The first book, *Vocational Development: A Framework for Research* (1957), laid the foundation for the study of the vocational decision-making process. The second book, *Appraising Vocational Fitness* (2nd ed., 1962), stood for the next decade as the definitive textbook on career assessment. Having dealt with vocational psychology and career assessment, Jack turned his attention to the counseling process in his final book. In *Career Counseling: Models, Methods, and Materials* (1981), Jack presented his comprehensive approach to career intervention. In addition to his books and articles, in 1965 Jack published the first paper-and-pencil inventory of career choice readiness, the Vocational Development Inventory (now called the Career Maturity Inventory). It was widely used during the heyday of the career education movement and appeared in over 400 research studies.

Jack served as president pro tempore (1971–1972) and president (1972–1973) of Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. For his contributions to vocational psychology and career counseling, the National Career Development Association honored Jack with its Eminent Career Award (1984) and the American Society of Training and Development presented him with the Walter F. Storey Award (1985). A brilliant thinker and skilled clinician, Jack was an exemplar of psychology's scientist-practitioner model. His colleagues and students benefited greatly from his teaching and mentoring, and they will not soon forget his quick smile and enduring encouragement.

Mark L. Savickas
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine