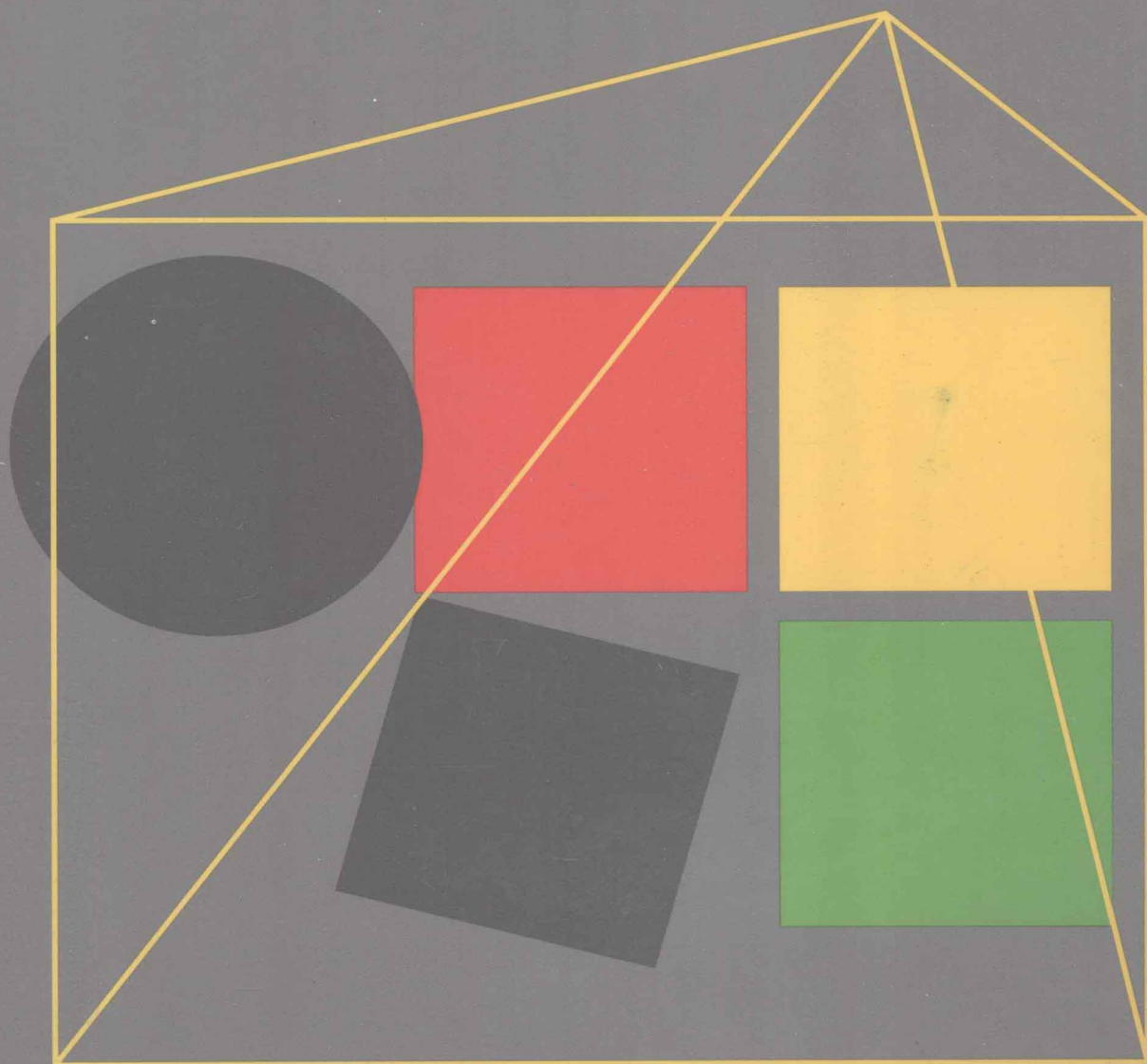


# CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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*Sixth Edition*

HARVEY F. CLARIZIO / WILLIAM A. MEHRENS / WALTER G. HAPKIEWICZ



# Contemporary Issues in Educational Psychology

Sixth Edition

HARVEY F. CLARIZIO  
WILLIAM A. MEHRENS  
WALTER G. HAPKIEWICZ

*Michigan State University*

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# Preface

Educational psychology is a dynamic and rapidly shifting field, one in which few “truths” remain unchallenged for very long. As the pace of scientific investigation in our field increases, it is natural to expect an increase in the number of issues facing scholars and practitioners. Likewise, it is natural to expect an increase in the number of contending perspectives and explanations that revolve around these issues. Students who wish to get a real sense of these issues and perspectives must get beyond the confines of the large survey texts that dominate the market. They need to be exposed to a carefully chosen array of original writings whose alternative perspectives and interpretations help define the field. Thus, for the sixth time, we have tried to assemble into one volume a collection of articles that captures the rich variety of thought on what we consider to be leading issues in educational psychology. In selecting articles, we kept the following criteria in mind:

1. **READABILITY.** The articles had to be intelligible to students with little or no background in statistics or research design.
2. **RELEVANCE.** The articles had to deal with meaningful controversies related to educational practice.
3. **AUTHORITY.** Preference was given, whenever possible, to articles written by established theorists and experienced practitioners.
4. **RECENTNESS.** Preference was given to articles published within the past five years.

Our goal is to help produce reflective teachers who are not only aware of the leading issues in educational psychology but can critically evaluate current positions on those issues. With this in mind, we built the following features into our text.

**Content Coverage and Organization.** The primary purpose of this volume is to introduce stu-

dents to the variety of issues in the field and to stimulate further study of these issues. Therefore we chose to include a large number of issues rather than to treat a few in great detail. We have included 42 articles organized around 20 issues. The issues themselves are classified into four broad areas corresponding to the typical course structure in educational psychology: development, learning and instruction, measurement and evaluation of individual differences, and motivation and management. Because our coverage is so broad, the overworked instructor is relieved of having to prepare a current list of outside readings and the student is relieved of having to search fruitlessly through an understocked library.

**Focus on Controversy.** By presenting opposing, pro-and-con articles on most issues, we hope not only to introduce students to the polemic nature of educational psychology, but to provide an opportunity to develop critical thinking skills. By presenting opposing views and differing interpretations of evidence, we hope to stimulate dialectical reasoning—that is, the critical consideration of opposing ideas—to arrive at a synthesis or higher level idea. That is what education is all about—developing critical thinking.

Although we believe such critical thinking to be appropriate for all students, we also expect the instructor to help beginning students find personally satisfying resolutions to questions that affect their teaching practices in order to foster their hopes for certitude. On the other hand, more advanced students may take the differing views of authorities as a point of departure for further independent study. To this end, we have provided a list of related references at the end of each major unit.

**Focus on Diversity.** We have given special emphasis to the emerging issue of diversity by de-

voting the last issue of each major section to this wide-ranging concern.

***Focus on Education.*** Bearing in mind that the book is intended for practicing or prospective educators, we have drawn most of the articles from education-oriented journals.

***Changes in this Edition.*** This edition features several new issues, such as Vygotsky's social constructionist approach, teaching to the test, performance assessment, inclusion, hyperactivity, and crack babies. Moreover, we have given special emphasis to the issue of diversity and have reorganized the contents to fit the traditional four

areas of educational psychology: development, learning and instruction, measurement and evaluation, and management and motivation.

Finally, we wish to say how deeply saddened we are by the death of our former colleague and coauthor, Robert C. Craig, who died less than a year after his retirement. Although there will never be a replacement for Professor Craig, we are happy to have Professor Hapkiewicz join us for the sixth edition. We know that Bob Craig would approve of our choice.

Harvey F. Clarizio  
William A. Mehrens  
Walter G. Hapkiewicz



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## UNIT 1

# Development

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