Bruno Zumbo: a Pioneer in the Psychometrics of Quality of Life

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Bruno Domenico Zumbo was born in Edmonton, Canada, the youngest of six children, including a twin sister, of Italian parents originally from Calabria, Italy, where they had

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carried on a long tradition of olive oil and wine-making. Bruno represents the proverbial Italian “gioia di vivere”, and brings his joyful, warm-hearted, and gentle-mannered character to his teaching and mentoring. A Renaissance personality at heart, Bruno has passions for mathematics, languages, music, and philosophy, and competed as an Olympic weightlifter. His family background based on the land and agriculture is reflected in his scholarly life and his desire to nurture growth in ideas, students, and colleagues, while cultivating the roots of the field.

Bruno’s educational career has taken him across Canada and across disciplines, blending applied mathematics and statistics with psychology. Bruno completed his B.Sc. in psychology/mathematics at the University of Alberta (Edmonton) in 1988 and his M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology/mathematics from Carleton University (Ottawa) in 1989 and 1992, respectively. His doctoral dissertation focused on a longstanding problem in applied mathematics and statistics, under the direction of Donald W. Zimmerman. His early mentors also included Bill Rozeboom and Kellogg Wilson, at the University of Alberta.

At the age of 23, while completing his Ph.D., Bruno began his first appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Measurement and Research Methodology at the University of Ottawa. Bruno subsequently accepted a position at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), where he met Alex Michalos in 1994. With their shared enthusiasm for philosophy of science and all things hedonic and eudaimonic, they quickly became brothers at heart and collaborators in Quality of Life research. Since then, their partnership has been seminal for quality of life research in Canada. Together Alex and Bruno established the Institute for Social Research with a focus on quality of life research. Bruno describes his time at UNBC working with Alex as “joyful and very productive”, evoking images of the two of them joking and philosophizing and pursuing their own quality of life while conducting their research. They collaborated on numerous papers, conferences, and edited volumes, including papers such as “Public Services and the Quality of Life” and “Health and the Quality of Life”.

In 2000, Bruno started his appointment at the University of British Columbia (UBC), where he is currently Professor and Distinguished University Scholar, and Paragon UBC Professor of Psychometrics & Measurement. His research has broad interdisciplinary impact and he is widely recognized for his contributions to the field of quality of life and well-being, with a particular emphasis on psychometrics. His research in the area of quality of life focuses on the measurement of, and methodological issues in, quality of life, directed towards the improvement and understanding of the determinants and correlates of quality of life. Furthermore, he has done fundamental research in both theoretical and applied psychometrics and statistical science, which has been instrumental for the quality of life field.

Pertinent examples include examining validity issues in quality of life measurement, techniques for investigating differential item functioning, and various statistical methods for evaluating internal consistency reliability and the relative importance of explanatory variables in statistical models. Bruno has published nearly 250 peer-reviewed articles and 12 books and edited volumes. Of particular relevance to his pioneering work in quality of life methods, he has been guest editor for two special issues of the journal *Social Indicators Research*; one on advances in quality of life research and the other on validity and validation in quality of life research (Zumbo 1998). His two co-edited books in the Social Indicators book series lay the groundwork

for contemporary measurement validation theory and practices across the social, behavioral and health sciences.

Bruno was first appointed on the board of directors of the *International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies* (ISQOLS) in 1999 and served as the vice-president of publications in 1998. He has been involved in the organization of several ISQOLS conferences as track chair of the Quantitative Methods track and is on the editorial board of *Social Indicators Research* as well as 13 other international journals. Furthermore, he is an advisor on methodological issues to the Canadian Index of Wellbeing Project (Atkinson Charitable Foundation) and co-author of a report proposing indicators for the Educated Populace Domain of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing.

Bruno's contributions have been recognized in numerous ways. In recognition of his lifetime achievement in and impact on validity research (e.g., Zumbo and Chan 2014; Zumbo and Hubley 2017), he received the *Samuel J. Messick Memorial Lecture Award* by Educational Testing Service, Princeton USA, in 2005. In 2010, Bruno received the *Research Fellow Award* from ISQOLS. In 2017, he was honored by UBC with both the *Killam Research Award* and the title of *Distinguished University Scholar* in recognition of his scholarship and leadership. He has also received two university teaching awards reflecting his commitment to mentorship and teaching.

For Bruno, teaching and research are clearly intimately tied, informing each other and together nurturing growth in his students and colleagues around the world. Bruno has been a dedicated supervisor and mentor to numerous students and early career scholars, some of whom are now teaching a new generation of quality of life researchers. As former students and now research collaborators of his, we strive to pass on to our students what Bruno has given to us as a mentor and friend. Bruno's contributions and mentorship have inspired many to pursue research with curiosity and passion with the ultimate goal of contributing to the improvement of our quality of life.

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