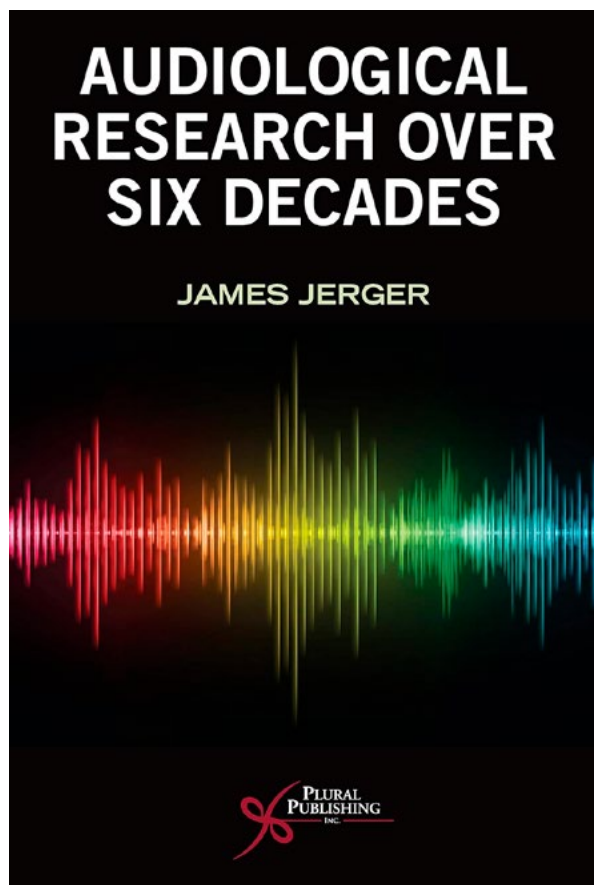


Book reviews: Audiological Research Over Six Decades by James Jerger

Alessandro Martini

Padova University Research Center "I-APPROVE-International Auditory Processing Project in Venice", Neuroscience Dept., University of Padova



Book Details

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Author: James Jerger

Review

When we began to be interested in audiology in the mid-70s, there were two essential points of reference, the "Katz" (*Handbook of Clinical Audiology*, by Jack Katz, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore 1972, which I purchased in April 1976 for 20,700 lire) and the two editions of *Modern Developments in Audiology* by James Jerger (Academic Pres, New York 1963 and 2nd Edition 1973). In 1980 a group of then "young" people interested in audiology (Luciano Cornacchia, Luigi d'Angelo, Bruno Morra, Eugenio Pallestrini, Gaetano Paludetti, and myself), had the opportunity (and luck) to spend a week at the Baylor College of Med-

icine in Houston with James Jerger. And this was a very important moment for the formation of all of us.

Jerger, in his long research, clinical and teaching activity, has greatly influenced the training of thousands of students interested in the hearing problems of patients. His has always been a great ability not only to standardize diagnostic methods (i.e., immittance measures and middle ear reflexes, cochleopathy tests, automatic audiometry...) but to try to understand how to study the patient with a hearing problem, going beyond the simple tonal threshold. Some of Jerger's most inter-

esting observations start from the studies conducted in Switzerland in the late 1940s, by Erhard Lüscher and Jozef J. Zwislocki and at Northwestern, in the early 1950s, by his mentor, Raymond Carhart, on patients with sensorineural hearing loss who could detect smaller changes in the intensity of pure tones than either individuals with normal hearing or with conductive loss. And this led ultimately to the short increment sensitivity index (SISI) test and a lifelong interest in audiological data.

Apart from the two texts already mentioned, we must remember at least: *Clinical Audiology, The Jerger Perspective* by James Jerger, Susan Jerger, Bobby Alford, M.D. Alford Bobby R., Bobby Ray Alford, Singular Pub Group 497 Pages, 1993; *Pediatric Audiology* by James Jerger Published 1984 by Singular Publishing Group, *Auditory disorders. A manual for clinical evaluation* by Susan Jerger, James Jerger, Published 1988 by Singular Publishing Group.

James Jerger, PhD, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received his PhD in audiology from Northwestern University (NU) in 1954. He remained on the NU faculty until 1961 and then moved to Gallaudet College in Washington. From 1962 to 1968, he served as Director of Research at the Houston Speech and Hearing Center and then moved to Houston's Baylor College of Medicine, where he remained for the next 29 years as Professor of Audiology in the Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences and as Chief of the Audiology and Speech Pathology Services of the Methodist Hospital.

As Brad A. Stach writes in his Foreword to this fascinating book "This book is an adventure. It tells the story of the evolution of diagnostic audiology through the voice of one of its greatest contributors, Dr. James Jerger... Jerger's lively narrative describes, in his wise and witty way, what he was thinking throughout six productive decades of game-changing audiological research. He provides us with a view, through case studies of his own work, of an unparalleled perspective, from the room where it happened."

In his new text, *Audiological Research Over Six Decades*, readers can experience the evolution of diagnostic audiology through his unique perspective. By detailing case studies from his own work over the years, Dr. Jerger

er gives his audience a chance to be a fly on the wall for major moments throughout the history of audiology. In the first section of the book, Dr. Jerger relates case studies and other stories from his early years in the field.

This book cannot fail to be read and loved by anyone with any interest in Audiology



From left SUSAN JERGER, ALESSANDRO MARTINI, LUIGI D'ANGELO BRUNO MORRA, UPWARD GAETANO PALUDETTI, AT THE HELM JAMES JERGER AND EUGENIO PALLESTRINI, in 1980, in the Jerger boat, Gulf of Mexico.