

The 1992 Society for Community Research and Action Award for Distinguished Contributions to Theory and Research: Irwin Altman



Irwin Altman

Editor's Note: Irwin Altman was honored at the 100th annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, DC, August 1992. He was a recipient of the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Community Psychology and Community Mental Health, a career award given yearly by the Society for Community Research and Action: the Division of Community Psychology of the American Psychological Association. The awards committee, composed of all Past Presidents of the Society, selects an awardee after soliciting nominations from the members. Dr. Altman was introduced by Seymour Wapner.

IRWIN ALTMAN: SCHOLAR, TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR

It is with great pleasure that I present Irwin Altman. He is a triple threat man: First, he is an outstanding administrator/contributor to the University and profession—here, consider his role as chair of Psychology, as dean, as vice president for Academic Affairs, as consistent contributor to APA, EDRA, and other professional organizations in multiple roles on diverse, significant committees. Second, he is an outstanding teacher—here, consider the good words of his students and his colleagues, and his most recent appointment as Distinguished Honors Teaching Professor at the University of Utah. And third, he is a truly outstanding, creative, productive scholar—here, consider his coeditorship of two journals, his coeditorship of a *Monograph Series in Environmental Psychology* in which 9 volumes have been published and several in process, his senior editorship of 13 volumes in a series on *Human Behavior & Environment: Advances in Theory & Research*, his work as author or coauthor of 3 volumes and more than 100 articles or chapters; but more than quantity, consider the nature of his scholarly activity. According to his own words, the themes of his “intellectual history include (1) a pervasive interest in interpersonal relationships, (2) a holistic perspective, (3) a focus on temporal aspects of phenomena, (4) an eclectic approach to research methods, and (5) a multidisciplinary orientation” (Altman, 1990, p. 227). Irv has creatively opened new vistas, new areas, new perspectives, as well as served as a powerful synthesizer of seemingly diverse information, and thereby stimulated his fellow scholars to productive creative activity. But please excuse me, I have erred. I said Irv was a “triple threat man.” At the least, I should have said quadruple threat.” You will readily understand this when you see him with and hear him talk about his family, his grandchildren. It is my privilege and honor to present Irwin Altman, who will address the problem of “Challenges and Opportunities of a Transactional World View.”

REFERENCES

- Altman, I. (1990). Toward a transactional perspective. In I. Altman & K. Christensen (Eds.), *Environment and behavior studies: Emergence of intellectual traditions*. New York: Plenum Press.

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