

## In Memory of Professor Martin Helander



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Martin Helander, a former President of the International Ergonomics Association. A distinguished scholar, passionate ergonomics / human factors advocate, and revered leader, Professor Helander dedicated his life to advancing the field of HF/E, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives and shaping the future of human-centered design.

Born on May 13, 1943, in Uppsala, Sweden, Martin Helander displayed an early inclination towards understanding the relationship between humans and their environment. His insatiable curiosity and intellectual prowess led him to pursue a career in HFE, a field that fascinated him and would become his life's calling.

Professor Helander's contributions to the International Ergonomics Association are substantial. Serving as its President from 1994 to 1997, he spearheaded numerous initiatives that pushed the boundaries of knowledge and practice in ergonomics, most particularly by introducing HF/E into international standards and establishing links to the International Standards Organization that persist to this day.

Throughout his illustrious career, Professor Helander authored and co-authored over 200 scientific publications, making significant contributions to the scientific literature in the field of ergonomics. His research encompassed a wide range of areas, including human-computer interaction, cognitive engineering, and the design of systems for user well-being. His groundbreaking work influenced countless professionals, inspiring them to pursue excellence and make positive contributions to the world.

Beyond his academic achievements, Professor Helander will be remembered for his warmth, humility, and unwavering commitment to his students and colleagues. Known for his mentorship, he guided and supported numerous young researchers, nurturing their talent and encouraging them to explore new frontiers in ergonomics. His genuine kindness, infectious enthusiasm, and generous spirit made him esteemed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Professor Helander received numerous accolades and honors during his career, including the prestigious William Floyd Award from the International Ergonomics Association, which recognized his exceptional leadership and dedication to the field.

Martin Helander's legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives he touched and the advancements he brought to the field of ergonomics. His pioneering work will remain an enduring source of inspiration for generations to come, reminding us of the profound impact that a dedicated individual can have on society. In his own words, when asked what advice he would give someone considering HF/E as a profession he summed up, «Human Factors Engineering focuses on human well being and human performance. It is a compassionate vocation. I can personally never detach myself from it; it is intrinsically motivating and rewarding.» All those in the IEA who knew him experienced this enthusiasm.

Professor Martin Helander leaves behind a void that cannot be filled, but his legacy will long have impacts. Our thoughts are with his family.