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We were saddened to hear of the death of Neville Moray, Professor Emeritus, Fellow of the CIEHF, HFES and IEA, at the end of 2017. The news reached us coincident with the publication of the latest in our series of State of Science articles (Thatcher et al, 2018), of which Neville was co-author.

Neville had a long association with this journal as an author, contributing several seminal papers. Neville, for example, was writing about trust in automation, a key topic of today, 25 years ago (Lee and Moray, 1992). Neville contacted us in 2015 to ask about what he described as “…probably the very last paper I shall ever submit…”. Neville described his proposed contribution, concerned with predicting complex events in human–machine interaction as “… an important paper because it shows how to combine different approaches from field observations, experiments, and cognitive ergonomic modelling to solve real life problems in complex environments.” We had no hesitation in working with Neville to review and develop the paper for publication. The finished piece (Moray et al, 2017) was published in our New Paradigms in Ergonomics Special Issue, published to mark 60 years of publication of Ergonomics.

A stand out article in the Ergonomics archive is Neville’s paper on global ergonomics (Moray, 1995), a subject he returned to at the turn of the millennium (Moray, 2000). This was based on an invited keynote address to the IEA Triennial Congress, Toronto, 1994, in which Neville challenged the international ergonomics community to raise its eyes to confront the major problems facing humanity. This paper was the motivation these years later for Thatcher et al (2018).

Andrew Thatcher writes:

“I was in my first year as a graduate student working in a developing country when Neville Moray gave his keynote address at the IEA Congress in Toronto in 1994 about how ergonomics needed to tackle a series of global problems or face a rather bleak future. This was one of the pivotal moments in my early career. Here was one of the doyens of ergonomics (and indeed, cognitive psychology) explaining to an audience of mostly affluent, northern hemisphere academics and practitioners that the developing world could not carry on ignoring large, complex societal problems that were hampering wellbeing for the vast majority of the World’s citizens. The subsequent paper published in Ergonomics that followed this keynote address has been one of the cornerstones of my research and academic work. It was therefore a great honour when I was recently asked by Editor-in-Chief Roger Haslam if I would review the progress we had made as a profession in dealing with the global problems raised by Neville more than 20 years ago. Roger was keen that I should approach Neville to get his thoughts. Gracious as ever, Neville indicated (despite being quite ill at the time) that he would be willing to read our commentary and to offer his own thoughts (although he also said we shouldn’t bother to add him as an author). After a little more convincing, Neville indicated that he would be honoured to be a co-author. Little did I know at the time that this would be one of his last contributions to the academic literature.”

The honour is ours to have published Neville Moray’s work and we highlight this final article as a tribute to his sagacious and influential contributions in the field of ergonomics and human factors.

Roger Haslam
Andrew Thatcher

References


