

John Downing was born in England and obtained his B.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of London. He was appointed professor of education at the University of Victoria in 1970. He wrote many books and articles on topics in psychology and education and was particularly concerned with problems in learning to read. He was Head of the Reading Research Unit and the Institute of Education, University of London, which developed the Teachers' Course in Writing in i.t.a. (initial teaching alphabet) in 1965. His books include "Comparative Reading: Cross-cultural Studies of Behaviour and Processes in Reading and Writing" (1977), a report on his international studies of the teaching of reading and writing. «