



**Human
Factors
and
Ergonomics
Society**

FELLOW PROFILE

Name: Martin G. Helander

**Degrees, certifications,
etc.:** Ph.D. Chalmers University of
Technology, Sweden, CPE

Current status: Professor, Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore

Home page: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/martin/>

Biography (How you got involved in the field, your major career activities and milestones):

As a Ph.D. Student I was very lucky to get a major grant. This allowed me to employ a programmer and a systems engineer for 3 years to build an instrumented vehicle for collecting data on driver behavior and physiological responses to road design attributes and traffic events.

Employment History (List top 5 positions):

Professor, Nanyang Technological University, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering 1999- present
Professor, Linkoping University, Sweden, Dept of Mechanical Engineering. 1994-1999
Assoc Professor, University at Buffalo, USA 1994 -1999;
Senior Scientist, Canyon Research, Inc, 1977-1982
Senior Lecturer and Professor, Lulea University, Sweden; 1975-1977

What were your significant contributions to the field?

As Chair of the HFE Standards Committee, I took the initiative to and organized Standards activities for HFES (HFE at the time). This involved setting up - through ANSI - the VDT Design Committee and 12 committees in Human-Computer Interaction. I then recruited Chairs and members for the committees. They provided many standards in HCI, which were submitted to ISO, and became International Standards. Thereby HFES gained the control over these important activities. ACM was disappointed – they had planned to do the same, but they came too late. The standards activities provided much professional recognition to HFES.

Edited two editions of the Handbook of Human Computer interaction in 1988 and 1997
Chair USA TAG to ISO/TC 159, Ergonomics 1985-1991
President of International Ergonomics Association 1994-1997.

Did you receive any notable awards or recognition during your career?

Elected Fellow of: Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 1987; Ergonomics Society (UK), 1987; and The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, 2004.

Which articles in the journal *Human Factors* would you say were the most influential to you and your research or practice?

Perhaps Al Chapanis' article: Words, words, words.

Mica Endsley article on Situation Awareness has been instrumental

Please provide any links to your online articles, essays, blogs, Wikipedia pages, etc., that pertain to your research, publications or practice.

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What advice would you give someone considering HF/E as a profession?

Human Factors Engineering focuses on human well being and human performance. It is a compassionate vocation. I can personally never detach myself from HFE; it is intrinsically motivating and rewarding.