

Peter G. Tripodes

Education:

Ph.D., Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1968. Specialization: Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics.

M.A., Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 1963. Specialization: Logic and the Analysis of Language.

B.A., Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 1956. Minor: Psychology

Experience Summary:

My professional career has been primarily in teaching, consulting, and research.

My teaching has been in mathematics and philosophy, and I have taught a broad range of courses in each of these two fields over a thirty year period. I have also lectured on linguistic topics at academic colloquia.

My consulting activities have been in the area of the analysis of speech styles of individuals for the purpose of identifying aspects of their personality that relate to some issue of interest such as a writer's intention and motivation in writing, perception of audience, probable age, gender, native language, education level, probable level of lethality (if a threat), disposition to deceive or otherwise manipulate one's reader or audience, and so on. I have consulted in this area for fifty years in a wide range of applications, initially in institutional research settings (Suicide Prevention Center, Rand Corporation, USC, and UCLA), and subsequently for a variety of corporate and governmental clients. In the course of this work, I have carried out thousands of analyses on a wide range of materials, ranging from suicide notes, political speeches, interview transcripts, political debates, documents produced by terrorist groups, threats to political and corporate figures, threats to corporate and government facilities, threats to contaminate products, and threats to the safety or reputation of individuals, etc.

My research activities have centered about issues in language analysis, with particular focus in two areas: one in the psychology of language and the development of systematic techniques for speech analysis in support of my consulting activities; the other area is in artificial intelligence as it pertains to machine reasoning in natural language.

Teaching Experience

1970 -1975: Taught mathematics and philosophy in a joint appointment at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles.

1977 - 1980: Taught mathematics and philosophy at Harbor Community College and Los Angeles City College in Los Angeles.

1980 - 1999: Taught mathematics at Los Angeles City College.

Consulting Experience

1959 - 1969: Consulted for the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center and the Department of Psychiatry, USC School of Medicine. Consulting activities centered about the analysis of suicide notes and the profiling of suicidal individuals, and also included the analysis of text from a variety of diverse normal and psychiatric populations, drawn from writing samples and test protocols of more than a thousand individuals. My work in this activity was done in conjunction with research that Dr. Edwin S. Shneidman, then Co-Director of the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center, was also conducting.

1970 - 1974: Consulted for the UCLA Center for Computer-based Behavioral Studies on automatic content analysis, for the purpose of developing computer-aided profiling tools.

1977 - 1986: Consulted for Rand Corporation. Analyzed communicated threats to nuclear reactor facilities, and documents issuing from various domestic and foreign terrorist groups.

1977 – 2006: Consulted for a variety of governmental clients, which included DOE on a continuing basis during this period and, on an as-needed basis, also the LAPD, CIA, FBI, Secret Service, Center for Disease Control, and the U.S. Marshall's Office. Materials consulted on were primarily threats against individuals and institutions.

1980 – present: Consulted for individual and corporate clients in activities of two types: one type involved the evaluation of extortion threats to individuals regarding their personal safety or reputation, and to institutions regarding damage to their facilities or contamination of their products; the other type involved the determination whether different documents or different parts of the same document had been authored by the same individual and, if authored by different individuals, the determination of their probable connection.

Publications

Tripodes, P. G. & E. S. Shneidman (1967). Feasibility_study_on_computerizing_logic patterns. *Publisher, U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, 1967.*

Tripodes, P. G. (1974) Automatic Content Coding of English Text. *ACM Proceedings of the 1974 annual ACM conference – Volume 2.* ACM New York, NY, USA.

Tripodes, P. G. (1976) Reasoning Patterns in Suicide. In E. S. Shneidman (Eds.) *Suicidology – Contemporary Developments: Papers on the Logical and Cognitive Aspects of Suicide.* Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, NY, USA.

Tripodes, P. G. (2008). Real time machine deduction and AI. In P. Wang, B. Goertzel, & S. Franklin, (Eds.) *Artificial General Intelligence: Proceedings of the First AGI Conference, 2008.* Amsterdam, IOS Press.

Tripodes, P. G. (2009). Human and machine understanding of natural language character strings. In B. Goertzel, P. Hitzler, & M. Hutter, (Eds.) *Artificial Intelligence: Proceedings of the Second AGI Conference, 2009.* Amsterdam-Paris, Atlantis Press.