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K. Anders Ericsson October 23, 1947 – June 17, 2020

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Karl Anders Ericsson, widely regarded as the world's foremost expert on expertise, died on June 17, 2020.

One of the most influential psychological scientists of his generation, Anders authored some 275 articles, chapters, and books, which have been cited more than 80,000 times. He was best known for his work on the role of *deliberate practice* in acquiring expert performance. The original article on deliberate practice (Ericsson, Krampe, & Tesch-Römer, 1993) has been cited more than 11,000 times, making it one of the most cited articles in the psychological literature. In another highly influential article, he and Walter Kintsch proposed the concept of *long-term working memory* (Ericsson & Kintsch, 1995). Anders was lead editor of the field's first handbook, the *Cambridge Handbook of Expertise and Expert Performance* (2006), as well as its second edition.

Bringing worldwide attention to the scientific study of expertise, Anders and his

colleagues' ideas and research findings were featured in numerous popular books. Most notably, the findings from Ericsson et al.'s (1993) study of violinists were the inspiration for what Malcolm Gladwell dubbed the "10,000-hour rule" in the runaway bestseller *Outliers: The Story of Success* (2008). In 2016, with Robert Pool, Anders published his own book for a broad audience—*Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise*.

A native of Sweden, Anders received his Ph.D. in 1976 from the University of Stockholm, and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University with William Chase and the Nobel laureate Herbert Simon. In 1992, he moved to Florida State University, where he was Professor and Conradi Eminent Scholar in the Department of Psychology.

Anders was a mentor to numerous graduate students, who themselves have made important contributions to the field of expertise. Among his many honors, he was elected to the [Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences](#).

The editors of the *Journal of Expertise* extend sincere condolences to Anders's family, friends, students, and colleagues. His work will continue to inspire scholarship in the field of expertise for many years to come.

Learn more about the life and career of Anders Ericsson in this personal [remembrance](#) by his Florida State colleague, Neil Charness. See also the [announcement](#) of his death from Florida State University, and the Wall Street Journal's [obituary](#).

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