

Alina A. von Davier, PhD

Alina von Davier, PhD. is a Chief of Assessment at Duolingo and CEO and Founder of EdAstra Tech. Von Davier is a researcher, innovator, and an executive leader with over 20 years of experience in EdTech and in the assessment industry. Von Davier and her team operate at the forefront of Computational Psychometrics. Her current research interests involve developing psychometric methodologies in support of digital-first assessments, such as the Duolingo English Test, using techniques incorporating machine learning, data mining, Bayesian inference methods, and stochastic processes.

A co-authored book on adaptive and multistage testing [Computerized Adaptive and Multistage Testing with R](#) (2017) and the R package to support the applications received the B. Hanson Award from National Council of Measurement in Education (NCME) in 2022. Two other publications, a co-edited volume on [Computerized Multistage Testing](#) (2014) and an edited volume on test equating, [Statistical Models for Test Equating, Scaling, and Linking](#) (2011) were selected as the winners of the Division D Significant Contribution to Educational Measurement and Research Methodology award at American Educational Research Association (AERA). Additionally, she has written and/or co-edited five other books and volumes on statistics and psychometric topics. She has received significant grants and contracts as a Principal Investigator. In 2020, von Davier was awarded a Career Award from the Association of Test Publishers (ATP).

Prior to Duolingo she was a Chief Officer at ACT, where she led ACTNext, a large R&D-innovation unit. Before that von Davier was a Senior Research Director at Educational Testing Service (ETS) where she led the Computational Psychometrics Research Center. Previously, she led the Center for Psychometrics for International Tests, where she was responsible for both the psychometrics in support of international tests, TOEFL® and TOEIC®, and the scores reported to millions of test takers annually.

Von Davier is currently the president of the [International Association of Computerized Adaptive Testing](#) (IACAT; 2019-2022) and the Chair of the Board of Directors for the [Association of Test Publishers](#) (ATP; 2022).

Von Davier is actively involved in mentoring, volunteering, and professional coaching through her platform at EdAstra Tech. She is involved with Harvard Innovation Labs, MassInnovation, and viamento program at University of Kiel, Germany. She serves on several advisory boards.

She earned her doctorate in mathematics from Otto von Guericke University of Magdeburg, Germany, and her master of science degree in mathematics from the University of Bucharest, Romania. She is a graduate of Harvard Business School Executive Education and has a min-MBA from Rutgers University.