Acknowledgment

Dorothy (Dottie) Davis originated the Relational Thinking Styles model and from 1976 to 1980 began meeting with Phyllis Chiasson before classes and in the summers to explain and transfer this information. She developed the non-verbal assessment in 1978 along with the framework for observing assessments. She and Chiasson formed an Educational Consultancy in Tucson, which ended in 1983 when Chiasson moved to WA state. Over the years, Dr. Davis has continued to support us as we develop better ways of communicating her ideas.

The late Michael Eldridge provided support and encouragement to many, including these authors. He lived his philosophy, not only as a scholar but also as we might expect an enlightened individual would do, especially one who understood John Dewey’s cultural instrumentalism in the way Mike did—as a tool for Transforming Experience (1998) into ever-greater goodesses within himself and his community. We miss him.

Not only did Juliet Minton rigorously copyedit this book, she also provided insightful questions and suggestions when our text was less than clear to her. The fact that she is a scientist surely helped her to ask the right sorts of questions. (She earned her M.S. in Neuroscience from Georgetown University and her B.S. [in Neuroscience as well], from the College of William and Mary.) We appreciate the fact that her education, while rigorous and scientific, was nevertheless outside of our particular subject area; thus enabling her to ask prescient questions, some of which resulted in our including two additional chapters (Chapter 1: Definitions of Terms, and Chapter 2: Why Understanding Thinking Styles Matters).

Nina Nobel provided the graphics for this book (she is also a fine artist in several mediums). She has followed Peirce and philosophy in general for some time now and is familiar with RTS (she is a Relational thinker). We are fortunate to have her ongoing assistance and encouragement.

In the early stages of developing this book, Kathleen C. McCulloch, Assistant Professor of Experimental Psychology at Idaho State University, provided valuable information and insights into her specialty of unintended inferences. With her information, we have attempted to distinguish the differences between the overarching inferencing processes of Relational Thinking Styles and the types of unintended inferences currently being explored within the field of social psychology.

Andre de Tienne, of the Peirce Edition project was also helpful during the early stages of this project, providing answers to questions in a timely manner, despite his enmeshment in tight publication deadlines.
We had hopes of adding in a chapter about neurological implications of RTS, assisted by Phyllis’s sister, neurologist Mary Chiasson of the Noran Neurological Clinic in Minneapolis. Unfortunately, although our discussions in this direction have been interesting, time and space (mostly time) have prevented us from exploring these implications, so we will save them for another time.

Janet Duberry was the first person (other than Phyllis Chiasson) who learned to code DNV assessments. Beginning in 1980, she and Phyllis have worked together for many years to refine and clarify these ideas. (See Janet’s description of this process in the Foreword).

Ruth Gordon and Hal Leskinen combined efforts with Chiasson in the mid-1990’s to develop an accurate temperament indicator (the CTI) based upon observable behavior characteristics. Although it has a simple branched design, the CTI has consistently provided more accurate assessments of closure needs and subjective versus objective attitudes than other temperament assessments. Gordon and Leskinen, who provide assessment and consulting services for the DNV, have been closely allied with the Davis-Nelson Company for many years.

In 1980, Eldon McBride (who was then co-director of The New Columbus Counseling Agency in Tucson, AZ) provided office space to Davis and Chiasson in exchange for client assessments. From their spot at New Columbus, Chiasson wrote her first papers about RTS (one for Educational Leadership; the other for The Journal of Learning Disabilities). They also began carrying the RTS ideas into the community and assessing a variety of ages and populations with the DNV. McBride moved to the Seattle area shortly before Chiasson in 1983. There, he and his wife became vocational rehabilitation counselors, which enabled McBride to see the connection between RTS styles and the likelihood of worker injuries depending upon thinking style. He later provided encouragement and support within the Davis-Nelson consultancy once it had been formed in Washington State in 1986. Eldon and his wife now reside in Colorado and remain in contact.

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