

## About the author

John Thomas was born in 1937. He was educated at the University of Durham in the UK and Yale University in the USA. He taught politics at the University of Essex from 1964 to 1969, when he joined the BBC to produce social science radio programmes for the newly established Open University. In 1971, he was appointed senior producer, and spent most of the next ten years working mainly on adult and continuing education programmes for the BBC. From 1978 to 1980, he was seconded as an adviser in the educational use of broadcast media to the Allama Iqbal Open University in Pakistan. From 1981 to 1987, he taught radio and educational broadcasting at Christ Church College in Canterbury in the UK.

Since 1983, John Thomas has been involved in consultancy and training in the use of media — particularly audio — for distance and open learning, working mainly under the auspices of the International Extension College (IEC) in a wide range of developing countries. He joined the full-time staff of the IEC in 1991, and remained with the organisation until 1997, when he retired from full-time consultancy and training because of his failing sight. He is the author of *Distance education for refugees* (IEC, Cambridge, 1996), and a contributor to Retamal, G. and Aedo-Richmond, R. (eds) *Education as a humanitarian response* (Cassell, London, 1998). He is currently living in Thailand, where his wife Anne Cameron is working as a volunteer with Voluntary Service Overseas.