The purpose of this seminar is to introduce statistical and methodological principles associated with the use of Q method in the study of subjectivity—with primary emphasis on its applicability to problems of public policy—and to locate Q methodology within the framework of contemporary science. Q methodology evolved from factor-analytic theory in the 1930s, and since that time has been applied in the systematic study of a wide range of subject matters in psychology, political science, communication, the health sciences, education, and the behavioral and human sciences more generally, and increasingly in the policy field. Attention will focus initially on historical and methodological developments, with special emphasis on factor-analytic and epistemological foundations, and on the fundamental importance of subjectivity in all human action. Subsequently, the seminar will move to applications in substantive areas of particular interest to participants. Time and other resources permitting, actual studies will be undertaken, individually or collectively.

**Students with Disabilities**

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

**Texts**


Resources

Q methodology website: http://www.qmethod.org
Q methodology e-mail discussion list: Send the command “subscribe Q-Method <your name>” (without quotations or brackets) to Listserv@listserv.kent.edu
QMethod (computer freeware): http://www.rz.unibw-muenchen.de/~p41bsmk/qmethod/
PCQ (computer software): http://www.pcqsoft.com/
QArchive website: http://www.uww.edu/personal/fac/cottlec/QArchive/qindex.htm

Journals:

Operant Subjectivity, quarterly journal of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, contact Mark Popovich <mpopovic@gw.bsu.edu>, ISSSS Treasurer. $30 ISSSS membership, journal included; $10 students.


24th annual meeting, International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, October 2-4, 2008, Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Bibliographies:

Brown, S.R. (1977) Q bibliographic update: A continuation of “Bibliography on Q Technique and Its Methodology.” Operant Subjectivity, 1, 17-26 (continued in subsequent is-

http://www.qmethod.org (searchable bibliography).

Methodological Topics

History and Principles


**Consciring and Concourse Theory**


**Representativeness and Q-sample (and P-set) Structure**


**Propositional Sets, Conditions of Instruction, and Q Sorting**


**Correlation**


**Factor Analysis**


**Factor Rotation**


**Factor Scores**


**Interpretation**

Selected Bibliography on Q Methodology

Books on Q Technique and Methodology


Chapters on Q Technique and Methodology


Brown, S.R. (1999). Psicología política desde el punto de vista de la subjetividad natural [Political psychology from the standpoint of naturalistic subjectivity]. In G.A. Mota Botello (Ed.),
Psicología política del nuevo siglo (pp. 37-54). Mexico City: Sociedad Mexicana de Psicología Social.


**Books Utilizing Q Technique and Methodology**


Kent State University Dissertations

Bissler, J.V. (2002). Identification of processes that have been helpful during the bereavement process for mothers and fathers who have experienced the sudden death of their 15- to 28-year-old biological children.
Christman, P.D. (2004). Students' perceptions of various opinions thought to contribute to the successful completion of a bachelor's degree from a private, Christian college: A Q-methodological study.
Crawford, G.M. (2002). Family mediators' perceptions of the behaviors and personal characteristics that help them to be effective: A Q-methodological study.
Goodman, G.D. (2000). Factors that influence post-secondary students with disabilities to adopt or reject assistive technology for computer access.
Janson, C.A. (2007). High school counselors' perceptions of their educational leadership behaviors: A Q methodology study.

McKeown, F.T. (1975). Kari–Aaron: An intensive analysis in schizophrenia and object relations. (Master’s thesis.)


Peets, T.J. (2004). Single mothers' perceptions of what is important in their lives as they transition from welfare to work.


Rickel, T.A. (2000). High school seniors' perceptions about the achievement gap between black and white students: An application of Q methodology on race and education.


Smith, J.M. (2000). The use of Q-methodology to assess the possibility that fear is a barrier preventing the use of mental health services by African American men.


Special Issues


McKeown, B.F. Q methodology, communication, and the behavioral text.

Goldman, I. Abductive inference, communication theory and subjective science.

Sanders, K.P. & Morris, D.N. Combining research approaches: The Anvil writers revisited.


Stanton Rogers, R. & Stanton Rogers, W. What the Brits got out of the Q: And why their work may not line up with the American way of getting into it!


Brown, S.R. What's past is prologue.

Lipgar, R.M., Bair, J.P., & Fichtner, C.G. Integrating research with conference learning: 10 years of Q methodology studies exploring experiential learning in the Tavistock tradition.

Bimler, D., & Kirkland, J. From circumplex to sphere: Perceptions of vocational activities, explored and applied.

Iliescu, D., & Boros, S. An alternative to mapping organizational identification: Q-sort.

Selected Writings of William Stephenson

About William Stephenson


Methodological Foundations


(1977). Factors as operant subjectivity. Operant Subjectivity, 1, 3-16.


Philosophical Contributions


(1962). "Ideal" types. Psychological Record, 12, 9-16.

Communication Theory


Newton's Fifth Rule

(1975-76). Newton's Fifth Rule: An exposition of Q pro re theologica pro re scientia. (Unpublished manuscript.)

Quantum Theory


Miscellaneous


**Fundamentals of Q Technique and Methodology**

**Q and R Methodologies**


**Factor Analysis**


**Structuring Q Samples**


**Non-Language Q Samples**


**Intensive Analysis (Single Cases)**


Forced vs. Free Distributions


**Reliability, Validity, and Operantcy**


**Q Technique and Questionnaires**


**The “Postmodern Turn”**


