

A Note on the Don Brenner Outstanding Paper Award

Susan E. Ramlo

University of Akron

The 2010 International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity (ISSSS) conference celebrated 75 years since William Stephenson published his first Q technique article in *Nature* (1935). This 25th meeting of ISSSS also represented the first time contributors could submit their presented paper for consideration for a new award, the Don Brenner Outstanding Paper Award.

Two years prior, the ISSSS executive committee began consideration of an outstanding paper award. During 2009–10, the executive committee decided that an outstanding paper award should be created and named after the first ISSSS president and Q researcher, Don Brenner. Don Brenner spoke at the 2009 ISSSS conference as the keynote speaker at the Friday evening banquet. I had the pleasure of sitting with him as well as listening to his speech including recollections of William Stephenson. Honoring this fine gentleman by naming the Outstanding Paper Award for him seemed completely fitting and it was my pleasure to help develop the criteria for this award while in my position as the 2009–10 President of ISSSS.

The Award

The Don Brenner Outstanding Paper Award is an annual award centered on the ISSSS conference. Only papers presented at the conference are eligible. Hardcopies are initially submitted by the end of the final session of the conference. The ISSSS executive board selects and approves the awards committee, which consists of at least three members of ISSSS. The committee selects a chair to help organize the review of the papers. The committee reviews each of the submitted papers and selects the best paper. Priority is given to those papers with a first author who is considered a “new” Q researcher in that they have been using Q for less than 10 years. In addition, the awards committee gives priority to those papers that focus on unique applications of Q or on theoretical perspectives related to Q. The Don Brenner Outstanding Paper Award is formally recognized at the ISSSS conference following the award, with the presentation of a certificate and a monetary prize.

The award-winning author is also invited to submit the paper for consideration for publication in an upcoming issue of *Operant Subjectivity: The International Journal of Q Methodology*. I am pleased indeed to see the first award-winning paper published in this issue. I look forward to reading future papers recognizing Don Brenner, a researcher who was dedicated to Q methodology.

Reference

Stephenson, W. (1935). Technique of factor analysis. *Nature*, 136, 297.