

Factor A: “Orthodoxy Upheld”

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When I was informed that James Rhoads and I were loaded on the same factor, I was not surprised. When I found out that we were loaded on the “Orthodoxy Upheld” factor, again I was not surprised. Our conversations at Q conferences have led me to believe that we have always been on the same factor. I have admired Jim’s thinking and research on the scientific study of subjectivity. His studies are well designed, rigorous and “true to Q,” which for me means “Orthodoxy Upheld.”

I have been attentive to Q methodology and William Stephenson’s ideas for years. As I indicated in the “In Memoriam” issue of *Operant Subjectivity* (January 1990), I followed Stephenson from the Department of Political Science to the Department of Psychology to the Department of Philosophy to hear everything he had to say during his 1980 visit to Kent State University. We have yet to explore the depth of Stephenson’s thinking and Q methodology.

Stephenson was ahead of his time by generations. I struggle to understand the scientific study of subjectivity, and to understand what we can really do with his methodology. To give up on his focus, in order to expand the community to those simply interested in using the technique, would be a mistake. If we do not uphold orthodoxy, I fear the erosion of this great innovation.

I am buoyed at seeing Q loyalists represented on Factors A, B and C in this study by Russ Hurd and Steve Brown. There is a strong commitment to Stephenson’s original conceptualization among Q methodologists.

Since I have had the advantage of reading Jim’s Factor A ruminations, I do not feel the need to ramble. Jim has waxed eloquent about our factor and I agree with all he has penned. I too remain optimistic about the future of Q. In fact, I am more optimistic now than I was before reading the Hurd and Brown study. I would like to thank Russ and Steve for this look at the future of Q at this important time.

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References

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