



### Steven R. Brown Named Editor of *Policy Sciences*

Steven R. Brown has been appointed Editor of the journal *Policy Sciences*, effective July 1, 2001. The journal has been published since 1970 and is among the leading outlets for scholarly work on the policy process. *Policy Sciences* was originally published by Elsevier North Holland, which has counted among its authors the likes of Erasmus and Galileo. The journal was subsequently purchased by Kluwer Academic (Dordrecht, The Netherlands). Kluwer is among the leading publishers in the various fields of science and technology. The journal has often been the most frequently cited of the policy journals. Past editors have been among the most frequently cited scholars in the field. It is presently being edited at Harvard University.

Brown is a founding member of the Society for the Policy Sciences. He has just completed a three-year term on the Society's Executive Council and has been on the Editorial Board for the past three years. He also manages the e-mail discussion lists for the Council and the Society as well as an open list for those with a general interest in the policy sciences.

The term *policy sciences* was originally coined by the political scientist Harold Lasswell (1902-1978) to designate a new intellectual configuration comprised of individuals whose specialties bear on public problems but whose disciplinary boundaries often prevent them from collaborating on solutions. Communication theorists know Lasswell best for his characterization of communication as "who says what, to whom, through which channel, with what effect."

Q methodology has had an informal but growing connection to the policy sciences. Charles Stephenson, for instance, was a student of Lasswell and his collaborator Myres McDougal at Yale Law School. Brown worked with Lasswell and a few of his former students under a National Science Foundation grant in the mid-1970s. Lasswell's work was first mentioned in *Operant Subjectivity* in a study by Baas (1978), and Lasswell's obituary was carried two issues later (April 1979, back cover). *Operant Subjectivity* subsequently hosted policy-science related articles by Scheutzow (1981), C. Stephenson (1983), Brown (1993/1994, 1994a), and another by Baas (1997). Summaries of policy applications of Q were carried periodically in the "News, Notes, and Comment" section. William Stephenson (1987) devoted the entirety of his "How to Make a Good Cup of Tea" to Lasswell's ideas and likened Q factors to Lasswell's decision structures. In the following issue, William Ascher (1987), one of Lasswell's former students, devoted his essay to summarizing the connection between "Subjectivity and the Policy Sciences." The Q community was reminded again of the policy sciences connection when the 1993 ISSSS banquet address was presented by Andrew Willard (1993/1994) of the Yale University School of Law.

On the other side of the coin, Q studies have appeared occasionally in the pages of *Policy Sciences* (e.g., Brown 1974; Brunner and Vivian 1980; Gargan and Brown 1993; Pelletier et al. 1999). The Pelletier paper has just received the Lasswell Award for the best article in the 1999 volume of *Policy Science*. In recent years Q has become more widely appreciated in the policy field. A mini-symposium on Q methodology led off the summer 2000 issue of *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (Durning; Steelman and Maguire). The recent volumes by Addams and Proops (2000), Barry and Proops (2000), Peritore (1999), and Van Eeten (1999, 113-42).

The most immediate and obvious advantage Q provides for policy analysts is a rigorous means for determining the perspectives of stakeholders and other participants in the policy process, which is often critical to locating and implementing solutions acceptable to all. It is also useful in value and goal clarification, as Brown illustrated in a keynote address to the Society for the Policy Sciences (1994b). Other policy uses of Q will doubtless be elaborated in the years to come.

The policy sciences approach provides a comprehensive framework for addressing problems of any magnitude and in any subject-matter domain, from psychotherapy to international law, from genetically-engineered food to architecture, from preserving wildlife to space travel, from medical decision-making to the regulation of immigration. Its literature is voluminous, much of it in law books and journals, and dates, as does Q methodology, to the 1930s. Those desiring greater familiarity might begin with Brown's recent essay on "Harold D. Lasswell and the Policy Sciences," which appears in the Winter 2000 issue of *Policy Evaluation* and includes a selected bibliography. A next step would be to attend meetings of the Society for the Policy Sciences, which are held annually at the Yale Law School, New Haven, CT. Additional information can be retrieved from the Society's website, which will be launched soon.

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