

## Dissertations in Progress

**Paul D. de Holczer, *Economic Nationalism and Liberalism: A Q-Methodological Study of Hungarian Economics Students* (University of South Carolina)**

In Hungary today, economic, political, and social mechanisms are being fundamentally altered, and the country is experiencing both the hope for progress and prosperity as well as fear of reaction against reform. During the past 150 years, Hungary has been divided by the ideologies of liberalism, nationalism, and Marxism--from the time of its own Magna Carta (the Golden Bull of 1222) to the revolution against the Hapsburg Monarchy (1848) to the imposition of the People's Republic (1949). Since 1968, with the introduction of the New Economic Mechanism, the government has been moving toward a more efficient and responsive economy. The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party has presented a platform which paints a more democratic, liberal and autonomous future, and the country's new leadership has embraced economic liberalism.

In order to understand better the debate over reform, more than 40 Q sorts focusing on these matters have been obtained from students at the Karl Marx University of Economic Sciences in Budapest. The sample of students is of course unrepresentative in a demographic sense, but graduates have historically played an important role in the economy, and they bring the specialized knowledge required to understand the import of the 55 technical items contained in the Q sample, such as "Economically strong countries will try to pass problems such as unemployment and inflation onto small countries," and "There can be no fair economic order in the world without at least one strong country able and willing to justly enforce international rules." Preliminary analysis indicates the population to be divided into as many as four perspectives.

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**Jim Shaner, *Modeling Farm Management Decision-Making: A Q-Test of Adoption Theory Applied to Decisions Regarding Conservation Compliance* (University of Missouri)**

The need to know the relative importance of family, social, and farm management concerns in farmers' economic decisions lies behind this study of the adoption of the government's Conservation Compliance Program. Q methodology is employed to model the decision-making process, and a comparison is made of traditional adoption theory and Grunig's situational theory.

A concourse of 2000 statements concerning the adoption of conservation compliance practices was obtained from interviews with 55 farmers and their wives, plus statements of state extension specialists. The Q sample of 75 statements incorporated aspects of Grunig's theory (problem recognition, constraint recognition, level of involvement), of Lionberger and Gwin's approach to diffusion and adoption (internal, situational, intervening, and behavioral variables), and Rogers's approach to innovation (involving compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability). Illustrative statements include "It's just too complex, learning all that conservation stuff and trying to get it to work on my farm," "I know conservation tillage (or strip cropping) will work because I've tried it or I've seen it done before," and "My main reason for completing my conservation plan now is to stay eligible for government programs--they make conservation compliance cost effective."

Q sorts are being administered to farmers representing different levels of compliance (none, some, high) and different degrees of farm management ability (top, average, beginning). Preliminary results indicate at least two factors--one representing farmers with soil conservation service involvement (e.g., who have served on county and state boards), and another represent-

ing farmers who seem to have taken an objective management approach.

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## Q Bibliographic Update (Continued)

*Additional references appear in previous issues of this newsletter, and in "Bibliography on Q Technique and Its Methodology," Perceptual and Motor Skills, 1968, 26, 587-613 (available upon request).*

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