NEWS, NOTES & COMMENT

Nursing Research and Q

Deborah E. Gibson, "Describing the Domain of Trust as an Interpersonal Factor Within the Context of Nursing Levels of Prevention" at the Alabama State Nurses' Association Nursing Research Council Spring Conference, Birmingham, July 19, 1988. *Abstract*: Interpersonal trust, having great importance to the nurse-client relationship, is a construct that has few empirical investigations within the nursing context. The purpose of this study is to develop a Q instrument (Trust-Q) which could be used to describe the dimensions of trust within the nurse-client relationship. Interpersonal trust is viewed as an interpersonal factor in the Neuman Systems Model. Content validity was established through the use of expert judges who ranked 123 words or phrases describing nursing behaviors: the degree of congruence among the judges for the items was $W=0.666$, $x^2(122) =242.81$, $p<0.0001$. The Q deck, ultimately consisting of 50 nursing behaviors, was subsequently administered to 10 persons--5 registered nurses and 5 adults who had been recipients of nursing care--who rated the behaviors on a 7-point scale. Initial test-retest reliability was $r=0.66$. Additional support for the reliability of the instrument was provided through factor analysis with 9 of the 10 participants loading on the same factor for their test and retest. Using the QUANAL program, data from this pilot study were subjected to Q factor analysis which produced a five-factor solution and factor arrays displaying a representative Q sort for each of the five factors. These findings confirmed the assumption that interpersonal trust within the nurse-client relationship is multidimensional. Describing trust through use of Q methodology has implications for adding to nurses' knowledge base to contribute to the enchancement of nursing's image. Future use of the Trust-Q is recommended to further describe interpersonal trust within the nursing contest. (Gibson is a doctoral student in nursing, University of Alabama at Birm-

ingham, and can be reached c/o 5522 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119.)

Q technique has been employed in nursing research for about 30 years, but recent texts reveal minimal conceptual progress. In Rose Marie Nieswiadomy's *Foundations of Nursing Research* (Norwalk, CT: Appleton & Lange, 1987, pp. 259-260), for example, terse coverage of Q is given in a chapter on "Observation Methods and Other Data-Collection Procedures," which also touches on content analysis, critical incidents, and Delphi technique. Although the chapter fragment is labeled "Q Methodology," it is really only a description about how to administer Q sorts.

Sonya I. Shelley's section on "Q Sort" appears in her *Research Methods in Nursing and Health* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1984, pp. 311-312), in a chapter on "Scoring" which also includes coverage of Likert scales, semantic differential, Thurstone scales, and Guttman scales. Shelley implicitly regards Q as a convenient way to administer various scales simultaneously: in her illustration, she shows how to compare respondents in terms of the pattern of their mean scores on various of the dimensions built into the Q sort.

In her chapter on "Implementing Questionnaires and Interviews" [in Nancy F. Woods & Marci Catanzaro (Eds.), *Nursing Research: Theory and Practice* (pp. 316-333). St. Louis: C.V. Mosby, 1988] Marci Catanzaro considers Q sort and Delphi techniques as special ways to administer questionnaires. Within a relatively short space (pp. 326-328), Catanzaro emphasizes the shape of the Q-sort distribution (giving examples of normal, rectangular, and U-shaped distributions) and the need to make sure that respondents understand the sorting instructions (citing a study which used written instructions and a videotape demonstration).

The chapter fragments noted above were already published or in press prior to the appearance of Karen E. Dennis's "Q Methodology: Relevance and Application to Nursing Research," *Advances in Nursing Science* (1986), which has set a new standard of understanding and which will doubtless lead to an increase in sophistication in future texts of this kind.

Rules for Writers

The following words of wisdom were submitted by Johnathan R. Partington (Cambridge University) through the Bitnet electronic newsletter *Nutworks*, and is a combination of William Safire's *Rules for Writers* and Harold Evans's *Newsman's English*. It is included here for the benefit of those who may submit manuscripts to *OS*, and because our primarily academic readership usually delights in such things:

> Remember to never split an infinitive. The passive voice should never be used. Do not put statements in the negative form, and don't use no double negatives. Verbs has to agree with their subjects. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing. A writer must not shift your point of view. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction. (Remember, too, a preposition is a terrible word to end a sentence with.) Don't overuse exclamation marks!! Use apostrophe's correctly, and don't use commas, which, aren't necessary. Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents. About those sentence fragments. Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided. If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is. Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky. Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing. Always pick on the correct idiom. The adverb always follows the verb. Corect speling is esential. Last but not least, avoid trite cliches like the plague.

New Communication Journal

The International Communication Association has announced the founding of a new journal, *Communication Theory*, and is currently selecting an editor and editorial board. ICA expects that the journal will publish general theoretical proposals; comparative or international perspectives on theory; critical

analyses of theory; philosophical analyses of communication concepts and phenomena; critical-empirical analyses of the generality of situational theory; comparison, differentiation, or integration of situational theories; and book review essays. [This notice is from the Communication Research and Theory Network (CRTNET), no. 147, July 9, 1988.]

DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS

Mary Margaret Pignone, *The Making of Global Identity: Strategy for Global Institutional Change* (American University)

Proposed is research to test empirically the hypotheses that active participation in a transnational organization and engagement in critical social analysis will variously (1) change the meaning that individual participants give to the role/identity "global citizen"; (2) change the priorities that individual participants maintain regarding appropriate action for development; (3) change the meaning that individual participants give to the role/identity change agent; and (4) increase the salience of their identities as global citizens and change agents.

A pre-post research design is utilized in which members of the experimental group will be tested before and after their participation in a common task. This group will be a transnational group "in the making," i.e., the group will come into being and will begin to develop simultaneously with the research.

The experimental group will include social change agents from three separate countries or cultures who will work together in analyzing the development models impacting their communities. In-depth interviews will support the use of Q methodology in which the participants will define for themselves the meanings that they give to these role/identities.