

NEWS, NOTES & COMMENT

Recent and Forthcoming Scholarship

Larry R. Baas (Political Science, Valparaiso U, Valparaiso IN 46383), "The Constitution as Symbol: Change or Stability After 10 Years," American Political Science Association, Chicago, September 3, 1987. *Abstract*: The purpose of this study is to examine the Constitution's current symbolic meaning to determine whether it has changed during the past 10 years. In an earlier study, subjects were asked to describe [via Q technique] their beliefs about the Constitution. The results of that study indicated three perspectives on the Constitution. The first was the most dominant and mythical, consistent with what conventional wisdom has suggested. The second perspective was negative, and the third was a realist perspective. In the current study, many of the original subjects were asked to render their views again. The results indicate that those who held the dominant, mythical perspective on the Constitution have maintained those beliefs, but subjects on the other perspectives have changed somewhat. Overall, there is a significant amount of stability in the apparent dominant perspective on the Constitution and many of those who originally had negative views have accepted this perspective as well. The Constitution's symbolic potential, therefore, appears to continue to be quite good.

James M. Carlson (Political Science, Providence College, Providence RI 02918-0001) and Richard M. Martin, "Conceptions of Representation: A Study of Delegates to the 1984 National Party Conventions," *American Politics Quarterly*, 1987, 15, 355-372. *Abstract*: Using Q-technique, we examined conceptions of representation among a sample of delegates to the 1984 Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Analysis of the data revealed four perspectives on representation in the sample: the "trustee," the belief that group interests should be represented, the belief that representation is a matter of the representative's conscience, and the "delegate-servant." Surprisingly, no delegates saw

themselves as representatives of party officials or presidential candidates. We conclude that representation is a subjective process and should be examined from that perspective.

From Europe

Bogdan Wojciszke (Instytut Psychologii UG, Gdansk, Poland) and Ryszard Pienkowski, "Q-sort Funkcjonowania Społecznego (QFS)--Prezentacja Narzędzia i Przykłady jego Zastosowań [Social Functioning Q-sort--Presentation of the Method and Examples of Its Application]," *Przegląd Psychologiczny* (Poland), 1985, 28, 527-545. *Summary* (p. 544): This paper presents the content and the construction process of the Social Functioning Q-Sort (SFQ). SFQ is intended for the measurement of an individual's self-acceptance and self-evaluation in the interpersonal functioning domain. Sixty short self-descriptive statements (half of them describing positive, and the other half expressing negative social functioning) constitute SFQ. Positive (effective) social functioning was defined as an interaction which enables the individual to attain his or her goals, experience positive emotions and facilitate a partner's positive emotions. Results are presented of two studies successfully using SFQ for the measurement of cross-situational stability of social behavior.

Arie K. den Boon, "De Perceptie van Sociale Bewegingen in Zurich en Amsterdam [The Perception of Social Movements in Zurich and Amsterdam]," *Acta Politica*, 1985, 20, 193-208. *Summary* (pp. 254-255): From 1980 to 1982, there were many conflicts between the youth movement and the authorities in Zurich. A study by Kriesi revealed three different social images held by authorities, members of the youth movement and understanding others. In this study, Q-sort data were collected in Amsterdam, where there is a youth movement of squatters and the social situation is comparable in some respects. Respondents were squatters, local authorities and other people from Amsterdam. By and large, the same social images could be found, although squatters in Amsterdam do not seem to isolate themselves as much as in Zurich, and the authorities seem to tolerate more. A subsequent exploratory factor analysis of the Q-sort data supports the findings of the social images to a

large extent. The two main factors, both reflecting a favorable attitude towards squatters, differ in only one important aspect--the role of the state. Some consider the state responsible for the housing shortage, and therefore, they say, the state should not act against individual squatters. Others, especially those bearing responsibility in the city government, put more weight on the fact that squatters are members of this society. Squatters' actions can be tolerated sometimes, but the last word must be spoken by existing democratic institutions.

A Proposed Counter-Offensive

"The sample size is too small.... You can't use factor analysis when the number of items isn't at least 2.5 times greater than the number of respondents.... Pearson's r can't be used on Q sorts because it assumes interval data.... The forced Q-sort distribution distorts what the person wants to say...." These and many other objections are likely familiar to authors who have submitted Q-methodological manuscripts to professional journals, and Patrick Peritore proposes that a collection of objections be made and that a corporate response be formulated (and hopefully published) for the benefit of journal editors. Readers are therefore encouraged to submit objections which they have encountered (or have heard of), along with rebuttals if such have been formulated, to Peritore, Department of Political Science, 113 Professional Bldg, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

Q-Sample Computer Program

Perhaps the world's youngest Q methodologist, high schooler Christopher Barchak, has written a computer program (Q-Writer) which formats and prints out a Q sample. Written in BASIC, Q-Writer accepts statements, randomly numbers and orders them, and prints them out on equally-sized rectangles which are bordered for easy cutting. Printing is on either American or European (A4) size paper. The program is available for \$50, with proceeds going toward the author's college education. It can be obtained from Christopher through the good offices of his father: Professor Leonard J. Barchak, Depart-

ment of Communication and Theatre, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Q BIBLIOGRAPHIC UPDATE (cont'd from front cover)

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