

required to produce a varimax rotation. Yet the slow process of gathering a Q sort, of discussing it with the person who gave it, of scoring it and participating in the process of analysis (Kantor's interbehavioral basis of science) give the scientist a *feeling for the organism* which is unachievable otherwise. Like McClintock, who "knows" every plant in the field, the Q methodologist typically knows the Q sorters and is forced to contemplate them. Q technology is indeed slow, but the task is not to speed it up; rather, it is to know how to benefit from the slowness.

DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS

Neeloo Bhatti, *Dispelling the North American Acid Rain Clouds: Developing a Framework for Political Consensus Through the Identification of Elite Viewpoints* (Yale University)

Acidic deposition has simultaneously been referred to as an environmental curiosity and as an ecological holocaust. This polarization of opinion on this pollutant has resulted in the current stalemate in Congress over whether or not to legislate acidic deposition control measures. It is also responsible for the major part of the friction which currently exists in Canada-United States relations. As long as the acidic deposition issue continues to be perceived as a contest between extremist groups of acid rain elites, there is little chance for resolution.

This study attempts to identify the distinctive viewpoints which characterize these opposing attitudes and, in doing so, to determine the underlying factors (especially scientific versus non-scientific ones) and values which are most influential in shaping these viewpoints in the minds of the acid rain elite. This will provide some indication of the future role of scientific expertise in resolving this problem and will indicate the areas in which most of our research efforts should be directed. In addition, a determination will be made to ascertain if there is a

correlation of certain viewpoints with area or country of residence, discipline, and organizational affiliation. All of these objectives will be carried out using the results of the Q-sort technique and interviews with American and Canadian politicians, scientists, environmentalists, and industry personnel.

The results of this study will be used to provide a greater understanding of the perceptual differences among these divided groups of acid rain elites over this issue, and to identify the key opinions and attitudes on this pollutant that separate these divergent viewpoints. It will also be possible to determine if these groups, who are perceived to be at odds, are actually in fundamental opposition or are merely orthogonal to one another. More importantly, this research will shed light on areas of potential consensus and compromise among these opposing groups which will be used to develop specific recommendations for resolving this problem. These proposals will involve proceeding in a rational, step-by-step fashion from these small but concrete areas of agreement to major actions which could pave the way toward the reconciliation of goals among the acid rain elite.

Persons interested in the concourse surrounding the acid rain controversy can consult some of the following: Comptroller General of the United States, *An Analysis of Issues Concerning "Acid Rain"* (Washington: General Accounting Office, 1984); Roy Gould, *Going Sour: The Science and Politics of Acid Rain* (Cambridge MA: Birkhauser Boston, 1985); Steven L. Rhodes and Paulette Middleton, "Public Pressures, Technical Options: The Complex Challenge of Controlling Acid Rain," *Environment*, 1983, 25, 7-38; and Ernest J. Yanarella and Randal H. Ihara, *The Acid Rain Debate* (Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1985).

Neeloo Bhatti is in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. She can be contacted at 242 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511.