

tous, to refer to the work of Stephenson to encourage readers to pursue Q approaches in greater breadth and detail. We did not, by our citation, wish to imply that we were in any way engaged in the "exegesis" of Stephenson's corpus of work. This task we are content to leave to others.

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DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS

Karen E. Dennis, *A Multi-Methodological Approach to the Measurement of Client Control* (University of Maryland at Baltimore).

This study is based on the assumption that patients desire a role in directing their lives and influencing the things that happen to them during the course of hospitalization. Three kinds of control are structured into the Q sample: (1) Behavioral, which refers to direct action on the environment to influence events; (2) cognitive, which includes information gain, appraisal, and interpretation; and (3) decisional, which refers to choosing among alternative courses of action. These levels, in turn, are cross-classified with five hospitalization events: Diagnostic tests and surgery, illness care, physical environment/hospital routines, activities of daily living, and interpersonal relations. Statements such as the following are included: "Walk to X-ray and the laboratory on the days I feel up to it" (behavioral/diagnostic tests); "Be informed if my condition is improving, staying the same, or getting worse (cognitive/illness care); "Select what nurses will take care of me (decisional/interpersonal); etc.

Two conditions of instruction will be administered to 30 patients, half of whom will have been admitted for surgical (and half for nonsurgical) reasons: The first condition will involve evaluation of the Q sample items in terms of their importance/unimportance for getting well and/or going home; the second condi-

tion will involve evaluation of the same items in terms of the kind of hospital experience that the patient desires. Other measures (e.g., the Health Opinion Survey) will also be administered.

This study combines the literature of control (which indicates that influence over impending events mediates stress reactions) and the literature of social learning theory, especially that variant which emphasizes the reciprocal interaction among behavioral, cognitive/personal, and environmental determinants in human functioning.

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[continued in the next issue]

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