

Foreword
Q METHODOLOGY AND THE POLICY SCIENCES

Charles Stephenson's paper on "International Development and Security" was originally presented this past summer at the Second Policy Sciences Summer Institute held at Johns Hopkins University and attended primarily by students and associates of Myres McDougal of the Yale Law School (who was also in attendance) and the late Harold Lasswell, originators of the policy-oriented approach to jurisprudence. The paper makes no explicit reference to Q methodology, but there is apparent in it a deep understanding of the importance of subjectivity in the policy process, as one would expect were it to be learned that Charles Stephenson is William Stephenson's son (and Charles Spearman's namesake) and a former student of both McDougal and Lasswell.

There was a great deal of interest in Q generated during the course of the Hopkins' meetings, especially by the legalists who were pleased to learn that a method exists for measuring which decisions are authoritative, i.e., in conformity with the public's expectations about what *will* happen (not what *ought to*). Following a short workshop by Steven Brown on "Exploring Subjectivity," various policy scientists who had utilized Q--William Ascher of Johns Hopkins, Garry Brewer of Yale, and Ronald Brunner of Colorado--rose to offer testimonials for the benefit of those for whom the method was new. (For a summary of policy-related initiatives already completed or in progress, see "Q and the Policy Sciences," pp. 29ff.) Charles Stephenson's presentation served to underscore the compatibility of subjectivity and the metalanguage of the Lasswell-McDougalites, and Q was offered as a possible operational link between the two.

The policy science thrust of this issue of *OS* is reinforced by Deborah Sell and Richard Craig's summary of the use of Q methodology in the appraisal of self/other alterations consequent upon foreign travel. Much contemporary work on this topic can likewise be traced to Harold Lasswell who once observed, in a chapter on the role of primary contact, that "many

American schoolteachers who approach France with enthusiasm show startling reversals of attitude when they struggle over supplementary charges on the hotel bills, find themselves short changed by taxi drivers, and see private necessities publicly relieved" (*World Politics and Personal Insecurity*, 1935). Directors of foreign study groups attest to "startling reversals" of this kind, but as Sell and Craig note, few changes could be empirically demonstrated until Q methodology was applied.

Today's young policy scientists, like virtually everyone else, are thoroughly versed in R methodology as part of their professional training. Q methodologists, on the other hand, come away from their training instilled with a sense of the importance of subjectivity, but not necessarily with the appreciation of contextuality or awareness of the social process which policy scientists take for granted. Nor do they necessarily possess the conceptual framework and language system for designating the role and status of subjectivity within a wider context.

A purpose of this issue is therefore to encourage these two groups to examine one another's vantage-point. Students of policy-oriented jurisprudence and the policy sciences more generally can inch nearer by reading *Operant Subjectivity* and other pertinent literature, especially William Stephenson's *The Study of Behavior*, and by examining the philosophical orientation to which they point. (Subscription information for *OS* can be found on p. 13.) Q methodologists can reciprocate not only by familiarizing themselves with the pertinent literature--a good place to start is Garry Brewer and Peter deLeon's *The Foundations of Policy Analysis* (Dorsey Press, 1983) and Lasswell and Lerner's *The Policy Sciences* (Stanford University Press, 1951)--but also by contacting either William Ascher (Political Science, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore MD 21218) or Andrew Willard (Sterling Law School, 401-A Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520) about attendance at the Third Policy Sciences Summer Institute. Rodney Muth (School of Education, Rm. 1117-C, Fordham University, New York NY 10023) can be contacted regarding the policy sciences newsletter.