The purpose of this seminar is to introduce statistical and methodological principles associated with the use of Q method in the study of subjectivity (with primary emphasis on its applicability to problems in education) and to locate Q methodology within the framework of contemporary science. Q methodology evolved from factoranalytic theory in the 1930s, and since that time has been applied in the systematic study of a wide range of subject matters in psychology, political science, communication, the health sciences, education, and the behavioral and human sciences more generally. Attention will focus initially on historical and methodological developments, with special emphasis on factoranalytic and epistemological foundations, and on the fundamental importance of subjectivity in all human action. Subsequently, the seminar will move to applications in substantive areas of particular interest to participants. Time and other resources permitting, actual studies can be undertaken, individually or collectively.

The course objectives include the following: To provide seminar members with [1] an understanding of the historical roots and conceptual principles of Q methodology, [2] an acquaintance with the mechanics of Q-sample design and the application of the Q-sort technique, [3] a minimal mastery of the statistical methods (correlation, factor analysis, factor rotation, and calculation of factor scores) essential for the analysis of data acquired through the application of Q technique, [4] experience in using the PQMethod software package for Q data, and [5] opportunities to interpret the results of Q studies. As a general learning outcome, students who complete the seminar will be expected to be able, with minimal guidance, to apply Q methodology to their research topics of interest and to defend the various methodological decisions that will be required in the process.
**Students with Disabilities**

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

**Texts**


**Bibliographies**


**Resources**

Q methodology website: http://www.qmethod.org

Q methodology e-mail discussion list: Send the command “subscribe Q-Method <your name>” (without quotations or brackets) to Listserv@listserv.kent.edu

PQMethod (computer freeware): http://www.rz.unibw-muenchen.de/~p41bsmk/qmethod/

PCQ (computer software): http://www.pcqsoft.com/

Ken-Q Analysis (beta version software): http://shawnbanasick.github.io/ken-q-analysis

Journals:

*Operant Subjectivity*, quarterly journal of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, accessible at www.qmethod.org; contact Mark Popovich <mpopovic@gw.b-su.edu>, ISSSS Treasurer: $50 ISSSS membership, journal included; $20 students.


33rd annual meeting, International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity, September 6-9, 2017, Glasgow, Scotland.

**Syllabus**

**Methodological Topics**

**History and Principles**


McKeown & Thomas, *Q methodology*.

Watts and Stenner, *Doing Q Methodological Research*, Section 1


### Consciring and Concourse Theory


### Representativeness: Q-sample and P-set Structure

Watts and Stenner, *Doing Q Methodological Research*, Chapters 3-4


**Propositional Sets, Conditions of Instruction, and Q Sorting**


**Correlation**


**Factor Rotation**


**Factor Scores**


**Interpretation**

Watts and Stenner, *Doing Q Methodological Research*, Chapter 7


**Critiques**


Recent Applications (2013-2017)

Articles


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Martin, S., Daniel, C., & Williams, A.C. de C. (2014). How do people understand their neuro-


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Gudurić, I. (2013). *The perception of decision-makers to climate change adaptation in urban and peri-urban forests of Belgrade.* Master's thesis (European Forestry), Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.


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mental biology conceptual inventory.  Doctoral dissertation (Zoology), Oklahoma State University.


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ars Publishing.


Steven R. Brown. Foreword (in English).


Wolf, A. *Subjektivitet i Q-metodologi* (Subjectivity in Q methodology)

Allgood, E., & Kvalsund, R. *Q-metodologi, rådgivningsfeltet, delt subjektivitet og personer i relasjoner* (Q methodology, the counseling field, shared subjectivity, and persons-in-relation)
Kvalsund, R., & Allgood, E. Kommunikasjon som subjektivitet i en skoleorganisasjon (Communication as subjectivity in a school organization)

Størksen, I., & Thorsen, A.A.. Små barns deltakelse i en Q-studie med visuelle kort (Young children’s participation in a Q study with visual images)

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Fristedt, S., & Wretstrand, A. Äldre mäns och kvinnors perspektiv på mobilitet och delaktighet (Mobility and participation from the perspectives of elderly men and women)

Oterkiil, C. Q-studie av skoleansattes opplevelse og behov tilknyttet ledelse (A Q study among school staff of their experiences and needs in relation to leadership)

Øverland, K. Barnehageansattes følelser og opplevelser i forbindelse med samlivsbrudd i barnehagen, studert ved hjelp av Q-metodologi (Daycare staff’s subjective experiences with young children of divorce through a Q methodology study)

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**About William Stephenson**


**Methodological Foundations**


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**Factor Analysis**


**Structuring Q Samples**


**Non-Language Q Samples**


**Intensive Analysis (Single Cases)**


**Forced vs. Free Distributions**


**Reliability, Validity, and Operancy**


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Capdevila, R., & Lazard, L. “Is it just me...?” Q methodology and representing the marginal. 70-84.


