

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Physics Seminar Presents Our Speaker:

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A Science of Subjectivity: A Physicist Reflects on Teaching, Learning, & Q Methodology

Abstract: Q methodology [Q] is an 80-year-old mixed method developed by William Stephenson to scientifically study subjectivity. More specifically, Q offers an empirical method for studying subjectivity by revealing and describing the multiple divergent viewpoints that exist within a group of interest. In Q, a researcher collects statements about the topic, reduces their number in a way that preserves the communications, and then participants sort those state-

ue is the sorting of statements related to the topic and its method is the factor analyzing of those sorts to group people with similar viewpoints. Factor analysis in social science research has the same mathematical basis as the mathematics of quantum mechanics (QM). Yet, beyond the mathematical similarities, there are conceptual similarities between Q and QM.
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