



THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT

MANTELL BUILDING FALMER BRIGHTON SUSSEX BN1 9RF

Telephone:
BRIGHTON (0273) 686758

24th March, 1976.

Dr. John Hall,
Survey Unit,
Social Science Research Council,
Regent House, Fifth Floor,
89 Kingsway,
London WC2B 6RH.

Dear *John Hall,*

Thank you very much for sending me your paper, the substance of which I found quite as interesting and important as at the conference. I am, however, not fully persuaded by the first two pages. You say it is necessary to be more precise but in the end (last but one paragraph) you say that the terminology is really wrong. You also imply in paragraph 3 that values, attitudes and opinions are inferred through indirect observation. I think all this adds up to presenting man, because he has experiences which he can communicate in language, as inferior to objects which cannot speak. I know this is a caricature of what you are saying but the possibility of reading you in this fashion I think you should avoid. Could you not simplify this whole introduction by saying that subjective indicators refer to the experience of human beings which ~~is~~ ^{is} after all a crucial yardstick for evaluating social institutions. Objective indicators ignore experiences.

I am not sure whether this is really helpful but I think we social scientists should stop apologising for the fact that people's experiences matter.

With best regards,

Yours,

Marie

Marie Jahoda

MA

FYI

JH