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Letter from the Incoming Editor-in-Chief

Filomena Maggino

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Starting from 2014, Alex Michalos decided to leave his position of Editor-in-Chief of Social Indicators Research (SIR), after 40 years in which the journal reached a worldwide renowned role in the field of social indicators and quality of life research and became a reference point in the scientific discussion around those issues.

The so-called “beyond GDP” movement, at the top list of the scientific and political debate during the last years, would not have been possible without the contributions of all researchers and scholars who hardly worked in this field and who found in the journal the right place and environment where sharing and debating the myriads of complex aspects and related topics.

First, I would like to underline, and I am sure that the whole SIR community will join me in this, that this place and environment were made possible under the enlightening guide of Alex Michalos, whose prominent and prestigious contribution to the scientific debate on social indicators and quality-of-life studies during the last decades is worldwide acknowledged.

Social Indicators Research represents his contribution made concrete. We all, researchers and scholars in this field, are obligated to him, for his farsighted leadership but also for his kindness and empathy.

For all these reasons, not only I feel deeply honored and very grateful for the opportunity to become and serve as the new Editor-in-Chief of SIR, but I feel also the great responsibility of this role, inherited by such a great scholar and person. I will follow all the insights and advice from him.

Social Indicators Research is becoming more and more known among scholars from different disciplines and geographical areas. The aim is to enlarge the spectrum by welcoming taking into account different methodological approaches (qualitative and quanti-

F. Maggino (✉)
Florence, Italy
e-mail: filomena.maggino@unifi.it

tative) as well as different field of applications, in the perspective of supporting a fruitful scientific debates among different views.

Since social dynamics are complex, we would like to promote and encourage quantitative and qualitative studies able to describe and capture the multifaceted aspects of the reality through methods allowing the complexity to be understandable not through oversimplified approaches but through multidimensional glasses.

We will encourage all researchers and scholars to submit their best research work to SIR.

I see the role of the Editorial Board, composed by prominent scholars, very crucial in this perspective and will encourage the members, in their promotional and supporting work.

The reviewing team is composed by experienced and active scholars. Promising scholars will be invited to join the team in order to keep the quality of the published manuscripts as high as possible. Authors must take into account that one of the main criteria and indicators of the quality of a manuscript that our reviewers will consider before deciding if a manuscript is worth publishing or not is represented by benchmarking issues and results.

We will monitor the reviewing process in order to improve the timing by keeping a careful, detailed and helpful reviews of manuscripts within a reasonable times, which should be as short as possible.

The indicators describing the performance of any scientific journal produce numbers which talk about a very successful story for SIR. This is made possible also thank to the organizational “machine”, well tested and efficient.

As all of us know, since the journal is published by a leading publisher, Springer, published articles will be available throughout the leading libraries of the world.

The successful numbers urged also to adopt special strategies in order to reduce the huge backlog. On-line first policy of the journal will continue to provide the accepted articles to be available to research community as early as possible. Mrs. Esther Otten of Springer increased the number of issues per year. This will also help the rapid dissemination process.

The goal is to continue to fulfill a leading role in the global scientific debate, also around the so-called “Beyond GDP” movement.

In this perspective, we will continue to have special issues and review articles by prominent scientists. We will encourage guest-editors to submit proposals relating issues which turn out to be crucial at scientific level, exploring new perspectives and insights at philosophical and methodological levels, and involving prestigious colleagues as well as promising young scholars.

In this perspective, we will support any initiative aimed at promoting and disseminating the journal also among scholars belonging to scientific fields which are seen far from SIR’s scopes. Just to make an example, I believe that approaching scholars in fields such as biology or physics could help us to reach new insights in concepts to be developed like sustainability, vulnerability, precaution.

The approaches should guarantee the SIR’s main contribution, which is related to the measurement of the quality of life.

On behalf of the entire community of the SIR readers, authors, reviewers and editorial board members, as well as the editorial team, I would like to thank, once again, the founding editor Alex Michalos.

We look forward to receiving your submissions, and welcome your ideas and comments for SIR.

I look forward to working with the editorial team, the reviewers and authors, and the Springer publication staff to ensure the continuing growth and success of this journal.

I hope that we will continue to improve the quality of this journal to better serve the social indicators and quality-of-life processing community.