

*Fifth Conference of the International Society for
Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)*



***Challenges for QUALITY OF LIFE
in the Contemporary World***

July 20-24, 2003, Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Abstracts

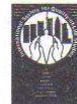
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*Welcome to the ISQOLS' Fifth International Congress
"Challenges for Quality of Life in the Contemporary World"!*

We, the Frankfurt organization committee are very happy to have you here in Germany at this congress, which gathers researchers from various disciplines from all continents. Questions of Quality of Life will be discussed from the most different angles and with the most different cultural backgrounds.

The congress is structured into four different types of sessions, the main morning sessions (A), early afternoon sessions (B), the late afternoon sessions, and the special sessions (D). Taken altogether, we have quite a large variety of sessions to choose from. In this brochure, all available abstracts of the congress' papers are collected and grouped by sessions. After reading the abstracts, you will know what to expect from the different sessions and presentations and thus be able to make your choice. At the end of this brochure, you will find an alphabetical index of all speakers, chairpersons, presenters, and co-authors of the papers. The abstracts contain contact information for one of the authors, as a rule, this is the person first named on the abstract.

We wish you a very pleasant stay in Frankfurt, an interesting congress and interesting and rewarding exchanges with colleagues. If you have any questions or need help with a problem, please do not hesitate to ask us, the members of the organization committee: Maya Becker, Susanne von Below, Sylke Schemenau, and Matthias Stoffregen.



Filomena Maggino

Measuring Stability and Change in Subjective Quality of Life: Problems in Validation of Measures

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One of the problems in facing the measurement of change in Quality of Life is the availability of reliable measures. This is particularly true when the measurement of change concerns subjective dimensions.

The measurement of change requests the definition of a model that allows comparison at different levels:

- comparison of same group outcomes (change in group tendency along time),
- comparison of same individual scores (change in individual tendency along time),
- comparison of different groups and individuals in meta-analysis field.

The definition of the model needs the establishment of some methodological elements:

- a. Definition of change: since measuring change requests at least two measurement procedures on the same object in two different moments, the change can be defined as the observed difference between the two obtained scores;
- b. Definition of the meaningfulness of the difference: the definition of change in terms of difference is not sufficient; we need also to evaluate the meaningfulness of the difference in order to interpret the meaning of changes;
- c. Definition of error in measurement of change: the correct interpretation of the change needs also reliable measures of change; the theoretic and statistical debate regarding the complex problem of reliability in measuring change has a long history and found numerous solutions.

The definition of the experimental design in order to evaluate and validate instruments in measuring change is not simple and requires

- the same instrument (or comparable instruments) in the two measurement procedures for the same dimension,
- the same measurement unit (or comparable measurement units) in the two measurement procedures for the same dimension.

Moreover, adjustment of reliability of each measure in each moment does not allow assuming, as a consequence, a reliable difference (reliability of measurement of change) that requires a further analysis.

This presentation intends to show the outcomes of a longitudinal research regarding subjective Quality of Life. The research involved a great sample of Italian young people; the data allowed us to test the reliability (in term of 'stability' of measurement) of single and multi-items measures; the longitudinal application of both same and different measurement units for the selected variables allowed us to evaluate performances of instruments along time at group level and individual level.



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**What Makes Koreans Happy?
Explorations on the Structure of Happy Life Among Korean People**

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The current study explored the perceptions of Korean people about what can make them happy. A total of 60 Korean adults (30 men and 30 women from age 20 to 65) participated in FGI (Focused Group Interview), where they were asked three groups of questions (e.g., What makes you happy? What could make you happier than now? In general, who is a happy person?). Participants' responses were reviewed by the present investigators independently and 18 categories, each containing 7 to 13 items, were derived from content-analysis. The Happiness Survey (HS) consisted of the 148 items and was administered to 600 Korean adults in several geographic regions of Korea to assess their personal importance of the 18 categories as well as individual items through the objective rating scale (6-point Likert scale). The items with an average importance of 3 or less were excluded, and the factor analysis and MDS were used to explore and confirm the factors of happy life among Koreans based on the remaining items. Differences on the importance of the factors were analyzed in terms of age, gender, marital status, and SES. Finally, cross-cultural differences were discussed.

