

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODOLOGY
RC33 - LOGIC AND METHODOLOGY IN SOCIOLOGY

*September 1-5 2008 - Campus di Monte Sant'Angelo
Università di Napoli «Federico II» - Italy*

BOOK
OF
SHORT ABSTRACTS

edited by

SIMONA BALBI GERMANA SCEPI
GIORGIO RUSSOLILLO AGNIESZKA STAWINOGA



Jovene editore
Napoli 2008

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SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING: ISSUES OF DATA ANALYSIS

1. *Choice of subjective weights for subjective variables:
Identifying subjective/individualized weights for comparing well-being
among group and individuals*

Filomena Maggino, Elena Ruviglioni

Comparison between findings concerning subjective characteristics observed at both macro (e.g. countries) and micro (cases or groups) level represents one of the more vexed issues in the field of social research. One of the difficulties in dealing with comparisons concerns if and how the differences might be explained, and if and how explanations could help in performing comparisons more accurately. This topic is perceived and judged particularly sensitive in quality of life research also for the implications at policy level, where one of the goals is that to compare different levels of subjective well-being. According to different explanatory models, differences in well-being could be explained by objective characteristics, but also by different cultural traits and value orientations. In this perspective, the question could be how to carry on comparisons between individuals (or groups) by taking into account inter-individual (or inter-group) differences. One of the possible answers may involve the definition of "subjective weights". The combination that generates the total satisfaction has to take into account the *importance* that each individual assigns to each ambit. This allows scores of satisfaction to be compared by taking into account the importance assigned by individuals to each ambit. As known, the consolidated methodology aimed at the construction of composite indicators states particular approaches allowing differential *importance* weights to be determined and to be assigned to the indicators composing the synthesis. It is asserted that the choice of weights should be preferably derived from objective principle. In recent works, further views were introduced about weighting in the context of composite indicators construction, which should take into account the agreement among citizens concerning the importance to be assigned to each indicator. The final composite should maximize this agreement. Our purpose is to identify procedures that provide a framework allowing differential weights to be determined and managed (*subjective/individualized weighting procedure*). Pros and cons of these approaches in the perspective of subjective weighting will be discussed.

2. *Regional context of subjective and objective living conditions in Poland -
a rationale for "inversely proportional" indexes*

Krzysztof Zagorski, L. Kozminski

The relations between life and income satisfaction and actual material living conditions will be analyzed in different Polish regions, such as metropolitan regions, voivodships (the biggest administrative units) and gminas (the smallest administrative units). The hypothesis will be tested that the scale (size) and socio-economic characteristics, especially the affluence of the locality (region) influence the strength of the relations between subjective (satisfaction) and objective conditions of the individuals. The level of economic aspiration will be used as another inter-