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The IX Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies: first report

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A Quarterly Review of Social Reports and Research on Social Indicators, Social Trends, and the Quality-of-Life.
News Included of Working Group 6 on Social Indicators and Social Reporting of the International Sociological Association.

THE IX CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE STUDIES: FIRST REPORT

Filomena Maggino, Alex Michalos and Gaimpaolo Nuvolati, Chair and Co-chairs of the conference

From the 19th to the 24th of July 2009 the IX Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies was held in Florence (Italy). Filomena Maggino (ISQOLS Vice-President) chaired the conference and Alex Michalos (Past ISQOLS President) and Giampaolo Nuvolati (ISQOLS Board member) served as co-chairs.

The theme of the conference was "Quality of Life Studies: Measures and Goals for the Progress of Societies". In this perspective, the following key questions has the discussion at the conference.

1. Can we measure progress without identifying some goal or target toward which we are aiming?
2. How can we measure progress in terms of community and environmental well-being, instead of economic growth?
3. What models can be used to help integrate the ideas, aims, energy and work of technical and non-technical people in the pursuit of progress?
4. What models can be used to help integrate the work of large and small local communities with provinces/states, regions and countries?
5. How can the wealthiest countries and citizens be most helpful to less wealthy countries and citizens?

One of the main aims of the Conference was to reinforce the relationships between Universities, Research Centers, and International Institutions and Organizations, in order to make the integration between the scientific and academic approach more fruitful. One of the results of these efforts, was represented

by the patronages received by the ISQOLS main conference from prestigious institutions:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD (<http://www.oecd.org>)
- Council of Europe (<http://www.coe.int>)
- Joint Research Centre - European Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc>)
- Istituto degli Innocenti (<http://www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it>)
- Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica (<http://www.bancaetica.com>)
- University of Florence - Università degli Studi di Firenze (<http://www.unifi.it>)
- Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (www.sumitalia.it)

Around 380 participants from more than 40 countries joined this event, contributing more than 300 presentations, in more than 90 parallel sessions.

Five plenary sessions, 7 symposia, 5 seminars were organized and two working groups were created.

The first plenary session, chaired by Alex Michalos, hosted Enrico Giovannini's (chief statistician - OECD) opening lecture on *Measuring and promoting quality of life: towards a new paradigm for statistics and policy making*. This lecture was followed by Luigi Biggeri's (President of the National Institute of Statistics - ISTAT - Italy) invited paper on *Well-being, quality of life and happiness: the contribution of statistics in order to obtain adequate measures*. Both contributions aroused an interesting debate in the audience.

The second plenary session, chaired by

Guido Martinotti (Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane) professor of Urban Sociology - concerned the country hosting the conference, Italy and involved Linda Laura Sabbadini (Head of "Direzione centrale per le indagini su condizioni e qualità della vita" - National Institute of Statistics, Italy), Paola Casavola (Università della Calabria and Regione Campania - Controllo

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Editor's Note: This issue contains two reports on the IX Conference of ISQOLS held in Florence, Italy, July 19-24, 2009. The first report is by the Conference Chair and Co-Chairs Filomena Maggino, Alex Michalos and Gaimpaolo Nuvolati. The second is a personal view by ISQOLS President Robert Cummins. This issue also contains a sample of photos from the Conference. A number of short news items and announcements also are presented.

SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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strategico), Tommaso Rondinella (Lunaria - Progetto QUARS, Sbilanciamoci) in discussing on *Planet Italy: measuring and understanding quality of life in Italy*.

The third plenary session, organized in co-operation with Istituto degli Innocenti, concerned *Indicators on children's quality-of-life in international comparison: methodological issues*. Kenneth Land, William O'Hare, Ferran Casas and Enrico Moretti introduced different aspects of the topic also referring to different territorial contexts (e.g., US and Italy) and scientific perspectives (e.g., the problems involved in constructing subjective indicators and comparative issues).

The fourth plenary session, organized and chaired by Heinz-Herbert Noll and Filomena Maggino, addressed an emerging topic concerning the relationship between two (concordant or conflicting) societal development goals - quality of life and sustainability. The discussion involved Ruut Veenhoven, Saamah Abdallah (New Economics Foundation), Valerie Møller, Jack Kruse, and Birger Poppel, and allowed the exploration of different points of view on the topic.

The last plenary session, chaired by Enrico Giovannini, hosted Leonardo Morlino's (Professor of Political Sciences, Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane - Firenze, President of the International Political Science Association - IPSA) closing lecture on *Quality of life in political perspectives?* creating great interest in the audience.

The symposia pertained to different and specific topics

- The Canadian Index of Wellbeing
- Quality of Life as a valuable outcome in modern health care
- Quality of Life & Quality of Care for People with Disabilities: The DIS-QOL Project
- Enhancing the data infrastructure for empirical social and economical research: where do we stand and which way to go?
- Special Issue in Measuring Subjective Well-being
- Extended National Accounts and the Happy Planet Index
- Does Economic Growth Improve the Human Lot? Reassessing the Easterlin Paradox.

Many organizations, like the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), DIS-QOL Project Group, New Economics Foundation, German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD), and personalities, like the Canadian chief statistician (Munir A. Sheikh), the President of the European Survey Research Association (Willem Saris), contributed to the organization and success of these symposia.

The organized seminars were particularly successful. They addressed the following different topics:

- *Addressing the issue of well-being and progress in a context of increasing polarization* (Gilda Farrell - Council of Europe)
- *Training on measuring quality of life: the experience of the Global Project* - OECD (Daniel Byk - OECD)
- *Children and quality of life* (William O'Hare - Annie Casey Foundation)
- *Welfare community index: measuring relationship and social capital gain* (Ugo Biggeri, Mariateresa Ruggiero & Simone Siliani - Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica)
- *Quality of Life and Disability* (Fiona Rillotta - International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability - IASSID - and Quality of Life Special Interest Research Group - QOL SIRG)

Two working groups were created, (i) Composite Indicators and further: methodologies for managing the complexity of Quality-of-Life measurement, coordinated by Andrew Sharpe, Centre for the Study of Living Standards - Canada, and (ii) Studying and monitoring quality of life in Italy: towards a network, coordinated by Tommaso Rondinella, Lunaria - Italy. The meeting turned out to be particularly stimulating and motivating for

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future activities. In fact, from what we know, they have already started planning some activities.

The IX ISQOLS Conference in Florence represented one of the key-events in the ambit of the OECD Global Project "Measuring the Progress of Societies" in view of the III OECD World Forum that will be held in late 2009 in Korea. In the ambit of the Global Project, ISQOLS is an "associate organization". In the official capacity of present ISQOLS President, Robert Cummins has been invited to that forum. This invitation represents one of the most prestigious results of the IX ISQOLS conference.

Around the conference, special collateral events were organized.

Training course on Measuring the Progress of Societies "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Understanding Societal Change" (July 14-17). The course was organized by OECD in cooperation with ISQOLS and the Joint Research Centre (European Commission). The course focused mainly on three topics, why measure progress, measuring progress in practice, how to communicate the measure to a broad audience. The participants came from 14 different countries and were mainly statisticians, economists, policy-makers, and individuals from the private and civil society sectors. Some ISQOLS fellows were involved as teachers and others will be if, as it seems, the course will be organized again, in Florence. The course was held at the Centro Studi CISL, located on one of the most beautiful hills surrounding Florence.

Satellite meeting on Measuring subjective well-being: an opportunity for National Statistical Offices? (July 23-24). The satellite has been jointly organized by OECD, ISQOLS and ISTAT. The meeting aimed at discussing the role that National statistical offices could play, alongside other actors, in collecting more robust information on different aspects of subjective well-being and the factors shaping it. It gathered together around 70 participants, producers and users of subjective well-being data, as well as representatives from National statistical offices (USA, Canada, Spain, Italy, and so on) and international organizations (Gallup, New Economics Foundation, and so on). Its aims were to:

- raise awareness within the statistical community on the importance of subjective well-being measures, as demonstrated by the existing experiences in National statistical offices and in other institutions;
 - identify the best approaches for reliably measuring subjective well-being and assess the scope for including suitable questions in regular surveys;
 - evaluate possible future steps, including the possibility of developing a handbook on the measurement of subjective well-being.
- One of the most important results of the satellite turned out to be the proposal to organize the same collateral event. The meeting was enriched by the announcement concerning Enrico Giovannini, who during the meeting was appointed by the Italian government as the new President of the Italian National Institute of Statistics. The satellite was hosted by the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane at the Palazzo Strozzi, one of the most magnificent renaissance palaces in Florence.

Satellite meeting on Data on the well-being of migrant children (July 24). This satellite was organized by UNICEF - Innocenti Research Centre in cooperation with Istituto degli Innocenti.

The panelists presented

- findings from recent UNICEF sponsored research on the demographic, educational, economic, housing, and neighbourhood situations of children who live in immigrant families in OECD countries compared to native born children;
- the 'Istituto degli Innocenti' experience on documentation and analysis on the situation of migrant children (independent migrants, children migrating with their parents, as well as second generation of migrants).

The panelists also discussed challenges and opportunities in assessing the situation of migrant children through routinely collected data.

Last but not least, some information concerning the conference venue. The IX ISQOLS conference was held in the magnificent building of the *Spedale degli Innocenti*, designed by Filippo Brunelleschi, who received the commission in 1419. It is regarded as a notable and wonderful example of early Italian Renaissance architecture. With the passing of time, it has kept on being enriched by the contribution of famous artists.

The building, which features a nine bay loggia facing the Piazza SS. Annunziata, was built and managed by the "Arte della Seta" or Silk Guild of Florence. That guild was one of the wealthiest in the city and, like most guilds, took upon itself philanthropic duties. In fact, the Ospedale degli Innocenti hosts the Istituto degli Innocenti.

The "Istituto degli Innocenti" (Institute of the Innocents) has been working for nearly six centuries on behalf of families and children. At the time when it was established, during the first half of the fifteenth century, it was the first institution in the known world devoted exclusively to child care. The history of the Institute is immense and, in addition to its complex artistic and monumental heritage, it developed over an age-old experience in caring for children. As a result of its outstanding contributions over many years, ISQOLS awarded the Istituto degli Innocenti with the 2009 *Betterment of the Human Condition Award*.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who participated in this conference for helping to make it a thoroughly enjoyable and important event in the history of quality of life studies. We look forward to working with you and seeing you again at the next ISQOLS conference. Ciao!



THE 9TH ISQOLS CONFERENCE IN FLORENCE: A PERSONAL VIEW

Robert A. Cummins, President

Over the period 19th - 23rd July 2009, ISQOLS held its Ninth International Conference in the ancient city of Florence. Within this treasure-trove of European art lies the Istituto degli Innocenti (Institutes of the Innocents) which, was the first institution in the known world devoted exclusively to child care. The building is a wonderful example of Renaissance architecture and its President, Professor Alessandra Maggi, exemplified Italian hospitality as she welcomed us in the major auditorium. The Institutes has served many purposes over the centuries, but always with a concern for children and families. And now, briefly, their concern turned to the welfare of the 370 people from 44 different countries attending our conference.

Filomena Maggino, as Conference Chair, together with her team of students and assistants did an astonishing job in organizing such complexity. The magnitude of the exercise was considerably larger than we have experienced at previous conferences. The packed program contained 47 Tracks, seven Symposia, five Plenary sessions, and several workshops including Peggy Schyns' PhD workshop (not to be missed). To me, as an observer, it all went off without a hitch and ISQOLS owes Filomena a debt of gratitude for such wonderful organization. We also, with great relief, anticipate financial success, since ISQOLS is so dependent on its conferences for revenue to supplement membership fees.

There were many highlights. One of these was the involvement of Enrico Giovannini with the conference. Enrico is Chief Statistician for the OECD and has a far-sighted view which envisages the collection of subjective indicators as part of national statistics. ISQOLS became an Associate to this Global OECD Project Measuring the Progress of Societies in October 2008 and this was a wonderful occasion for us to learn of the project first-hand. Enrico spoke with the ISQOLS Board immediately prior to the conference and gave two subsequent Plenary addresses. His enthusiasm for this ideal was contagious and sparked much interest.

Further ties between the two organizations were then created through a joint ISQOLS - OECD meeting which immediately followed the conference. The indefatigable Filomena had organized this two-day 'Satellite' meeting to take further advantage of the congregation of interested parties at that place and time. This meeting, involving several speakers from both organizations, continued to discuss the potential role of subjective indicators in national policy. A number of national Chief Statisticians, senior academics from the social sciences and economics took part in these deliberations. No tangible resolution eventuated, but these discussions will continue in October at the next OECD conference in Busan.

All of these actions have brought ISQOLS and the OECD much closer together in the furtherance of Enrico's vision, that the systematic collection of subjective indicators should inform the creation of national policy. It appears to me that active cooperation between the two organizations will now grow stronger in the joint pursuit of this goal.

But the conference highlight was the Conference Dinner, with tables set around a courtyard within the Institutes. Many awards were given and speeches made, but the main celebration revolved around Joe.

Celebration of Joe Sirgy

As all ISQOLS members should know, Joe Sirgy has been our Executive Director for ever - well, to be more precise, since 1994 when ISQOLS was founded; a period of 16 years. And at the end of 2009 Joe has decided to step aside from this position and get on with other aspects of his busy life.

Most thankfully for us all, Joe will stay on as Treasurer. But his departure as our honorary Executive Director will necessitate major changes in the way we administer the organization. This issue is taxing the minds of the Executive Committee and more news on this later.

So, the question we faced as the Board of ISQOLS was how to express our admiration and gratitude to this extraordinary person for the role he has played. Various ideas were canvassed. Ed Diener suggested naming the conference dinner 'The Joe Sirgy Memorial Dinner', or similar. But Filomena pointed out that in Italian culture such naming would indicate that the person was already dead. Idea quickly abandoned. Other thoughts were debated and eventually the issue went to Jose Garcia and his Nominating Committee for resolution. On their advice, it was decided to honor Joe with a special plaque for Distinguished Service signed by all past presidents, to be presented at the conference dinner. And that is what happened.

A short speech of appreciation was given by Alex Michalos, who had presided over the early conference in St George that gave rise to ISQOLS. Then Anna Lau read the following tribute to Joe.

"The ISQOLS I have come to know, for almost a decade now, is an organization that sets itself apart from so many others, particularly in today's modern world. This is because ISQOLS is "people-centred" and all about giving real "positives" to people and life. This is the organization I came to know.

Through this organization, I have also come to meet and value all the wonderful, clever and amazing people of all kinds. While we may be different for all sorts of reasons (culture as a prominent one) - one thing is shared and common - QOL! And ISQOLS has always strived to achieve just that by first, operating within the spirit of people-centeredness. And also being a role-model in the giving of positives to colleagues, members and the world at large.

And all this has been possible simply because of the existence of one person

- JOE SIRGY, founder and father of this wonderful organization who really has also been its backbone all these years !!

Joe established a very "special" organization, with a spirit that sets it apart from others where, because of the dominance of bureaucratic procedures, they have lost "that special human touch" with its people and those out there.

On this occasion we, as "the wonderful ISQOLS family" I was introduced to a decade ago, are giving Joe an "exceptional" award of recognition. It was not for Joe Sirgy, this exceptional ISQOLS would not have been found on the map. And hence, neither would it have been a part of our lives in the way we all appreciate.

In this spirit, the Nominating Committee has come up with the best

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means for acknowledging Joe, deserving of our "highest" accolade. I know he will treasure this award for always."

Joe then rose to respond, expressed his deep appreciation of the honor and emotional gratitude being displayed towards him. Then, to a standing ovation, he took possession of his plaque. It was a moment to remember.

Meetings

Both the Executive Committee and the Board met immediately prior to the start of the conference. While the Board minutes have yet to be ratified at the time of composing this communication, the minutes of the Executive Committee have been ratified and are reproduced at the end of this report.

The most important in-principle decision is that, from the start of 2010, the Executive Director position will be separated into three positions as follows:

An Executive Officer (or Office manager), part time position;
A Treasurer (Joe Sirgy);
A Director of Development (as a professional fundraiser).
The Executive Committee is currently debating how best to implement these changes.

Minutes of Executive Meeting of ISQOLS Bacca Rossa Restaurant, Florence, Italy July 18, 2009

Present:

Laura Camfield, Andrew Clark, Robert Cummins, Jose Garcia, Wolfgang Glatzer, Kenneth Land, Anna Lau, Filomena Maggino, Valerie Møller, Joe Sirgy, Eduardo Wills Herrera.

Robert Cummins current ISQOLS president chaired the meeting.

Introductions, present, apologies:

The meeting was opened with apologies for the absences of Richard Easterlin, Don Rahtz and Graciela Tonon, made by Bob Cummins. Alex Michalos, Heinz-Herbert Noll and Denis Huschka were also apologies due to delayed flights. Those present introduced themselves.

Previous Minutes from San Diego:

The minutes of previous meeting were adopted.

Business arising from the minutes:

Programs:

The Conference of Florence was a success in terms of the number of people who have registered. The new fee structure, created by Andrew Clark, was implemented for the first time. Filomena Maggino will write a report on the experience of this new fee structure.

The Singapore Conference was not held;

The Social Indicators Working Group of ISA was successfully transformed into a Research Committee on Social Indicators, with Heinz-Herbert Noll as president;

The India Conference was not held.

The Mary Joyce memorial fund was successfully implemented.

Publications:

Kenneth Land will finish the Handbook review in 2010.

Memberships:

The code of ethics was linked to membership applications on the ISQOLS website.

Developments:

The committee discussed the efforts to publicize the International Wellbeing Index and Richard Estes' Social Development Index. Bob and Andrew will consider ways of linking these with ISQOLS.

Finance and Executive Director

The committee discussed how best to reorganise the ISQOLS headquarters when Joe Sirgy's term of office as Executive Director expires at the end 2009.

It was proposed that from 2010 the Executive Director position be separated into three positions as:

An Executive Officer (or Office manager), part time position;
A Treasurer (Joe Sirgy);
A Director of Development (as a professional fundraiser).

Before the Executive Officer can be appointed, the financial implications need to be understood and a job description created. The following motion was carried with the majority of those present (nem con):

That this Executive Committee agrees in principle to the appointment of a part-time Executive Officer from the beginning of 2010.'

It was agreed that the motion would be submitted for discussion at the Board of Directors meeting and that it would be considered again when the necessary financial information becomes available.

Current ISQOLS Administration

Communication between members of Executive by e-mail was discussed. It was felt that this should continue. Andrew Clark suggested we use Doodle, a soft-ware to create online surveys, in order to facilitate voting.

ISQOLS future

Joe Sirgy discussed the Certification program, and proposed that it continue. Filomena Maggino proposed face-to-face training courses as useful for certification.

The Board discussed some possible locations for the next ISQOLS Conference, but no decision was made.

The meeting was closed by the President at 20:15



CALL FOR PAPERS

Social Indicators at the XVII. ISA World Congress of Sociology July 11-17, 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden

The XVII. World Congress of Sociology of the International Sociological Association (ISA), will take place in July 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The overarching theme is "Sociology on the Move". The Research Committee on "Social Indicators" (RC 55) organizes a series of all together 11 sessions addressing various issues of current social indicators and quality of life research. Four of these sessions are joint sessions, organized in close cooperation with other Research Committees:

Session 1: *Social Indicators of Progress in Societies* (Organizer: Valerie Moller, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, v.moller@ru.ac.za)

Session 2: *Social Indicators of Subjective Well-Being and Happiness* (Organizer: Ruut Veenhoven, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, veenhoven@fsw.eur.nl)

Session 3: *Social Indicators of Migration and the Integration of Migrants* (Organizer: Rob Bijl, Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP, The Hague, The Netherlands, r.bijl@scp.nl)

Session 4: *Reciprocity, Social Ties and Wellbeing: Indicators and Comparative Studies* (Organizer: Ming-Chang Tsai, National Taipei University, Taiwan, mtsai@mail.ntpu.edu.tw)

Session 5: *Inequality, Insecurity and Well-Being - Indicators and Analyses* (Organizer: Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, christian.suter@unine.ch)

Session 6: *Social Indicators and Policy Making*. (Organizer: Ming-Chang Tsai, National Taipei University, Taiwan, mtsai@mail.ntpu.edu.tw)

Session 7: *Social Indicators 'on the Move'* (Organizer: Heinz-Herbert Noll, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany, heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org)

Joint Session of RC 55 "Social Indicators" and RC 11 "Sociology of Aging":

Worlds of Difference in Qualities of Life for Older People Living in Developing and Developed Countries (Organisers: Valerie Moller, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, v.moller@ru.ac.za and Jaco Hoffman, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom, jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

Joint Session of RC 11 "Sociology of Aging" and RC 55 "Social Indicators":

Older People's Contributions to Societal Wellbeing (Organizers: Sara Arber, University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom, S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk, and Wolfgang Glatzer, Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M., Germany, Glatzer@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

Joint Session of RC 55 "Social Indicators" and RC 24 "Environment and Society":

Sustainability and Quality of Life: Concordant or Conflicting Goals of Societal Development? (Organizers: Heinz-Herbert Noll, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany, heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org and Mercedes Pardo Buendia, University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, mercedes.pardo@uc3m.es)

Joint Session of RC 55 "Social Indicators" and RC 53 "Sociology of Childhood":

Assessing children's quality of life (Organizers: Heinz-Herbert Noll, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany, heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org and Doris Bühler-Niederberger, University of Wuppertal, Germany, buehler@uni-wuppertal.de)

A detailed call for papers and more information is available at the Congress-Website: <http://www.isa-Sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc55.htm>.

Applications should be sent to session organizers. The deadline for submission of abstracts is November 30, 2009.

~Heinz-Herbert Noll

heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org

President of RC 55 and Program Coordinator

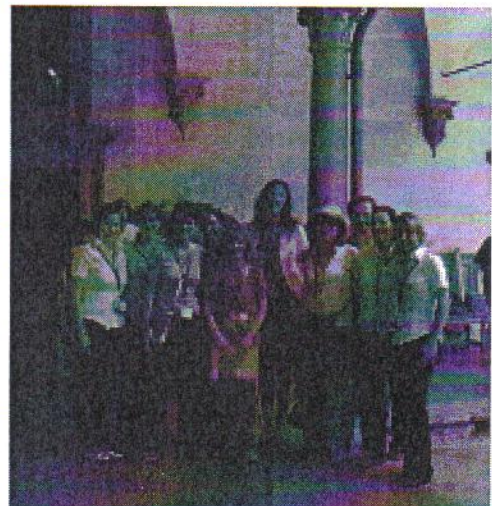
CALL FOR PAPERS

Applied Research in Quality of Life

The Official Journal of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

The aim of this journal is to publish conceptual, methodological and empirical papers dealing with quality-of-life studies in the applied areas of the natural and social sciences. As the official journal of ISQOLS, it is designed to attract papers that have some direct implications for or impact on practical applications of research on the quality-of-life. We welcome papers crafted from inter-disciplinary, inter-professional and international perspectives. This research should guide decision making in a variety of professions, industries, nonprofit, and government sectors such as healthcare, travel and tourism, marketing, corporate management, community planning, social work, public administration, human resource management, among others. The goal is to help decision makers apply performance measures and outcome assessment techniques based on concepts such as well-being, human satisfaction, human development, happiness, wellness and quality of life. The Editorial Review Board is divided into specific sections indicating the broad scope of practice covered by the journal, and the section editors are distinguished scholars from many countries across the globe.

Authors interested in submitting manuscripts for publication should consult the website <http://ariq.edmgr.com>. Manuscripts should be directed to the relevant Section Editor of the Editorial Review Board. If an appropriate Section Editor can not be identified, direct the manuscript to the current Editor in Chief, Alex Michalos.



Counting Children In!

Child Indicators: Research, Theory, Policy and Practice

2nd International Conference of
International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)
4th and 5th November, 2009

&

The Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre

University of Western Sydney (UWS) Symposium

'Children as Experts in Their Own Lives:

Developing Child Inclusive Research Policy and Practice

3rd November, 2009

The Conference Organising Committee for the second ISCI conference advises you of the opportunity to participate in the conference **Counting Children In! Child Indicators: Research Theory, Policy and Practice** to be held in Sydney, Australia on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November, 2009. This conference will be held at the Parramatta campus of the University of Western Sydney.

An associated conference - The Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre (UWS) Symposium '**Children as Experts in Their Own Lives: Developing Child Inclusive Research Policy and Practice**' - will be held at the same venue on Tuesday 3rd November, 2009.

THE ISCI CONFERENCE Counting Children In!

The ISCI conference has been designed to promote dialogue around concepts of child indicators and of child well-being, amongst diverse stakeholders and between research, theory, policy and practice. Abstracts and poster presentations will be invited from practitioners, researchers, policy makers and academics.

The conference will include plenary sessions addressed by keynote speakers, contributed papers and structured opportunities for conference participants to discuss issues arising at the conference.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES: HEADQUARTERS AND WWW HOMEPAGE

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was formed in the mid-1990s. The objectives of ISQOLS are: 1) to stimulate interdisciplinary research in quality-of-life (QOL) studies within the managerial (policy), behavioral, social, medical, and environmental sciences; 2) to provide an organization which all academic, business, nonprofit, and government researchers who are interested in QOL studies can coordinate their efforts to advance the knowledge base and to create positive social change; and 3) to encourage closer cooperation among scholars engaged in QOL research to develop better theory, methods, measures, and intervention programs.

The year 2006 membership fees are US\$75 for regular members and \$50 for students or retired persons. Prof. M. JOSEPH SIRGY (Virginia Tech and State University) is Executive Director of ISQOLS. Anyone interested in knowing more about ISQOLS should contact Prof. Sirgy at the central office.

The ISQOLS central office recently moved to new physical and virtual locations. Please note the new addresses:

International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)

1800 Kraft Drive, Suite 111
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-6370, USA
Office tel: (540) 231-5110; fax: (540) 961-4162
E-mail: isqols@vt.edu

Website: www.isqols.org



SINET WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE

SINET has a homepage entry on the World Wide Web. It is located on the homepage of the Department of Sociology at Duke University and thus can be accessed by clicking on Department Publications on the address of that page, namely, <http://www.soc.duke.edu> or by typing in the full address <http://www.soc.duke.edu/resources/sinet>. The homepage for *SINET* contains a description of the Contents of the Current Issue as well as of Previous Issues. In addition, it has Subscription Information, Editorial Information, Issue-Related Links, and a link to the homepage of ISQOLS, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. The Issue-Related Links button has links to locations of data for the construction, study, and analysis of social and quality-of-life indicators that have been identified in previous issues of *SINET*.



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