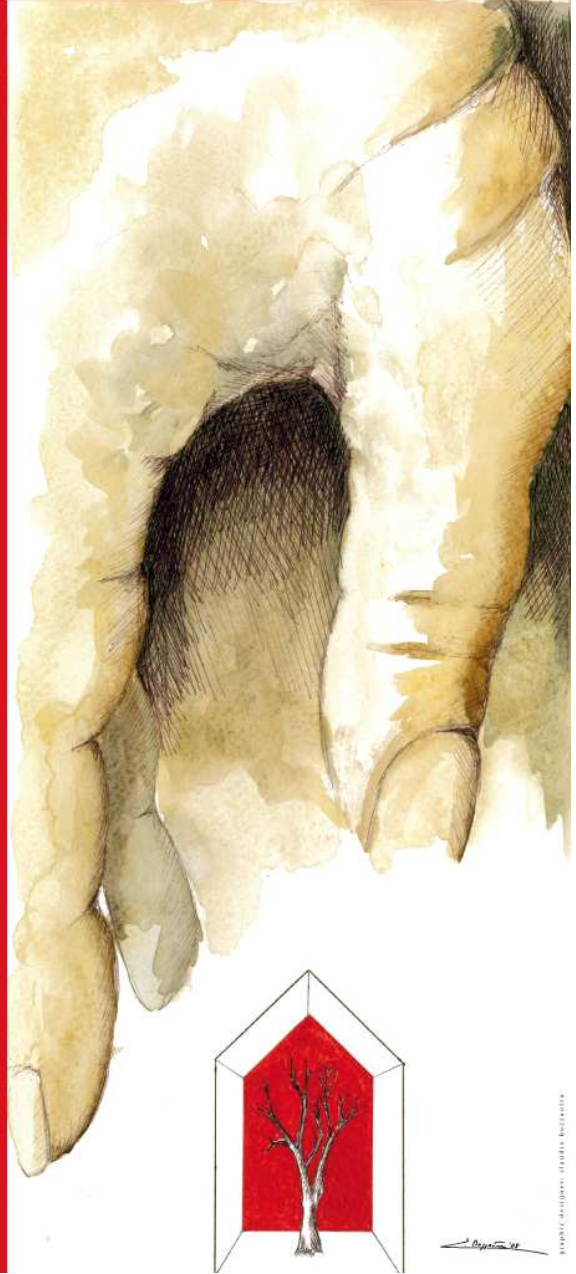




Quality of life studies: measures and goals for the progress of societies

IX Conference of International Society of Quality of Life Studies

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Book of Abstracts

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Quality of Life Studies:
Measures and Goals for the Progress of Societies

Book of Abstracts

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1. Track 1 – QOL in Europe

Track and Session Chairs:

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Director 'Social Indicators Research Centre' (ZSi) – Germany

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1.1. A virtuous spiral of development? Changing quality of life in Central and Eastern Europe

Abbott, Pamela – University of Aberdeen

Wallace, Claire – University of Aberdeen, Ukn, UK

In this paper we will consider changes in quality of life in East-Central Europe using the 2003 and 2008 European Quality of Life Surveys. We will consider the extent to which following a virtuous spiral of development (Wallace and Haerpfer 2002, Abbott and Wallace forthcoming).

results in improvements in subjective well-being and an improvement in quality of life. We will consider both changes between countries and changes for social groups within countries. We will conclude by considering the policy implications of our findings.

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Wallace, C. and Haerpfer, C. (2002), 'Patterns of Participation in the Informal Economy in East-Central Europe', in R. Neef and M. Stanculescu (eds), The Social Impact of the Informal Economies in Eastern Europe, Aldershot: Ashgate

1.2. The effect of transition on life satisfaction in Poland

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Since 1989 Poland has been considered a leader in economic reform, but did the process of transition from a planned economy to a free market model make the Poles happier? A look at life satisfaction levels reported in the World Values Survey during the first decade and a half of transition shows mixed evidence. In 1998 the Poles reported happiness levels significantly lower than in 1989, the decrease being more pronounced in the case of men. Despite the fact that GDP had already recovered to pre-transition levels, the increased unemployment and withdrawal from the labor force, as well as the disruption of people's family lives, seem to have taken a toll on the happiness of the Poles. By 2005 though, life satisfaction reached levels that were significantly higher than in 1989, despite the fact that the unemployment rate and the percentage of unmarried people continued to increase. In order to address this puzzle, we turn to a cohort analysis and find that the main driving force behind the higher level of subjective well-being seems to be the replacement of generations. Young people, raised mostly in a market economy and enjoying its opportunities, are more adept at coping

with its costs too. Even if older people benefit from somewhat better objective conditions, their happiness increases only slightly. Therefore, it seems that the replacement of generations is what will allow the new market economy in Poland to reach its full potential in terms of life satisfaction benefits.

1.3. The relation between life satisfaction and material situation: A question of measures? An analysis using the German example

Christoph, Bernard – Institute for Employment research (IAB)

One of the puzzling findings in research on subjective well-being (SWB) is that the relationship between a persons' satisfaction and her material situation seems to be weak, at best (e.g. Cummins 2002, Schyns 2002). Only recently authors began to ask, whether this might at least in part be explained by the fact, that "income is not the only or necessarily the best indicator of material standard of living" (Heady et al. 2005: 131). Building on this idea, Heady et al (2005, 2008) have shown that the inclusion of alternative measures, e.g. for wealth, reveals that this relationship might be somewhat stronger than researchers thought before.

The paper will follow this lead set out by Heady et al. but will go beyond their original approach by looking at a completely different measure for the material situation, a so called deprivation index (e.g. Townsend 1979, Halleröd 1995), which measures a person's material situation using information on the goods he or she possesses. It has been shown that indices of this kind tap a somewhat different aspect of material conditions than measures for income or wealth.

The paper will argue, that deprivation measures are also useful when analysing the relationship between material conditions and SWB. Using three German datasets, the Welfare Survey 1998, the GSOEP and the Panel 'Labour Market and Social Security', it will be shown that in all cases deprivation measures perform better in explaining differences SWB than income based measures do.

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1.4. Social cohesion: Measurement based on the data from European Value Study

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The main aim of the present study is to review the latest research conducted on the concept of social cohesion, to link and to upgrade the existing conceptualizations of social cohesion in a systematic manner and to measure social cohesion using the micro data from the 1999 European Values Study. That 1999 study contains a great number of subjective and objective items that measure attitudes toward and behaviour regarding social relations, participation, and trust at many levels of social reality as well as in many spheres/domains of everyday life. This paper builds on the research of Berger-Schmitt (1999), Jenson (1998), Chan et al. (2006) and mainly Bernard (1999). Empirical analyses/construction of social cohesion indicators is realized by employing multidimensional scaling and confirmatory factor analysis.

The main contributions of this paper are based on a clearly defined multidimensional theoretical concept of social cohesion and on representative individual data containing a wide range of micro items covering most of the dimensions pointed out in the theory. As most of the measures of the social cohesion proposed up to now rely mainly on objective macro indicators, our study proposes an alternative and innovative approach to measuring the phenomenon.

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1.5. Subjective well-being in Post-Socialist Countries: Comparative study of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan

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Although most people appreciate the increasing freedom and expansion of goods and services in their countries that come along with development into a market economy, the mean levels of life satisfaction have not improved after twenty years of transition and there is an apparent feeling of nostalgia towards to “good old days”. The study aims to understand how happiness is structured during the period of transition by looking at two former Soviet Union countries: Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. The data of the study is based on two survey projects: Quality of Life in Central Asia and Caucasus: Case Studies of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (2006), and Life in Transition Survey (2007). The results of the study confirmed the previous findings in the literature of happiness in transition, such as the influence of age, educational level and labor market status of the people on their subjective well-being. Through applying Allardt's (1993) welfare model, for Having, the study showed that people's life satisfaction is determined by both their current living standards and their evaluations of it with the past living conditions in both countries. Moreover, peoples' comparison of their living standards with their reference groups leads to low level of life satisfaction. Referring to Being, it has been found that increasing anomie is one of the most significant reasons of high levels of dissatisfaction with life.

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1.6. Financial incentives to work – Adverse effects on job satisfaction

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In this paper I analyze the consequences of activation policies that use financial incentives to work (in-work benefit) on satisfaction in newfound jobs. Job satisfaction is seen to be influenced by wage as well as non-wage aspects of work. The paper's hypothesis is that being offered a financial incentive to work can change the unemployed's definition of the decision situation in the sense "that certain cost/benefit aspects are more or less screened out of the decision making context" (Lindenberg 1998: 66). Lead to focus on monetary consequences of job acceptance, non wage aspects tend to be disregarded. As a result job

seekers risk ending up in jobs not in line with their preferences. This hypothesis is tested by identifying two groups from a survey of ca. 1500 German in-work benefit recipients. Group 1 was motivated by the in-work benefit to accept the low wage job offer, whereas in Group 2 it had no influence on their decision. The nonparametric method of propensity score matching is used to eliminate compositional differences between those groups regarding human capital, household characteristics, employment history and attitudes. I find that Group 1 that was motivated by the financial incentive has a significantly lower job satisfaction than Group 2. Since this holds also after statistically blocking the influence of wages as well as wage satisfaction on job satisfaction, I conclude that the results are mainly due to non-wage aspects of the job.

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1.7. Measuring quality of life in Spanish municipalities

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Measuring quality of life in municipalities entails two empirical challenges. First, collecting a set of relevant indicators that can be compared across the municipalities in the sample. Second, using an appropriate aggregating tool in order to construct a synthetic index. Following the ideas of Hashimoto and Ishikawa (1993) and Marshall and Shortle (2005), this paper measures quality of life for the largest 643 Spanish municipalities using 19 indicators using Value Efficiency Analysis (VEA) to estimate comparative scores. VEA is a refinement of DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) that imposes some consistency in the weights of the indicators used to construct the aggregate index (Halme et al. 1999). The indicators cover aspects related to consumption, social services, housing, transport, environment, labour market, health, culture and leisure, education and security. Superefficiency VEA scores are also computed in order to construct a complete ordered ranking of quality of life. The results show that the Northern and Central regions in Spain attain the highest levels of quality of life, while the Southern regions report low living conditions. Madrid, Galicia and Canarias also show important deficits of quality of life as compared with frontier municipalities.

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1.8. Subjective and objective well-being indicators and social capital. A study of Belgian communities

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It is a general expectation that social capital will have positive effects on well-being indicators: 'the importance of social connectedness [is never] so well established as in the case of health and well-being' (Putnam 2000:326). Citizens of vibrant civil societies are healthier because they can rely on assistance from a network, are supported to follow healthy norms and are less likely to be socially isolated (Hooghe 2003, 2007). Indeed, more than a century ago, Durkheim (1897) argued for a similar relation between social cohesion and mental well-being. We know less, however, about the causal mechanism that might be responsible for this relation. More specifically we want to determine whether the relation is established on an individual level (only the members of associations and networks benefit themselves) or on an aggregate level (for the whole community, also for non-members).

The analysis will be performed using a new dataset on social cohesion indicators for Flanders (Belgium). A multi-level analysis will allow us to determine whether the observed effect of participant and networks on objective and subjective well-being is established at the individual level or the level of the municipalities (n=308). A unique feature of this data set is that it combines individual survey data (participation, well-being...) with aggregate real-life data on the municipalities (e.g., unemployment and suicide rates, number of associations, etc.).

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1.9. Building blocks for social cohesion in Europe: Wellbeing towards active citizenship

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The term "Active Citizenship" was firstly used in a European level context when developing the proposal for the European Commission Lisbon Strategy 2010 towards developing a competitive knowledge society and greater social cohesion. The concept of Active citizenship is multidimensional and concerns the sense of belonging to the society in which they live, the value of democracy, equality and understanding different cultures and different opinions. Mascherini and Hoskins, (2009), measured Active Citizenship through a composite indicator based on a list of 61 basic indicators drawn from the European Social Survey of 2002.

The concept of subject well being (SWB) refers to how people evaluate their lives: it includes different aspects of satisfactions like economic satisfaction, personal satisfaction but also lack of depression and anxiety, and positive moods and emotions (Diener, 1984).

Following this framework, we estimate the relation between the subjective well being and the active citizenship by controlling the effect with a set of socio demographic variables, (as age, gender, education, etc) by using a multi-level regression model.

This paper analyses the relations between active citizenship and happiness in Europe by using the European Social Survey 2002 and tests the cross countries differences. The analysis highlights if there are countries differences in the level of active citizenship and how the subjective well being affects the active citizens across the countries.

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1.10. Factors contributing to the subjective well being across and within age cohorts: Case of Croatia

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In order to establish indicators of progress related to the community well being one should first identify domains and factors contributing to the quality of life and well being. In this paper we examine the amount of variance of subjective well being explained by various external factors classified in several areas: Family relationships, Economic resources, Health, Employment, Education, Housing and life conditions and Social participation. The results are based on the extensive Quality of Life survey conducted in Croatia by United Nations Development Programme (N=8534 15+; May 2006). Since our assumption was that age moderates the relationship between the subjective well being and the external factors that affect it, we carried out regression analysis separately on seven age groups. With some reservations due to the shortcomings of regression analysis and quality of indicators within areas, we found out that the single most important domain in explaining subjective well being are economic resources of the household, followed by health and employment. With all predictors we could explain more than 50 percent of the subjective well being variable. Consistent with initial expectations, results showed that predictive power of indicators within particular domains vary with age.

1.11. The balancing act between work and family life: Gender differences in perceptions of work life conflict and satisfaction

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Scott, Jacqueline – University of Cambridge

The study of work-life conflict is a very timely topic which has recently gained increased attention from policy makers, partly because of the conflicts that mothers often face in reconciling employment with family responsibilities.

In the present study, we use data from the second and third round of the European Social Survey (ESS) to explore gender differences in work-life conflict and its relation to subjective well-being in four countries; Germany, France, Ireland and the UK. The aim of the analysis is to investigate which domains of life are important for work-life conflict, and whether the importance of these domains differs between genders. In contrast to some previous studies, we focus on the partner's contribution to paid and unpaid work within the household. This is of particular interest as the division of labour within households has recently undergone remarkable changes.

We find that, on average, men report higher levels of work-life conflict than women, but women who work full-time have perceptions similar to men's. However, women still do more household chores than men, even when both partners are working full-time. Whether people perceive an imbalance between family and work partly depends on their attitudes towards traditional gender roles, and thus, perhaps, whether the within household division of labour is considered to be fair. We further test how work-life conflict is related to several measures of individual well-being.

1.12. The quality of life in Portugal in the European context

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In this paper, we'll be characterizing the main quality of life patterns in Portugal. The way Portuguese citizens evaluate their living conditions and family and work lives will take centre stage in the analysis, as well as the social and cultural determinants that shape those patterns. Special attention will be given to the country's place, understood as a specific welfare regime, in the European context. In more analytical terms, the focus will be placed on the connections existing between societal structures of constraint and opportunity and family and work contexts that frame the everyday life of individuals. A general characterization of the Portuguese situation in Europe regarding quality of life will be made using existing data from the European Social Survey (ESS 2002) and from the first European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS 2003). More in depth analyses of the quality of work and family life will be carried out using quantitative data gathered in the Quality of Life in a Changing Europe Project. This innovative project has the general aim to map out and understand the well-being and quality of life patterns of European workers in the service sector. Eight countries are involved in this project: The Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Portugal, Hungary and Bulgaria. In each country, a survey was carried out in four companies: telecommunications, banking/insurance, retail and a hospital. A total of 7869 questionnaires was gathered in the eight countries.

1.13. Well-being in Italian regions. Measures, civil society consultation and evidence

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Several efforts have recently been attempted to integrate various aspects of economic progress, environmental sustainability and social welfare into an aggregate measure of wellbeing. They usually share two major weaknesses among others: first, they fail to identify key aspects of wellbeing second, they use arbitrary weights to aggregate these dimensions. In this paper we present an innovative and well tested approach that overcomes such limitations by identifying the relevant dimensions of progress in Italian regions through a broad consultation of civil society organisations.

Since 2004 the Sbilanciamoci campaign - that includes about 50 organizations active in social issues, solidarity work, environmental problems, civil rights promotion, education and health monitoring, consumer protection and alternative economic activities, from fair trade to ethical banking - has sponsored the production of regular reports on wellbeing in Italian regions. The approach followed includes a wide consultation of the member organizations in order to identify, among available indicators, a balanced set of variables reflecting key dimensions of wellbeing; a method of weighting different aspects is also agreed upon. The result of this process has led to the production of a composite indicator of wellbeing - QUARS, Index of Quality of Regional Development - and to the publication of five annual reports (www.sbilanciamoci.org).

In this paper, after a brief review of the state of the art, we present the methodology followed for the QUARS indicator, pointing out strengths and weaknesses of our approach. We summarise the results of the available studies on Italian regions that are now based on a four years time series of 42 indicators, and discuss the possibilities of improvement of such an indicator. We examine the evidence from intermediate aggregations of the data and we carry out multivariate analysis in order to analyse data and to test the robustness of the indicator. The involvement of civil society has played a major role also in a policy perspective. The selection of indicators was closely linked to the need to assess social needs and policy challenges in Italian regions, and the results of the study has led to initiatives for policy change at the local level. The definition of the QUARS indicator, therefore, summarises a view of progress founded on the policy actions that can effectively improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities. The QUARS indicator has been adopted by several regional governments in their plans and detailed studies have been carried out for the Provinces of Trento, Ascoli Piceno, Arezzo, etc. In our conclusions, we also examine the potential for policy use of such measures of wellbeing.

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1.14. An approach to the measurement of the individual and social quality of life in Europe

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Pena, Bernardo – University of Alcalá, Spain

The study of the quality of life from the viewpoint of societies gained special interest in the second half of the 1980s and in the 1990s in the European Union with regard to the need on the part of the politicians to have detailed information at their disposal which could be useful in taking political decisions and in evaluating them.

The object of this paper is to analyse the quality of life of the citizens of the European Union by considering the question of whether differences exist between this concept at the social

and individual level. When it comes to measuring and quantifying the quality of life, diverse methodologies and approaches have been used but perhaps the most important and widely used is that of the social indicators. In this approach, the concept of welfare is divided into different dimensions which are likewise made up of social indicators, so that social welfare is obtained with a combination of the information from these indicators. In general, the methods for constructing synthetic indicators are particularly interesting in this field of research, especially in the context of the UE. Specifically, in this paper we propose to use the measurement of the P2 distance.

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1.15. Making ends meet? Income, standards of living and subjective assessments across European Countries

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Based on objective and subjective indicators our comparative analysis focuses on how people across European countries perceive and assess their income situation and material living conditions. In a first introductory part descriptive information on the income situation and material deprivation of private households will be presented. The information on how people perceive and assess their level of living will be based on two subjective indicators: A question on whether households are able “to make ends meet” and a question concerning the minimum income needed to make ends meet. The second part of the presentation will focus on how these subjective perceptions and assessments relate to the financial situation of households and other household characteristics and how these correlations vary across countries. One of the issues being addressed in more detail concerns the question whether and to which degree estimates of the minimum income needed to make ends meet are depending on normative factors or on objective needs. The analysis is based on data from the EU-SILC 2006.

2. Track 3/7/21 – QOL in Central and South America; The QOL of the Poor; Economics and QOL

Tracks Chairs:

Richard Easterlin, University of Southern California – USA

Mariano Rojas, Foro Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico – Mexico

Session Chairs:

Andrew Clark, Paris School of Economics - France and IZA – Germany

Mariano Rojas, Foro Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico – Mexico

2.1. Some environmental and social factors influencing mental health in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Arias-Galicia Fernando – Graduate School of Psychology, Morelos University

Goal. To ascertain the influence of the Environment (security, home, finance, municipal services, transportation, access to information), Social relations (support from family and friends, sexual relations), Physical health and Self-esteem on Mental health (representing QOL)

Method. 406 dwellers of Cuernavaca (a city with about 400,000 inhabitants located 75 kilometers south of Mexico City) were surveyed. Two questionnaires were administered: the World Health Organization Quality of Life, and a Self-esteem inventory. According to theoretical viewpoints, structural equation models were posited.

Results. The measurement model rendered adequate fit indices. The reduction in chi-squared indicated that the second model in which Self-esteem arises from Social relationships represented more accurately the associations among the variables. So, in the model two independent variables were posited: Environment and Social relationships. The first was related to Physical health; the second was related to Self-esteem. The path from Physical health to Mental health (final variable) was significant as well as fit indices.

Discussion. Environment, Social relations, Physical health and Self-esteem influence Mental Health although weights are not the same. These findings have important implications for countries in the developing world where neighborhoods often lack adequate standards. Also these results call for governmental actions in order to increase quality of life.

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2.2. Child poverty: What do the statistics evaluate?

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Child poverty is a problem of major concern in the EU where around one in five children live in poverty, according to the statistics of EUROSTAT. In Portugal this proportion is higher and reaches 25%.

Therefore the diagnosis of the problem becomes pertinent for the definition of social policies to tackle it. However the information given by the official statistics is rather insufficient. In fact studies on the subject have commonly analysed child poverty through observation of the family (Bastos and Nunes 2009, European Commission 2008, Chen et al. 2005, Corak et al. 2004, Bradbury et al. 2001). These studies focus either on the family's income or on the living conditions of the households where children live. The family is the unit of observation considered.

The aim of this paper is twofold: first it investigates the limitations of the studies on child poverty developed so far and then, it suggests a methodological framework to evaluate child poverty that considers the child as the central unit of observation. This methodology is based on a multidimensional approach to the problem and involves the definition of well-being indicators specifically assigned to children.

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2.3. Social policies and well-being

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Maignan, Carole – Università IUAV e Ca' Foscari
Setiffi, Francesca

The objective is to provide an understanding of the role of social policies in local development, defined as including both economic and social well-being. The model of analysis used is based on putting together different social dimensions with economic ones. We are looking for evidence of a positive correlation between the implementation of social policies within a territory and its level of economic development. The final aim of this paper is to provide an evaluation tool to institutions and policy makers in order to target their welfare policies to a better quality of life. We first present the theoretical model linking social policies to local development both in a direct and indirect manner. We selected policies that can have a positive impact on local development through the social determinants of development (defined as: health, social capital and capability level). The second phase

reports the results of the analysis of three case-studies within the Veneto region and one within the Campagna region. We are using data coming from Health Units in order to get detailed information about social policies used; we then collect quantitative and qualitative data for all aspects linked to development. All cases follow the same structure and data gathering processes so their analyses and results can be easily confronted. The evaluation of the impact of social policies on local development is based on a classification of different welfare models characterising the case-studies.

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2.4. Winning big but feeling no better? The effect of lottery prizes on physical and mental health

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Apouey, Benedicte – Paris School of Economics

We use British panel data to explore the exogenous impact of income on a number of individual health outcomes: general health status, mental health, physical health problems, and health behaviours (drinking and smoking). Lottery winnings allow us to make causal statements regarding the effect of income on health, as the amount won is largely exogenous. These positive income shocks have no significant effect on general health, but a large positive effect on mental health, supporting recent findings in the literature. This result seems paradoxical on two levels. First, there is a well-known status gradient in health in cross-section data, and, second, general health should partly reflect mental health, so that we may expect both variables to move in the same direction. We propose a solution to the first apparent paradox by underlining the endogeneity of income. For the second, we show that increases in risky health behaviours: lottery winners smoke more and engage in more social drinking. General health will pick up both mental health and these behaviours, and so may not improve following a positive income shock. This paper presents the first microeconomic analogue of previous work which has highlighted the negative health consequences of good macroeconomic conditions.

2.5. Elderly well-being: What changes after retirement. An international comparison

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This paper addresses the well-being change when older people withdraw from the labor market?

Time use and well-being research converge in different ways: leisure time is included as a component of quality of life indicators; time allocation data is used in measuring non market production; care activities, the perception of stress, lack of free time and self reported well-being or satisfaction are frequently included in time use studies help provide an extended analysis of well-being.

This paper brings together information from four micro databases: Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS), American Time Use Survey (ATUS), European Community Household Panel (ECHP), Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Harmonized European Time Use Surveys (HETUS) published data are also considered. A total of 24 countries are included.

The results suggest that well-being, evaluated according differing criteria tends to remain constant or decrease after retirement. Cultural and institutional cross-country context seem

to have more influence on labor market characteristics and behavior of employed than on retirees after the transition to retirement. The influence of family context and income on well-being does not show empirical evidence for all the countries. At the late stage of life, formal study activities and intergenerational support care are rare.

2.6. Back to baseline in Britain: Adaptation in the BHPS

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Clark, Andrew – Paris School of Economics, France and IZA, German

A recent paper (Clark et al., 2008) was arguably one of the first to trace out systematically the pattern of well-being leading up to and following a number of significant labour-market and life events, using large-scale long-run panel data. Their analysis sample of over 130,000 person-year observations in twenty waves of German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) data revealed significant lags and lead effects. However, while the patterns in well-being were reasonably similar for men and women, they did differ noticeably between events. Complete adaptation was found for marriage, divorce, widowhood, birth of child, and layoff. The exception is unemployment, for which there was only little evidence of adaptation. The information provided in Clark et al. is novel, but inspires a number of questions. First, are these striking patterns of adaptation (or not) specific to Germany, or are they broadly representative? Second, the analysis was based on a single-item measure of well-being (life satisfaction). In the light of the strong preference expressed by Psychologists for multi-item measures of individual well-being, should single-item results be regarded with some suspicion? This paper brings some responses to both of these questions. While we do not have harmonised data over a variety of countries that will allow us to replicate the analysis in Clark et al. (which requires relatively long-run panel data including a measure of individual overall subjective well-being), we can apply the method used for the GSOEP data to another well-known long-run panel survey: the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). This latter does include (at least from Wave Six onwards) an overall life satisfaction question similar to that used by Clark et al. for the analysis of the GSOEP data. However, it also includes a psychological measure of mental stress (the 12-item General Health Questionnaire, or GHQ-12). Our results suggest that the phenomenon of adaptation may be a general one, rather than being only found in German data or using single-item measures. Specifically, the adaptation graphs that result from our analysis of the BHPS data are remarkably similar to those found in previous analysis of the GSOEP.

2.7. Building a quality of life for Mexico

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Presumably, the objective of every society is to achieve progress. Through the years, GDP has been one of the most popular measures of progress. However, using GDP as the only measure of progress has been recently discussed and questioned by several international organizations (OECD, 2009).

We propose the quality of life of a community as an alternative measure of progress and we contend that quality of life of a community may be expressed as a single number. Composite indices, if evaluated regularly, permit pointing out the direction of changes over time and are very useful to mark trends and draw attention to particular issues (OECD, 2008). Some

examples are: inflation (CPI), unemployment index, consumer confidence index, human development index, etc.

The framework of the QOL index includes different domains such as: health, education, economy, security, community life, good governance, and personal well being. This framework follows the top-down approach, which needs to be revised and validated by the constituents.

Preliminary results show that the value of the first QOL index for Mexico in 2008 was 7.23. However, comparing the QOL index per community size tells us that small communities have a better quality of life than the rest. Going one step further, we find that security, good governance and well being are the domains that help small communities to perform better, but the economic domain still lags behind that from the largest commun

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2.8. Income, deprivation, and perceptions in Latin America and the Caribbean: New evidence from the Gallup World Poll

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Marchionni, Mariana – CEDLAS, Universidad Nacional de La Plata
Olivieri, Sergio – CEDLAS, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

This paper is mainly aimed at providing evidence on the multiple dimensions of deprivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by exploiting a new dataset, the Gallup World Poll. This survey has two main advantages over national household surveys: it includes a larger and much richer set of questions on quality of life and perceptions, and the survey design and questionnaires are similar across 130 countries, 23 of them from LAC.

Based on Gallup data, we estimate levels and patterns of income, multidimensional non-monetary, and subjective deprivation for all countries in LAC, and compare the results with those from household surveys. We find that subjective-based poverty is significantly related to its objective counterpart, but that income represents only part of a more complex, multidimensional structure behind welfare. The exploratory analysis derived from a simple factor analytic model suggests that welfare can be appropriately summarized by three dimensions: income, an average of the subjective welfare measures, and variables associated to basic needs.

In order to assess the adequacy of international income-based poverty lines, we implement a simple exercise by inverting subjective welfare levels in order to find income thresholds that can be used to separate the poor from the non-poor. From this analysis the US\$1-a-day international line appears to be a reasonable cut-off value to measure and analyze food deprivation.

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2.9. Policy implications of subjective well-being studies

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Policy implications summarized in this paper are especially drawn from research papers from various countries at the two-day International Conference on “Happiness and Public Policy”, organized by Thailand’s Public Policy Development Office (PPDO) and the United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok during July 18-19, 2007. While the conference discussed on issues ranging from new development paradigm and measurements to public policies, this paper only focuses on policy implications of subjective well-being studies.

Research papers indicate the significant impacts of socio-economic and spiritual factors. Basic needs, income and home assets are elemental to population happiness. Roles of relative income and social comparison also have impacts. In addition, social policies such as education, health care, job creation, elderly retirement plan positively affect happiness. Technology development can be used to advance the well-being of people. Social capitals and family relations are also important factors for people happiness. Furthermore, environmental and personal factors are crucial. Good quality of neighborhood and living conditions, freedom, value, and trust are essential for individual and societal happiness. Similarly, religion and the feeling of self-contentment positively raise individual happiness. These findings may provide some guidance for policy reforms.

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Unpublished draft (Kittiprapas et al., 2008 a, 2008b).

2.10. Impacts of financial poverty on subjective well-being

Krause, Peter – German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin/SOEP)

This paper addresses four questions: (1) Does poverty affect directly the evaluation of living conditions, or are lower levels of subjective well-being still a linear status shift according to the decreasing availability of resources and consumption? (2) Which areas of life differ at most between poor and non-poor with regards to subjective well-being and which areas of life loose or gain priority when falling into or escaping from poverty? (3) How do poor and non-poor differ when evaluating their living conditions? (4) Which subjective measures indicate impacts of poverty on subjective well-being?

The empirical analyses are based on data of the German Socio-economic Panel (SOEP) using nested ols-regressions and panel models. The results confirm higher correlations between objective living conditions and subjective well-being for the poor. Regression analyses suggest further higher impacts of objective conditions like employment status, household type and individual labour market participation on life satisfaction in cases of poverty.

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2.11. Happiness in Brazil: an empirical study of the determinants of Brazilians subjective well-being

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The aim of this work is to identify the influence of possible empirical determinants on Brazilian subjective well-being. To reach this goal, we used variables of economic and socio-demographic nature: marital status, age, gender, education, country's geographic region, religion, ethnic group, income and unemployment. Besides, in order to capture the impact of the interviewee's relative position, we built three variables: one of relative income and two of relative employment status. We used these variables as explanatory variables on two ordered probit model which differ from each other only in respect to the explained variable: happiness for the first one and life satisfaction for the second. The data used are from the World Values Survey for the years 1991 and 1997. Different results came up from both estimations. A bias on wave 3 for happiness variable is a possible explanation for this difference. Among happiness estimations, income and marriage presented positive and significant coefficients; unemployment and being woman impact happiness negatively. On life satisfaction estimation, the relative variables came up significant, and the results for being

married and woman remained the same as for the happiness estimation. Other common result is related to religion. Two major and different groups in the country, Catholic and “reincarnationist” (named to represent philosophies such as candomblé, espiritismo and umbanda), are negative correlated to one's subjective well-being.

2.12. The conflictive relationship between satisfaction and income

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Chaparro, Juan Camilo – University of Toronto*

This paper makes use of the 2006 Gallup World Survey, which includes opinions on satisfaction with various aspects of life in 130 countries. Although a very solid relationship is found between satisfaction and income (both across and within countries), raising doubts regarding the well-known Easterlin Paradox, a new paradox arises: “unhappy growth,” where faster growth rates are accompanied by lower levels of satisfaction. The losses of satisfaction associated with growth are more pronounced in the material domains of life and are greater in richer and more urban societies. At the individual level, although higher incomes tend to be reflected in greater satisfaction, an increase in the income of the social group to which an individual belongs has the opposite effect. The conflictive relationship between satisfaction and income has implications for political economy. In particular, it suggests a simple mechanism for explaining various characteristic traits of economic and social populism.

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2.13. Life conditions in extreme poverty

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Especially in metropolitan areas, homelessness is becoming a problem whose seriousness grows every day. A crucial point for social policy is to avoid the trigger of chronicity mechanism. This contribution aims at describing and analysing the characteristics and life style of homeless, with a special focus to the processes whereby some people become chronic homeless or indeed successfully achieve secure and stable accommodation after being temporarily homeless.

Data come from a survey conducted by the Local Authority for Social Policies, Charity and Non Profit of the Veneto Region, together with the University of Padua, on a sample of homeless living in the main cities of the region. The interviews took place both in the dormitories and in the streets, to describe different life conditions; a preliminary analysis was conducted among social agencies operating on the streets, to define which parts of the cities use to host homeless. The sampling design is a systematic selection of units from lists which are built up on the field. Interviewers were joined by cultural mediators in contacting homeless and administering a paper and pencil questionnaire where most questions were of open-ended type. The final dataset contains interviews to 148 homeless about their life conditions, life histories and daily problems. Given the wide presence of open-ended questions, text analysis techniques are used to summarise the data and highlight common patterns and differences.

2.14. Measuring progress in societies: A Mexican perspective

Rojas, Mariano – Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico, Mexico

Cubas, Paola

The paper constitutes a first draft of a Mexican initiative on Measuring Progress in Societies which is a correspondent of OECD's main project. Its main objective is to address the project's main question: What should we consider as progress in the XXI century? The paper provides a proposal about how progress in societies must be conceptualized on the basis of a discussion of what it means to live a life of quality. The paper takes advantage of world-wide research on happiness as well as on interdisciplinary research made by Mexican researchers on multiple issues such as time using, identity, interpersonal relations, values, and others to address the main question. It argues that conceptualization must precede and drive measurement of progress.

2.15. Psychological distress of the poor in Latin America

Rojas, Mariano – Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico, Mexico

The objectives of this paper are threefold: First, to study the psychological distress of the Latin American poor. Second, to study differences in psychological distress of the poor and the wealthy in Latin America. Third, to study the impact of economic growth on the psychological distress of the poor.

The paper uses micro-level information from the Gallup 2007 Survey for seventeen Latin American countries. There are more than 17000 micro-level observations in the database. Psychological distress is measured on the basis of eight questions regarding the emotional state of the interviewed the day before the questionnaire was applied. In specific, there are questions about enjoyment, anxiety, sadness, boredom, depression, anger, love, and physical pain. The paper finds out that the poor experience more psychological distress than the wealthy, even when controlling by socio-demographic variables.

2.16. Lost in pro-market reform: Subjective well-being in Latin America

Rojas, Mariano – Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico, Mexico

During the past two decades of the XX century Latin American countries got involved into a process of pro-market reforms which implied trade openness, financial liberalization, privatization, market deepening, and a substantial reduction in the scope and size of governments. This paper takes advantage of the Latinobarometro survey, which has been applied yearly in all Latin American countries since 1996 to study the impact of pro-market reforms on the subjective well-being of Latin Americans. The empirical analyses use more than 120000 observations from seventeen Latin American countries. Subjective well-being is measured on the basis of life satisfaction. It is found that pro-market reforms have a negative impact on life satisfaction, even when controlling by socio-demographic and economic variables. The negative impact of pro-market reforms on life satisfaction is found to be asymmetric across socio-economic groups.

2.17. Should central bankers target happiness: evidence from Latin America

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It has become common wisdom amongst monetary policy professionals that central banks in Latin America should adopt inflation targeting monetary regimes, i.e., a social loss welfare function dependent on only inflation. We present evidence that both inflation and unemployment reduce well-being; where the cost of inflation in terms of unemployment, hence the relative size of the weights in a social well-being function, is about one to eight, almost double of that found for OECD countries. The weighted misery index differs in level (is higher) and change (an increase rather than a fall) from the commonly used unitary weighted index and from that of the pure inflation targeters for the period 1997 to 2006. In addition, the tradeoff differs across subgroups; for the young (aged 18-24 years) it is 12 and for left-leaning citizens it is 10. Thus advocates and practitioners of inflation only targeting are, and increasingly so, divorced from the wellbeing preferences of LAC citizens who are increasingly left leaning and with the youth, who given the population pyramid, are also

increasing as a proportion of the population. The evidence presented in this paper may not be sufficiently convincing for central banks to adopt happiness–targeting rule. However, happiness data would be useful to inform policy makers regarding the optimal disinflation policy or at least allow consciousness of the potential discontent of different sub–groups of the population of different disinflation strate.

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2.18. The missing dimensions of poverty? A new dataset from Chile

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Over the past two years, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has sought to devise short modules to measure five dimensions of wellbeing that emerge as important in the experiences of poor people but are not currently measured in large-scale survey instruments at the individual level: employment quality, empowerment, physical safety, the absence of shame/humiliation and psychological/subjective wellbeing (see ODS 2007). At the December 2007 ISQOLS meeting, I presented these questionnaires and results from small pilot tests of these modules in five countries. Since then, OPHI has applied these modules, alongside a standard poverty questionnaire (including questions on income, employment, housing, health and education) to a nationally representative sample of 2000 households in Chile. These households were interviewed initially in the 2006 national household survey (CASEN), allowing data from that survey to be combined with the new data.

This paper presents the revised survey modules and provides a first attempt at analyzing the levels and distribution of these new indicators and dimensions within the Chilean population. Further, it explores the value added of these indicators compared with standard poverty indicators, interconnections among the dimensions and the relationship between the objective and subjective indicators captured in the survey. Finally it discusses the policy questions these data could potentially inform.

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2.19. Material well-being and social justice – A contribution to quality of life research

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This paper aims to incorporate perceptions of social justice into the analysis of Quality of Life (QoL) to address the value of normative judgements for the individual's subjective well-being. It is argued that perceptions of injustice do have a negative impact mostly on the material well-being* of the individual.

The paper focuses on two kinds of justice perceptions: (1) the direct evaluation of one's own income in terms of justice; and (2) the indirect perception of injustice in society by attributing poverty and wealth to external and/or internal factors.

Data from the International Social Justice Project (ISJP) over the years 1991, 1996, 2000 and 2006 is used (N=11,254). The focus on Germany allows for the comparison of two regions with remaining income disparities as well as ideological diversities: East- and West-Germany. First, the existence of internal and external attribution patterns with multiple group confirmatory factor analysis is tested. Second, the influence of justice perceptions on material well-being is analysed by structural equation modelling.

Results of this research show that material well-being is strongly influenced by perceptions of injustice. Therefore, justice evaluations should be strongly integrated into research on QoL to increase the understanding of the psychological processes on subjective well-being.

*measured by the satisfaction with (a) the standard of living and (b) the own income;

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2.20. From housing wealth to wellbeing: the role and relevance of mortgage equity withdrawal in the UK

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While the link between wealth and health is well-documented, the extent to which economic gains promote well-being is increasingly open to question. The mixed fortunes of the housing economy provide an intriguing test of these ideas. In the last 15 years, high rates of house price appreciation have turned housing wealth into the major and most widely owned of all personal assets. But in order to benefit from this, households have had to take advantage of a mortgage finance ‘revolution’, in which it has become as easy to add to home loans as it is to pay them off. Using homes as collateral to borrow money to spend on other things is called ‘mortgage equity withdrawal’. It means that housing wealth is no longer a nest egg to be accessed only in old age, but can, and is, increasingly accessed across the life course. Whilst this may give a boost to consumption, our research suggests that far from funding a spending bonanza, home owners often turn to housing wealth to fund necessities. This kind of equity borrowing may moreover be precipitated by low well-being. Using quantitative analyses of panel data from the UK we ask whether, given that those who turn to MEW have lower wellbeing scores than those who do not, does spending from housing wealth go on to produce wellbeing gains. Is there evidence that the gains in housing wealth that have enabled MEW help enhance wellbeing? Are well-being outcomes one of the less-well documented ‘wealth effects’ of housing?

2.21. Subjective welfare in Costa Rica a new measurement on a ordered probit framework

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Arguedas, Ivania

Hermosa, Laura

Hueda, David

Using the 2006 National Health Survey (Hernández and Sáenz, 2006) we estimate a ordered probit equation. We followed some early work by Rojas (2004 and 2005). The approach is similar to Gersten et al. (2008) did with South American data. This work is part of a growing literature on subjective welfare.

One interesting finding is that living on either cost has a negative scoring on overall happiness. That is counterintuitive. Another result of the ordered probit analysis shows the young and the senior population to be less pleased with their life than the young adults. Nevertheless, that is not a statistically significant result. The most productive age range seem to produce higher subjective welfare. Furthermore, younger people may experience frustration as they have higher expectation that what they accomplish and the elderly begin experiencing health below what they used to. The survey does not carry question that could allow to carry those hypothesis further. Women are happier than men and that is quite puzzling result. It does not confirm Easterlin, 2001, benchmark finding and most of the empirical assessment thereafter. Education, on the other hand, is positively related to happiness and it is statistically significant. Little needs to be argue is this case. Being involved on a steady relationship increases welfare. That is similar to what Rojas found for Mexico. Health, income and labor situation make people happier and that is statistically significant.

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2.22. The level and quality of life of the poor in Russia

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Statistical analysis of the level and quality of life of the poor are of great importance for implementation of social and economic policy, which must be scientifically substantiated.

This paper presents the findings of a study of the level and quality of life of the poor in Russia. Russian official statistics determine the population of poor people according to the so-called absolute concept of poverty that states that the people having the income lower than an established living wage live below the poverty line. In Russia poverty deals with the interests of millions of people in Russia, although official data suggest that the considerable number of people in Russia rose out of poverty during the period from 1992 to 2007. Applying qualitative and quantitative methods to the Russian State Statistics Service figures, which were used as the information base of this paper, we analyze the level and quality of life of the poor in Russia during the indicated period of time.

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2.23. The relationship between perceptions of insecurity, social capital and subjective wellbeing: Empirical evidences from conflictive rural Colombia

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Subjective Wellbeing—SWB, the evaluation people do of their lives, has been proposed as a measure to track the development of communities instead of economic growth. As part of

a more general question in which we tested the impact of subjective insecurity on the choice of hybrid organizational modes, we hypothesized that subjective insecurity does negatively correlate with SWB and that subjective and objective insecurities are not significantly correlated. We proposed that insecurity and SWB is mediated by the level of social capital found in the region. Social capital was defined as interpersonal trust as well as the frequency of participation of producers in voluntary associations. Subjective insecurity consisted of three items: perceptions of personal, political and economic insecurity. We used a hierarchical (multilevel) regression model to test the hypotheses. Based on a survey of 743 rural producers in five conflicted areas we tested and found that the perceptions of insecurity do correlate significantly (negatively) with levels of subjective wellbeing. We also found a significant contribution of social capital with levels of SWB. These results have important implications for public policy and future research.

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3. Track 4 – QOL in Asia

Track and Sessions Chairs:

Krishna Mazumdar, Indian Statistical Institute – India

Mahar Mangahas, Social Weather Stations – Philippines

3.1. Subjective well-being of people in Taiwan

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The paper aims to report the life satisfaction of the people in Taiwan with respect to their personal lives (personal subjective well-being), and their lives in Taiwan (national subjective well-being). The concept of subjective well-being (SWB) is used here to capture the life satisfaction of people under survey. Different sets of life domains were used to measure people's satisfaction with their personal lives and satisfaction with national lives respectively. The paper is based on the findings of a survey of the subjective well-being of people in Taiwan with regard to the country and to their personal lives. The survey (n=1136) was conducted in the months of April and May, 2007, using samples from the 326 villages and counties in Taiwan. It is found that Taiwanese people were fairly satisfied with their personal lives, with a majority of the respondents (70 to 80%) showing satisfaction in major aspects of personal life, with 75.79% of the respondents satisfied with their life as a whole. Taiwanese people were less satisfied with their lives in the nation, only 69% of the respondents were satisfied with life in general in Taiwan, and 59% of people showed dissatisfaction with the performance of the government. The paper gives a brief account of the recent economic, political and social, development in Taiwan so as to provide broad picture of its well-being context.

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3.2. Surveys on democracy and quality of life in the Philippines

Laroza, Leo – Social Weather Stations

Just how well is democracy working for Filipinos, both as an end in itself and in terms of their personal well-being? As the 2010 presidential election approaches, this paper examines the relationship between democracy on the one hand and the people's personal, economic, and political well-being on the other hand, based on the Social Weather Report surveys (semestral 1986-1991, quarterly 1992-2008). Among indicators monitored by these surveys are satisfaction with democracy, preference for democracy over authoritarianism, hunger, self-rated poverty, past and future trends in personal quality of life, optimism about the economy, satisfaction with the performance of government institutions and officials, life-satisfaction, and happiness.

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3.3. The framework for measuring Gross National Happiness in Bhutan

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The government of Bhutan has recently decided to implement a results based planning approach. This decision implies that the formulation of policies, plans, and programs ought to be influenced by empirical evidence. The quantitative approach is wrapped in Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which has directed the country's

progress over the last few decades. Bhutan is the first country in the world where the government puts the multidimensional measurement of progress into effect on a national level. The paper briefly explores the political process in Bhutan that led to the decision to measure Gross National Happiness. Furthermore, the paper analyzes the institutional framework and the actors involved in the measurement process. Light is shed on the early stages of the development of survey based indicators and on the adoption of a specific Gross National Happiness index model. The paper briefly examines the Buddhist concept of happiness in order to clarify the Bhutanese perspective on “maximizing Gross National Happiness”. The Bhutanese approach is further contrasted to other recent endeavors for measuring progress beyond GDP, thus highlighting similarities and differences in the incorporated determinants of quality of life.

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3.4. Subjective wellbeing in Asia: Comparisons across seven countries

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Our paper reports and discusses issues relating to subjective wellbeing in Asia. Comparisons will be made across seven countries, namely China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam using data from the 2006 AsiaBarometer Survey. First, we evaluate the perceptions of Asians with regard to their general standard of living in their various countries, and their satisfaction with specific life domains in their physical, social and spiritual environment. The sixteen life domains are housing, friendships, marriage (for those who are married), standard of living, household income, health, education, job, neighbors, public safety, the condition of the environment, the social welfare system, the democratic system, family life, leisure and spiritual life. Second, we focus on the priorities in life for Asians as we discuss what resources and activities are considered important in helping them to live a satisfying life. We then juxtapose these with the top worries of Asians, and assess

how they feel about the various areas of government spending to address these concerns. Third, we explore the more affective aspects of wellbeing by having Asians evaluate how happy they were, whether they are enjoying life, and if they feel they have achieved what they wanted in life. In our final analysis, we discuss the value orientations and lifestyles of Asians, in terms of their family orientation, their spirituality, their global outlook, and their digital lifestyle.

4. Track 6 – QOL in Africa

Track and Sessions Chairs:

Robin Richards, Centre for Policy Studies – South Africa

Stephen Rule, Outsourced Insight – South Africa

4.1. Towards enhancing human development in Egypt: A methodological approach

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During the last four decades, Egypt has enjoyed a systematic rise in per capita income and a slender improvement in literacy rates . However, this was accompanied with a declining standard of living, deteriorating income distribution, a drastic increase in the number of homeless children and a surge in unemployment. Moreover, the consistent increase in population growth along with the paternalistic role of government subsidies have resulted in worsening quality of education and public utilities. Further challenges are posed by Egypt's exposure to socio-political instabilities that have culminated in brain drain. In view of the current global financial crisis, the Egyptian economy is expected to further suffer from a fall in FDI, declining receipts from Egyptian expatriates, Suez Canal revenue and proceeds from tourism, which act as the three pillars of its foreign income receipts. These are expected to further reduce the quality of human and economic development. This paper commences by throwing light on the historical factors that have resulted in the present Egyptian predicament. Then, time series analysis of a selected number of variables and measures of human well-being will be conducted. Then, an alternative measure of human development that fits the conditions of Egypt will be proposed. Finally, the research will culminate in proposing solutions and alternative policies that may be conducted in order to uplift the quality of human development in Egypt.

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4.2. Impact of perceptions of poverty on the well-being of South Africans

Davids, Yul Derek – Human Sciences Research Council

The study examines the impact of perceptions of poverty on the well-being of South Africans'. Research focusing on perceptions of the causes of poverty indicates that poverty is normally perceived along three perspectives: fatalistic, structural and individualistic (Hunt, 2004: 829; Shek, 2004: 273; Shek, 2002: 790; Sun, 2001: 164). Employing secondary data analysis on a sample of 2400 South Africans, the study shows that most people in South Africa perceive poverty in structural terms. Moreover, people are perceived poor because they lack basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and good health. The lack of resources and unequal situation forces poor people (black Africans in particular) to live lives far below what is acceptable in contemporary South Africa. In addition, poverty is also perceived individualistic dimensions where the poor are blamed for their poverty status and accused of being incompetent to improve their own circumstances. Furthermore, the poor are seen as lacking drift and motivation to succeed or to break the poverty cycle. The disadvantages experienced by the poor as well as the negative connotations attached to the poor create feelings of marginalization, victimization and social exclusion, which is extremely damaging to their self-esteem and overall well-being.

4.3. Social integration and quality of life in post-apartheid South Africans

Fairuz, Gaibie – Human Sciences Research Council

Davids, Yul Derek – Human Sciences Research Council

Inclusiveness and tolerance of diversity in the form of nation-building has been on the South African national agenda since inception of democracy in 1994. Moreover, the new ANC-led government has consistently advocated that it aims to build South Africa's democracy on a society where social cohesion and social integration is of prime importance. Consequently, it is hoped that South Africa will become a more inclusive society where marginalization of groups and lack of economic, social and cultural rights is eradicated.

Literature in this regard has shown that the existence of a strong sub-group identity greatly impedes the development of a broader national identity and a more inclusive society (Gagiano & Giliomee, 1990; Stremlau, 1997) Furthermore, some studies indicated that within socially integrated societies citizens experience less conflict and as a result experience a better quality of life. Nevertheless, other scholars argue that a super-ordinate national identity and sub-group identity can happily co-exist (e.g. Adam & Moodley, 1993; Adam, 1994; Mattes, 1997) and even help to reduce bias between sub-groups (Hornsey & Hogg, 2000).

This article therefore investigates whether South Africa has become a more social integrated society in terms of race, gender, age, geographic location, economic status and educational level. The main hypothesis of the study is that socially integrated societies will display greater cohesion across all socio-demographic divisions.

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4.4. Influence of personal characteristics on changes in levels of happiness among south Africans from 2003 to 2008

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The South African Attitude Survey (SASAS) conducted annually since 2003 among over 4000 respondents has sought to find the level of happiness among South Africans by simply

asking "Taking all things together, would you say you are: 1=very happy, 2=happy, 3=neither happy nor unhappy, 4=not happy 5=not at all happy". Personal characteristics of the respondent such as education, age, race, and sex, are likely to contribute differentially to the prediction of level of happiness. Attitude towards life in general and health in particular are expected to have influence on the level of happiness. Analysis was done using data drawn from the SASAS surveys from 2003 to 2008. Both Logistic regression and hierarchical linear modelling (HLM) were used to determine the main predictors of happiness. The amount of variation in level of happiness across years was also determined.

4.5. Exploring the relationship between perceived level of job security and quality of life

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The changing nature of work has advanced the thesis that identifies employees as overriding primary agents for the continued existence of organizations. This has put workers' objective reports on their level of job satisfaction about some key aspects of their work at the centre stage. It is against this backdrop that the concept of job satisfaction has currently attracted a lot of attention from various audiences. Job satisfaction has been studied for a number of reasons including its influence to improve productivity, and to improve one's quality of life. Even though the reasons vary the main commonality is that work experiences have impact on the total life experience of an individual. Job satisfaction is comprised of different aspects of work such as pay, prospects of promotion, job security and leadership style. Job security as one of these key aspects has been perceived to have a significant influence on the overall quality of life. This has spurred interest amongst social scientist and management experts to investigate the link between job security and quality of life. Moreover, work is an important part of most of our lives, and effects are multiplied and extended to the immediate and extended social circle. In the South African contexts, this has been one of the factors that at a societal level has led social distress as evidenced by alcohol abuse, domestic violence, criminality and other socially destructive behaviour.

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4.6. Indicators of democracy and development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Richards Robin – Centre for Policy Studies

Ismail Zenobia – Afrobarometer Programme

In the southern African region, many of the states within SADC (Southern African Development Community) have transitioned into democracies since the 1990's. This paper explores perceptions of democracy, living conditions and selected quality of life indicators

across the 13 states in SADC. The paper makes use of the data from the most recently published United Nations Human Development Report (2007) and compares a range of objective indicators relating to human development, poverty and access to services amongst others, with data from Round Three of the Afrobarometer Survey fielded in nine of these SADC states in 2005/6. The paper explores the views of ordinary citizens towards development since democracy in their countries.

4.7. Age of hope or anxiety? Fear of crime in South Africa

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Few issues in South Africa provoke as emotive a response as that of crime. In recent years, the country has witnessed intensifying public debate about the credibility of official crime statistics and efficacy of policy and programmatic responses. Crime persistently features as a priority in opinion surveys, while media images of violent crime abound. This paper focuses not on levels of victimization in South Africa, but rather on the relationship between fear of crime and subjective wellbeing. Focusing on fear of crime is important due to the detrimental effect it can impart on quality of life at individual, community and societal levels. These include constraints on mobility, a retreat from public space and proliferation of protective measures, and a diminishing sense of social cohesion. Consequently, fear of crime has become a prominent social and political problem, with research concluding that it influences the well-being of a sizable proportion of populations. In response, some governments have established the reduction of fear of crime as a social objective distinct from reducing actual crime. Using South African Social Attitudes Survey data, the paper charts fear of crime since the early 1990s, and explores significant socio-demographic and spatial differentials in these perceptions. Findings on the relationship between fear of crime, social cohesion and police confidence is then presented. Finally, policy implications for reducing fear of crime are discussed.

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4.8. Age and quality of life

Rule, Stephen – Outsourced Insight, Johannesburg

This paper compares levels of life satisfaction between old and young South Africans in the light of international trends of highest satisfaction amongst older people. The 2005 South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) included a question administered to a nationally representative sample of 2850 adults: "How satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?" Given the history of racial politics, it is inevitable that perceptions of life satisfaction differ along racial lines. Taking this into account, the data is explored to determine the

effect of age on life satisfaction within and between race, language and other demographic categories.

4.9. The impact of environmental factors on the quality of life of South Africans-specifically focusing on informal settlements.

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Development cannot be divorced from ecological and environmental concerns, and is indeed an important component of human freedoms—and crucial ingredients of our quality of life (Sen, 2008). Scholarly focus has been channelled to the effect humans have on the environment and not on how the environment affects people. This paper undertakes to highlight the plight the majority of people face because of the environment they live in. Despite the Reconstruction and Development Programme and subsequent initiatives to build decent, habitable shelters for the poor, a large number of South Africans still reside in urban informal areas where environmental conditions are poor. Pollution, littering, waste, disease, crime and poverty are serious threats in these areas. Not only does this create a cloud of uncertainty it erodes the human dignity of people and posits a less than desirable quality of life. While the 1994 transition to democracy has bestowed all South Africans with political rights, only a minority enjoy socio-economic freedom. The danger is once the issue of civil rights and human dignity is connected to environmental deprivation it can become a major issue, capable of creating unrest and dissatisfaction. Mass environmental despair, have the potential to unleash regional and national security threats when social tensions explode. This paper aims at look at the impact of environmental realities on the quality of life, specially those exposed to poor environments.

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4.10. Familial resources, reciprocity and subjective security in Ghana

Tsai, Ming-Chang – National Taipei University
Dzorgbo, Dan-Bright – University of Ghana

This paper argues that social capital and reciprocal exchanges among family and kin members constitutes key factors in predicting subjective wellbeing in Ghana. Strong social capital that a family possesses represents social resources and human capacities, which cannot be stressed too much in poor societies when it comes to how people manage to survive severe economic difficulties. Moreover, reciprocal behaviors among family members also serve as critical determinant of crisis surviving. Empirical testing of these hypotheses is based on the project of the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire of Ghana, a national sample collected in 2003 (n=48,450). The ordered logit regression estimation indicate that number of cash contributors and having junior education or more in family facilitated subjective evaluation of financial crisis surviving. The practices of giving or receiving helps among familial members additionally generated favorable outcomes. These findings are obtained when basic demographic factors as well as community characteristics are controlled. Theoretical implications are discussed in the concluding session.

5. Track 8 – The QOL of Migrants, Refugees and Minorities

Track Chair:

Lía Rodríguez De La Vega, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires –
Argentina

Session Chairs:

Isidro Maya Jariego, Universidad de Sevilla – Spain

Sebastian Rinken, Institute of Advanced Social Studies (Spanish Council for
Scientific Research) and Permanent Migration Observatory of
Andalusia – Spain

5.1. Integration and quality of life of immigrants

Bartram, David – University of Leicester (UK)

Debates about integration of new immigrants typically lack a clear understanding of the normative basis for taking a position on whether it is legitimate for governments to “expect” integration, as against a more laissez-faire approach. This statement is all the more true when one considers how to treat the interests of the immigrants themselves (not just the interests of the receiving country): it is not clear what types of interests count, and some observers probably assume economic interests (narrowly conceived) are paramount, perhaps failing to recognize that economic factors are best considered a means to more fundamental ends e.g. quality of life. To help clarify that normative basis, this paper asks: is integration associated with greater happiness among immigrants? More specifically, are immigrants who become naturalized citizens happier than immigrants who refrain from naturalization? Data from the European Social Survey are used to address that question with respect to long-term immigrants in the UK; naturalization is taken as a proxy of integration more generally. The analysis finds that naturalized citizens report significantly higher levels of happiness than those immigrants who do not take UK citizenship, controlling for other factors associated with happiness (e.g. health status).

5.2. "...Here in Italy all is different..." (Fatima). Migrant women in Italy between exclusion and inclusion: a qualitative analysis of biographical narratives

Chiappelli, Tiziana – University of Florence

Salimbeni, Olivia – University of Florence

The research focuses on qualitative analysis of twenty biographical interviews with migrant women living in Italy. In particular, the study try to explore social integration processes from the point of view of their impact on the quality of life. A central assumption is that integration policies should take into account what the real migrant women' condition of life are. The analysis of integration processes will therefore focus not only on barriers for social integration and on their removal, but also on the migration strategies and the longer-term

planning of female migrants. Women migrants narratives enlighten their situation in many domains and from many points of view: their daily work relations and conditions, housing and health access, the difficulties related to their precarious legal status, their involvement within social networks, their cultural, social and political participation etc. To analyse their quality of life, we explored the women's own understanding of their situation and how this is linked to their social participation and feelings of belonging. The study used the tool of the biographical interviews in the framework of the Grounded Theory.

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5.3. International migration and the quality of life of the poor in Republic of Macedonia

Cipusheva, Hristina – Assistant lecturer, SEEU

Mughal, Abdul Ghaffar – International Visiting Professor, South East European University, Tetovo – Visiting Scholar, University of California, Los Angeles

International migration is a structural feature of many small landlocked economies with little access to foreign markets for export of goods. Thus, both permanent and temporary migration is an important feature of life in Macedonia. An estimated 20% of Macedonian population was living abroad by 2005. With such a high proportion of Diaspora relative to the population of the country, a significant number of Macedonian households have become transnational. Annually, about 5% of the households participate in temporary migration flows for work abroad. Remittances sent by migrants living and/or working abroad are conservatively estimated to be between 4.3% and 8.4% of GDP, making Macedonia among the top 30 to 50 countries (out of 204) in the world in terms of the ratio of remittances to GDP. Migration affects the quality of life in the home country both directly and indirectly. Both financial and 'social' remittances make a significant contribution to the material well-being of the remittance receiving households. This paper provides the first detailed case study of the quality of life in FYR Macedonia by migration / remittance receiving status of the households. The paper utilizes data from the 2008 quality of life survey conducted by UNDP and involves both objective and subjective measures of well-being. We use both descriptive and multivariate techniques to assess the impact of international migration and remittances on the quality of life in FYR Macedonia.

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5.4. Developmental profiles of Cantonese- and Punjabi-speaking children in Canada

Guhn Martin – University of British Columbia

Background. In British Columbia (BC), Canada, 25% of the population has a recent immigrant and foreign language (i.e., non-English) background. Research shows that immigrant children often face cultural and linguistic challenges during the transition to school. Therefore, schools strive to implement culturally and linguistically adequate strategies to facilitate immigrant children's transition.

Objective. This study aims to provide information on the developmental profiles of Kindergarten children from the two largest immigrant groups in BC: the Cantonese-speaking group from China, and the Punjabi-speaking group from India.

Data source. In BC, teachers annually assess Kindergarten children's physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, cognitive development, and communication skills, via the Early Development Instrument.

Method. A differential item functioning analysis was conducted to see whether Cantonese- and Punjabi-speaking children (N=3,048) show systematic differences in their developmental profiles.

Results. Even after controlling for children's overall development (via their EDI total score), Cantonese-speaking children obtain systematically higher ratings on 6 items pertaining to pre-academic (reading, math) skills. Punjabi-speaking children, in contrast, receive relatively higher ratings in the social and emotional domains.

Implication. The findings suggest cultural and contextual differences in educational and developmental goals and expect

5.5. International mobility processes and quality of life of migrants

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Rodriguez De La Vega, Lía – University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Although the mobility processes of people are usual from the origin of humanity, at present they increased their magnitude.

In this work, we analyze the relationship between subjective quality of life and the remembrance of past experiences, assuming that individual and collective memory have an important role in the building of identity and the re building of community belonging.

Knowing the link between memory and the narrative of personal experiences, we built an information corpus from open interviews that allows us to explore the subjective quality of life of a group of migrants, arrived to Argentina during the 90's, from Central and Eastern Europe.

Our theoretical approach to the quality of life concept is the one given by the Environment Research Centre (CIMA), from Spain (1979), taken as a sensitizing concept for the search and analysis of information. Thus, we consider that quality of life constitutes itself from the conditions that, in general, a society offers, allowing their members to feel more or less satisfied and realize themselves according to shared ideological values. In this sense, the radical change implied by the decision to emigrate and the incorporation to a new society, implies a crisis that subjects have to solve to recompose the bond of social belonging.

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5.6. Economic crisis and quality of life of immigrants in Spain

Rinken, Sebastian – Institute of Advanced Social Studies (Spanish Council for Scientific Research) and Permanent Migration Observatory of Andalusia
Galera Pozo, Gema – Institute of Advanced Social Studies (Spanish Council for Scientific Research) and Permanent Migration Observatory of Andalusia

Throughout more than a decade, from the mid-1990s up until 2007, the growth rates of Spain's economy have consistently outpaced those of most other European countries and the Spanish labour market has expanded swiftly, creating millions of new jobs in sectors such as construction, agriculture, tourism and domestic service. A large proportion of these new jobs – most of which were deemed “less desirable” by natives, due to tough work conditions and/or low pay – were taken by international migrants from economically less developed areas, including North Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. As a result, within just a few years, Spain added approximately 10% of foreigners to its population, a demographic transformation that is quite unique in terms of size and speed.

As long as the economic boom lasted, quality of life of the newly arrived migrant workers depended largely on the sector of employment, with hardship relatively frequent in agriculture and assimilation to natives' standard of living the norm in well-paying sectors, such as construction (Cebolla Boado and González Ferrer, 2008; Izquiero Escribano et al., 2003; Pérez Yruela and Rinken, 2005).

The onset of a twin economic and financial crisis in the year 2008 marks a sea change with regard to all those accustomed patterns (Aja, Arango and Oliver Alonso, Eds., 2008). Rates of employment, which used to be higher among immigrant men and markedly women than comparable natives, are now declining especially fast among

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5.7. Acculturation strategies of internationally-married Asian female immigrants

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Yang, Ok Kyung – Ewha Womans University

This study is to examine the psychological acculturation strategies of internationally-married Asian female migrants in South Korea. Particularly, this study analyzed factors that might influence on assimilation, separation, integration, and marginalization strategies, respectively. Asian women have been assumed that they have shared the homogeneous cultural heritage of "Confucianism." However, it can be argued that Asian female immigrants have instituted varying socio-cultural values and practices in the countries of the origin. There are great dangers in trying Asian women to generalize ethnic groups under a unified category.

Comparatively, it was found Korean Chinese had a preference for an assimilation strategy. Specifically, ethnicity, fluency of Korean, length of residence, depression, mental health consulting were significantly associated with assimilation and separation strategies. Family relationship such as perceiving acceptance and respect in family were significantly associated with an integration strategy. Marginalization strategy showed strong relationship with depression.

The study outcomes highlight family relationship and mental health status may have significant effects on the acculturation strategies of internationally-married Asian female migrants. Further social service provisions in relation to marriage and mental health should be developed and expanded, particularly for incorporating with integration strategy.

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5.8. Pregnancy and migration: the quality of experience of pregnant South American women

Stokart, Zoé – University of Milan

Bassi, Marta – University of Milan

Delle Fave, Antonella – University of Milan

Immigrant status has been identified as a health risk factor during and after pregnancy, as concerns maternal depression and low birth weight of the newborn. However, few studies have explored new mothers' well-being, psychological resources and positive experiences. This topic was even more neglected as concerns immigrant women. This study attempts to partially fill this gap, by exploring daily experience, challenges and expectations during pregnancy and after delivery among 25 South American women settled in Italy.

Instruments: Flow Questionnaire investigates optimal experience, a state of high concentration, control and enjoyment; Life Theme Questionnaire explores past influences, present challenges and future goals; Health Interview investigates symptoms, needs, social support and perceived well-being during pregnancy.

Moreover, a subsample of six participants were longitudinally examined through Experience Sampling Method (ESM), a procedure providing on-line repeated samplings of daily time budget and associated quality of experience. Two 7-day ESM sessions were conducted, one during pregnancy and one after delivery.

Results highlighted that - in spite of material and relational difficulties - immigrant status and motherhood were perceived as meaningful sources of challenges and skill development. Participants found effective coping strategies and opportunities for well-being and personal growth in daily life.

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5.9. Why some people want and other don't want – to live in the capital city of Bulgaria? (Pull and push factors in migration motivations - to and from – Sofia)

Sugareva Marta – Center For Population Studies - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

The paper is based on a sociological survey of the population of Sofia, aiming to determine what are the “pull” and “push” factors in the migration – to and from – the capital city. After the start of the democratization of the country (1989) many people decided to work abroad, including among the population of the capital. More important flows though have been those towards the capital, originating in various types of settlements in the country, mainly those situated close to Sofia. In spite of its lower fertility (compared to the rest of the country), the population of Sofia has increased since 1990, while the total population of Bulgaria has been decreasing over the same period.

A large part of these new inhabitants have come to live in Sofia because they could find here better work opportunities. Some of them have been students in Sofia universities, others have come as they have found a good job. Many people work in Sofia, but they reside in other settlement, traveling every day in and out. Some could find a dwelling in Sofia, and this has pushed them closer to the decision to become residents of Sofia. Some have found a partner (wife/husband/cohabitant), and this has been a decisive factor in their residential decisions.

The study tries to determine the size of these in and out flows, and to explain the motivations behind the migration decisions, linked to objective and subjective evaluations of the quality of live, and the personal well-being.

6. Track 9 – The QOL of Children

Track Chair:

Kenneth Land, Duke University – USA

Session Chairs:

Mario Biggeri, Dept. Of Economics, University Of Florence

Rich Gilman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; University of
Cincinnati Medical School, USA

Jane Reeves, University of Greenwich, UK

6.1. Child Qol and the Capability Approach:

Biggeri Mario – Dept. Of Economics, University Of Florence

Libanora Renato – Dept. Of Economics, University Of Florence

This paper examines child QoL in its multidimensional character.

Children QoL is analysed according to capabilities and related achieved functionings.

The capability perspective, founded in the Aristotelian notion of flourishing is strongly connected to the concept of multiple realisability of human beings thus shift primary attention away from means to ends that people have reason to pursue, and, correspondingly, to the freedoms to be able to satisfy these ends (Sen, 1987).

One of the main problem in the case of children is indeed the ‘missing dimensions’ that reduces the capacity of indicators to capture the multiple realisability/deprivation of children.

The operationalisation of the Capability Approach (CA) often relies on the identification of relevant capabilities as dimensions of wellbeing. Generally the selecting methods depends on research objectives and operational processes such as the purposes of the analysis, short term versus long term policies, comparability versus local context, project’s goals and objectives versus programme and practical constraints.

In this paper we present two integrated procedures.

The first one can be used to conceptualise capabilities, to endorse “forms a consensus” and to start a process of prioritizing the different dimensions of wellbeing in the capability space of a defined group of children. The second procedure is an alternative programming and evaluative tool for development projects.

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6.2. Exploring resilience among older children in urban Ethiopia: a case-based approach

Camfield, Laura – Young Lives, University of Oxford

'Resilience', defined as a person's capacity to recover from, adapt to, and/or remain strong in the face of adversity, is widely used in relation to children living in poverty to highlight the complex interactions between risks and protective factors (Ungar, 2005). The paper reports a mixed-methods case-based analysis of experiences of 'resilience' among an urban Ethiopian sub-sample (n=12, aged 11-12), drawn from Young Lives, an international study of childhood poverty. While the whole sub-sample could be characterised as vulnerable, there is heterogeneity in outcomes such as current school grade, which ranges from 1 to 7. The paper combines quantitative and qualitative data to explore factors underpinning these differences. For the purpose of this analysis, resilience is defined as psychosocial wellbeing, educational achievement, and being healthy and well-nourished, and this is represented by a range of survey variables including subjective wellbeing, grade-for-age, and anthropometric measures. While the selection of variables is opportunistic, it also represents areas identified as components of a good life in participatory exercises conducted with the same children (Camfield and Tafere, 2009). Qualitative Comparative Analysis (Rihoux and Ragin, 2009) is used to identify configurations of cases or 'pathways' towards resilience within the sample, which are illustrated with qualitative case study material, including extracts from interviews and activities with children.

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6.3. Personal well-being: Age differences in two Spanish samples, according to two different instruments

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Del Valle, Jorge F. – Research Institute on QOL. University of Girona (Spain)

Montserrat, Carme – Research Institute on QOL. University of Girona (Spain)

Fernández-Artamendi, Sergio - Research Institute on QOL. University of Girona (Spain)

Bertran, Irma – Research Institute on Quality of Life. University of Girona (Spain)

Results from two different Spanish samples of young people aged 15-18 – which belong to two different Autonomous Communities – are presented ($N = 1,113 + 1,443 = 2,556$). Data have been collected using the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) and the Personal Well-Being Index (7-item version). The PWI7 has been used with an 11-point scale in both samples, while the SWLS has been used with the original 7-point scale in one of them and with an 11-point scale in the other one.

The correlation between the two scales is clearly higher in the sample where the original scale was used (Asturias), while is lower where SWLS was used with the 11-point scale (Catalonia). Differences in the correlation are still higher when comparing only the results obtained from girls.

By age, the PWI7 scores decrease progressively from 15 to 18 years old in Catalonia, both among boys and among girls, while a decrease in the SWLS is only observed from 15 to 17 among boys and from 15 to 16 among girls. In Asturias, PWI7 decreases from 15 to 17 among boys, and from 15 to 16 among girls, and increases afterwards. SWLS decreases from 15 to 17 both among boys and girls.

After analysing these results we discuss on the following aspects: (a) the correlation between the two scales seems to decrease when the sensitiveness of the SWLS is increased by changing it from a 7 to an 11-point scale. (b) The two scales seem to have different sensitiveness to grasp different answers according to gender. (c) PWI7 seems to grasp more clearly a decrease in personal well-being according to age, in the late adolescence, than SWLS does

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6.4. Validity evidence of the Satisfaction with Life Scale adapted for Children: Investigating the cognitive processes of children when responding

Gadermann, Anne M. – University of British Columbia

Zumbo, Bruno D. – University of British Columbia

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this study was to investigate an aspect of construct validity of the Satisfaction with Life Scale adapted for Children (SWLS-C; Gadermann et al., 2007). Specifically, the study examined the cognitive processes of children when responding to the items of the SWLS-C to find out how they interpret and respond to the items.

METHOD: Think-aloud protocol interviews (Ericsson & Simon, 1980) were conducted with 61 students in grades 4-7 (39% boys, mean age of 11 years). The interviews were audio taped and transcribed, and coding schemes were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS: The findings indicate that most children understood the items, and used several strategies for answering them, such as comparing themselves to others (e.g., peers) or their own past. The main themes used for answering the items on life satisfaction were relationships with family and peers (e.g., love, bullying), school (e.g., grades), material things (e.g., owning toys), health (e.g., being sick), and coverage of basic needs (e.g., food and

shelter). Furthermore, most children considered it important that information on their life satisfaction is obtained.

CONCLUSION: The results provide insights into children's cognitive processes when responding to items on life satisfaction and provide validity evidence that the SWLS-C is an appropriate measure to assess life satisfaction in children of this age.

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6.5. The relationship between social ostracism and social interactive technologies in adolescents: potential benefits and drawbacks

Gilman Rich – Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; University of Cincinnati Medical School

Social ostracism is a painful state that is associated with higher rates of emotional distress and self-defeating behaviors. To date, few studies have examined the social networks of older (high school) adolescents. One area of recent interest is how ostracized adolescents use social interactive technologies (SITs). Given that these technologies provide opportunities for youth to establish meaningful connections with others regardless of physical proximity, it may be that ostracized youth rely on SITs as a method to gain social acceptance and improve their life quality. In this study, over 1000 U.S. adolescents from four different high schools completed a number of quality of life measures. Adolescents also described their use and frequency of SITs. Adolescents also rated each other on number of behavioral characteristics. Results found that socially ostracized youth reported differential levels of SIT use than their more socially connected peers, and that SIT use mediated the relationship between social relatedness and life quality. Nevertheless, although there appear to be benefits of SIT use, socially ostracized youth also reported significantly higher levels of receiving harassing messages (i.e., cyberbullying) than more connected youth. This presentation will review these findings and will conclude with specific clinical and research recommendations.

6.6. WHOQOL-BREF to measure satisfaction with life overall and satisfaction with specific life domains: A comparison of male and female undergraduate students

Mazaheri, Mehrdad – University of Sistan & Baluchestan

The WHOQOL-BREF is one of the best known instruments that has been developed for cross-cultural comparisons of quality of life and currently it is available in more than 40 languages. As there is no available literature reporting Iranian student's norms for the WHOQOL-BREF on Iranian student, the present study provides some preliminary estimates of student's norms and some psychometric properties of WHOQOL-BREF.

Participants A sample of 1000 volunteering students, 510 females (mean age=20.43) and 490 males (mean age=21.28), was obtained at university of Sistan and Baluchestan, were participated in this study. Materials and Procedure WHOQOL-BREF was used to assess the QOL by which provides measures for four domains concerning to quality of life. Results The score mean of overall QOL, general health, and all four measured domains obtained from female sample were found higher than the male sample. However, significant differences between male and female were shown only for overall QOL, general health, social relationships, and environmental support. Conclusions Our finding indicated no floor or ceiling effect for the QOL, general health facets and the 4 domains. However, the percentage of missing replies to item 21 (“How satisfied are you with your sex life?”) was a little high compared with those for other items. Sufficient reliability was observed, and the Iranian version of WHOQOL-BREF was deemed to be reliable in assessing QOL of a student population in Iran.

6.7. The extent of vulnerability in children who head households in the Mthatha region of the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

*Mdleleni-Bookholane Tembeka – Walter Sisulu University
Gengakessavie, Naidoo*

The purpose of the present study was to understand the extent of vulnerability in children who are heads of households in the Mthatha district. The study was propelled by the following objectives: To identify the prevalence of child-headed households in the Mthatha district; to describe the profiles of children who are heads of households; to explore the various emotions expressed by the children regarding the situation they are in; to determine constraints faced by children who head households; to describe community-based interventions available for children who head households; to identify policy frameworks that provide for the protection and preservation of the fundamental rights of children who head households. Forty children heading households and ten service providers were selected using the convenience sampling technique as well as snowball sampling. Two semi-structured interview schedules, one for the children, another for the service providers, were used to collect data. Results show that the majority of children who head households were females and fell between the ages 16-18 years. Many had passed grade 8 and 9 and the majority were still attending school. Intense emotions of hurt and anger were expressed by the children heading households. The children are vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition, which stunts their ability to function effectively both physically and mentally. There is a form of humiliation experienced by the children, especially from family. 1.1.

6.8. Sibling Quality of Life : a qualitative inquiry.

*Moyson Tinneke – Ghent University, Department of Experimental Clinical
and Health Psychology Developmental Disorders
Roeyers Herbert, PhD – Ghent University, Department of Experimental
Clinical and Health Psychology Developmental Disorders*

Background of the study: The Family Quality of Life concept intends both to describe the quality of life of the family members and of the family as a whole and to improve family support programmes. However, developing the Family Quality of Life concept, only parents have been asked to describe their family quality of life. The opinion of the siblings on their

quality of life has been incorporated in the opinion of the parents, although other studies have shown a discordance between parents' and siblings' report.

Aim: The principal goal is to explore how siblings of children with a disability are describing their quality of life and to define the Sibling Quality of Life (SibQol).

Materials and Methods: This study used a qualitative approach emphasising the phenomenological experiences of siblings, between 6 and 14 years old, of children with a disability. Data collection included 80 in-depth interviews and 4 focus-groups with the siblings. The data were analysed following a grounded theory approach to generate categories and subcategories, to interpret patterns and themes and to ensure rigour.

Results: Different domains of sibling quality of life were identified and described in terms of domains and subdomains.

Conclusions: The SibQol concept can be an appropriate theoretical concept to describe the dynamic influence of a child with a disability on the siblings and can be used to extend and to evaluate family support and sibling support programmes.

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6.9. Teenage pregnancy; can we solve it? A model for consideration from the UK for less wealthy countries

Reeves, Jane, Dr. – University of Greenwich, UK.

The UK is a developed country and despite the recent credit crunch, is an economically secure society with clear social policies designed to protect children. Despite this, and the best efforts of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) over the last 10 years, the UK still has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe; there are still many children giving birth to children. Although the rates in the UK are high, a comparative perspective indicates that three of every four African women become mothers while they are in their teens, and 40 percent of births in Africa are to women under the age of 17 and still legally children (Ned Grossnickle Wisconsin www.overpopulation.org/teenpreg.html.) Adopting a comparative perspective, this paper asks if it is possible for the UK, a developed country which is still grappling with the issue itself, to offer a model for addressing teenage pregnancy which can be helpful to less wealthy countries and citizens. Or rather, is it an issue which needs to be tackled across demographic boundaries, with developed and less developed countries learning from each other, particularly in terms of culture, masculinities, sexuality, gender, morality and HIV.

6.10. School, nutrition and 10 to 11-year old children's subjective quality of life

Vaqué Cristina – Department of Therapeutic Attention Processes and Quality of Life, University of Vic, Spain

González Mònica – a Quality of Life Research Institute, University of Girona, Spain

Casas Ferran – Quality of Life Research Institute, University of Girona, Spain

Food is one of the most important exogenous factors that influence the development of children. Following a healthy diet during childhood may help to reduce the frequency of chronic diseases and improve the quality of life when reaching the adult age. Important economic, social, demographic and health changes have caused a growth in the demand of school dining halls.

To understand the eating behavior of an individual and the role that food plays in his/her life, we must take into account both psychological and psychosocial factors in addition to nutritional variables. However, there are few studies that explore the relationships between children's nutrition and their personal well-being, and even fewer which do so in relation to a specific context such as the school dining hall.

In order to deepen in the relations between the evaluations made by children who are users of the school dining hall, their satisfaction with food and their personal well-being, an exploratory study of a cross-sectional nature has been carried out. The sample is composed by 10 and 11 year-old students. We used a questionnaire specifically designed for this study, which includes an adapted version of Cummins and colleagues' (2003) Personal Well-Being Index. The main findings and their implications for the study of personal well-being at these ages and their relationship with nutrition will be discussed.

6.11. Relationships between coping and personal well-being in a sample of spanish adolescents

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González Mònica – Quality of Life Research Institute, Spain

Casas Ferran – Quality of Life Research Institute, Spain

Bertran Irma – Quality of Life Research Institute, Spain

Many studies highlight the role of coping in the processes of adaptation and its relationship with psychological and physical well-being. Concretely, active coping, that is, those strategies oriented or directed towards the solution of the problem using all efforts available, has been related to high well-being, while those strategies centered on emotions, escaping or behavioral and cognitive evitation have been associated to low well-being.

A study has been conducted with a sample of 748 twelve to sixteen-year-old adolescents ($M=13,85$; $SD=1,26$) of secondary compulsory education (378 boys and 370 girls), with the aim of exploring their coping profile and its relationship with personal well-being. The different coping strategies have been explored through Frydenberg & Lewis' ACS (1996), whilst Cummins' Personal Well-Being Index (2006) has been used as a measure of personal well-being.

The results obtained seem to confirm the relationship between personal well-being and the ability to concentrate and solve problems. Moreover, personal well-being correlates in a positive way with other dimensions such as social support seeking, the fact of making an effort and succeed or concentrating in positive things. In contrast, personal well-being correlates in a negative way with the lack of coping, the reduction of tension and reserving for oneself. At the same time, coping profiles differ by gender, being the relationship between personal well-being and coping stronger among girls.

7. Track 10 – The QOL of the Elderly

Track and Session chairs:

Fermina Rojo-Perez, Centre for Human and Social Sciences, Spanish
Council for Scientific Research – Spain

Gloria Fernandez-Mayoralas, Centre for Human and Social Sciences,
Spanish Council for Scientific Research – Spain

7.1. Professional profile of the psychologists who work in Spanish nursing homes to improve the quality of life of the elderly

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Serrat, Elisabet - Dep. Psychology, University of Girona

Rostan, Carles - Dep. Psychology, University of Girona

Sidera, Francesc - Dep Psychology, University of Girona

Objective: Describe the professional profile of the psychologists who work in Spanish nursing homes, and identify the positive aspects and needs for improvement. Material and methods: All the nursing homes in the province of Girona (n=82) participated in the study. The procedure followed was to call the management in order to identify the homes that provide psychological care. Subsequently telephone contact was made with the psychologists in the homes and a structured survey was used to collect study data. Results: Of the nursing homes studied, 73% have a psychologist. Their average age is 35 (SD= 9.68) and the majority are women (94.4%). They have an average of 6.17 years of experience working in psychogerontology (SD=4.96) and more than half of them (63%) also work in other facilities as psychologists. The training they have received and their approach to psychological care is mainly cognitive-behavioural (52.8%) although eclectic (11.5%) or dynamic (11.1%) approaches are also used. More than half of the psychologists were “fairly satisfied” (41.5%) or “very satisfied” (28.3%) with their work. Specific data is presented about the tasks performed by psychologists and the aspects that have a positive or negative effect on the quality of the services they provide. Conclusions: In light of the results obtained, the conditions that must be emphasised to increase the quality of the psychological care provided in nursing homes will be analysed.

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7.2. Satisfaction with the work of psychologists to improve the quality of life of the elderly living in nursing homes

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Rostand, Carles - Dep Psychology, University of Girona

Serrat, Elisabet - Dep. Psychology, University of Girona

Amadó, Anna - Dep Psychology, University of Girona

Objectives: Know how satisfied nursing home psychologists and directors are with the work of the psychologists. Identify the aspects that increase or decrease that satisfaction. Carry out a comparative analysis between the views of the psychologists and those of the management. **Material and methods:** Nursing home directors and psychologists in Girona (n=137) participated in the study. The procedure consisted of collecting data via telephone interviews with directors and psychologists. **Results:** 73% of the nursing homes have a psychologist. Most of the directors are “fairly satisfied” (34%) or “very satisfied” (49.1%) with the work of the psychologists, while 15.1% are “slightly satisfied” and 2% “slightly unsatisfied”. They believe the elderly with dementia are not aware of the professional work of the psychologists, even though it is very helpful to the users and other professionals in the homes. Most psychologists say they feel “fairly satisfied” (57.9%) or “slightly satisfied” (36.8%) with their work. A qualitative analysis will determine which aspects contribute to an increase/decrease in satisfaction from both perspectives. **Discussion:** In light of the results obtained, a comparative analysis will be made of the satisfaction perceived by directors and psychologists as well as of the factors that both groups identify as necessary for the improvement of the quality of life of the elderly

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7.3. Subjective well-being of Flemish rest and nursing home residents

Bronselaeer Joost – Knowledge Centre Welfare, Health and Family

Callens Marc – Research Centre of the Flemish Government

Van den Boer Lut – Knowledge Centre Welfare, Health and Family

This paper explores the relative impact of both individual and organisational factors on the subjective well-being of non-demented rest and nursing home residents. A random sample of Flemish rest and nursing homes (n = 86) and residents (n = 397) in 2004 was used. The main research question is: which organizational factors have an impact on the subjective well-being of the residents after controlling for individual factors? This paper contributes to our understanding by taking into account factors (such as the degree of collaboration of rest and nursing homes) that are given less attention by the existing research literature based on the socio-ecological framework of Moos & Lemke. Using multilevel regression techniques we found that the effect of individual-level factors such as feelings of loneliness and subjective health experience dominate facility-level effects such as staff to resident ratio and the number of external collaborators for client referral.

Keywords: elderly, multilevel analysis, quality of life, residential care, subjective well-being

7.4. The SAPerE Project (Stroke Analysis Pathways and Experiences) – Rehabilitation and social care for stroke patients in Tuscany.

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Galletti G. – Regional Agency For Health In Tuscany, Quality And Equity Unit

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Serafini P. – Regional Agency For Health In Tuscany, Quality And Equity Unit

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Rodella S – Regional Agency For Health In Tuscany, Quality And Equity Unit

Objective: The general purpose of the SAPerE project was to explore several crucial issues in stroke patients' experience and their families'. A first step of our research highlighted fragmentation in rehabilitation and social care, therefore a second step deepened this aspect.

Methods: A standardized half-structured questionnaire was used on a population sample of patients discharged alive from any hospital in the region (Sept-Dec 05).

Results. Out of 1132 sent questionnaires, 55% was returned response rate. About 57% had some rehabilitation after hospital discharge and 58% of them had a second rehabilitation cycle. In both groups, access to rehabilitation was not influenced by age. Once rehabilitation was completed, 79% of patients could not benefit from some social support; 47% among them were older than 74.

71% of these latest referred some residual health problems, 73% of them applied for some home support to their charge. Moreover, 12% of these subjects changed their residency because of their stroke. Family had a strong supporting role for 83% of older than 74 with residual health problems.

Conclusions. Stroke patients in Tuscany seem to have acceptable rates of access to rehabilitation when moving from hospital to an outpatient setting. Rates of access to social care should be considered very carefully when referring to older and more vulnerable patients. In these population group the family still play a central role, notwithstanding the existing public health and social services.

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7.5. Welfare states and quality of later life - distributions and predictions of older people's QoL in a comparative perspective

*Motel-Klingebiel, Andreas – German Centre of Gerontology;
 Romeu Gordo, Laura – German Centre of Gerontology*

Demographic transitions are a driver of social change and societal ageing influences the resources and chances in life of different age groups. As a contribution to the debate on (potential) results of the transformation of social security in ageing societies, the impact of social security systems on distributions of quality of life in later life is discussed.

Three basic hypotheses are examined and thoroughly tested: the hypothesis of (relative) levels, the distribution hypothesis and the social structure hypothesis. The paper asks: How do levels of quality of life in later life depend on welfare state arrangements? Is the variability of objective and subjective quality of life related to welfare state arrangements? What is the relevance of social structure indicators for this variability and how is it related to old age security systems? What can be learned for the perspectives of current debates on equity and social security reforms? The analyses apply data from 12 countries, using data from SHARE and ELSA.

Descriptive analyses and multivariate models prove an interconnection between welfare state systems and quality of life indicators but not all three hypotheses can be fully confirmed. The analyses confirm the 'level hypothesis' for three out of four indicators applied. Analyses only partly back the 'distribution hypothesis' as well as the hypothesis of social structure effect can also only be partly confirmed. Finally, a basis for extended future analyses is outlined.

7.6. Health and social determinants of loneliness in older adults

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On behalf of the Spanish Group on Quality of Life and Ageing:

At the Spanish Council for Scientific Research:

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 Mohamed; Raul Lardies-Bosque*

At the Carlos III Institute of Health:

M. Joao Forjaz; Pablo Martinez-Martin; Maria-Eugenia Prieto-Flores; Belen Frades-Payo; Carmen Rodriguez-Blazquez; Concepcion Delgado-Sanz

It is well known that social relationships positively contribute to quality of life. This paper focuses on loneliness as it is affected by health and social characteristics in old age. To analyze this association, a logistic regression model was applied to a nationally-representative sample of 1.106 people aged 60 years or more, living in family housing in Spain, from a Survey of Quality of Life (1). The 6-item De Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale (2) for emotional and social loneliness was used as a dependent variable. The results showed a higher probability of feeling lonely among those older adults living alone (odds ratio OR = 2.8, 95% confidence interval CI: 2.1-3.8) or living with others but in the absence of a partner (OR=2.0, CI: 1.4-2.9), perceiving a poor (OR=2.4, CI: 1.3-4.5) or fair health status (OR= 1.7, CI: 1.3-2.3), needing help for activities of daily living (OR=1.5, CI: 1.0-2.0), and having no (OR=1.5, CI: 1.1-2.1) or occasional (OR=1.5, CI:1.1-2.3) face-to-face contacts with family, friends or neighbors. This work has potential to inform social policy about the risk of loneliness among older adults in Spain.

(1) Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science (National R&D&I Plan, ref. SEJ2006-15122-C02-01 and SEJ2006-15122-C02-02).

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7.7. Econometrics of the elderly Costa Rican population subjective welfare

Vargas, Juan-Rafael
Xirinachs, Yanira

Using the 2008 Urban Health and Related Urban Survey we contrast the earlier finding on the Hernández and Sáenz, 2006 National Health Survey. We estimate a ordered probit equations as well as pseudo panel econometrics. Vargas, 2007 had compared subjective welfare by the elderly population with that of the general people. Generally speaking the elders were as happy as the rest of the people. In some cases they had even higher levels of subjective welfare. That result was stronger for the Nicoya miracle case, but that result was not the result of the survey but that of Rosero et al. CRELES project.

Statistically the two surveys were not equivalent. Yet, the close results are reassuring. Gender and employments had the larger differences but they were the softer results as women live longer (in Costa Rica as well as other countries) and elder population incomes are not the prime level ones. Unfortunately the surveys do not carry questions that could allow testing hypothesis along the causal links accounting for that subjective welfare. Health, income and labor situation yielded the usual signs and the marginal analysis shows the expected magnitudes. That holds either on the ordered probit as well as on the pseudo panel case. The later is less robust econometricly but it is interesting as we are not aware of earlier such analysis in Middle America.

8. Track 11 – QOL and Gender

Track and Session chair:

Elizabeth J. Eckermann, Deakin University – Australia

8.1. Maternal Employment and Happiness: The Effect of Non-Participation and Part-Time Employment on Mothers' Life Satisfaction

Berger, Eva M. – DIW Berlin

In Germany, the child care supply is very restrictive and many mothers are not able to take up employment. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP), this paper analyzes the impact of mothers' employment constraints on life satisfaction and finds a significantly negative effect. Compensating income variations reveal that household income would have to be raised by 182 percent (157percent / 77 percent) in order to offset the pecuniary effect (forgone earnings) and the non-pecuniary effect (psychological costs) of an inability to work (of being in small / large part-time employment). In terms of overall happiness among the population of mothers, family constraints to employment are found to be more harmful than unemployment.

8.2. Feminist Philosophers on female Quality of Life: universal ambitions, particularistic claims and the enigma of immigrants.

Di Liberto Elena – University of Palermo, Italy

To analyse women condition and to assess quality of life, as has been explained by many thinkers and sociologies, require first of all the knowledge of theoretical framework on which this analysis is based. We should understand what kind of criteria are involved: universalistic ones, that have a potential objective value or relativistic and local ones, even if different cultural tradition often involve inequalities and injustice? This issue suggests the second question on which we would like to reflect: whether is necessary and adequate to consider what the subject thinks to be desirable, knowing that desirers are influenced and structured by cultural traditions and by objective socio economic conditions. These questions will be analysed through some of most important feminist philosophers and it will allow to outline a specific model of quality of female life.

This reflections become a more complex issue when we refer to immigrants women, who share different cultural models. The gender differentiation need here even an ethnic differentiation.

The empirical investigation will be based on data regarding the access by women immigrates to sanitary, educational and leisure services and aim to assess the integration and the quality of life in south italian towns.

8.3. Measuring quality of life for women in developing countries

Eckermann Elizabeth J. – Deakin University

The paper explores a variety of methods that have been used to measure quality of life for women in developing countries.

Using examples, it compares the effectiveness of the various methods in producing valid and reliable data. Barriers to individual measurement such as Illiteracy, communalism and gatekeeping are analysed and strategies for overcoming these obstacles are proposed.

8.4. Woman's happiness in Brazil: is it true that we are equally happy? An explanatory study.

Lima, Sabrina - Doctoral Student At University Of Milano-Bicocca - Italy;
Serafim, Mauricio - University Of South Of Santa Catarina - Brazil

A recently issue on happiness studies has been the debate around woman's happiness (Blanchflower and Oswald, 2004; Fischer et al, 2007; Stevenson and Wolfers, 2008, for example). The actual stage of development of this theme, though, does not make it possible to suggest any kind of generalization. The present work intends to contribute to the development of such theme by approaching the subjective well-being of female gender to Brazilian case. Preliminary researches about happiness in Brazil (Corbi and Menezes-Filho, 2004, 2006; Lima, 2007) point out that such well-being is comparatively lower than for man. Given the scarce debate about this theme in Brazil, the present work is, therefore, of explanatory character and applied to Brazilian case. Based on evidences provided by the analysis of life satisfaction data from World Values Survey, we investigate the characteristics of female subjective well-being focusing on socio-demographic and occupational characteristics for the available period (1991 to 2005). We intend to provide descriptive statistics analyses and estimations by OLS and ordered choice model considering life satisfaction as our dependent variable. We conclude by providing propositions and explanatory hypotheses for Brazilian reality with the intention to direct future works.

8.5. A survey on the relationship among sexual self-schema, gender satisfaction and overall satisfaction with life: a comparison of male and female undergraduate students

Mazaheri, Mehrdad – University of Sistan & Baluchestan
Kazemi Pour, Ali – University of Sistan & Baluchestan

A sample of 125 volunteering first-year undergraduate students was obtained at the USB (University of Sistan & Baluchestan), Zahedan, Iran, (72 Female (mean age=18.64), 53 Male (mean age=20.12), were asked to rate their current overall satisfaction with life, Sexual Self-Schema, and gender satisfaction, on two instruments; Bem Sex Role Inventory, (an instrument used to measure gender role perceptions), and a self-report rating scale (including two single global questions for measuring for measuring gender satisfaction, and overall satisfaction with life. Results: The results of independent t-test comparing the mean rating of overall satisfaction with life indicated non-significant difference between female and male students. However, a significant difference was shown between male and female

on rating gender satisfaction (with higher mean for male students). Finally, our results indicated that only a significant correlation between gender satisfaction and overall satisfaction for female but not male students. Conclusion Our results suggest that the role of gender satisfaction, as an important life domain, on overall satisfaction with life in Iranian female students, and it seems that the cultural factors can explain well these findings.

8.6. Exploring the emotional effects of the Holocaust on third generation Jewish women

Nissenbaum, Melissa

The Holocaust has greatly impacted the Jewish population since the early 1930's. While the Nazi concentration camps were liberated over sixty years ago, the Holocaust continues to have an emotional impact on the families of survivors. One key characteristic of these family members is 'survivors' guilt'. Survivors' guilt is defined as the feeling of not having the right to live when so many others were killed. The main focus of this paper is to explore in what ways the Holocaust continues to affect the lives of third generation survivors. More specifically, examination of the existing literature on the area of cultural subjective well-being will be reviewed in order to assess what is currently known about the Jewish female population and what needs further scientific exploration. Key findings, as well as implications of this research for social work practice and research will be presented.

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8.7. A Gender Approach of Health and Quality of Life in the Tropics

Watkins, I. Karen – UPAEP and BUAP

Gender is an important issue for studying health and medication use; up-to-date, most of the literature has identified significant health-related differences between men and women. These can be explained by biological factors, socioeconomic issues, and psychological features. The present study analyses in particular the effects of multiple roles and life cycle on female health and quality of life. It is based on surveys on medication use, implemented in Costa Rica in June 2003, 2004, and 2005. Results show that generally the relationship between health and the number of roles follows a U shape. In this sense, having no roles is better for women's well-being than having three roles. However, those women with one or two roles possess worse health conditions than those with three roles. When controlling for life cycle, it appears that young women with preschool and elementary school children are most vulnerable. Their health perception, life, and economic satisfaction are significantly lower than for the rest of women.

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9. Track 12 – The QOL of the Disabled

Track Chairs:

Ralph Kober, Monash University– New Zealand

Narrell Warren, Monash University – Australia

Session chairs:

Luisa Pedro, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa – Portugal

Fiona Rillotta, The University of Adelaide – Australia

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9.1. To live or to die in extreme disability: subjective wellbeing (SWB) and end-of-life decisions in the locked-in syndrome (LIS)

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BACKGROUND

In LIS the mind and senses stay intact, but only eye movements remain for communication (1). Most healthy people deem LIS worse than death. We studied health-care staff attitudes to LIS and the SWB of LIS patients.

METHODS

381 health-care professionals were questioned on LIS and 186 LIS patients were asked to describe their condition and views on end of life. They rated their SWB by ACSA, a self-anchored scale of global SWB with biographical anchors, which reduces 'given-the-circumstances' responses (2,3). The +5 and -5 anchors were the memory of the best period in their life before LIS and their worst period ever.

RESULTS

The 57% responders had been in LIS for 9+/-6 yrs (range 10 months to 23 yrs). ACSA ratings in LIS were bimodal: 2/3 happy, 1/4 very unhappy and 1/8 equipoised. Whereas 57 % of caregivers desire euthanasia if they were struck with LIS, only 5% of patients wish to die.

CONCLUSIONS

Extreme disability is still compatible with happiness but a minority feel utterly miserable. As sharp a dichotomy between success and failure of adaptation is unique in SWB research. Methodologically, only ACSA may be able to reveal such situations. Caregivers grossly underestimate the resilience of chronic LIS patients. Recently-struck LIS patients who wish to die should be assured that they have a good chance to with optimal supportive care regain

a happy life. Euthanasia should not be refused, but a moratorium allowing the reaching of steady state should be proposed.

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9.2. Quality of life in families of people with intellectual disability in Spain

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Balcells, Anna – Ramon Llull University

The purpose of this communication is to present results from a current research project about quality of life in families of people with intellectual disability (ID) in Spain. The objective is to construct two scales to measure family quality of life (FQoL) in families of people with ID (one for 0-18-year-olds and the other for people over 18). The research is based on the work on quality of life carried out by various research groups.

This study, conducted jointly by 5 Spanish universities, consists of two phases: a qualitative one, which allowed us to identify FQoL dimensions; and a quantitative one with the aim of constructing and validating the scales.

In the first phase, 12 focus groups (FG) were used, including 6-10 parents and siblings. The set of FGs was designed following these criteria: age of person with ID, place of residence, and severity of disability. To analyze discussions, the ATLAS.ti program was used. After these analyses, some dimensions and subdimensions were proposed. Using a comparison method with pairs of researchers, a set of 12 dimensions was agreed for each scale, which are the basis to construct the items for both scales.

We will focus on the description of the different FGs, the procedure used to analyze discussions, and the justification for the set of 12 dimensions. Some examples of items belonging to the scale designed for families of people with ID older than 18 will also be presented, as the scales are still under construction.

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9.3. Sustainable quality development in care and service institutions for people with disabilities

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In the study we outline a new perspective towards evaluating the quality of life of people with disabilities. The study focuses on the evaluation of the quality of life of people with disabilities, in close collaboration with institutions providing care and services for people with disabilities. The main purpose of the study is to develop online instruments which efficiently and effectively guides the evaluation of the quality of life of disabled people, thereby adding an informative and sustainable element to existing measures of quality development and quality management.

The project is built on a quality of life concept, developed by the project team. Based on this we conceptualise diagnostic- and planning instruments. The instruments serve for the individual acquisition of the quality of life of people with disabilities and to improve and shape the quality of life on an individual and organizational base. All instruments were developed and empiric verified in this project in close collaboration with institutions providing care and services for people with disabilities and shall be introduced and discussed in the workshop.

9.4. The Importance of Hope in quality of life for patients with multiple Sclerosis

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Pais Ribeiro J.L. – Faculdade Psicologia Ciências Educação - U. Porto - Portugal)

This study intent to describe the importance of hope for quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. Evidence has indicated that hope is important as a buffer between risk factors physical and psychological health status and quality of life for patients with multiple sclerosis. The study was exploratory and descriptive Setting: A general Hospital in Lisbon

Portugal. Participants: 280 patients with multiple sclerosis. We explore the relationship between hope and quality of life. The instruments used are: Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life scale (MSQol-54) and the Hope Scale Results: The correlation between hope scale and the domains of MSQOL-54: Physical Health ($r=0.24$, $p<0,05$), Physical Role Limitations ($r=0.25$, $p<0,05$), Emotional Role Limitations ($r=0.35$, $p<0,05$), Pain ($r=0.28$, $p<0,05$), Well-being ($r=0.48$, $p<0,01$), Energy ($r=0.42$, $p<0,01$), Health in General ($r=0.41$, $p<0,01$), Social Function ($r=0.45$, $p<0,01$), Cognitive Function ($r=0.28$, $p<0,05$), Health Distress ($r=0.52$, $p<0,01$), Overall Qol ($r=0.49$, $p<0,01$), Sexual function , ($r=0.33$, $p<0,05$), Change Health ($r=-0.17$, $p<0,05$), and Satisfaction with sexual function ($r=0.33$, $p<0,05$). Conclusion: There is a statistically significant correlation between the variables, suggesting that hope can play an important role in the quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis especial in domains as: perception of Well-being, Health in General and Social Function and Distress.

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9.5. The Role of Hope and Optimism in the Social Function for Patients with Multiple Sclerosis

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Objective: This study intent to describe the importance of Hope and Optimism in Social Function for patients with multiple sclerosis. Hope and Optimism are important as buffers between risk factors Physical and Psychological Health Status. The Social Function is an important component or the perception Quality of Life for patients with multiple sclerosis. The present study was exploratory and descriptive **Setting:** A general Hospital in Lisbon Portugal. **Participants:** 280 patients with multiple sclerosis mean age, 39,2 females. We explore the contribution of hope and optimism for social function. The instruments used are: the Social Function of Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life scale (MSQol-54), the Hope Scale and the Revised Version of the Life Orientation Test (LOT-R). **Results:** The correlation between the Hope Scale and Social function is ($r=0.45$, $p<0,01$). The correlation between the LOT-R and Social function is ($r=0.33$, $p<0,05$). There is a statistically significant correlation between Hope and LOT-R, and Social Function. Regression analysis using Social Function as dependent variable and Hope and Optimism as independent variables show that only Hope contributes in a statistically significant way for the variance explained. Results suggest that Hope is more important than Optimism for Social Function in patients with multiple sclerosis.

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9.6. Quality of Life for Children with Disabilities: Lessons from Two Studies

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We discuss lessons learned from two Canadian studies of quality of life for children with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IID/DD). One was a quantitative, telephone interview study with 180 parents of children with ID/DD. The second was a qualitative study, using 3 different video methodologies, with each of 9 children with ID/DD. Both studies sought to learn what contributes to and detracts from quality of life for children with ID/DD. Collectively, the findings from both studies offer insight into the nature of quality of life and its enhancement for this group of children in a societal context. Key issues arising from the findings of this research are discussed. They include: government policy, community environment and resources, social networks, and perceptions about the child's identity.

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9.7. Family Quality of Life and Intellectual Disability: Implications for Support Services

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Improvements to health care and disability services have led to more people with an intellectual disability living at home with their families, instead of in institutional settings. It has therefore become important to explore the impact this has on families, with respect to their Family Quality of Life (FQOL). Main caregivers of relatives with an intellectual disability (N = 44) were interviewed using the International "Family Quality of Life Survey: Main caregivers of people with intellectual disabilities", including nine domains: Health, Financial Well-Being, Family Relationships, Support from Others, Support from Disability Services, Values, Careers, Leisure and Recreation, and Community Interaction. This paper explores the Support from Disability Related Services domain. Results showed that participants expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of service support, including insufficient financial assistance, and not being provided with enough information. Level of satisfaction

with FQOL and support services varied according to the age of the member with an intellectual disability, and/ or the type of disability. In order to improve FQOL it is important for disability service providers to assess FQOL with respect to aspects that families identified as needing improvement; and/ or reported as working well. Future research will compare Australian and International results, with the aim of informing developing countries through initiatives such as the IASSID Academy.

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9.8. Positive Perceptions, anxiety and depression in families of children with severe disabilities in Spain: A pilot study

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Ferrer, Fina

In this communication we present the results of a pilot study, which is part of a PhD project, about positive perceptions and levels of anxiety and depression in parents of children with severe disabilities attending special schools.

Several research work have suggested that having a child with disabilities may be a negative experience for a family which can affect the relationship with the child, thereby diminishing the possibilities for fostering the child's development. On the other hand, various studies have stressed that having a child with disabilities may also make a positive contribution to family life (Turnbull et al. 1993; Helff and Glidden, 1998; Hastings and Taunt, 2002). Several studies have analysed the positive and negative perceptions in families with children with disabilities, thinking that positive perceptions function as strategies helping families to adapt to, or cope with, the experiences of raising a child with disabilities (Hastings et al. 2005; Lloyd and Hastings, 2008) and this may determine new ways of intervening with these families.

About 80 and 100 parents of children with severe disabilities aged 1 to 19 years old are evaluated. Parents' positive perceptions of their child with disabilities were measured using

the Positive Contributions Scale (PCS) of the Kansas Inventory of Parental Perceptions (Behr et al. 1992), while parents' levels of anxiety and depression were measured using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS).

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9.9. Longitudinal Analysis of Balance Confidence in Stroke Survivors Using a Hierarchical Linear Model

Yiu, Jeanne – University of British Columbia

Miller, William C. – University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Self-efficacy has been suggested to be a strong predictor of disability and quality of life following stroke.¹ Previous studies of older adults have found that those with lower balance related self-efficacy or balance confidence (BC) tend to decline more in their function and health.^{2, 3} Little is known about how BC varies in individuals post stroke and no study has used a non-disabled comparison. The objective of this study was to investigate the longitudinal relationship between BC and other performance and contextual variables. **Methods:** This was a prospective cohort study of individuals with a first ever stroke and age- and sex- matched controls. Subjects were assessed at baseline (1 month post discharge from rehabilitation for stroke), 3, 6, and 12 months after baseline. BC, balance and mobility performance, psychological function, and important contextual variables were measured. A hierarchical linear model will be developed to analyze how BC changes over time and if initial status or rate of change is associated with performance measures and contextual variables. **Preliminary results:** 98 subjects with stroke and 98 controls participated. Mean BC was significantly lower in the stroke group than controls across all time points ($p < 0.00$). Exploratory analysis revealed inter-individual variations in initial status and rate of change (with an upward slope) in BC over time in the stroke group. The final model will identify important variables in explaining these differences.

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10. Track 14 – Spiritual Well-Being

Track Chairs:

Dave Webb, University of Western Australia

Rick Sawatzky, Trinity Western University – Canada

Mark Peterson, University of Wyoming – USA

Session Chairs:

Dave Webb, University of Western Australia

Rick Sawatzky, Trinity Western University – Canada

10.1. Spirituality through Generosity in the Theory and Measurement of Well-Being

Anderson Ronald – University of Minnesota

The well-being of an individual or society is incomplete without the initiation, as well as the receipt, of generosity (Stone 2008). The quality of life of those who suffer from poverty, illness and other dire straits depends upon the generosity of others. Religious and spiritual approaches to social well-being argue that being generous or giving compassionate love are essential elements of quality lives (Peterson & Webb, 2006). The ethics of altruism and compassion, apart from religious admonitions, argue for generosity as essential for a meaningful life (Reilly 2008). The sociology of caring argues for generosity as the social fabric for communities and societies (Olinder). Generosity, compassion, and love, as purposes for living, yield meaning and the essence of spirituality.

Studies of the quality of life or well-being sometimes look for the byproducts of generosity, e.g., lack of poverty, access to health care, etc. However, measures of generous behavior tend to be neglected in studies of the quality of life. This paper implements both approaches in an indicator system for affluent societies.

The system of indicators consists of indexes in the following nine domains of quality of life: socio-economic well-being, child well-being, human life, health, non-violence, integrity and social justice, civil society, environment, and altruistic actions. The paper will discuss the conceptual rationales for this delineation of domains.

Estimates of the values of the 50 indicator

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Stone, D. (2008). *The Samaritan's Dilemma – Should Government Help Your Neighbor?* New York: Nation Books.

10.2. 'Suerte' (Luck): Spirituality and Well-Being in El Alto, Bolivia

This paper addresses the importance of faith and the consequent resort to supernatural forces to acquire a sense of well-being in a poor neighbourhood in the city of El Alto, Bolivia, where I carried out ethnographic research between November 2003 and November 2004. Religious beliefs and practices have provided an important idiom for the expression of aspirations and the pursuit of ideals. The social role of emotions and its effect on well-being have been widely investigated in anthropology, especially in relation to issues of solidarity, feelings of confidence, and a sense of full personhood and empowerment (Barbalet 2001; Turner 2002; Bendelow and Williams 1998).

By looking at the concept of luck, I suggest that my informants' sense of well-being depends on a commitment to their shared values and respect for their cosmological order. Only through this commitment individual fulfilment and empowerment can be achieved. In El Alto, spiritual forces are believed to assure and control an individual's luck, freeing him/her from evil eye and envy -major sources of ill-being. This can be achieved through a ritual performed by a yatiri -local shaman, or other means, such as participating and dancing in a religious celebration in honour of a patron saint or engaging in regular acts of faith. Luck in the Bolivian plateau is inextricably connected with ideas of protection, destiny control and future aspirations.

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10.3. Religious practice and perceived quality of life: a comparative investigation

Coppa, Rocco – University Of Milan
Delle Fave, Antonella – University Of Milan

Several studies highlighted that religious practice and spirituality are independent indicators of the levels of subjective well-being and quality of life. Faith, through its influence on behaviors and values, provides answers to the human need for meaning and hope, allowing for self-transcendence and openness towards a broader meaning context.

This study aims at analyzing differences and similarities in the practice of religion and its role on perceived quality of life among participants belonging to three different religious traditions: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam. Data were collected in India among 50 participants: 20 of them were Christians, 10 Muslims and 20 Hindus. A group of 20 Christians was recruited in Italy, to be compared with the Indian Christians. Participants were administered a) Eudaimonic Happiness Inventory, that investigates goals and meaningfulness in life domains, b) Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS), and c) a questionnaire specifically designed to investigate the meaning and role of God in participants' life, and participants' understanding of other religions.

Results showed that faith and relationship with God played a central role in the life of participants across groups, being related to future goals, providing meaning and a positive

interpretation of events and relations. Although Indian participants lived in a context traditionally marked by religion pluralism, these findings point to possible directions to improve interreligious dialogue.

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10.4. Satisfaction with spirituality, satisfaction with religion and personal well-being among students of two Spanish universities.

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González Mònica – Research Institute on Quality of Life – University of Girona. Spain.

Figuer Cristina – Research Institute on Quality of Life – University of Girona. Spain.

Malo Sara. – Research Institute on Quality of Life – University of Girona. Spain.

Results are presented from one sample of university students aged 18 to 35, from two universities in Catalonia (Spain). The relationships of satisfaction with spirituality and with religion with four commonly used well-being indicators (overall life satisfaction single-item scale, Personal Well-Being Index, Satisfaction with Life Scale and Fordyce's one-item Happiness Scale) are analysed. The results of two additional indicators are also explored: Van Dierendonck's adapted short version of the Spirituality Assessment Scale and a new single-item scale on Existential Sense of Meaning (ESMS).

Finally, the importance attributed by university students to a list of 17 purposes in life which may contribute to a sense of meaning in life is considered. Results suggest a reactive position on behalf most Spanish youngsters towards traditional religion; they consider it not very important either for their well-being or for giving a sense of meaning to their own lives. While the importance given to spirituality is clearly higher, the concept seems to have several very different interpretations among young people. Results obtained with the

Existential Sense of Meaning Scale appear to be making interesting contributions to the debate.

According to university students' answers and in the context of Catalan/Spanish society, purposes in life as a contribution to a sense of meaning in life do not rank as expected from an adult's perspective. The discussion underlines the importance of young people's own points of view in order to understand the meaning they give to religion and spirituality in the context of an ever more rapidly changing society. The implications for future research and practice are discussed.

10.5. Religiosity and quality of life in the Philippines

Guerrero Linda Luz – Social Weather Stations

Labucay Iremae D. – Social Weather Stations

In most studies, the correlations between religiosity and quality of life are positive, and in a few studies they are negative. What is the situation in the Philippines, where four out of five are Roman Catholics, where people are exceptionally religious compared to Catholics and Christians of other nationalities, and where the people rank as one of the happiest and most optimistic in the world? Using three waves of Philippine data from the religion modules of the International Social Survey Programme between 1991 and 2008, this paper will explore the relationships between, on the one hand, indices of orthodoxy, folk beliefs, belief in God, self-assessed relationship with God, self-efficacy, fatalism, and religious practices, and, on the other hand, self-assessed happiness, assessment of future trend in quality of life, and longevity.

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10.6. Let Us Pray: Religious Interactions In Life Satisfaction

Orsolya Lelkes – European Centre Vienna

Clark Andrew – Paris School of Economics, France and IZA, Germany

We use recent pooled survey data on 90 000 individuals in 26 European countries to examine religious spillover effects on life satisfaction. Own religious behaviour is positively correlated with individual life satisfaction. More unusually, average religiosity in the region also has a positive impact: people are more satisfied in more religious regions. This spillover holds both for those who are religious and for those who are not. The flipside of the coin is that a greater proportion of “atheists” (those who say they do not currently belong to any religious denomination) has negative spillover effects, for the religious and atheists alike. We last show that both Protestants and Catholics like to live in regions where their own religion is dominant, while Protestants are also more satisfied when Catholics dominate. The generic positive spillover effect of others’ religion is not explained by social capital, crime, or trust.

10.7. The relevance of spiritual attributes to adolescents’ quality of life

Sawatzky, Richard – Trinity Western University (Canada);

Gadermann, Anne – University of British Columbia (Canada);

Pesut, Barb – University of British Columbia (Canada).

We examined whether various spiritual attributes contribute to adolescents’ quality of life (QOL), and the extent to which these relationships are mediated by other contributing factors, including adolescents’ perceived physical and mental health status and their satisfaction with five life domains (family, friends, living environment, school experiences, and perception of self). **METHODS:** The data came from a cross-sectional health survey of 8,225 adolescents in British Columbia, Canada. Six questions, taken from established spiritual wellbeing instruments, were used to assess distinct attributes of spirituality. The other variables were measured using an abridged 18-item version of Huebner’s (2001) Multidimensional Students’ Life Satisfaction Scale (Sawatzky et al. in press), two items measuring perceived mental and physical health status, and two items for the measurement of global QOL. We used structural equation modeling. **RESULTS:** Several spiritual attributes were significantly associated with global QOL when controlling for the five life domains and perceived physical and mental health status (partitioned R-square = 47%). The predominant mediators were adolescents’ satisfaction with family, their perceived self, and their perceived mental health status.

CONCLUSIONS: The findings affirm the potential relevance of spiritual attributes in the lives of adolescents and provide preliminary insights into the mechanism by which spirituality may contribute to adolescents’ QOL.

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10.8. Religiosity, Meaning in life and subjective wellbeing in Algerian students

Tiliouine, Habib – Laboratory of Educational Processes & Social Context (Labo-PECS), University of Oran, Algeria

The study explores the relationships between religiosity, Meaning in Life and Subjective Wellbeing (SWB) in a sample of 495 Muslim students (330 Females, and 165 males) from Algeria. Experts' judgments and pilot-testing helped in developing a Comprehensive Measure of Islamic Religiosity (CMIR). It consists of 60 items covering four (4) broad areas with high inter-correlations: Religious Belief, Religious Practice, Religious Altruism, and Enrichment of religious experience. A short version of the 'Presence of Meaning in Life' (PML) scale, Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS), and Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) have been also administered in one set of questionnaires.

The results indicate that Religious Belief and Religious Altruism significantly contribute in providing subjects with meaning in life. Nevertheless, Hierarchical Regression Analyses show that only Religious Belief makes a significant contribution in both SWLS and PWI. But, this effect has almost totally been accounted for by Meaning in life in the second step. Comparisons on the basis of the demographic characteristics show that males marginally differ than females ($p < .05$) in Religious Altruism, but these latter are higher in SWLS ($p < .05$).

Moreover, it has been shown that students of science score marginally higher in Belief and Practice and also in PML, and SWLS compared to their counterparts of Arts studies. Finally, subjects from high income families are favoured in Presence of Meaning, SWLS, and PWI.

11. Track 15 – Employment and Work and QOL

Track Chair:

Andrew Clark, Paris School of Economics – France and IZA – Germany

Session Chairs:

Andrea Bernardi, Faculty Of Economics – Roma Tre University – Italy

Ennio Bilancini, University Of Modena And Reggio Emilia – Italy

Andrew Clark, Paris School of Economics – France and IZA – Germany

Simon Easton, University of Portsmouth – UK

Thomas Lange, Department of Business Economics Auckland University of
Technology – Auckland – New Zealand

Steffen Rätzel, Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg – Germany

Eduardo Rodrigues, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-
ISCTE) – Lisbon – Portugal

11.1. Combining Work and Care: Enabling Parents with Children to Have a High Quality of Life

Abbott, Pamela – University of Aberdeen, UK

Wallace, Claire – University of Aberdeen, UK

In this paper we will consider the social policies that will best enable parents with young children to combine paid employment and care and how this affects their quality of life by analysing interviews in seven European countries collected as part of an EU project. By looking at how parents themselves define their quality of life and how they can be empowered to manage their goals, it is possible to provide new insights into the meaning of quality of life in different countries. The countries selected include Southern, Eastern, Nordic and Central European countries with a variety of family and policy frameworks.

11.2. Why are managers happier than workers?

*Arjona Perez Elena – Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit, Joint
Research Center*

*D'Hombres, Beatrice – Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit, Joint
Research Center*

*Mascherini Massimiliano – Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit, Joint
Research Center*

Work has a central role in many people's lives and therefore is one important factor affecting their level of well-being. The data from the 2006/2007 European Social Survey, a cross-country survey administered on a nationally representative sample of 25 countries, shows that not only job satisfaction but also general level of happiness is not evenly distributed across occupations. As one goes up the ladder of occupations (from elementary positions, to workers and professionals until senior officials and managers, using the ISCO-88

classification) the self-reported levels of general happiness also tend to increase. Those preliminary findings motivate the current study. We aim to analyze, first whether the occupation held by the respondents affect their level of happiness and second, the reasons underlying those cross-occupation variations (both objective working conditions as suggested by Clark and Oswald (1994) and Frijters et al. (2004) as well as intangible job characteristics).

We adopt a two-step approach. After having in a first step estimated a happiness equation, in which we include a set of occupational dummies in addition to variables lying at the individual, household, regional and country levels, the estimated coefficients associated with the occupational dummies are used in a second step as dependant variables and regressed against a set of variables that are occupational specific.

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11.3. Job safety and well-being in organizations

Bernardi Andrea – Research Fellow, Faculty Of Economics, Roma Tre University

In this paper we introduce the Capability Approach School, as a new possible tool in Organization Studies. Using the Human Development and Capability Approach we face the health and safety at work issue. We consider as a capability the worker's attitude to protect himself understanding safety procedures and risk and the freedom to require the organization to respect the law and to implement safe work processes. This capability is activated by functionings which are autonomy, freedom, well-being at work, organizational equity, labour rights and worker's consciousness. Given the importance of institutions in safety and health issues, and explained the relevance of the organizational level to lower risks and to promote well-being, we introduce and discuss the organizational climate as a mediator between the institutional and organizational level in influencing a safe attitude and behaviour of worker. In order to study the link between safety capability, climate and workers' attitudes with safety issues, we used a questionnaire among a sample of 260 workers and members of workers' co-operatives in Rome. The data testing suggests the existence of a link between dimensions reflecting Capability Approach and organizational climate variables. It is supported the usefulness of a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the issue of safety at work that refers to organizational climate, freedom and capabilities.

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11.4. Relative Income and Hours Worked: Empirical Evidence from the US

Bartolini Stefano – University of Siena

Bilancini Ennio – University Of Modena And Reggio Emilia

The so called “happiness paradox”, i.e. the non increasing long-term trends of the subjective well-being, has been explained by theories based on social comparisons. If such explanations are taken seriously, we have to further check whether they are consistent with the observed trends in hours worked in Western countries. Available evidence suggests that leisure time is only weakly increasing, especially if compared with output growth so that it remains to investigate to what extent this is compatible with the social comparison hypothesis. Indeed, the presence of both a non-increasing long-term trend of subjective well-being and a weakly decreasing trend of the hours worked in the last decades is paradoxical: why do people strive so much for money if money does not buy happiness?

In this paper, we empirically investigate whether the amount of hours worked by US citizens during the period 1972-2004 is affected by their relative standing in terms of income. We find evidence that reference income is positively correlated with the amount of hours worked. In particular, we find that an increase in one's reference income of 10000 dollars of yearly income goes with an increase of hours worked per week which ranges from 0.2 to 3, depending on the reference group considered. We also find evidence that the amount of hours worked by non-white people is not correlated with reference income, independently of reference income being constructed conditional on race or not. This may suggest that whites are more inclined to make social comparisons than non-whites, or alternatively that their reference group is different from the ones which we identified. Furthermore, women seem to be less sensible to reference income than men, especially when reference income is constructed unconditionally on age. Finally, we find that job participation is not significantly correlated with reference income.

11.5. Addiction to work: a measure of wage elasticity for long hours of work

Donatella Cavagnoli – Department of Economics and Finance - La Trobe University - 3086, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia

A phenomenon of the last twenty years is the growth of ‘very long hours’ of work, especially amongst high-skilled labour. This is an unexpected reversal of a long trend in the opposite direction. This paper criticises the mainstream analysis of labour-leisure choice. It argues that the more time is consumed in paid work, the more are preferences for paid work affected by it; thereby creating a vicious cycle of consumption patterns which lead to longer than expected hours of work.

11.6. The Work-Related Quality of Life of UK University staff

Easton, Simon – University of Portsmouth;
Van Laar, Darren – University of Portsmouth;
Bradshaw, Alan, QoWL Ltd.

This paper presents the results from an analysis of the results from the Work-Related Quality of Life (WRQoL) scale on approximately 6000 UK university staff from a sample of 10% of all UK universities. The data provide an overview of the quality of working life of the UK Higher Education sector. The relationship between WRQoL and the UK Government's Health and Safety Executive's Work-Related Stress scale will also be outlined. Differences in WRQoL and Stress between different groups of UK Higher Education staff will be examined in detail.

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11.7. Quality of working life from a cost/benefit point of view: the case of the public employee in Southern Italy

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Quillace, Francesco – Università Degli Studi, Foggia, Italy.

Most people spend most of their time at work. Often it is not only “most of their time” but also their “best time”. It is, therefore, clear that the quality of their work influences the quality of their individual life. A particularly helpful approach in explaining human behaviour in the work place is the “individual cost/benefit” point of view. The benefits and costs of the work carried out, both of which are differentiated in material and non-material, provide the basis on which to respectively build individual utility and disutility functions.

This study is based on around 8 years of “observant participation” carried out by the authors in 8 different public administration offices in Southern Italy. Focus is placed on the figure of the public employee whose work time is analysed from an individual cost/benefit point of view.

The information that materialised on site meant a profile of the public employee could be drawn up characterised by the fairly flat utility and disutility curves, indicative of activity that is lacking in serious obvious risks, as well as not being particularly gratifying from a benefits point of view, almost exclusively represented by wage and one's continuousness over time. This provides an indication of a poor quality of working life for the public employee in Southern Italy, with all the side effects that this can have on these individuals' overall quality of life.

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11.8. Youngs, Work, Quality of Life - Proposal of an analysis and survey model

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Since job plays a significant role in everyday life, especially in terms of social identity and relationships, access to consumer products, decision on whether or not to have a family and social, the quality of work life represents an important dimension of the broader concept of quality of life.

In other terms, work represents the connection between each individual and the outside world.

The presented work shows the development of a survey project aimed at studying the relationship between quality of life and quality of work life. The proposed model is defined through the hierarchical model (Maggino, 2008)

The project will be accomplished in the near future and will involve a group of young workers (from 20 to 35 years), with different individual characteristics (such as educational levels) and consequently different work conditions. This will help us to study in depth the relationship between job and education, job and family conditions, and between all these dimensions and the subjective quality of work life.

One of the aim of the study is to verify, according to Seashore's idea, the relationship between job satisfaction and quality of work life, also in causal terms.

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11.9. An assessment of the quality of work in Europe based on the social indicators approach

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The quality of work has been subject of high interest in the academic, political and economic fields since the decade of the 1990s years in the economic growth context with an employment increase. In the same way, work quality has become the principal objective of the modernisation of the European social model and an important factor into life quality of the citizens.

Traditionally, this concept is described according to objective conditions of the job (salary, working week, the necessary qualifications, the possibility of promotion, speed and rhythm of work, etc). So, it can not only be described according to objective conditions of work, but it must also include subjective aspects such as the perfections that the Europeans have about their own work. the aim of this paper is to do a multidimensional analysis of the concept of quality of work of the European workers with objective and subjective information.

Though there are several methodologies and approaches to measure and quantify the work quality, we used the social indicators. In general, the methods for constructing synthetic indicators are particularly interesting in this field of research, especially in the context of the EU. Specifically, we propose to carry out the analysis with the measurement of the P2 distance that will allow us to design synthetic indicators of quality of work (QWSI).

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11.10. Working time flexibility and job satisfaction in Germany

This study analyzes how different working hour arrangements influence the subjective job satisfaction. The paper contributes to the existing literature dealing with job satisfaction by including information on the flexibility of working hour arrangements and the compensation for working overtime. To provide for the ordinal scaling of subjective measures like job satisfaction we apply the cardinalization proposed by Van Praag & Ferrer-I-Carbonell (2008). To allow for unobserved individual heterogeneity and to obtain consistent estimates we estimate a fixed effects model based on data from the German Socio-economic Panel (GSOEP) waves 2005 and 2007. For the active population we find a negative impact of increased flexibility demands on job satisfaction. In particular regular night work does significantly lower the reported job satisfaction, while a positive effect is found for self-determined working hours and if individuals are able to take time off in lieu of overtime

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11.11. Evaluation of a new method for assessing work-related quality of life in call centres

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The aim of this work was to develop a novel approach to evaluating the work-related well-being of employees working in a 24/7 call centre setting using Impact Analysis (IA). IA evaluates the impact of disease on patient quality of life (Juniper et al., 1996). The performance of this new approach was assessed by comparison with the existing industry standard (Juniper et al., 1997; Faragher et al., 2004).

Agents were asked to identify which, out of 102 items, they had experienced and an Impact Score for each variable was computed. Generally, items with the highest impact scores were incorporated into the final assessment. Items were grouped by domains.

The same data were also analysed using Factor Analysis (FA).

69% of agents (n=377) from a large UK call centre operation successfully completed the item generation questionnaire. Using IA, the final number of items was reduced to 49 spread across 9 different domains. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between sub-classes were noted.

FA yielded 50 items across 10 factors. 28 variables (56%) were common to each scale. The make up of factors was considerably different to the IA domains. The Cronbach's Alpha value was acceptable for both scales.

The two methodologies give rise to notably different assessments. IA may offer an alternative approach to measuring comprehensively how all aspects of call centre work impact on quality of life irrespective of the strength of correlation between variables as determined using FA.

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11.12. Boon or Bane? Others' Unemployment, Well-being and Job Insecurity

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The social norm of unemployment suggests that aggregate unemployment reduces the well-being of the employed, but has a far smaller effect on the unemployed. We use German panel data to reproduce this standard result, but then suggest that the appropriate distinction may not be between employment and unemployment, but rather between higher and lower levels of labour-market security. Persons with good job prospects, both employed and unemployed, are strongly negatively affected by regional unemployment. However, the insecure employed and the poor-prospect unemployed are less negatively, or even positively, affected. We use our results to analyse labour-market inequality and unemployment hysteresis.

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11.13. Dissatisfied with life, but having a good day:time-use and well-being of the unemployed

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We make use of the Day Reconstruction Method (DRM) to determine how persons' average well-being over the course of the day correlates with their employment status. We conducted a DRM study with 1054 personal interviews in Germany, in which we collected data on how employed and unemployed people used their time during a specific day, their affect levels during all activities they were engaged in during that day, and their general life satisfaction. This allows us to compare unemployed and employed people with respect to i) the differences in the assessment of emotional affects, ii) the differences in the composition of activities during the whole course of the day, and iii) the difference in the duration of these activities. Our results show that unemployed persons declare lower levels of satisfaction with their lives in general, but that the average experienced utility of an unemployed person over the course of the day does not differ from that of an employed person. The unemployed report lower well-being than the employed when comparing similar activities (saddening effect), but they are able to compensate this utility gap by spending the time the employed have to spend in work and work-related activities in more enjoyable activities (time-composition effect).

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11.14. Work Ethic Correlates and Quality of Work Life among Medical Professionals in the Eastern Cape Region of South Africa.

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This paper is a result of a PhD study which aimed at understanding and explaining problems of work ethic and quality of work life of medical professionals in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa. The purpose of the study was to provide information that would inform improvement of service delivery and job success in the region rated the poorest in the country. The study was grounded in the interpretivist research design, employing both quantitative (survey) and qualitative (in-depth-interviews) research approaches. A sample of 120 nurses and doctors responded to the survey questionnaire, and 36 in-depth-interviews were conducted, consisting of 12 management level officials, 12 nurses/doctors and 12 patients. Participants were selected using purposive sampling method. Preliminary results suggest factors other than work ethic per se are at play in the problems of service delivery.

However, qualitative data reveal a narrow understanding of work ethic by the participants in evaluating both themselves and their colleagues/subordinates.

11.15. Physical workspace, social workspace and my own space: A tripartite model of workspace management

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The study of the workspace has been a neglected issue in management and organization research as well as in the practice of management. In part, this is due to the inexistence of a clear-cut and heuristic model to describe the working space in a helpful manner for managers. Therefore, in this paper we develop a conceptual tripartite model to describe workspaces built on the motivational basis of human nature described by Abraham Maslow. The model comprises three independent dimensions – physical workspace, social workspace and individual workspace – and eight different types of workspaces. Propositions relating each of these types of workspaces to relevant organizational outcomes are also presented.

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11.16. Enhancing the Quality of Life through the Work-Family Balance: A Narrative Study of Career and Family Transitions

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Introduction

Work–family balance has been generally found to increase the quality of life, and it represents an individual’s orientation across different life roles (Greenhaus et al. 2003), thus, the purpose of this study is to illustrate how individuals construct, through narration, their career and family macro-transitions (e.g. promotion to an executive role and parenthood) and their “micro-transitions”, i.e. everyday role transitions, involving home, work and other places as boundary-crossing activities (Ashforth et al. 2000).

Method

The participants involved in the present narrative research (McAdams et al. 2001) are twenty executives (10 women and 10 men), who, at the time of the study (2007-2008), were aged from 38 to 59; all had one or more children and worked in the public sector or private companies. The data were collected through narrative interviews (Atkinson 2002) and the narrative analysis is focused on narrative structures and functions (Mishler 1995).

Findings

The executives’ narratives have been analyzed highlighting two levels of the story-structure. Firstly the plot - two types of plot have been identified: the career macro-transitions narrative and the family/personal life narrative - and, secondly, the deeper structure that is an underlying atemporal order organized around broader life themes such as: the gender identity; role identities and the struggle between fragmentation and coherence; the self development across the life span.

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11.17. Scarring or Scaring? The Psychological Impact of Past Unemployment and Future Unemployment Risk

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We reassess the “scarring” hypothesis by Clark et al. (2001), which states that unemployment experienced in the past reduces a person’s current life satisfaction even after the person has become reemployed. Our results suggest that the scar from past unemployment operates via worsened expectations of becoming unemployed in the future, and that it is future insecurity that makes people unhappy. Hence, the terminology should be altered by one letter: past unemployment “scars” because it “scares”..

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11.18. Work engagement, work family enrichment and gender in Portugal and the UK

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This paper examines factors associated with positive work and work-family experiences, specifically work engagement, work to family and family to work enrichment and satisfaction with various life spheres in two EU countries: the United Kingdom and Portugal.

Much research on quality of working life focuses on occupational stress, burnout, work-family conflict and other negative outcomes. Yet, under optimum conditions, involvement in work as well as family or other roles can interact and contribute to personal growth and quality of life in very positive ways. It is important to identify and understand such optimum conditions in order to facilitate win-win situations which enable employees to benefit from greater satisfaction, enjoyment and self-esteem at work and beyond and organisations to benefit from highly engaged and motivated employees.

A central aim of this paper is to examine work and non work factors that contribute to positive work engagement and facilitate mutually enriching rather than conflicting work and non work roles, in two contrasting national contexts.

The quantitative analysis will be based on questionnaires returned by 2261 employees in eight organisations belonging to different sectors in each country, data gathered in the Quality of Life in a Changing Europe Project. This innovative project has the general aim of mapping out and understanding the well-being and quality of life patterns of European workers in the service sector.

11.19. The Effects of Quality of Work Life on Organizational Commitment: A Case Study in Turkey

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This paper explores the ways in which the measures of valuation for the quality of work life research have been implemented in the state and private universities. Thus, it aims to reveal the effects of quality of work life on organizational commitment. In Turkish case, the signs in question are primarily pointing at a shift against the state universities. It is said by some students of the subject that academicians at the state universities are particularly disadvantaged for two reasons: First, the academicians at the state universities earn low wages comparatively to their counterparts at the private ones. Second, their working conditions are worse. As applied to the quality of work life, these conditions imply social characteristics which clearly distinguish these academicians at state universities from their counterparts at the private sector. These people have less commitment to the institution than those who have worked at the private universities. Thus, they have looked for a possibility to transfer into the private universities or more ironically devoted themselves to a new profession. Here, particular attention was devoted to the comparison of the quality of work life of these two groups considering “wage”, “criteria for university title”, “social facilities”, relationships with colleagues”. At the end, it was concluded that these four factors affects the quality of work life and linked with this their organizational commitment level.

11.20. Job Satisfaction of the Self-Employed: A Function of Autonomy or Personality?

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Most studies in the economics discourse explain higher levels of job satisfaction amongst the self-employed, compared with salaried employees, by reference to greater procedural freedom and autonomy. Psychology scholars, on the other hand, suggest that entrepreneurial satisfaction depends, at least in part, on specific personality traits. Utilising a large dataset derived from the 2006 European Social Survey, this study performs a complementary analysis by taking personality traits, personal values and indicators for workers' autonomy explicitly into account. The empirical findings add further strength to economists' argument that the self-employed derive higher levels of job-related utility primarily from their value of organisational influence and independence. These results hold true for both, male and female sub-samples even when a multitude of socio-demographic characteristics, personal values and personality traits are controlled for.

11.21. The Work-Related Quality of Life Scale

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This paper presents the results from a new scale which attempts to assess the Work-Related Quality of Life (WRQoL) of staff in public sector organisations. The scale has been developed across 10 years in Health, Higher Education and School sectors and is based on previous theories of QoWL and items were generated by a panel of domain experts. The origins of the scale will be presented and the links to overall quality of life will be outlined. Data will be presented which describe the excellent psychometric properties of the scale. The scale contains items which measures factors designed to measure: Working Conditions, Job-Career Satisfaction, Stress at Work, Home-Work Interface, Control at Work and General Well-Being. The planned future development of the scale will be described and examples given of how it is already being used by educational and similar organisations across the world.

12. Track 16 – Family Well-Being

Track Chairs:

Ferran Casas, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona – Spain

Mónica Gonzalez, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona – Spain

Session chairs:

Ferran Casas, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona – Spain

Gonzalez Mónica, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona – Spain

Carme Montserrat, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona –
Spain

12.1. Meaning of everyday activities in family well-being

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In everyday life, well-being is developed in people's subjective experiences. Therefore, more emphasis should be set how people run their everyday life, manage its activities and experience this entity.

In this paper, I want to discuss if it is possible to examine well-being in a practical level. I focus on drafting a framework that facilitates to study subjective well-being in people's everyday life.

My approach is based on everyday activities that are central in producing well-being. As the examples of these activities, I have taken eating, financial planning, spending leisure time and caring. All these activities contain doings and commodities and are deeply influenced by other actors in a society. When producing well-being people make choices how much to use their resources, i.e. time and money, and attain commodities from the market.

In order to clarify the general view of well-being we have to enquire further about people's objective living conditions. Furthermore, it is necessary to investigate people's personal experiences towards activities in everyday life, satisfaction towards the fluency of everyday life, and trust towards the market and society. Everyday well-being could be operationalised as peoples' satisfaction towards 1) the choices in time use and consumption beyond living conditions, 2) the functionality of environment (public, private and third sectors) from the viewpoint of people's everyday activity, and 3) interaction between the household and market.

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12.2. Work-to-family interference: the indirect effects of participative management and positive communication practices

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Work-to-family interference is influenced by many work attributes, which in turn are influenced by organisational culture. This paper examines the indirect effects of a culture encompassing participative management and positive communication practices (PMPC practices) on work-to-family interference. The proposition is that if an organisational culture encompasses PMPC practices, then their employees have more influence over their work attributes, and so they can reduce interference from their work to their other life domains. Using a survey of over 3,000 public servants, structural equation modelling was employed to test whether the influence of PMPC practices on work-to-family interference was mediated by a range of work attributes (work hours, workload, work flexibility, work uncertainty, work meaningfulness, promotional opportunities and union effectiveness), controlling for sex and family characteristics. The results showed that the effects of PMPC practices were mostly mediated by workload and work uncertainty. Of all work attributes, workload had the greatest impact on work-to-family interference. PMPC practices reduced workload substantially but not directly. PMPC practices reduced workloads by reducing work uncertainty (e.g., uncertainties relating to responsibilities and expectations). PMPC practices can not only improve organisational efficiency and effectiveness but can indirectly reduce work-to-family interference for employees.

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12.3. Family Welfare Measurement for the Indonesia's Family Welfare Program

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The Indonesia's Family Planning Program has two aims: to promote family planning and to monitor and improve family welfare. The family welfare program is defined as an effort to mobilize community resources to satisfy physical, spiritual, social and development needs. In that context, in 1994 the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (NFPCB) has identified a set of indicators for family welfare measurement that include health, economic, education, religious, and social relations. Based on these indicators, families are classified into 5 major stages: pre-prosperous and prosperous stages I, II, III, and III+. The NFPCB conducts an annual national data collection, known as 'family enumeration', carried out by volunteer enumerators through home visit. It is intended as a tool for monitoring and for focusing community action to improve family welfare. This paper synthesizes findings of studies on the NFPCB's 'family enumeration' with two objectives: to identify perceptions of family welfare among different groups of people (community members, government officials, academics) and to assess ways to improve the quality, suitability, and utilization of 'family enumeration' at grassroots levels for problem identification and planning. Issues of reliability and validity emerged as important factors that should be taken into consideration in improving the quality and utilization of family welfare measurement.

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12.4. Personal well-being among 12 to 18 year-old adolescents and Spanish university students, evaluated through the Personal Well-being Index (PWI)

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The present study analyses the personal well-being of adolescents aged 12 to 16, 16 to 18-year olds and university students of the province of Girona (Spain). Personal Well-being Index (PWI) (Cummins, 1998; Cummins et al., 2003) is then compared among different samples collected between 2003 and 2008, using an 11-point scale. Samples recruited in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008 are composed by adolescents aged between 12 to 16 years old. Additionally, we collected data from university students in 2007 and in 2008 we also collected data from adolescents aged 16 to 18 years old.

The results show that the PWI has increased among 12 to 16 year-old adolescents since 2003 until 2007, but it has diminished in 2008. The scores are lower in the university sample collected in 2007 compared to the 12 to 16 year-old adolescents' sample of the same year. We can only observe gender differences in the 12 to 16 year-old adolescent' 2005 sample, being the girls the ones who show higher scores. As the age of the 12 to 16 year-old adolescents increases his/her personal well-being diminishes in all samples. We don't

observe age differences neither in the 2008 16 to 18 year-old adolescents sample or in the sample of university students studied in 2007.

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12.5. Parent's and their child's personal well-being and parents' answering behaviour when asked about their child's values aspired to.

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We approach a problem encountered by researchers when collecting parents' answers to a questionnaire delivered to a household in order to analyse paired data from parents and their child: the fact that in some families only one parent answers, while in others the parents meet to answer together. Whilst having answers from both parents has certain positive aspects, when we wish to analyse perceptions or evaluations which are "personal" to each parent (e.g. his or her personal well-being), we can only use the data from parents answering alone.

There is some evidence that the data from families where both parents answer together are not equivalent to the mean data from families where fathers or mothers answer alone. This raises a complex challenge: when we analyse only the sub-samples of parents answering alone we may be biasing our results, because we may in fact be excluding all data from those families with a different "answering style".

We have explored whether the profile of answers from the two kinds of families is related to certain psychosocial variables, which may suggest an explanation for the different answering behaviour. Some differences have emerged between the two groups, suggesting

that families in which parents jointly embark on tasks related to their children (such as answering a questionnaire distributed at school together) may constitute a group of families with certain different psychosocial characteristics.

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12.6. Personal well-being of parents and their adolescent child

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Irma Bertran

The relationship between the Personal Well-Being of parents and their own 12-18-year-old child is explored in a Spanish sample of 870 families. Mean PWI for parents (73.53) is much lower than for their child (79.91), but both of them are in the expected normative range of western societies. Parents' overall life satisfaction mean is 7.74 and their own child is clearly higher (8.11).

Adolescents PWI show a high correlation with their overall life satisfaction (.571). This correlation is still higher among parents (.697). However, correlation between parents and children PWI is positive and significant but low (.139), and overall life satisfaction correlates still lower among them (.086).

Most of the items of the PWI do correlate positively and significantly between parents and their child, but correlations are extremely low. Exceptions are satisfaction with interpersonal relations and satisfaction with groups of people belonging to, that do not reach significance.

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12.7. Quality of life of families of severe and mild intellectual disabled young adults

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Better understanding the experiences of families in which one or more of the members has an intellectual disability may lead to more effective ways of supporting them. The aim of our work was to compare the quality of life of families of severe (50 families) and mild (45 families) intellectually disabled young adults. In the study we used the Family Quality of Life Survey (Brown et al, 2006). This questionnaire measures quality in nine life areas: Health of

the family, Financial well-being, Family relationship, Support from other people, Support from disability related services, Influence of values, Careers and preparing for careers, Leisure and recreation, Community interaction. The results reveal the differences in many aspects of quality of life between two groups

12.8. Military life and Well-being of Military families

Dursun, Sanela – Defence Research and Development Canada

Military deployments and duty-related separations are defining experiences for military personnel and their families. There is no dispute that deployment and re-integration phase are challenging for families and that stress is a normative response during this time, although the factors that buffer against distress in this context are less well understood. The spouses of deployed and recently returned from deployment members (N=375) completed measures assessing parenting and relationship stressors, perceived support from the military spouse, appraisals of demands of military lifestyle and deployments, psychological well-being and satisfaction with life. As expected, among spouses whose partners were currently or recently deployed, both parenting stressors and relationship stressors were associated with lower psychological well-being and satisfaction with life. Regression analyses using bootstrapping procedures, indicated that spouses experiencing increased levels of parenting and relationship stressors were more likely to appraise the situation as stressful, perceive more negative impacts of military life and less likely to report being able to cope with the situation. In turn, these stress appraisals contributed to reduced well-being and satisfaction with life. In addition, the results indicated that marital relationship and support perceived by the spouses is an important component of their well-being and satisfaction with life.

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12.9. The services for disability and the family environment are important factors for the family quality of life?

Evaluating quality of life in families with children with intellectual disabilities is an emerging important field of study (Brown, McAdam-Crisp, Wang, Iarocci, 2006). The disability of a family member, indeed, especially when it's about a children, increases the parents stress, weighing upon family quality of life. Though, the studies that have focused on Down Syndrome report that although parents of down children generally experience higher levels of stress than families with tipycal developmental children (Baker et al., 2003; Olsson & Hwang, 2003), some families are able to cope better the stress (Flaherty & Glidden 2000), probably thanks to social resources and supports. So, in this paper we focused our attention on family quality of life in case of Down Syndrome, with the aim of evaluating if family einvironment and the support provided from some services for disability and from community can influence the global quality of life, like so perceived by these parents. We have used some sub-scale of Family Environmental Scale (Moos, Insel & Humphrey, 1974) to assess the quality of family relationships and three sections of The Family Quality of Life Survey (Isaacs et al., 2007) to assess the support provided from disabilities services, community interactions, and global quality of life. The role of these factors as aspects that can improve family quality of life when a there's a down child is discussed.

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12.10. Adaptation to Major Life Events: Does Context Matter?

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According to the hedonic treadmill model of subjective well-being, individuals have stable levels of happiness: life events do not change well-being in the long run, due to hedonic adaptation. The recent availability of large-scale panel datasets, which allow within-subject analysis of well-being dynamics before and after such events, has resulted in considerable

revision of this model. Although the core idea remains the same, and empirical support of adaptation to a number of life events has been found, much more work is required. In particular, almost all of the work on adaptation has been carried out using data from Western European countries. We here move out of the context of OECD countries, and consider the phenomena of adaptation to major life events in Russia (marriage, divorce, widowhood, childbirth, and unemployment), where the economic and social context is very different to that prevailing in existing work. We are able to use twelve waves of the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey, with satisfaction with life as a proxy measure for hedonic well-being. The results do provide evidence for adaptation in this very different context; however, the exact patterns differ by gender and the life event under consideration.

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13. Track 17 – Relationships Well-Being

Track and Session Chairs:

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Mónica Gonzalez, Research Institute on QOL – University of Girona – Spain

13.1. Social Acceptability Between Majority and Minority Groups:: A Comparison of Christians and Muslims in the Philippines

Licudine, Vladymir Joseph, Social Weather Stations

There is much unresolved conflict between Christians and Muslims in the Philippines. In the entire country, Christians are about 90% and Muslims are only about 5%. Although Muslims may be found all throughout the country, in the southern part of the archipelago, specifically the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), they are the majority of about 90 %, and Christians are the minority of about 10%.

By comparing Christians and Muslims in a national survey and also in an ARMM survey, on the topic of peace and multi-culturalism, this paper shows that the acceptability of one's social relationships with a different cultural group depends very significantly on whether one's group is the majority or the minority.

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13.2. Relationships between materialistic aspirations and personal well-being in adolescents aged 12 to 16.

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This study has the objective of analysing the relationship between materialistic aspirations among a Spanish-adolescent sample (degree to which they would like to be valued by other people for their image, money and power when they are 21 years old), their personal well-being (measured through Diener et al.'s SWLS and Cummins et al.'s PWI and the single item about satisfaction with a life as a whole). The perceived social support from family and friends (obtained from the application of Vaux's Social Support Appraisals Scale) and the social class they consider their family belongs to have been additionally considered. The sample is comprised of 5,140 adolescents between 12 and 16 years old.

The results show that materialistic values are more appreciated by boys, by the youngest adolescents and by those who self-categorise as belonging to the highest social classes. In relation to the perceived social support, adolescents with high materialistic aspirations perceive less social support from friends, higher social support from family and also higher lack of social support.

Personal well-being and materialistic aspirations are positively correlated, so that adolescents with high materialistic aspirations express more satisfaction with their life as a whole and get higher scores to the PWI and the SWLS. Also, they feel more satisfied with interpersonal relationships, with their own security, with their free time and with the things they learn.

13.3. His 'n Hers: Gender Differences in the Relationship between Social Capital and Subjective Well-Being

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Background: Social Capital is a vital component of the quality of life, and an important factor that influences human happiness next to economic aspects. Interestingly, sociological theory gives reasons to expect the association between social capital and subjective well-being to vary by gender.

Aims: This paper investigates in what ways men and women benefit differently from various kinds of social capital whilst also taking into account the distinction parent vs. childless.

Methods: Regression analyses are conducted using data from the European Social Survey for the UK based on 1768 respondents. The respective effect of formal and informal social capital on life satisfaction is examined whilst controlling for socio-demographic factors.

Results: There are gender differences in the association between social capital and life satisfaction. Informal socialising is more strongly and positively associated with life satisfaction among women compared to men. Men seem to benefit significantly from moderate levels of formal social capital. For mothers, however, civic engagement is not associated with higher SWB.

Conclusions: The social context of well-being varies considerably by gender and parental status. The findings raise important questions of how our social environments can be improved for the targeted betterment of both genders, in order to increase well-being for all.

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13.4. Social networks and subjective well-being: A comparative study

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Quality of life research has shown that one of the major determinants of subjective well-being (SWB) of individuals is their social network. If people belong to a group of friends and if they can have deep conversations from time to time it has a stronger effect on life satisfaction than having a high income. In this paper, first I focus within the Netherlands on effects of social networks on four dimensions of SWB, namely life satisfaction, happiness, depressed feelings and general feelings over the past weeks. I found that qualitative aspects of social networks matter more than quantitative, and that social networks resonate more with the affective side of SWB than the cognitive side. Second, I studied the relationship between social networks and SWB between countries, using a multilevel design. Is there a relationship between the average level of volunteer work of a country and individual SWB (macro effect)? And between interpersonal trust at the national level and individual SWB (macro effect)? Is the relationship between social networks and SWB the same over the different countries, or is it different (interaction effect)? For this paper I used the European Social Survey 2006 data, which includes 22 countries and has a special module on subjective and interpersonal well-being.

14. Track 18 – Consumption Well-Being

Track Chair:

Mónica Guillén-Royo, University of Bath – UK

Stephan Grzeskowiak, University of Minnesota – USA

Session Chair:

Stephan Grzeskowiak, University of Minnesota – USA

14.1. Stakeholders' attitudes to a policy regulating food consumption in schools

Pettigrew, Simone, University of Western Australia

Pescud, Melanie, University of Western Australia

Donovan, Robert, Curtin University of Technology

High rates of child overweight and obesity have serious implications for health, and therefore quality of life, during childhood and later into adulthood (Lobstein et al. 2004). Upstream interventions designed to improve children's diets can bypass the difficulties associated with changing parents' and children's food-related behaviours but can be politically unpopular due to anticipated backlash from vested interest groups (Dorfman & Wallack 2007). The present study investigated key stakeholders' attitudes to a state government policy that banned the provision of junk foods in public schools. A year after the introduction of the new policy interviews were conducted with 32 parents, 10 school principals, 18 teachers, 11 canteen managers, and 10 parent committee presidents. The findings showed that some parents and committee presidents were concerned that the policy infringed on parents' rights but the majority of interviewees across all stakeholder groups were supportive of the policy and grateful that the government had been willing to act in children's best interests despite pressure from various interest groups. Interviewees reported that resistance from students and the resulting financial failure of canteens that had been anticipated by some had failed to eventuate. A follow-up telephone survey of 1200 parents supported these outcomes. The study results indicate that upstream interventions can be favourably viewed post-implementation when children's welfare is involved.

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14.2. Financial Satisfaction in South Korea: The Roles of Assets, Debts, and Expenditures

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Although much has been said about the relationship between income and global subjective well-being, financial satisfaction, the life domain believed to be most closely related to income, has not been studied extensively in details. Relying on the richness of the Korean Labor and Income Panel Study (KLIPS) conducted from 1998 to 2005, this paper explores the roles of various types of assets, debts, expenditures and related household behaviors on financial satisfaction and other subjective well-being measures in South Korea during the time period. Examples of finding, ranging from the most common to the more unique, are as follows. The bivariate cross-sectional relationship between financial satisfaction and household income per head exhibits a typical pattern of diminishing marginal utility. Household expenditures on seemingly positional items, such as dining-out, automobiles, private education, and gifts or condolences, seem to provide additional satisfaction independent of the positive effect of income on subjective well-being itself. Reflecting the importance of social network in the financial domain is the availability of informal loan circles or intra-family lending. Given the amount of debts owed, having access to either of these lending sources helps alleviate the dissatisfaction incurred from those debts.

14.3. Second home development in South Africa: Curse or Blessing?

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Gijssbert Hoogendoorn, Department of Geography, Rhodes University, South Africa

Increased leisure time and elevated levels of mobility has led to the development of second homes across the developed North, and as this investigation observes, in the developing South. The investigation makes a contribution towards addressing the general lack of academic reflection on second homes in the developing world context. The paper aims to provide insight into the question of what types of second homes there are in South Africa and what impacts second home development holds for different types of urban settlements particularly smaller towns in remote rural areas. Whilst the case studies elucidate unique development characteristics and impacts, the investigations also highlight some communalities to those found elsewhere. In particular, it is firstly argued that second home development in South Africa demonstrates similarities to developments found internationally, and secondly, that the near-generic impacts of second homes found elsewhere are echoed in the South African context too. Here, in particular, the generation of employment and property price appreciation stand out as key similarities. However, the unique historical development trajectory of the South African urban form, not least of which its small towns, present many challenges in harnessing the potentially beneficial impacts of second home development.

15. Track 19 – Health Well-Being

Track and Session Chairs:

Daniele Nigris, Università di Padova – Italy

Paolo Parra Saiani, Università Cattolica di Milano – Italy

15.1. Stereotypes, stigmatising beliefs, and fears associated with tuberculosis (TB) in the time of HIV/AIDS: a South African community study

Moller, Valerie – Chair of Quality of Life Studies Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) - Rhodes University – Grahamstown – South Africa

South Africa is battling to control TB. A community survey (n1020) of attitudes to TB and HIV conducted in the Eastern Cape explored the influence of stigma on health-seeking behaviour. Fear of discovering one might be HIV-positive was the single most significant barrier to presenting for TB treatment. Once, past this hurdle, adherence to the difficult TB treatment regimen appeared to be less threatened by fear of stigma and discrimination. Fear of HIV infection also influenced other positive health-seeking behaviours such as volunteering to act as treatment supporter to TB patients. There was tentative support for the supposition that TB-related stigma is mediated by the stronger stigma associated with AIDS. Respondents scored low on stigma scales that indicated prejudice against the TB- and AIDS-infected. Moral judgment was reserved mainly for the 'irresponsible' TB patient who defaults on treatment and spreads the disease. The 'drinker and smoker' emerged as the stereotype of the irresponsible non-compliant TB patient whose illness was self-inflicted. Drinking and smoking and HIV-positive status overshadowed poverty and overcrowded living conditions as perceived characteristic risks of TB infection. Equal proportions blamed non-compliant TB patients and the AIDS pandemic for driving the TB epidemic in the Eastern Cape.

15.2. Conceptions of Wellbeing, Physical Health, and Mental Health

Pettigrew, Simone, University of Western Australia

Donovan, Robert, Curtin University of Technology

Robert Newton, Edith Cowan University

Boldy, Duncan, Curtin University of Technology

Individuals' health is critical to their wellbeing. There are two primary aspects of health: physical health and mental health. There is a strong interrelationship (ABS 1998), with a decline or improvement in one form of health often having a corresponding effect on the other. In order to maximize their wellbeing, people need to attend to both aspects of health. Such behaviour necessitates knowledge and motivation relating to health protection and disease prevention (Rosenstock et al. 1988). This study investigated Australian adults' attitudes towards wellbeing, physical health, and mental health to identify relevant

knowledge and motivation factors. Twenty individual interviews and 12 focus groups were conducted with a total of 111 adults. Interviewees often described wellbeing as being happy and capable without over-reliance on others. They generally had a positive attitude to physical health that was characterised by an understanding of the need to engage in physical exercise, dietary restraint, and alcohol moderation to maximise physical health. Mental health was largely equated with mental illness and there was little understanding of preventive behaviours. Instead, mental illness was typically viewed as being beyond the individual's control and therefore to be feared rather than addressed. The findings shed light on theories relating to problem framing and have implications for the design of communications aiming to encourage proactive health behaviours.

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15.3. Valuing Health States Across Cohorts, Countries, and Cultures: Insights from a New Method Based on Happiness Surveys

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Lora, Eduardo. Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC.

This paper takes advantage of a unique data set combining subjective evaluations of life and health satisfaction on the one hand, and health conditions as measured by the EQ5D on the other, to study discrepancies between the two measures, and how or if these discrepancies are mediated by socio-demographics, such as age, gender, and income, by reference groups, and by cultural and other norms.

We calculate life satisfaction equivalents for the health conditions of the EQ5D, and found that the average Latin American would need to be compensated 2.1 times the average monthly income for moderate problems with the usual acts, and 2.7 times for moderate anxiety. Extreme pain was more “expensive” in life satisfaction terms: almost 5 times average income, while extreme anxiety was the most “expensive”: 13.5 times.

Our methodological contributions can inform health policy, such as the appropriate balance of investments in physical versus mental health. The strong negative effects of uncertainty in conditions rather than one time shocks might also affect how we think about and/or calculate policy relevant measures such as quality adjusted life years (QALYs).

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van Praag, Bernard and Ada Ferrer-i-Carbonell, *Happiness Quantified: A Satisfaction Calculus Approach*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2007.

15.4. A prospective study of the relationship between depression, hepatic encephalopathy, and health-related quality of life in patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV) cirrhosis

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Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) is becoming an increasingly important outcome measure in chronic diseases and has been shown to be reduced in patients with liver cirrhosis and hepatic encephalopathy (HE). This study investigates the prevalence of depression, daytime sleepiness, and fatigue in 34 cirrhotic patients with HE and their relationship to HRQOL. Results from questionnaires were compared to measures of HRQOL. General HRQOL was assessed with the Medical Outcomes Short Form 36 (SF-36). Liver disease specific quality of life was measured with the LDQOL 1.0. Neuropsychological tests were administered to identify cognitive domains affected by HE. Twenty-four (73%) patients exhibited abnormal psychometric testing that further supports an HE diagnosis. Patients with HE had significantly worse daytime sleepiness ($p = 0.02$), fatigue ($p = 0.007$), depression ($p = 0.004$), HRQOL ($p < 0.001$), and LDQOL ($p < 0.001$) compared to those without HE. Twenty-four (73%) patients were found to be depressed including 19 (79%) patients with HE and five (56%) patients without HE. Presence of depression correlated significantly with fatigue ($p < 0.01$), decreased HRQOL ($p < 0.01$), and decreased LDQOL ($p < 0.01$). However, it did not correlate significantly with daytime sleepiness ($p = 0.08$). Conclusion: Depression is highly prevalent in patients with cirrhosis, especially those with HE. Further, the presence of depression and HE both correlate with increased fatigue and decreased HRQOL.

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15.5. The Impact of Hope on the Treatment of PTSD and Depression in Veterans

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This paper will present findings examining how a key QOL indicator (hope) is associated with symptom presentation before, during and after therapy. 165 Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD received group and individual based Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) in a 7-week residential treatment program. All veterans were administered the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale, the PTSD Checklist, the Beck Depression Inventory, and the Hope Scale at pre-treatment, 4 weeks into treatment, and post-treatment. Results from a three-panel path analysis revealed important relationships between hope and psychological adjustment (i.e., reduction in PTSD and depression severity). As expected, pre-treatment Hope negatively associated with pre-treatment PTSD and depression severity. However as PTSD and depression improved, levels of hope increased, both at mid-point and treatment completion. These results suggest that levels of hope before and during treatment may be an

important prognostic indicator of post-treatment response for individuals in trauma-focused PTSD treatment. The presentation will discuss these findings and offer suggestions for improving treatment of individuals with PTSD.

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15.6. Wellbeing and personality in subjects with chronic disease

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Personality appears to colour how people perceive life events as they take place and returns people to their typical levels of SWB after powerful events are experienced. Chronic disease is an important event and it is questioned that it influences SWB. The present study aims to study the relationships between SWB, assessed through the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) questionnaire, and the five dimensions of personality defined by Neo-FFI.

Participants were a group of 233 individuals with a chronic disease, 73.8% females, mean age 39.02 years and a PWI of 61.82.

Participants answered the Portuguese version of the PWI, an eight item questionnaire, and the Portuguese version of the NEO-FFI which comprises 60 items derived from the long form NEO-PI. The community Portuguese population scores around 69 on the PWI.

Results show correlations of -0.46 for neuroticism, 0.34 for extraversion, 0.25 for Conscientiousness, 0.19 for Agreeableness, and 0.07 for Openness to Experience. Results show that Neuroticism was the strongest predictor for PWI, followed by Extraversion and Conscientiousness. In conclusion we can say that the results point out the important role of personality in the wellbeing of people living with chronic diseases. Results are in agreement with previously published research

15.7. Investigating the relationships between physical activity and social or environmental domains of quality of life

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OBJECTIVES: Many researches indicate that physical activity can increase well-being and quality of life, specifically the physical and psychological domains of quality of life. The purpose of this study attempts to investigate whether physical activity also has the influence on social and environmental domains of quality of life.

METHODS: 432 students at National Taiwan University participated in this study. Two questionnaires concerning the physical activity and quality of life (WHOQOL-BREF) were used. Structural equation modeling was conducted to indicate any relationships between physical activity and the social or environmental domains of quality of life.

RESULTS: The results showed that the two models of predicting social and environmental domains of quality of life from physical activity did not fit the real data well if the standard items of the WHOQOL-BREF were used. However, after deleting some inappropriate items from both (social and environmental) domains of quality of life, significant relationships between physical activity and the two domains of quality of life were noted respectively.

CONCLUSIONS: The study expects the impact of individual physical activity to his/her social and environmental domains of quality of life. Furthermore, physical activity can enhance not only individual physical and psychological domains of quality of life but also their social and environmental domains of quality of life by deleting some inappropriate items of the WHOQOL-BREF.

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15.8. Modern Hospice Movement and the Progress of Medical Care Services

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This paper aims to discuss the relationships of modern hospice movement with the progress of medical care services. It is originally discussed in medical sphere that hospice and palliative care can provide better and more holistic care service for the dying than the one, which is mainly guided from biomedical ideas and practices. That means the medical system can be enhanced by hospice and palliative care services in dimensions of physical, psychological, social and spiritual care.

With analysis of second literatures, related national statistics and interviews in depth, this paper indicates that the development of modern hospice movement in Taiwan marks an important stage for the provision of care services with regard to a new form of medical care for dying persons, and also can enhance their quality of life.

15.9. Quality of health of chemical industry workers: Determinates and estimation

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Using mercury in technological process of chemical plants in East Siberian can result to chronic mer-cury intoxication in the workers and can account for invalidity in able-bodied age. High risks of neu-rological dysfunction and boundary mental disorder have been detected in 31% examined by com-puter system of the main pathologic syndromes quantitative risk assessment. The inner conflict in certain vital spheres, personal anxiety, social frustration have been detected too. The psycho-social problems along with toxic effect of mercury limit vital functions and reduce quality of life in workers. The health quality is

estimated by vector criterion, which can be transformed into the scalar form by the method of nested linear convolutions. Mathematical models of health quality are represented by graphs-trees, one of which allows the analyst to take account of the multiplicity and the other–frequency of risks in the integrated estimate of health quality. The multiple convolutions of the two integrated estimates of health quality is the generalized criterion of health quality. The problem of possibility and the degree of formalization are discussed, and the semantic content of the integrated criteria is defined. The technique of gradation of health quality by scaling the values of integrated criteria (0-1) is validated. The higher is this value; the better is the health quality. Researches are made with support of Russian humanitarian scientific fund, grant N 08-06-00528

15.10. Health and happiness: effect of decreased daily functioning on happiness

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It has been hypothesized that diseases that impact daily functions are associated with decreased happiness. In this investigation, we developed and used a more direct measure of disruption of daily functioning to test the hypothesis. We explored this relationship using a cross-sectional survey of older, primary care adults. Functioning was assessed using a limitations score created by averaging responses from the physical functioning and the role-physical scales of the SF-12. Happiness was measured using an adapted Subjective Happiness Scale. Of all respondents (n = 383), 38% were 65 years or older, 72% were female, and 39% were African American. In bivariate analysis, high limitations scores, or debilitation, was a significant predictor of unhappiness [OR: 4.02; 95% CI: 2.47-6.53]. Multivariable analysis showed that debilitation [OR: 1.84; 95% CI: 1.04-3.27], poor health [OR: 3.47; 95% CI: 1.98-6.10], and poverty [OR: 1.93; 95% CI: 1.04-3.58] were significant predictors of unhappiness. Since debilitation remained significant when controlling for health, this supported the hypothesis that decreased functioning has an effect on happiness independent than that of health. These results may help physicians to better understand the multi-faceted and complex nature of the determinants of happiness. While the results presented here shed light on the complex relationship between health and happiness, more research is necessary to determine if this observed relationship is causal.

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15.11. The Effect of Doctor Visits on Happiness in Older Adults

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Patient satisfaction with healthcare has been widely studied and has gained attention for its ability to serve as an indicator of the success of various aspects of the healthcare industry. The Visit-Specific Satisfaction Questionnaire (VSEQ), a well-validated survey of doctor visit experience, has been one of the more common measures of patient satisfaction. While current literature has shown patient satisfaction to be associated with a variety of health outcomes, to our knowledge, no one has studied its association with happiness. The purpose of our study was to investigate the relationship between patient satisfaction with doctor visit, as measured by the VSEQ-9, and happiness, as measured by the 7-point Subjective Happiness Scale.

We performed a cross-sectional analysis of data taken from a survey of primary-care patients in Alabama (n=383). Low VSQ scores were predictive of lower-quartile happiness scores, even after adjusting for multiple confounders in a multivariate logistic regression model. Controlling for the clustering of patients among physicians, we found that patients with low VSQ scores were nearly twice as likely to be unhappy as patients with normal VSQ scores (OR=1.88, 95% CI=1.12-3.17); income inadequacy and unfavorable subjective health were also significantly associated with greater odds of unhappiness.

Our study may be used alongside relevant findings in the literature to support efforts aimed at improving patient welfare in the healthcare system.

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15.12. Young people and well-being perception

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In the framework of "quality of life" definitions, the "well being" has to be seen as a daily life resource, and not only as a lack of sickness. This means that it includes more than just the physical dimension, also the social and emotional ones, which can be of influence of the first one. Well-being is indeed influenced by environmental and behavioural factors, strictly interconnected between each other. Concerning the first factors, family, school and peer group are the fundamental life contexts where such behaviour develops.

The paper provides comparable and detailed data about the need of well-being of young people, which, when missing satisfaction, could turn into a harmed health or even a deviant and antisocial behaviour. In particular, the "young/adult" people represent an interesting category of age because, facing a period of getting independency for family or job reason, they feel the responsibility to take care of themselves and their personal development. It's this age that gives rise to many harmful behaviour which could become a constant component of a incorrect life-style.

There has been carried out a secondary analysis on Istat Database "Indagine Multiscopo sulle Famiglie – Aspetti della Vita Quotidiana", of 2007, using Modell's (1976) 5 steps to the adulthood (finishing studies, getting a job, leaving home, getting married, having a child) to identify young and adult people. To analyze data, it has been used association measures and factorial technique

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15.13. Happiness and Hypertension

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Although much happiness research has been motivated by the belief that happiness is good in itself, there is mounting evidence that happiness also predicts a variety of desirable characteristics, including indicators of health. This study relied on a diverse community-based sample (n=715) to examine the association between happiness and hypertension while controlling for a wide range of covariates. Data were gathered in personal interviews and from medical charts. Happiness was assessed using a modified Subjective Happiness Scale; blood pressure was assessed using mean arterial pressure. Even controlling for demographic factors, socio-economic status, smoking, self-reported health, comorbidity, weight, medication adherence, sodium intake control, and physical activity, happiness was found to be a strongly significant predictor of blood pressure. After adjusting for covariates, mean arterial pressure (95% CI) by quartiles of happiness was 105.8 (104.0–107.5) for the first, 104.3 (103.2–105.3) for the second, 102.5 (101.1 –103.8) for the third, and 102.0 (100.4–103.5) for the fourth quartile of happiness. A change of this magnitude is roughly equivalent to the effect of adding an anti-hypertensive medication; in the INTERSALT study, a change of this magnitude computed to correspond to a reduction in mortality on the order of 5% on an individual level, and a potential number of lives saved on the order of tens of thousands every year on a national level.

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15.14. End of life decisions (ELDs): a qualitative research

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The Eluana Englaro affair has revived the debate on End of Life Decisions (ELDs), exacerbating the clash between those who uphold the principle of the “sanctity of life” and those who uphold the principle of “individual self-determination”.

The debate revolves around opposing ideological and political viewpoints, both inside Parliament and Italian society, which has stripped the issue of its most relevant sociological, medical and psychological implications.

This article shows the results of empirical, qualitative research, carried out in Palermo, between October 2007 and April 2008, in which doctors from different health structures, and patients who had suffered illness and undergone hospitalization, were involved.

It emerges that communication is the most important component in patient-oriented treatment, and potentially the most suitable form of medical assistance.

This is especially true in serious cases and the final stages of illness, when adoption of ELDs is often a shared decision between doctor, patient and family, rendering death a specific field of shared responsibility.

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16. Track 20 – Environmental Well-Being

Track and Session Chairs:

Jon Hall, Global Project – OECD

Daniela Cocchi, Università di Bologna – Italy – President of the International Environmetrics Society (ISI – International Statistical Institute)

16.1. Crisis management- a case study on environmental crisis

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Environmental degradation can no longer be handled by means of traditional local remedies in the face of the current global environmental crisis. The author outlines specific ways to overcome the crisis through international means, obliging each individual nation to reduce its own hazardous production, while enjoining a collective effort to confront the challenge of global environmental deterioration. Only through policy-making based on the recognition of shared danger and international commitments to reduce damage can we achieve a shared moral responsibility for environmental protection. Security concerns and systemic vulnerability within trading systems are critical factors in international business success. Failure to embed organizational capabilities to deal with vulnerability can contribute to preventable losses. This paper presents a conceptual framework for understanding where vulnerability may impact trading systems and suggests that crisis management capabilities within organizations dealing maritime trade (especially ports) can increase the ability to identify early warning signs of the emergence of crisis situations. Environmental policy is about what government does and does not do to address environmental problems.

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16.2. Socio-ecological-economic modeling and a critical valuation of the organization life

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Through the past half-century, much effort in a variety of disciplines, has been put to developing an approach to assessing change that pushes beyond an emphasis on economic signals to include a more complete treatment of human and ecosystem wellbeing. This challenge lies at the very heart of reporting on progress toward sustainability. Key to addressing this challenge is developing an effective conceptualization of the human-ecosystem relationship. The results of a review of 49 conceptual models that address the human-ecosystem relationship are presented. These results are used to develop a conceptual approach to assessing progress toward sustainability that: (1) builds on a number of common features drawn from these models; (2) is founded on a value set that insists on parallel care and respect for people and the ecosystem together; and (3) is consistent with systems ideas. This is an attempting to integrate ecological, social and economic modeling and analysis in order to improve our understanding of organizational systems, assess potential future impacts of various administrative techniques, and to better assess the value of socioecological systems and the process of organization decision making. The integrated model will allow us to evaluate the indirect effects over long time horizons of current policy options. These effects are almost always ignored in partial analyses, although they are significant and may reverse many long-held assumptions and policy predictions.

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16.3. Air quality as factor of quality of life: the use of qualitative indicators

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The spatial and geographical studies during last decades faced the concept of quality of life, considering the complex of meanings related as to the subjective aspect of human experience as to the satisfaction of basic needs through objective material conditions. The debate should include, according to some authors, the distinction between the concept of wellbeing from that of quality of life.

The Millennium Project of UN agency has outlined that one of the factor of good quality of life is living in a good environment, including it in a list of desirable conditions that cannot be reduced to economic wellness. Eluding this goal means to weaken the respect of human rights that include the right to live in a non polluted environment.

So economists, sociologies and geographers focused their attention on definition of environmental and social indicators, and subjective and objective ones. In this paper it is studied the case of atmospheric pollution and the opportunity to integrate the assess of quality of air through traditional chemical physical method (quantitative method) thanks to a different kind of indicators (qualitative method), which are known and used by biologist: biological indicators. After having given an account of this kind of indicators, we will tell about their use and application, and we will provide a survey of their use in two Italian urban cases

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17. Track 22 – Relational goods, sociability and life satisfaction

Track and Session Chair:

Leonardo Becchetti, Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata” – Italy

17.1. A Comparative Study of Preferences for Redistribution

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Developed countries differ vastly in terms of the amount of taxation, social spending, and redistribution operated by their governments (Alesina, Glaeser, 2004). The US – and more generally Anglo-Saxon countries – epitomize socio-economic systems that rely heavily on free markets as allocative mechanisms, whilst continental EU countries attribute a larger role to the State and to regulative mechanisms. These macroeconomic differences are mirrored in the dissimilar patterns of attitudes towards social mobility and opportunities that people hold (Alesina and Glaeser, 2004; Corneo and Gruner, 2002). In particular, most people in the US believe that an individual's success in their career is the result of hard work, whereas the majority of people in Europe hold the view that this is the upshot of luck or one's family background. We examine within a comparative experimental study how individuals' preferences for earnings redistribution are affected by changes in the determinants of such differences, depending on the underlying cultural, psychological, and sociological reasons of these differences. We replicate the study in the Italy and the US – two countries that are representative of the different systems.

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17.2. Indicators of the Quality of Relational Life: robustness and sensitivity analysis

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Recently, a new method for the measurement of the quality of relational life (QRL) has been proposed (Stanca, 2008), where implicit valuations estimated from micro-econometric life satisfaction equations are used to weigh and aggregate scores on several dimensions of relational life. In this paper, using a large sample of individuals from 94 countries, we develop indicators focusing on three dimensions of interpersonal relations: friends, family and society. We combine such dimensions in a composite indicator (CI) of QRL to benchmark country performance. An important issue in country benchmarking is the assessment of variability of the composite QRL scores, neglecting which could lead to flawed country rankings. This variability can come from a number of uncertainty sources that we explore in this paper: i) the use of data sets from alternative surveys (eg happiness or life satisfaction), ii) the selection of weights used to aggregate the three QRL dimensions in a CI of QRL, and iii) the method used to estimate the coefficients of the life satisfaction equations (eg linear or discrete). We first conduct a robustness analysis of the composite QRL country scores by propagating the aforementioned uncertainties to identify possible groups of countries of similar performance. Then, via sensitivity analysis, we identify the uncertainties that mostly contribute to the overall variability of the CI. This latter information can be of help to increase the quality of the QRL indicators.

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17.3. Relational goods over the life cycle: A model and an econometric estimation.

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The paper develops a dynamic structural life-cycle model, wherein agents can choose to consume, alongside standard goods, 'relational goods', in practice time spent with other people. The model is estimated using the SMM (simulated method of moments) on the SHARE dataset, a cross-national database that provides detailed information on socioeconomic status and social networks of individuals aged 50 or over. The main contribution of the paper is to provide an estimate of two parameters: first, the relative risk aversion parameter for consumption of relational goods. Second, the substitution parameter, which indicates whether individuals become less willing to substitute standard for relational consumption over time. This paper also investigates the possibility that consumption of relational goods may be path-dependent, i.e. consumption of hours of social interaction at a given date may partially influence future patterns of relational consumption.

17.4. Measuring the warm glow: players' behaviour and self declared happiness in investment game experiments

Giacomo Degli Antoni

Leonardo Becchetti

We perform a standard investment game experiment in which questionnaires are alternatively administered to participants after the experiment and before they even know the rules of the game. We find that self declared happiness is significantly affected by Trustors' contribution, but only when survey questions are answered after playing the game. This result contributes both to the empirical happiness and behavioural experimental literature.

With respect to the first, we find supporting evidence that general questions on self declared life satisfaction evaluated over the entire life period are affected by most recent events.

With respect to the second, we interpret our findings as a straightforward explanation of "non Nash" behaviour of players in investment games (they deviate from it because they are happy to do so) and as being not in contrast with the existence of "warm glow" (impurely altruistic) and/or a very extreme form of purely altruistic preferences.

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17.5. Will Joe the plumber envy Bill Gates? The impact of absolute distance of interdependent preferences

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Whereas standard economic theory relies on the basic model of the Homo Economicus many recent studies revealed that others' income affect individual well-being and thus support the existence of interdependent preferences. Nevertheless we still know very little about the impact of others' situations and income on individuals' behaviour? We aim at investigating the nature and intensity of interdependent preferences and we focus on how interdependent preferences influence individual behaviour. In our experiment subjects are paired and must declare their individual satisfaction level after being informed of their own payoff and then after being informed of their opponent's payoff. Finally they can choose to reduce their opponent's income by incurring a personal cost. We observe that the majority of subjects (73%) exhibit negative interdependent preferences (i.e. dissatisfaction after knowing the opponent's payoff). Besides whereas few people choose to reduce their opponent's payoff (10%), destruction is positively correlated with the intensity of negatively interdependent preferences. We also vary the differences in terms of payoff between subjects in order to test the impact of absolute difference between players on interdependent preferences and on individual behaviour. We observe that as absolute difference increases less people exhibit intense negative interdependent preferences and less people engage destruction acts.

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17.6. Did the Decline in Social Capital Depress Americans' Happiness

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Most popular explanations cannot fully account for the declining trend of U.S. reported well-being during the last thirty years. We test the hypothesis that the relationship between social capital and happiness at the individual level accounts for what is left unexplained by previous research. We provide three main findings. First, several indicators of social capital are significantly correlated with reported happiness. Second, social capital indicators for the period 1975-2004 show a declining trend. Finally, the trend of happiness can be largely accounted for by the increasing trend of income, the increasing trend of reference income and the declining trend of social capital – in particular by the decline of its relational and non-instrumental components.

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17.7. Social Context and Hours Worked

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In this paper we investigate the relationships between the participation to social networks and the amount of hours worked. We provide a model of consumer choice where social networks may be either a substitute or a complement to material consumption, according to whether the participation to a social network is intrinsically or extrinsically motivated; moreover, a greater average local participation to social networks increases the advantages of individual participation. We further provide an empirical investigation of this framework on US-GSS data for the period 1972-2004. Results are consistent with the model's predictions. In particular, participation to intrinsic networks substantially decreases the hours worked, while participation to extrinsic networks substantially increases it. This is consistent with participation to intrinsic networks being substitute to material consumption and participation to extrinsic networks being a complement to it. Moreover evidence is consistent with local spillovers to individual participation.

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17.8. Why Italians' life satisfaction declines?

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Italian people report a declining level of life satisfaction since almost a decade, according to the Eurobarometer survey, after a long period of increases. Intuitively, such a decline could be related to the deceleration of economic growth, which reduces individuals' aspirations on their living standards, and to the rising of economic inequalities. In this paper we suggest the possibility to explain the decline of life satisfaction also as a consequence of the erosion of social capital, i.e. networks, social relations, and trust. Our analysis attempts to test this explanation by extending the usual estimates of the happiness equation to variables measuring various social capital's dimensions, with a particular focus on relational goods. The attempt is based upon the preliminary construction of a data-bank integrating micro information drawn from different sources (e.g. Eurobarometer and Istat's Multipurpose surveys) by means of a matching procedure. A special attention is paid to the analysis of trend of the social capital variables. This is interesting in itself, because no other similar analysis is available for European countries, although the decline in social capital has attracted much interest in the US.

17.9. The 60es turnaround as a test on the causal relationship between sociability and happiness

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The nexus between relational life and life satisfaction is riddled with endogeneity problems. By investigating the causal relationship going from the first to the second variable we consider that retirement is a shock which increases the time investable in (outside job) relational life. As a consequence we instrument investment in relational goods with the aggregate exogenous age-retirement pattern. With such approach we document that investment in relational life has a positive and significant effect on life satisfaction. Consequences of our findings in terms of retirement effects and age-happiness pattern are also discussed.

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18. Track 23 – Housing & Neighbourhood as Dimensions of QOL

Track and Session Chairs:

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18.1. Quality of life and housing satisfaction in RDP houses in Braamfischerville, Soweto: A South African case study

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To provide housing to the poor and in order to address the serious housing backlog that has developed in South Africa, the Government began the building of Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) homes in 1994 (Snowman & Urquhart, 1998). Many of these housing developments, however, have been heavily criticised with regard to the quality of housing units, building standards and the lack of services and amenities (Poltie, 2003). It was also found that residents identified proximity to basic services and amenities more important than the appearance in creating satisfaction (Turner, 1976). The research was conducted during 2008 amongst the inhabitants of the Braamfischer-ville area of Soweto. Demographic information, income and expenses per month were ascertained for each household with a systematic questionnaire survey. Satisfaction with specific housing attributes such as windows, doors, roofs, and the like were rated according to a 5-point Likert Scale during an interview process. In addition, proximity to basic amenities in the community were established. The findings revealed that there were specific grievances that decreased housing satisfaction levels with RDP homes in the study area.

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18.2. Quality of Life – A local scale approach

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The Research Project “Costs and Benefits of urban dispersion on a local scale” aims to compare costs and benefits of different forms of land use in two urban areas in Portugal: Aveiro and Évora. Concerning the costs, it will look at public infrastructure and mobility, while the benefits will be assumed and assessed as Quality of Life (QoL). We expect that such data, expressed in monetary terms, will provide new input for the decision-making process in urban planning and design, contemplating objective data, as well as different perceptions and valuations of urban contexts.

This paper will briefly go through the Project’s purposes, emphasising those specific to the task on the definition and the assessment of QoL. Methodologically this task has three main steps: i) to provide background information on the multidimensionality of the QoL concept and its operationalization (problems and difficulties); ii) to develop a new concept of QoL at the local level (to identify the main attributes that explain the QoL in different settlement types - dispersed and continuous); iii) to develop, conceptually, a methodology to measure QoL on a local scale.

A final note is due to state that no results will be presented, only methodological developments achieved so far.

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18.3. Housing Quality in Europe – A Comparative Analysis Based on EU-SILC Data

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Access to adequate housing belongs to the basic human rights and the quality of housing is among the essential components of living conditions and the quality of life. Modern welfare states are thus aiming to ensure adequate housing and to enhance the housing conditions of their citizens through diverse policy measures. As a result of the recent enlargement, the scope and inequality of living conditions within the EU has increased considerably. This paper explores and compares the housing situation and residential quality across the current member states of the EU. While looking at individual countries too, this study primarily aims to compare the housing situation in the new Eastern European member states with the situation in Germany and the other former EU-15 member states. The analysis covers various dimensions of the adequacy and quality of housing (home-ownership, type and condition of buildings, size and equipment of dwellings, quality of neighbourhood) and does not only identify inequalities between countries and groups of countries, but also explores whether and how differences in housing qualities depend on socio-economic characteristics of households within countries. The analysis is based on the microdata from the „Community Statistics of Income and Living Conditions“ (EU-SILC) for 2006.

18.4. Two Neighborhoods in Istanbul

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Interest in the neighborhood has been increasing. For most people, residence and the neighborhood in which it exists is the largest consumption item of a lifetime. Urban neighborhood is defined as the bundle of spatially based multidimensional attributes associated with clusters of residences. Implicit in the definition is the notion that, depending on the attributes present, the type and even existence of the neighborhood can vary across urban space and so does neighborhood satisfaction. Neighborhood satisfaction is a concern for researchers and planners. This paper attempts to be a contribution to the literature of neighborhood, via two different neighborhoods in two districts of Istanbul. The neighborhoods are categorized as traditional and modern and a measurement of satisfaction is undertaken. Respondents from the two locales are asked for their subjective assessments

of a set of domains associated with neighborhood satisfaction. As far as Istanbul is concerned, with an increase of 4% in population, she is producing a human load and hence new cultural geographies. So, it can be said that, there are different cultural Istanbul as well as geographical ones. The results indicate significant differences among the residents of the two neighborhoods.

18.5. Quality of Life Indicators in Native American Public Housing

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Evans, Opal Wyr Academy

Quality of life is affected by many domains including measures of community satisfaction, neighborhood satisfaction, and housing satisfaction. Sirgy and Cornwell (2002) investigated conceptual models on how satisfaction with neighborhood features affect residents' quality of life. Results of the study support the concept that quality of life is affected by social, economic, and physical features of neighborhood satisfaction. Specifically, the research concluded that satisfaction with social features affect life satisfaction through community satisfaction; physical features contribute to overall feelings of neighborhood and housing; housing satisfaction influences life satisfaction; and satisfaction with neighborhood economic features affects housing and home satisfaction.

Quality of life in public housing is an important issue facing many residents in the United States who cannot qualify for decent affordable housing. Public housing residents face many issues related to quality of life. A research study of public housing agencies in three cities revealed that drug and violent offenses were severe problems in housing developments. (Dunworth & Saiger, 1994). Other issues such as crime, poverty, HIV, AIDS, and health are also prevalent in public housing communities.

This paper will explore quality of life issues in public housing on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in the United States and provide insights on quality of life indicators for public housing residents.

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18.6. Subjective determining factors of satisfaction with life as indicator of Quality in Later Life

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Introduction and objective. This paper aims to reveal the explanatory factors and the extent to which those factors help to predict the overall satisfaction with life, as one of the major indicators of Quality of Life of older people ageing in place (1).

Data source and analysis. The data come from a survey on Quality of Life carried out in 2005 with a random sampling method; 499 interviewees represent the people aged 65 years old and more living in family housing in Madrid Region (Spain) (2). To examine the influence of independent variables (that is satisfaction with domains of life) on the satisfaction with life among the old people, Categorical Regression analysis was applied due to the categorical nature of the variables and the nonlinear relationship.

Results and conclusions. The predictive categorical regression model accounts for an R Square of 0.637, indicating that almost 64% of the variance in the transformed satisfaction with life rankings is explained by the regression optimally transformed predictors. According to the standardized coefficients and with the relative importance measure, the largest coefficients occur for satisfaction with economic resources, family and neighbour networks, health status and housing of residence, among the variables related to domain-specific satisfaction with life. These results are in line with the definition domains of QoL among the studied population through the SEIQoL-DW instrument (3)..

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18.7. Reasonable Rents in East Germany? Quality of Life and Housing Market Conditions

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The rent levels between Eastern and Western Germany differ less than one Euro per square meter on average. Regarding the persistent economic disparities and the high amount of vacant flats in East Germany this difference seems very low.

According to earlier studies in urban economics it is presumed that economic basic conditions of a region and life quality aspects have an impact on the local housing market. To evaluate this interaction a set of variables is regressed on the local rent level of different

housing quality segments in a cross-section analysis at the community level. The regression contains demographic, economic and housing-market-related variables and a dummy variable for East Germany. The model incorporates hypotheses about East German peculiarities like a special supplier structure and demolition subsidies of an urban redesign program that are related to the transformation process from socialistic into market-economic structures after the reunification in the 1990s.

The results show a significant positive coefficient for the East Germany dummy in two large segments of the housing stock. The premium for renting in East Germany suggests that regulatory and institutional characteristics disturb the adjustment of the rent level according to the given level of life quality aspects and amenities. These findings of a mismatch in the price performance ratio in terms of quality of life may explain the continuous emigration from East Germany.

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19. Track 24 – QOL and Time Use

Track Chairs:

Kimberly Fisher, University of Oxford – UK

Elsa Fontainha, ISEG Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

Session Chairs:

Sabine Wollscheid, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) – Oslo – Norway

Cecilia Tinonin, University of Bologna – Italy

19.1. Hedonic and eudaimonic well-being in the daily life of young adults

*Di Bisceglie Miriam, University of Milan,
Sarti Silvia, MenteCorpo Association,
Colombo Andrea, MenteCorpo Association,
Delle Fave Antonella, University of Milan*

The theoretical framework of this work is positive psychology, that investigates subjective and contextual factors promoting individual and community well-being and quality of life. These topics are particularly relevant in young adulthood, a transition period characterized by various developmental challenges, such as getting a job, building a family, defining personal growth trajectories. This study explores these topics by 1) analysing young adults' daily opportunities for optimal experience (OE). OE is characterized by high concentration, enjoyment, control, intrinsic motivation and balance between environmental challenges and personal skills. Studies showed that individuals preferentially reproduce activities associated with OE; 2) investigating the relationship between OE-related domains and participants' challenges, long-term goals and level of well-being in life domains. To these purposes, Flow Questionnaire, Life Theme Questionnaire and Eudaimonic Happiness Inventory were administered to 112 participants (mean age 28; W 60, M 52). Results have shown that young adults prominently associated leisure activities and positive emotions with OE while their challenges and future goals were related to productive activities. The apparent contradiction between these results is interpreted from the perspective of hedonic/eudaimonic well-being. It highlights the multifaceted structure of quality of life, pointing out the need for an integrated approach to well-being investigation.

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19.2. Restructuring of activities and rising satisfaction with time use after retirement: Findings from the German time budget survey

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It is widely accepted that individuals in modern societies increasingly experience feelings of stress and time scarcity. But from a perspective that takes into account the full range of a “normal” lifecycle this picture of modern everyday life possibly should be modified. More and more people reach the age of pension and stay in retirement for decades. How do those older adults evaluate their time use concerning problems of time pressure? Is their quality of life in this respect higher when compared with middle-aged adults? Research results discussed in this presentation show that this indeed is the case. Based on time budget data, which were collected by the Federal Statistical Agency of Germany in 2001 and 2002, it is demonstrated how the structure of time use and indicators of satisfaction change during the period of transition to retirement. The indicators presented cover the time allocated to domestic work, voluntary work, leisure activities, media use, and personal care. Though gender specific patterns of time use continue to exist, men and women alike evaluate their time use more favorable after retirement.

19.3. Barking mad or on the road to purr-fection: consideration of the quality of life exhibited in the daily activities of people who interact with pets in the United Kingdom

Fisher, Kimberly, Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford

This paper uses UK time-use surveys collected over four decades to examine the relationship between quality of life and interaction with pets. These surveys recorded people’s daily activities over 24 hours, and illuminate the most common behaviours of different social groups. Daily schedules illuminate quality of life on two levels: measures of healthy lifestyles (whether people exercise for 30+ minutes, enjoy 7.5+ hours of uninterrupted sleep, total minutes they push themselves before taking a break); and measures of the quality of leisure time (proportion of leisure not overlaid by paid or unpaid work; proportion of leisure spent with other adults; the degree of fragmentation of leisure and personal time; whether the diarist enjoys a wind-down period before the night’s sleep or is pushed until they drop). This paper first defines the associations of the time use measures with other measures of quality

of life, then considers the general trends in these measure in the United Kingdom over time. I then separate diaries into categories of people who interacted with pets on their diary day versus those who do not interact with pets or live in household where pets are present to consider the potential correlations between interaction with animals and quality of life in daily routines. I additionally consider whether interacting with pets is associated with variant levels of sociability—that is do pets encourage people to get out more or serve as a substitute for human interaction.

19.4. Elderly Home-Care in Norwegian Municipalities with Purchaser-/provider-split Model - Exploring Variations in Time-Use

Wollscheid, Sabine, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo, Norway
Hallvik, Jørgen, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo, Norway

In Norway as in other Scandinavian countries elderly home-care is provided by municipalities supplemented by informal care-givers. We hypothesise that the implementation of the purchaser-provider-split (pps) model did not lead to a more standardised way of time-use which the original concept purposes. The aim is to explore variations of time-use in Norwegian municipalities looking at home-help and home-nursing care as two different spheres of work and care. We assume that differences in individual (district leader) and structural factors (community level) lead to different ways of setting the pps model into practise. Using data from a telephone-survey, carried out from November 2008 until February in 2009, we base our analysis on information of 23 district leaders in 9 larger municipalities and additional register data on the municipalities. Our analysis shows that there are significant differences in the time dimension not only between different municipalities but also between different districts within the same municipality. Comparing home-help and -nursing care there is generally more time spent in direct interaction with the care-receiver within home-help than within home-nursing care which is characterised by a higher degree of professionalization. Furthermore, the degree of institutionalisation has a positive effect on time for home-care, whereas the municipality's financial situation and the year of implementation do not have an obvious effect on time for home-care.

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19.5. Daily time use and quality of life

Romano, Maria Clelia, Italian National Institute Of Statistics
Spizzichino, Daniele, Italian National Institute Of Statistics

Time as a resource is scarce by definition. Thanks to its limited availability, the quality of time as it is experienced has a strong effect on the perceived quality of individual and family life. Time Use surveys collect highly-detailed information related to time management in daily living. They describe how individuals subdivide the day's 24 hours among different

activities, places and people to compile a finely detailed and well-articulated picture of time use in daily life. An exclusively quantitative consideration of the time resource, however, may be inappropriate when studying quality of life, which requires an approach that combines objective indicators with subjective ones. A complete analysis of the contents of the 24-hour mosaic needs to take into consideration information that reflects the experience of the individuals themselves and their own perception of the ways - more or less satisfying - they actually spend their own time. The Italian Time Use survey carried out in 2002-2003 collected data regarding levels of satisfaction as expressed in reference to the amount of time dedicated to different life contexts (work, family, leisure, etc.). The presentation will show the results of a joint analysis of daily time use and levels of satisfaction with reference to the employed population, revealing the inadequacy of approaches that limit themselves to only one of these two aspects and the consequent need for policy to always consider these two dimensions together.

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19.6. The impact of household gender inequality on children malnutrition. Time use, nutrition and agency in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Tinonin, Cecilia University of Bologna, Italy

The paper focuses on the quality of life of women and children in Uttar Pradesh, India and aims at explaining children malnutrition in terms of unequal distribution of time and task within the household, controlling for food security components. It is expected that the burden of housework, which is highly energy requiring, lays on women's shoulder, thus affecting their capabilities of properly feeding their children. The paper endorses the theoretical framework of the capability approach, according to which quality of life is defined as the condition in which a person is free to pursue various things he/she may value being and doing. Thus, time use and food intake and agency related data will be collected to develop an instrument to measure daily activity, autonomy in conducting these activities and nutrition outcomes.

In highlighting the importance of the above mentioned topic to the field of quality of life studies, health as the basic capability in supporting individual agency towards well being is intuitively crucial. Furthermore, from a methodological perspective, the inclusion of a time use module in surveys designed for poverty reduction analysis sheds light on women unpaid labour both at the household and at the informal market level, which in turn is key for assessing quality of life and well being of the most vulnerable sectors of society.

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19.7. After the School day is over - Youth QOL in Canada and Portugal

Fontainha, Elsa , ISEG Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

The aim of the research project is to compare in Canada and Portugal the youth QOL, using time allocation after school time. The differences and convergences found will be explained, taking socio-economic, demographic, institutional and cultural factors into account. The main data sources related with time allocation, education and labour will be microdata from PISA-OECD, Statistics of Canada (GSS several cycles) and from the Portuguese Statistical Office INE.

The specific research goals are:

- to examine the patterns and trends of activities related with QOL

- ✓ to compare for both countries the socio-economic and institutional characteristics associated with youth' QOL
- ✓ to investigate the predictors of QOL, adopting models of individual decision in relation to time allocation.

20. Track 25 – Security and QOL

Track Chairs:

Paul Anand, Open University – UK

Graciela Tonon, Universidad Nacional de La Matanza and Universidad de Palermo – Argentina

Session Chair:

Paul Anand, Open University – UK

20.1. Human trafficking and QOL: Toward a QOL research agenda

Webb, Dave, University of Western Australia

Llewellyn, Roddy

Human trafficking comprising various forms of forced labour and sexual servitude of both adults and children, female and male alike, continues to grow in spite of the significant effort of global law enforcement agencies, NGO's and others to address the issue. The author speaking with a contact in one such law enforcement agency was told that an increase in the number of persons being brought in to London to cater for spectators during the 2012 Olympics was already evident. It is estimated that up to 10,000 men and women, sometimes including children as young as 10, are traded in the UK each year, with each girl worth up to 150,000 pounds a year to those who "own" her.

For this session the author proposes to facilitate a roundtable discussion focussing specifically on sex trafficking, the exploitation of adults and children for the purpose of commercial sex. A key question driving the session includes but is not limited to: What role and contribution can be made by QOL researchers?

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Reuters (January 19, 2009): London Olympic mega-brothels a worry for clerics.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSTRE5013U020090119>

20.2. Fear of crime and quality of life

Šakić Ivana – Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Franc Renata – Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Šakić, Vlado – Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

The purpose of the present study was to explore the relationship between fear of crime and two well-being index (Personal Well-being - satisfaction with material status, health, achievement, relationships, safety, community, future security, spirituality) and National Well-being (NWI: satisfaction with economy, environment, social conditions, government, business, national security). Fear of crime was operationalized as cognitive component (feelings of safety) in three specific situation (at streets in your neighborhood at night, at your home at night, at night in public transport) and in general. In addition we measured

perception of neighborhood incivilities and beliefs about national crime trends as previously confirmed important predictors of fear of crime. Analyzed data were gathered by face-to-face interviews within a large scale public opinion research conducted by Institute of social sciences Ivo Pilar in October/November 2008, on nationally representative probabilistic sample of 4000 adults from 200 different sample points (response rate 50%). Hierarchical regression analyses were used to examine the relationship between fear of crime and well being index, with sociodemographic variables as covariates. Results are discussed with regards to meaning of similarities and differences in multivariate association between fear of crime with personal and national well-being.

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http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/instruments/wellbeing_index.htm.

20.3. Well-being in rescuing activities among professionals and volunteers

Sartori, Raffaella D.G., Università Degli Studi Di Milano
Massimini, Fausto, Università Degli Studi Di Milano
Delle Fave, Antonella, Università Degli Studi Di Milano

While the negative consequences of rescuers' trauma exposure have been widely explored, little attention has been paid to the positive aspects of rescuing activities, to their role in promoting performance and well-being, and to the differences in rescuing experience between volunteers and professionals.

Italian Red Cross rescuers, 14 professionals and 14 volunteers, were administered the Experience Sampling Method. For one week participants carried an electronic device sending acoustic randomized signals 6-8 times a day. At signals receipt, they provided self-reports about ongoing activities and associated experience.

Both groups mostly associated rescuing activities with optimal experience (OE), characterized by high concentration, clear goals, satisfaction, perception of high challenges and adequate personal skills (N valid self-report= 1027). Professionals reported OE in 41% of the self-reports filled out during rescuing activities, volunteers in 27%. Volunteers reported anxiety in 22% of the rescuing situations, professionals in 3%. Professionals who also practiced volunteering activities (N=5) prominently associated them with OE (63% of self reports).

Results suggest that being a rescuer is not a prerequisite for psychological disorders per se. Positive aspects of these activities, together with individual characteristics, should be also evaluated in rescuing training programs.

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21. Track 26 – QOL issues in Recreation/Use of Leisure Time

Track and Session Chair:

Valerie Møller, Chair of Quality of Life Studies Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) - Rhodes University – Grahamstown – South Africa

21.1. Table Mountain and ‘its people’: utilization and contestation

Donaldson, Ronnie – Department of Geography, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Internationally, the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) is unique. The national park is located entirely within a metropolitan area (Cape Town) and functions primarily as an open access system because most of the park is unfenced. Understandably therefore it is difficult to monitor and ascertain the human pressures on the Park in terms of the number of people using the Park, what they use it for, why and when. To manage effectively and plan strategically, it is essential that the Park has access to reliable, comprehensive and updateable information on visitor and user usage of the Park. The challenge to the park management, with visitor numbers of around 3.8 million annually (the park is the most visited national park in Africa) is to provide a high quality recreational and tourist experience without compromising the ecological integrity of the Park.

Table Mountain is undisputedly the defining feature and spatial anchor in Cape Town. Central to the city's place identity is the national park which is also in many respects the embodiment of the quality of life of [some of] the city's residents. The Park is seen to be a recreational space for the affluent (mostly those from neighbouring suburbs) and the issues among visitors to the Park vary greatly. Utilization of the Park is in many cases a reflection of the duality of the legacy of the apartheid planning where location plays a crucial role in access

21.2. Quality of life and leisure activities: How do leisure activities contribute to life satisfaction?

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Merkaš, Marina Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Šakić, Marija Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Šverko, Iva Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

The quality of life is determined with objective factors and also with subjective perception of factors which influence human life. Leisure activities play a very important role in life satisfaction because they provide opportunities to meet life values and needs. Through participation in leisure activities people build social relationships, feel positive emotions,

acquire additional skills and knowledge, and therefore improve their quality of life. In this report we will explore how leisure activities improve general life satisfaction. We will try to distinguish among different types of leisure activities and find those which contribute more to life satisfaction. Particularly, we will explore which leisure activities contribute to life satisfaction of women and men and people in various age groups. Our study is based on data from representative sample of Croatian citizens (N=4000), who estimated general life satisfaction and participation in various leisure activities. First, we will describe the life satisfaction of various groups of people who differ by gender, age and social status. Afterward, we will identify important leisure activities which determine life satisfaction across age and gender groups. Overall, our results show that engagement in leisure activities contributes to life satisfaction, while the pattern of important leisure activities somewhat varies across different age and gender groups.

21.3. The Pursuit of Happiness in Globalized Tourist

Corvo Paolo, Researcher Of University Of Gastronomic Sciences In Bra-Pollenzo (Cuneo - Italy)

In the globalized society the individual finds himself in difficulty because persons and things have lost their solidity, while the identities can be adopted and discarded like a whichever object of consumption. We live always more in the aesthetic space, that it is characterized by emotionality and fragmentariness of feelings and that replaces the social space, typical of modernity.

This fragile, unsatisfied I, attends for all the year the period of vacation and concentrates on it expectations and hopes, attributing a deep meaning, of conquest of a new social identity in the creativity and in the development of communicative relations. Vacation should be in the intentions of the persons above all a time of relations with a strong symbolic character, a place of recovery of the lost identity. Searching the physical and spiritual well-being and pursuing a vague but intense dream of happiness, it is attributed to the vacation and to the tourism a dimension of festivity, of privileged time, with its rituals and its ceremonies, where all it must be perfect and nothing must remember the grey working time.

The vacation becomes therefore mythical but not always it reveals such in the concrete experience, so the individuals have problems to satisfy their needs and their expectations, for the difficulty in escaping completely from their daily lived and for the powerful machine of the tourist industry, that wraps in the consumer spiral also the times and the spaces of the vacation.

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21.4. Relationships between leisure time and personal well-being: some insights from an adolescent sample

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Casas Ferran – Quality of Life Research Institute, University of Girona, Spain

Malo Sara – Quality of Life Research Institute, University of Girona, Spain

Bertran Irma – Quality of Life Research Institute, University of Girona, Spain

Leisure time is considered a key aspect for the lives of individuals, especially within the context of industrialised societies. The activities we carry out while we are not working, studying or attending basic needs depend on multiple reasons and are strongly connected to social relationships. People have different perceptions of what leisure time should be, thus mediating the type of activities they choose and the psychosocial consequences which derive from them.

Although many studies have been developed in last years, more research is needed in order to comprehend the relationships between, on the one hand, beliefs, motivations (extrinsic versus intrinsic) and ways of organising the own leisure time and, on the other, personal well-being. Even more studies are necessary to explore these relationships in adolescence asking adolescents themselves.

With this departure point in mind, a study with 2286 subjects has been carried out, through a self-administered questionnaire to 12 to 18 year-old adolescents. They have been asked about the reasons for doing what they do in their leisure time, their perception about the organisation, planning, and taking profit of their free time, the influence of other people on their decisions about leisure time and what they think leisure time is. At the same time, they were requested to fill in Cummins and colleagues' Personal Well-Being and Diener's Subjective Well-Being scale. The main findings of the study will be discussed.

22. Track 27 – Arts & Culture Well-Being

Track and Session Chair:

Alex C. Michalos, Institute for Social Research and Evaluation – University of Northern British Columbia – Canada

22.1. Arts and the perceived quality of life in British Columbia

Michalos, Alex C. – Institute for Social Research and Evaluation, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

Kahlke, P. Maurine – Institute for Social Research and Evaluation, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

The aims of this investigation were (1) to measure the impact of arts-related activities on the perceived quality of life of a representative sample of British Columbians aged 18 years or more in the spring of 2007, and (2) to compare the findings of this study with those of a sample of 1027 adults drawn from 5 B.C. communities in the fall of 2006. Seven hundred and eight respondents to a mailed out questionnaire provide the working data set, which was weighted by age and education to match the 2006 census statistics for the province. Speaking quite generally, about 62% of the results for the two samples are very similar.

22.2. Cultural consumption patterns in South Africa: An investigation of the theory of cultural omnivores.

Snowball, J. D. Rhodes University, South Africa

Jamal, M. Rhodes University, South Africa

Willis, K. G. University of Newcastle on Tyne, UK

Contrary to Bourdieu's (1984) theory that cultural consumption of so-called "high" versus popular culture is determined by socio-economic class, Peterson (1992,2005) finds that higher income and education groups are more likely to be "cultural omnivores" - consumers of a wide variety of both high and popular cultural goods. Omnivores were also found to be much less likely to exclude other cultures and to be more open and to and tolerant of the views of others than those with narrower cultural tastes, called "cultural univores" (Tampubolon 2008, Van Eijck and Lievens 2008). This article investigates the omnivore/univore hypothesis in a South African context, using survey data collected from 500 attendees of live theatre performances at the National Arts Festival in 2008. Multiple correspondence analysis (also called perceptual mapping) shows an interesting intermediate state between Boudieu-like high culture univores and Peterson omnivores, which could have interesting implications for the development of social tolerance in multi-cultural South Africa.

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22.3. Assessment of cultural participation levels in Italy

Morrone Adolfo - OECD

This work proposes a method for measuring the different level of participation of the population to the cultural life in Italy. It is based on a broad concept of culture which includes not only the erudite aspects of culture (De Mauro 2006a; 2006b) but many other leisure activities.

We believe that an active participation to the cultural life is a good proxy indicator of cultural capital which Bourdieu considered one of the most important factors of inequality in society (Bourdieu 1979).

Low levels of cultural participation indicate a problem of social and economic exclusion and of poor competencies and skills.

In this paper, starting from 42 basic indicators, we propose a method for synthetising all indicators in to a single composite indicator. The method implies the use of both correspondence and principal component analysis (Lebart L., Morineau A., Piron M., 1995). The new composite indicator is used to classify the population into different groups according to different level of participation. The analysis of these groups shows the strong interdependency of cultural participation with the most relevant socio demographic variables and it shows comparable results with other analysis on the cultural skills (De Mauro 2008; Gallina 2006).

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22.4. Culture and Well-Being: the role of cultural participation on low and high perceived psychological well-being

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Grossi Enzo Medical Director Bracco Spa Milano, Italy

Cerutti Renata Biometrics unit Bracco SpA Milano, Italy

Tavano Blessi Giorgio Post-Doc Fellow, Adjoint Professor DADI - Department Art and Industrial Design, IUAV University, Venice, Italy; Adjoint Professor, Free University, Bozen

The research aims to question if participation to and consumption of culture can be associated with individual's health (well-being). A cross-sectional survey to assess the quality and quantity of cultural consumption and its relation with psychological well being has been carried out using the The Psychological General Well Being Index (PGWB questionnaire) (Grossi et al, 2006), in a representative sample (n=1500) of community-dwelling Italians with the assistance of Doxa organization (Italy), and two medium size cities: Siracusa (Sicily) and Bolzano (Autonomous Province of Bolzano), (N= 750 each).

Information collected through questionnaires and interviews covered socio-demographic and health-related data well known as wellbeing determinants. In addition 15 different variables has been selected after a revision of the main literature in the cultural field to assess "cultural consumption" assessment.

The research focus has been directed to two groups, the first one based on individuals with a well-being level <70 (low wellbeing), and the second one >85 (high wellbeing).

Univariate and multivariate analysis with supervised artificial neural networks have been adapted in order to show the significance of results.

Evidence shown that for specific forms of cultural consumption affect individual well-being for the population and the beneficial effect emphasizes the significance of cultural participation/consumption for the promotion of men's health. The point of strength of this study are the sample size, the methodological criteria used for sample stratification, the soundness of wellbeing measuring instrument and the potency of analysis methods, based on artificial neural networks.

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23. Track 28 – Information and Communication Technology and QOL

Track and Session Chair:

Daniel Byk, STATEC – Luxembourg

23.1. Internet Service Cognition and Use, and Their Promotion of Quality of Life in Taiwan

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Fu Jen Catholic University;*
Ya-Hui, Yang, Trendgo Marketing Research Company

The “e-Taiwan Program” implemented by Taiwan government is aimed to show the e-advantage in people's life and bring about essential benefits. This research follows the e-Life indicators of the Quality of Life measurement system developed by “e-Taiwan Program”, which including four major dimensions of e-Daily Life, e-Business, e-Government, Broadband to the Home. By using telephone interview, 3,024 respondents aged 15 and above were validly interviewed. Result shows that in Taiwan, the cognition of e-Life service is high, and 71.4% of e-Life services have been well heard of by residents. Although the penetration of e-Life services is not as high as the degree of cognition; there are 31.3% of the e-Life services promoted by “e-Taiwan Program” has been used. The average score of overall quality of life promotion of e-Life is 63.9. It represents that, in general, people think their life has been slightly improved by e-Life services. Through stepwise regression analysis models, we found that most of Internet services usages will bring highly positive influence on the quality of life promotion, but the cognition and usage in e-Government usually bring negative influence on the quality of promotion.

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23.2. Self-categorisation as audiovisual media consumers and personal well-being among Spanish adolescents

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- Malo, Sara – Research Insitute on Quality of Life. University of Girona (Spain).*
- Bertran, Irma – Research Insitute on Quality of Life. University of Girona (Spain).*
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- González, Mònica – Research Insitute on Quality of Life. University of Girona (Spain).*

We analyse the results of a 2008 Spanish sample (N= 3,504) of adolescents aged 12 to 18 years old. We explore different types of audio-visual media consumers in relation to their own personal well-being. Subjects were asked to self-categorize as a type of audio-visual media consumer for television, Internet, videogames and mobile phone. As well-being indicators we have used the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) and the Personal Well-being Index (PWI) and the one-item scale on satisfaction with life as a whole.

Results show that define him or herself as quite high or high consumers a 62.7% of the adolescents whe using the Internet, a 27.1% when watching television, a 34.9% when using a mobile phone and a 24.7% as videogames users. Age and gender differences in personal well-being according to the self-categorization as consumers of different audio-visual media are discussed. Well-being of high and low audio-visual consumers shows clear different patterns depending on the gender.

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23.3. Presenting and communicating statistics on quality of life: principles, components, and their quality assessment. A proposal

Filomena Maggino – Università Degli Studi Di Firenze

Trapani Marco – Università Degli Studi Di Firenze

Assessing quality of statistical activity pays great attention to many aspects mainly referring to data collection and production, data analysis, modeling. International institutions, like World Bank, Unesco and Eurostat identified different attributes to be considered in evaluating quality of statistics (methodological soundness, integrity, serviceability, accessibility). At the same time, less attention is paid to communication of statistics, which represents an important aspect of statistical activity and should be considered an integral part of data production and dissemination. The need to deal with this issue is significantly increasing especially in the perspective of the role the statistics have in ICT societies. Statistical communication, especially in QoL field, can not be accomplished through improvising and approximating methods and instruments. It requires a combined and joint knowledge and expertise of statistical methodology, cognitive science, and communication.

Our work aims at identifying the fundamental aspects (namely ethics, rhetoric and aesthetics) involved in communicating statistics and the components of statistical communication. With reference to components, a particular attention is paid to communication codes, identified by (i) the outline, (ii) the tools, and (iii) the cloths. Subsequently, a conceptual framework is introduced aimed at constructing a model for statistical communication assessment, by riasserting the need of standardized codes.

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23.4. Designing collaborative service for sustainability on the digital platform: The role of information communication technologies on the social network of collaborative organizations

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Due to advanced information communication technologies (ICT), digital platform emerged as an enabling platform to facilitate a variety of collaborations in the digital world. Among them are services organized by people with an attempt to provide solutions to their unmet social needs. These alternative solutions are social innovation at the grassroots level that collectively trigger radical innovation towards sustainable society (Meroni 2006). Examples of collaborative services on digital platform include Hitchhikers, a service organized by hitchhikers to connect people with empty seats in their cars and people in need of a ride, thereby reducing carbon footprint; Vicini Vicini, a service that aims to strengthen social relations in Rome by helping people to organize parties with neighbors; Peladeiros, a service in Brazil that helps people to organize soccer matches; GROFUN, a service organized by people in Bristol to promote urban gardening, share the produce and dine together.

This paper is based on an on-going design research on social innovation and sustainability. It introduces the notion of collaborative service and discusses its two dimensions - solution and social capital - in relation with ICT. Collaborative service is a solution designed to fulfill unmet social needs. At the same time, it produces social capital as a byproduct such as the social network of the users. In the first section of the paper, the role of ICT in designing a solution is discussed with case studies. In the second section, an on-going attempt to identify the role of ICT in the formation and the diffusion of the social network of collaborative organizations is introduced. Based on Granovetter's theory of weak ties and strong ties is used to describe how ICT has transformed the social network of collaborative organizations.

24. Track 30/31/32/33 – Community Well-Being

Track and Session Chairs:

Don Ratz, College of William & Mary – USA

Joseph Sirgy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University – USA

Rhonda Phillips, Arizona State University – USA

24.1. The relationship between poverty, subjective experiential deprivation and space. Some theoretical and methodological issues.

Nuvolati, Giampaolo, University Of Milan Bicocca;

Mauri, Marco, University Of Milan Bicocca

The main aim of the paper is to integrate different approaches and research traditions in order to construct a theoretical typology of deprived neighbourhoods. Three traditions will be considered: a) the analysis of the infrastructural setting, 2) the ecological analysis based on the socio-economic characters of the resident population derived from the School of Chicago, 3) the tradition of the environmental psychology for studying identity and attachment to places. The emerging typology could be considered as a set of Weberian ideal-types useful for describing the distribution of poverty in urban areas. The paper, in particular, deals with some methodological aspects concerning the application of the typology to concrete cases. The last part of the paper will regard some simulation finalized to map through a multilayered approach: infrastructure deficit, social pathology and place identity as they are perceived by the daily users of an hypothetical area. The information gathered through qualitative interviews to a sample of experimental subjects, will provide us a first application and reading of the typology in terms of “subjective experiential deprivation”. This approach, powered by the GIS software packages, will allow us to identify the daily pattern of experiential relationships engaged within the urban environment by different subjects. A final comparison with objective area indicators will be offered as an interesting way to interpret contemporary cities.

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24.2. Using Indicators to Develop a Business Case to Engage Cities to Move towards Sustainability

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Global society is currently on an unsustainable path. Demand for energy, materials, food, and water is, in many instances, beyond sustainable levels, and is rising due to both increases in population and per capita consumption. Pressures on social order and the ecosystem add urgency to the need to move society towards sustainability. One of the key areas for moving society towards sustainability is the urban environment, as cities house more than 50% of global population. Globally, cities are starting to make a transition towards sustainability. There are early rewards for integrating sustainability into municipal operations and while motivations for doing so may vary, they include a desire to enhance quality of life, protect the environment, and improve social conditions. Indicators can be used as a tool to outline the progress of and to provide benchmarks for cities moving towards sustainability.

This study is based on a thesis to develop a case for sustainability for cities, to encourage senior managers and politicians to embrace sustainability. This project will analyse both the internal operations of municipalities and the impact of municipal actions to create the conditions for sustainability. To do so, an understanding of the motivators, drivers, barriers and challenges facing cities moving towards sustainability is needed. Benefits that cities have observed from sustainability initiatives on the environment and their society and economy will be described.

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24.3. Quality of Life in the Milan Metropolitan Area: Estimates from Hedonic House Price Models

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The purpose of this paper is provide an assessment of quality of life in the Milan metropolitan area. We use housing market data from the Osservatorio Immobiliare and socio-economic data from ISTAT to estimate a hedonic price model for the housing market, in order to obtain implicit prices for different types of amenities (environmental, structural, transports, socio-political, economic, cultural and demographic). We construct a composite index of quality of life based on the estimated implicit prices, and the corresponding socio-economic characteristics, that allows us to rank different areas within the Milan metropolitan area. Differences in the quality of life index represent the premium that households are willing to pay to live in a specific area. The results of the analysis provide relevant insights for economic, urban, and environmental policy.

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24.4. Measuring QOL in Rome: a multi-technical and multi-dimensional analysis of QOL in metropolitan areas

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Statistics may be very useful to face specific problems in local policies. Metropolises present socio-economic differences in bordering areas. Despite the urban studies is rising, administrators rarely use statistics to look towards their territorial troubles.

Rome is divided in 19 administrative districts with their own councils. This is the most specific level of statistical analysis, but it is still too large to understand quality of life in the diverse territories and their internal variety. The population for each district varies between 60.000 and over than 200.000 people. However, during the last census in 2001 a more specific level of desegregation was recorded. Nowadays statistics about 154 "urban areas" are available, but nobody uses them as a tool of governance.

The aim of this paper is to compare some composite indicators of quality of life, constructed using different methodologies and techniques. In fact, composite indicators are increasing using for benchmarking countries or regions by combining single variables into one single index. We calculate our composite indicators on each 154 urban areas in Rome.

This exercise presents twofold utility: firstly, it shows the variety both between different districts and in adjacent urban areas; then, it shows that is not sufficient a quantitative approach to study such issue like quality of life.

For quality of life is a complex concept, it needs to be analysed through a multi-technical and multidimensional approach.

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24.5. Quality of life in Costa Rica

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Costa Rica is a relatively small country, covering a total area of a little over 50 thousand km² and approximately 4.6 million inhabitants. Since the very beginnings of Costa Rica as a republic, population and activity concentration in the Great Metropolitan Area (GAM for its acronym in Spanish) – officially instituted in 1982 – have been characteristic. This territory represents less than 4%, houses 55% of all national population and concentrates 92% of

FOB exports' value for the top 50 exporting companies. The historic investment in human capital has allowed the country to position itself as part of the group of nations with the highest Human Development Index (position 50 among 179 countries and position 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean). Costa Rica also has a widespread coverage of power, drinking water and other urban services. However, deficiencies in spatial planning processes along with the decrease in public investment during the more recent decades, among other factors, significantly affect relevant aspects of quality of life, particularly in regards to deficiencies in road infrastructure, the public transportation system, pollution and crime, thus limiting the possibilities to expand conditions and opportunities as well as other fundamental human liberties, oriented towards achieving substantial improvements in society progress matters, that guarantee a better union between objective and subjective conditions of people's quality of life.

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24.6. City-Rankings and Quality of Life in European Cities – 10 Theses and an Indicator System for Monitoring Integrated Urban Development

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There are several political programmes in Western Europe aimed at improving the quality of urban life such as the “Programme Socially Acceptable City” by the Federal Government and the German Federal States to develop disadvantaged regions, cities and “urban areas with a strong need for development”. These programmes often end without having provided systematic and theoretically grounded evaluations of their impact on urban quality of life. Furthermore, urban development policies lack an accompanying monitoring system to assess the outcomes. Often the responsible actors furnish proof of the success by listing single indicators which lack theoretical substantiation. Hence in order to meet to this need for integrated urban development, this paper proposes a comprehensive system of social indicators for the local level (both at the city-wide and the social area level) to measure the urban quality of life of residents. These concepts combine the discussion on quality of life and the social-area-analysis.

The paper contributes to a main focus of this track, i.e. to the discussion of the characteristics which qualify indicators of QOL in medium sized cities. My considerations also refer to international experience in this research and policy field. One issue is to clarify along with Georg Simmel what is essential for quality of life in cities. A 100-indicator-system for six dimensions of urban QoL will be proposed as a tool useful for integrated urban development initiatives

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24.7. A QOL Indicator Framework for Linking Historic Preservation with Community Development Outcomes: The Case of Fernandina Beach, Florida

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Historic preservation offers numerous benefits, not the least of which is a profound and positive effect on quality of life for citizens and visitors alike in communities possessing built and cultural treasures. One of the oldest settlements in the U.S., Fernandina Beach is located on a barrier island and possesses a 50 block area of historic resources. A framework to link with community development with historic preservation includes gauging, protecting, enhancing and interfacing indicators is presented. Historic preservation is the focus of the framework yet provides links to overall quality-of-life outcomes to illustrate compatible goals and a basis on which to build and enhance a local economy.

24.8. Is social cohesion one latent concept? Investigating the dimensionality of social cohesion on the basis of the Kearns and Forrest (2000) typology.

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Reeskens Tim, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Hooghe Marc, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

One of the most abundantly used concepts in contemporary social sciences and among policy experts is social cohesion. However, it is difficult to grasp how social cohesion is defined or measured. In this paper, we follow the line of reasoning of urban sociologists Kearns and Forrest (2000), who ascribed five dimensions to social cohesion: civic culture, social capital, social solidarity, territorial belonging and social control. Although frequently used in theoretical discussions, methodological rigorous tests on the dimensionality of these five social cohesion dimensions are absent. In line with the Kearns and Forrest dimensions, scholars seem to agree that social cohesion is a multidimensional concept (Jenson, 1998; Chan, To & Chan, 2006), but nevertheless the question remains whether these five dimensions have a latent concept, namely social cohesion, in common. In other words, given these five dimensions, can social cohesion be considered as one latent concept, or are the dimensions so different that a high degree communality and correlation between the five dimensions is absent?

Using data of the “Social Cohesion Indicators in Flanders” (SCIF) project, we investigate the dimensionality structure of social cohesion. We apply exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, together with scaling techniques to study the underlying structure of the rich set of

proxy indicators and consequently, we assess whether social cohesion can be thought of as a latent concept.

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24.9. Quality of Life in Small and Big Cities: Major Strengths for People and Business Attraction

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Quality of life (QOL) as a field of study has developed significantly in the last years, due to its importance for happiness and well-being of individuals.

Accordingly to the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, individuals have more QOL when they can reach their aims and choose their ideal life style. Several studies have highlighted how important the QOL is to improve satisfaction and participation of individuals in their work and their community (e.g. Harter, Schmidt & Keyes, 2002; Ostir, Markides, Black & Goodwin, 2000).

For all these reasons, QOL is becoming a hot topic in small, medium and big cities, as a means for regional development. For cities, QOL can be used as a strategy to attract and retain citizens and private investment. For citizens, information about the QOL of their cities helps deciding the best place to work and live.

Our study explores the QOL in 21 small and big cities in Portugal. We measured 10 domains that best define QOL in cities, such as economy and employment, transports, education and training or culture and leisure. We measured QOL both objective and subjectively. We interviewed 4110 citizens all over the country. Small and big cities have different QOL profiles: in small cities citizens are happier with home-work distance and the quality of the air, while in huge cities, business and culture issues are the main sources of citizens' satisfaction. Implications for regional development are discussed.

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24.10. Sustainable Well-being Initiative: social divisions and recovery process in Minamata, Japan.

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Government aims at taking initiative to advance people's well-being. In Japan, the national development has been based on industrial development by shifting its economic structure from agriculture to industry and service sectors over the last 140 years. (Kusago 2007) However, this strategy has incurred benefits as well as costs. I would like to discuss the discourse of modern development by looking into the Japanese government's action (considered to promote economic well-being for all) and its negative impacts over people's life satisfaction and non-economic well-being through a real case from Minamata-city. Minamata-city is the place where the worst industrial pollution case by organic mercury happened in the world. In Minamata, it took more than 40 years to reach to the stage when people and the local government started collaboration to restore its social cohesion to prioritize people's well-beings in the city. I would like to discuss issues, including (1) gaps between planned well-being for all and individual life-satisfaction, and (2) remedies for the negative impacts incurred by the gaps through a case study. I will argue the importance of collaboration between local government and citizen to enhance QOL at the community after unexpected human insecurity problem, which might occur anywhere through industrialization in Asia.

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24.11. Quality of life of men and women in urban and rural settings.

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The present study examined the difference in the quality of life of people living in urban and rural settings. Much of the earlier research that has examined the quality of life between urban and rural people fails to explain the reason for this difference. By using an eco-cultural parameters, this paper attempts to examine the quality of life of people in urban and rural settings.

The sample consisted of 300 participants drawn from urban and rural areas of Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh, India. Both males and females from age 15 to 70 were included in the sample. To assess the quality of life of respondents WHOQOL-BREF scale was used. This scale consists of 26 items, which measures four domains of quality of life namely, physical health, psychological health, relationships and environment. Demographic personal profiles were also recorded.

Result revealed no significant difference in the overall quality of life between urban and rural samples. On the other hand, besides the physical health domain, urban sample differs significantly to rural sample in psychological health, relationship and environment domains of quality of life. A significant interaction between setting and gender was also noted. Interaction shows that males of rural setting have higher level of quality of life and females of urban setting have higher level of quality of life.

The findings of the study are discussed using an eco-cultural perspective of human behaviour.

24.12. Place-based information to guide place-based action: Rural Community Vitality in Oregon, USA

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What does a vital rural community look like, and how does a community know it is vital? These questions are increasingly salient in rural communities experiencing shifts out of natural resource-based economies (Albrecht 1998). In this post-productive rural environment communities are confronted with new challenges: how to meet the needs of current and future residents, maintain a balance between protecting and utilizing the natural environment, and retain rural character (Ohman 1999). These challenges present opportunities for rural leaders to consider what a vital future may be for their community and explore pathways to reaching that ideal.

In 2008, Oregon State University (OSU) was contracted to work with two rural Oregon communities to develop and measure indicators of community vitality. In this paper, we outline how OSU and local non-profits, government, and residents worked together to derive indicators, gather data, analyze findings, and disseminate results in each community. As each community followed distinct paths through this process, we discuss factors that contributed to success and presented key challenges to the project. We also explore our findings with respect to community vitality. We found that while specific indicators were distinct, each community's concept of vitality encompassed economic, environmental, social, and community capacity realms. We conclude with a comparison of each community's indicators, goals, and baseline assessment of rural vitality.

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24.13. Measuring the Health of Vermont's Designated Downtowns

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Vermont's landscape of compact village centers surrounded by working farmland, plays a role in the economy, creates a sense of place, and enhances quality of life. Individuals, businesses, municipalities and the state have made a commitment to maintaining this landscape a priority. Keeping Vermont's working landscape open and concentrating new growth in our centers enhances our investment in infrastructure, historic buildings, and open space which in turn creates better overall community health.

Smart Growth Vermont has partnered with the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies and the Vermont Downtown Program and Preservation Trust of Vermont to create a list of indicators that quantify downtown health. The assessment framework developed is holistic in nature and will inform Vermont's existing growth management framework towards traditional landscape preservation.

Modeled after a similar system developed by Smart Growth, British Columbia, indicators are grouped into three major categories: urban form, livability and cultural identity, and economic vitality (Alexander, Aneilski, Tomalty 2004). A fourth category, regional working landscape, has been added to capture Vermonters' unique relationship with their working landscape and is predicated on the belief that communities that have a strong relationship with the land have a more viable community structure.

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24.14. Further Evidence on the Evolution of Community Quality of Life in a Transitioning Society

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Shultz, Clifford J. Arizona State University USA

Overview

This paper updates and reports new findings from an active longitudinal study on the impact of FDI in developing economies. Initial data were presented at the 2008 Macromarketing Conference (Rahtz and Shultz 2008). In this presentation we build upon the qualitative data collected in 2007 with a fresh set of data collected in December 2008 and January 2009. The extension builds upon earlier work (e.g., Grossbart and Rahtz 2004; Shultz and Rahtz 2004) in our continuing examination of one particular transitioning community, Koh Yao Noi, Thailand. This is an island economy continuing its transition from agriculture/aquaculture to one based on tourism. It is adjacent to the large and relatively "developed" tourist island of Phuket in the Andaman Sea, off the western coast of southern Thailand.

Results

Similarly to the results from the previous data collection, the community QOL was generally viewed as being enhanced by offering more economic opportunities for the indigenous populations. There were concerns about natural environment and social well-being. The older population was concerned about the changing landscape and loss of a tight knit community. This year, there were also real fears among the older population: regarding an increase in crime and, somewhat related, drug use among the young.

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25. Track 36 – QOL and city users (commuters, tourists, etc.)

Track and Session Chair:

Giampaolo Nuvolati, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca – Italy

25.1. Developing a measure of tourism well-being

Kruger, Stefan; North West Univ., South Africa;

Sirgy, M. Joseph; Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State Univ.; USA

This presentation reports on a major effort to develop a tourism well-being measure. The measure is based on the theoretical construct that the perception of the overall QOL of tourist trip on tourists is determined by their perceptions of the positive and negative affect experienced during the trip in various life domains. Based on 40 in-depth interviews we identified those particular life domains most affected by tourism: social life, leisure and recreation, family life, arts and culture, work life, health and safety, financial life, spiritual life, intellectual life, self, culinary life, and travel life. Based on the qualitative study, we were able to identify the specific subdimensions of positive and negative affect with aforementioned life domains and develop survey items that were used in a major survey to test the construct and predictive validity of the resultant measure. The survey was designed to capture the feelings about the last out-of-home vacation, domestic tourists took in the past few months or year visiting a tourism destination in South Africa. Three-hundred questionnaires were completed by tourists. Results of the measurement validation study will be presented at the conference.

25.2. "Can anyone tell me where a person can go to find a decent piazza in this town? An Italian piazza and quality of life.

Vogler, David, Wheaton College, MA

Scholarship and experience support two quite different visions of the Italian piazza in the 21st century. The first sees the piazza as a form of public space of declining relevance to city users who focus more on the virtual space of new technologies of communication and globalization than on the physical space in which they happen to be in a homogenized, decentralized and commercialized city. The second view of the piazza in the 21st century looks instead to the Italian piazza as a marker of urban quality for more than two millennia. This view highlights certain enduring qualities of a piazza such as community, collective memory, security, a hierarchy of public and private space, a place of refuge, aesthetics, theater, the sense of touch, and ambiguity.

Although these two visions might seem contradictory or mutually exclusive, both recognize the many and different ways a piazza can incorporate a wide range of activities into a sense of shared experience on a local, national, and international level. The paper will discuss aspects of what architect and professor Eamonn Canniffe, in a recent book on the subject calls “the strangely fascinating power of the piazza” as experienced directly in an eleven-month residence and participation in the life of Piazza Santa Croce in Florence as well as those found in scholarship in this area.

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25.3. Do technicians, politicians and citizens have the same model of city? Trying to achieve a common model for urban quality of life

*Delgado, Cecília Professor at Lusíada University of Oporto Ph.D student:
Faculty of Architecture - Technical University of Lisbon (F.A.U.T.L.)*

Using semi-structured interviews we cross-examined our target sample (politicians and technicians that participate in urban rehabilitation of Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal) and citizens (students of a secondary school from the area).

Questions focused on the importance of different indicators of urban quality of life (politicians’ and technicians’ point of view, from a quantitative approach) and the concept of ideal city (politicians, technicians and citizens, from a qualitative approach).

In the quantitative methodology, politicians and technicians tend to answer within a theoretical model, stating that public transports, environmental quality, green spaces, or even security feelings are much more important than proximity or sociability.

However, when confronted with quantitative questions about urban quality of life both technicians and politicians stress the importance of factors such as proximity (home – work, home - equipments of support, home – commercial places) or other components like

sociability and sense of neighborhood, i.e., parameters that assume great importance for our citizens' panel, which allow us to consider that this could be a more urban friendly model.

Which model of urban quality of life technicians and politicians tend to adopt in spacial planning? The theoretical model? Or the most urban-friendly model? Is it possible to mix both?

We suppose so, and one way to achieve that is to improve the discussion in the public sphere.

26. Track 38 – Identity and QOL

Track and Session Chair:

Gilda Farrell, Council of Europe

26.1. National pride and subjective well-being in Croatian citizens

Feric, Ivana Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Lamza Posavec, Vesna Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Rihtar, Stanko Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

National pride, as a component of national identity, is reflected in a cognitively-symbolic and emotional attachment of citizens towards their country, as well as their sense of belonging to one specific national group. Pride in specific national achievements reveals not only the overall level of national pride, but also identifies the elements of society that are objects of pride in each country. Proposing that under conditions of major socio-political changes such national factors may play an important role in shaping subjective well-being, this paper investigates whether Croatian citizens who experience pride in their nation also perceive a greater sense of happiness and life-satisfaction.

Data were collected through a large-scale public opinion survey, in October 2008, on a representative probabilistic sample of adult population of Croatia (N=4000). Single-question measures of “overall happiness” (Fordyce 1988) and “satisfaction with life-as-a whole” (Delhey et al. 2002) were used as indicators of subjective well-being. Degree of national pride was assessed by a 10-item scale which asked questions related to pride in achievements in 10 areas (Haller and Yuchtman-Yaar 1992).

Feelings of national pride and higher valuation of country’s specific achievements are found to be positively related with life-satisfaction and happiness. Results are further analyzed and discussed in the light of socio-political changes which have taken place in Croatia in the last two decades.

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26.2. Where does democracy fit in the measurement of societal progress?

Salvaris Mike

Democracy is an important component of measuring the progress of societies in at least three important ways: (1) The health and progress of democracy is itself an important component indicator of the overall progress and wellbeing of societies; (2) healthy democracy tends to be associated with other progress and wellbeing outcomes; (3) the process of deciding the key goals and measures of progress in a democratic strongly influences individual, community and national well-being and development, and therefore should itself be a democratic process with citizen engagement.

This paper will explore in more detail: the links between democracy and other aspects of measuring progress and well-being; a framework to measure democratic progress; and new processes to broaden citizen engagement and strengthen democracy in progress measurement at national and local level.

The author will argue that identifying agreed goals, standards and targets is a crucial prerequisite to the democratic development of societal progress measurement and will discuss a number of interesting models in Australia and Canada which demonstrate the value and the possibilities of both integrating technical and non-technical people in the pursuit of progress, and secondly of integrating work on the progress measurement in local communities with that undertaken at the State/regional and national level.

26.3. Understanding Institutional Trust in Western Democracies. A Mixed-Approach to Comparative Analysis

Martini Sergio - University of Florence;

Quaranta Mario - University of Florence

Trust is a central dimension in studying quality of relational and civic life in contemporary democracies. Furthermore, it is widely considered one of the grounds of social capital, which decline trend has been extensively pointed out in social sciences. This paper has the aim to understand how institutional trust varies among different models of democracy, relying on the patterns indicated by Lijphart (1999). We wonder how a dimension of social capital, identified as trust in some institutions, can be affected by the type of institutional organization of democracies. We assume that the features of trust change in relation to the institutional, cultural and social structures. How does trust in institutions vary among different democracies? Is it possible to identify patterns of trust in these democracies?

In order to pursue this scope, we focus our attention on a strategy of methodological triangulation. We use a mixed research design which combines two selection case approaches: the most different and most similar systems designs. This allows us to carry out a comparative analysis of cases that is, at the same time, quantitative and qualitative. This procedure makes the research designs complementary and gives the possibility to provide a more systematic analysis and more solid results. The analysis will be carried out on eight European and North-American democracies, using data available from the World Values Survey.

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26.4. National Identity and the Wellbeing of Singaporeans

Tambyah, Siok Kuan (National University of Singapore)

Tan, Soo Jiu-an (National University of Singapore)

Kau, Ah Keng (National University of Singapore)

In various studies conducted in the last twenty years, Singaporeans have generally been contented with their quality of life, especially in terms of economic prosperity. However, there are other important non-economic considerations for a nation's wellbeing such as the sense of national identity. In our paper, we first examine the essence of the Singaporean national identity using indicators such as English fluency, national identification and national pride. We then assess how Singaporeans feel about the superiority of their culture, their opinions about restrictions on the foreign workforce and their views about patriotic education. Second, we explore how Singaporeans feel the system of governance, their involvement in political action, the level of satisfaction with the scope of rights, views about political rights and the influence of media. Third, we examine the influence of demographic and non-demographic factors on the wellbeing of Singaporeans using regression analyses. Generally, demographic variables do not exert a major influence. However, a person's fluency in English and national pride had some positive effect. The perceptions regarding the competency of the government had varying effects on Singaporeans' sense of wellbeing.

26.5. An Ecosystemic Approach to the Problems of Difficult Settlement or Solution in the World

Pilon, André Francisco, Associate Professor, University of São Paulo

The world is increasingly shaped by powerful global forces, by the hegemonic assemblage of political, financial and technological interests; reality is fragmented by academic formats, mass-media headlines, market-place's interests and common sense prejudices. Instead of dealing with the "bubbles" of the surface (reduced concepts, taken for granted problems) and misrepresent or ignore what is inside the "boiling pot" (the real problems), a multidimensional ecosystemic approach and planning model articulate four dimensions of being-in-the-world (intimate, interactive, social and biophysical) for the diagnosis and prognosis of the events (desired or undesired). The dynamic configuration represented by the intersection of the four dimensions is analysed (connections and assets or deficits and ruptures), in view of their reorganisation for change (as donors and recipients). Development projects articulate communication, culture, education, ethics, citizenship, environment, health and quality of life as by-products of an ecosystemic model of culture (opposite to the current non-ecosystemic model). Heuristic-hermeneutic processes unveil current paradigms and subject-object relationships in the socio-cultural learning niches; instead of "repairing" bad situations to make them "straight", an ecosystemic approach and planning model is introduced to support public policies, community projects and teaching and research programmes, in view of a transdisciplinary and integrated approach.

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26.6. The theory of justice in a warming climate

Kunnas, Jan European University Institute, Florence, Italy

I argue that John Rawls' Theory of Justice could be used to define the goal toward which we are aiming when measuring progress. My focus is on the difference principle, which states that social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged. The paper starts from Finland, which like other Nordic states is supposed to be close to rawlsian egalitarian standards of distributive justice.

People with social problems can be defined as belonging to the group of "the least advantaged". Thus, if economic growth would reduce social problems, it would fulfill the difference principle. The notion that economic growth would reduce social problems has, however, been criticized in several studies. The least advantaged people are, however, not living within Finnish borders. It can be argued that economic growth in Finland is to the benefit for people in developing countries if it would result in more development aid. We must, however, also take into account external environmental effects of economic growth, like global climate change.

The problems related to economic growth seems to stem from the subordination of all other policy goals to it. The relevance of setting our goals gets further importance as we strive to combat climate change. Perhaps we should go back to Bentham, asking the question: What makes people happy?

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27. Track 39 – Education, long-life learning and QOL

Session Chair:

Leon Rafael Garduño Estrada, Universidad de las Américas – Puebla –
Mexico

27.1. Personal Thriving Among Early College Entrants: Academic, Personal, and Familial Predictors of Well Being

Saylor, Micheal, University of North Texas;

Boazman, Janette, University of North Texas;

Hoggan, Barbara, University of North Texas

This session compares the well being of early college entrants and college honor's students as influenced by academic, personal, and familial factors. Subjects for the studies included multiple cohorts of early entrants to university (students attending a mathematics and science residential university program two or more years earlier than normal) and of college honors students. The data are part of longitudinal studies of these subjects. Variables studied include: past and current academic performance, career success, familial patterns and expectations, personal relationships, character, psychological adjustment, and spirituality and religiosity. Embedded in the questionnaire were standardized instruments: Personal Well-being Index – Adult (PWI-A; The International Well-being Group), General Self-efficacy Scale (GSE, Jerusalem & Schwarzer, 2000), the State-Trait-Cheerfulness-Inventory (STCI-T<30>, Ruch, Köhler & van Thriel, 1996), Adult Dispositional Hope Scale (Snyder, 2000), Duke Religion Index (DRI, Koeng, Patterson, & Meador, 1997), Gratitude Questionnaire (GQ, McCullough, Emmons, & Tsang, 2002), Brief Resilient Coping Scale (BRCS; Sinclair & Watson, 2004), Parent Authority Questionnaire (PAQ; Reitman, 2002), Family Environment Scale (FES; Moos, 2002), and Theories of Intelligence Scale (TOI, Dweck, 2000). Data indicate that both early college entrants and honor's students have high levels of these markers of well being when compared to norm groups.

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27.2. The 16 Guidelines for Life Program: Ancient Tibetan Wisdom for Today

Webb, David - University of Western Australia

Murdoch, Alison - Essential Education Program, Foundation for Developing Compassion and Wisdom

In the seventh century AD, the Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo abandoned his successful career as a military leader and introduced a new legal system, built schools and temples, and invited philosophical and spiritual teachers from neighbouring India to teach his people how to be happy.

Based on a set of inspirational values and principles he introduced the '16 human dharmas' or 16 worldly dharmas' as a way to make life better for the Tibetan people, changing them from a warlike nation into a civilization renowned for its peace and serenity.

A range of different versions have been developed over the past thirteen centuries including in 2006 the 16 Guidelines for Life program which provides a simple yet arguably robust framework for reflecting on the way people think, speak, act and find meaning in their lives.

Many innovative projects have been established in schools, colleges, healthcare organisations, drug rehabilitation centres and prisons all over the globe. Suitable for people of all ages, faiths and cultural traditions they have as their underlying aim helping people develop their natural capacity for compassion and wisdom.

This paper reports on the conceptual foundation of the program and discusses its implementation across diverse settings. The author also anticipates being able to discuss preliminary findings from an exploratory empirical study of a 16 Guidelines for Life survey to be conducted in early 2009.

27.3. Literacy and well-being. What is the situation in Italy?

Cornali Federica Faculty Of Education, University Of Turin

Several studies show the benefits of education. At individual level the educational qualifications result associated with high income, greater job satisfaction, low risk of unemployment, as well as better conditions in health and happiness. At social level the benefits are also numerous. The countries whose population is well educated report a better economic growth, higher civic and political participation and reduced rates of criminality. In this regard the Italian situation seems disadvantageous: the distribution of educational qualifications is lower than the average of OECD countries. Not only, but also recent surveys which tested the skills of individuals aged between 16 and 65 — International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) and Adult Life skills Survey (ALL) — clearly document the existence of a large percentage of Italians that don't have basic literacy skills.

This paper reports an examination of the relationship between subjective well being and literacy in Italy. To this purpose, using data from IALS and ALL, have been carried out trans national comparisons with other OECD countries and national comparisons between two regions representing territorial differences in Italia: Piedmont and Campania. The results confirm the positive association between literacy and well being. However the uncertainty that remains on causal direction of several relations suggest a deepening of social mechanisms that generate the empirical regularity that has been observed.

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27.4. Relationship between the program "opportunities" and happiness and some dimensions of quality of life.

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Carvajal, Jaqueline – Universidad de las Américas, Puebla México

This research was aimed at determining the contribution of a federally sponsored program directed to increase the attendance of children to basic education to both happiness as well as to different domains of quality of life. To this end, a sample of about 200 children in very poor rural communities in Mexico participated in the study. Data were analyzed with the use of multiple regression analysis and some other statistical techniques. Results showed an impact of the program on happiness and quality of life domains like education. Results are discussed in terms of the importance of the program for the permanence of the children in school as well as on its contribution to happiness and quality of life.

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28. Track 40 – Psychometrics and Quantitative Methods

Track Chairs:

Bruno Zumbo, University of British Columbia – Canada

Anne Gadermann, University of British Columbia – Canada

Session Chairs:

Paula Elosua, University of the Basque Country – Spain

Jose Padilla, University of Granada – Spain

Jeff Pyne, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System – USA

Anne Gadermann – University of British Columbia – Canada

28.1. Happiness: methodological issues and results of a survey in Flanders

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In this paper we explore some issues in the happiness literature specifically, and the well-being literature more general, making use of the results of a survey in Flanders. We compare with the results of other happiness research and make some hypothesis for further work. The survey devotes special attention to alternative ways of questioning well-being and happiness with or without the use of (internal or external) reference points. We search for the determinants of happiness with direct questions on the one hand and with indirect estimation results on the other hand. We give special attention to the relationship between happiness and income.

The correlation between different indicators of well-being seems rather low. The highest positive correlation is found between happiness and perceived health and quality of life. There is a negative correlation with a work-life imbalance and with not buying many luxuries. Reported happiness is significantly different when there is an internal (ACSA-type) or an external (an average world citizen) point of reference. Regression results as well as indirect and direct questioning all point to the importance of health and social relations for happiness. Furthermore, the empirical results reveal a dominating impact of the individual's character (being optimistic or pessimistic) on the reported happiness. A rise or a fall in income are perceived significantly different and we observe the 'declining marginal happiness with income'.

28.2. Methodological sources of bias affecting on subjective well-being

Mazaheri Mehrdad – Uuniversity of Sistan & Baluchesta

Introduction Several types of biasing from different sources, methodology, personality, and culture-related biases, may affect on SWB measurements. A brief taxonomy of some of these biases, more specifically, response format-related biases, that are considered to affect measurements of SWB is presented here. Method A sample of volunteering students (N=1208), randomly assigned to twelve different conditions, to investigated the effects of variations in response format, differing in polarity (bipolar/ unipolar), scale orientation (horizontal versus vertical) and anchoring (-5 to +5, Not Numbered, and 0 to 10) on: (1) Subjective Well-being (SWB), and (2) using structural equation modeling (SEM), on the development and evaluation of a hypothesized model, life domains ratings (LDR), to find whether or not components of the measurement model, LDR model, are invariant across particular groups (here scores derived from different response formats). Results A negative skew was found for all response formats, but, a higher percentage of respondents scored in the upper part (Midpoint to top) of the scale with anchor points (-5 to +5) than on the scales with other anchor points (Not Numbered and 0 to 10). Our results of conducting multiple group invariance across different response formats, suggest that when using only vertical but not horizontal rating scales with different type of anchor-points, a variant in the factor loadings can appear across different groups. Conclusions Our findings

28.3. Structural equation modeling to predict life domain and subjective quality of life ratings

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The current study was done to evaluate two hypothesized models of life domain ratings (LDR) and subjective quality of life (SQOL), using structural equation modeling (SEM). Participants A sample of 301 volunteering students rated their overall life (dis)satisfaction and their (dis)satisfaction with six different life domains. Materials and procedure OSWL, ODWL, and (dis)satisfaction in different domains of life were measured by a questionnaire consisting of 14 items. Two items assessed OSWL and ODWL and the next 12 items assessed satisfaction (6 items) and dissatisfaction (6 items) in six different domains of life including; physical health (Phy. dom.), psychological well-being (Psy. dom.), social relations (Soc. dom.), leisure (Lei. dom.), financial situation (Fin. dom.) and student life (Stu. dom.). Results The results of a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) support a six-factor model of LDR based on satisfaction or dissatisfaction items. Moreover, our results indicated that, the proposed model of SQOL fit the data well, and is able to predict overall subjective quality of life. Finally using hypothesized model SQOL, overall life satisfaction and overall life dissatisfaction ratings can be predicted as two separate variables by subjective quality of life.

28.4. The perception of distance between Likert's labels in the well-being measurement.

Ester Macri, Università di Firenze – Italy

The well-known survey instrument created by the psychologist Rensis Likert ("Likert Scale"), is still now widely used in social research and in the well-being measurement too. However, this useful instrument has stimulated a great debate centred on the following question: are the category labels perceived as equidistant by respondents? The distance between "agree" and "neither agree or disagree" is not always the same between "1" and "2", but usually researchers assign cardinal values to the verbal response options .

One of the answers is that differences in perceiving labels' meaning (and consequently distance between labels) could be related to respondents' social, cultural and linguistic context. The aim of this work is to estimate differences in perceiving distances between the various Likert's labels according to countries and native languages by using some European Social Survey data refer to well-being in Europe. In this perspective, ESS Likert items have been analysed through a particular analytical approach, Multi Dimensional Scaling

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28.5. Practical Consequences of Partial Factorial Invariance

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Factorial invariance studies examine the equivalence among factorial structures across groups. Conclusions about partial factorial invariance mean that some of the model parameters (loadings, thresholds, error variances) are different for groups. It is difficult, however, for a researcher to quantify the effects (i.e., impact) of this lack of invariance on

subsequent statistical decisions based on group mean comparisons or coefficient alpha comparisons across groups.

The aim of this work was to assess the empirical consequences of lack of invariance. We simulated data from a one unidimensional model for two groups and we generated partial invariance by manipulating loadings, thresholds and error variances parameters. Different conditions were evaluated to assess the impact of number of non-invariant items (Differential Item Functioning items, DIF), magnitude of differences, and sense of the difference. Implications of partial factorial invariance are discussed.

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28.6. Improving validity of quality of life measures by detecting polytomous differential item functioning

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Benitez, Isabel, University of Granada

Including psychological scales and questionnaires in survey questionnaires as measures of quality of life has become a common practice in the last years. Psychometric concepts and techniques can help researchers to improve validity of quality of life measures. The focus of this paper is the Differential Item Functioning (DIF) analysis. Few studies have been conducted on Differential Item Functioning (DIF) analysis in survey data as compared with DIF research in educational test and psychological questionnaire. When survey purposes involve different cultural and linguistic groups, survey researchers could take advantage of DIF study results in order to make much more solid interpretations of measures rejecting alternative interpretations about lack of functional equivalence. As an empirical example, partial results of polytomous DIF analysis performed on the Spanish version of the General Health Questionnaire will be presented. The Spanish version of the GHQ is included in a national health survey. Polytomous DIF analysis comparing groups defined by a set of demographic variables were conducted by Logistic Regression analysis. Finally, the theoretical convergence between DIF results and evidence provided by qualitative methods will be also discussed as a means to improve the validity of quality of life measures.

28.7. Investigating the factor structure of the Well-Being Module of the European Social Survey

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Zumbo Bruno D., University of British Columbia
Huppert Felicia A., University of Cambridge

OBJECTIVE: The Well-Being Module (WBM) of the European Social Survey consists of 54 items that are based on the hedonic and eudaimonic approaches to well-being, and incorporate personal and interpersonal aspects. The objective of this study was to investigate the factor structure of the WBM to identify short informative summary measures of well-being that can be used for the analysis of these data and in future survey research.

METHOD: At the time of analysis, data had been collected in 23 countries across Europe with a total sample size of 43,000. The data set was randomly split into two samples. One sample was used for an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to investigate the factor structure and reduce the number of items (which was done in an iterative process based on conceptual and statistical reasons). The other sample was used for a cross-validation of the factor structure with a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA).

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS: The final model of the EFA consisted of 20 items pertaining to 5 domains: Positive affect, negative affect, satisfaction with life, personal functioning, and interpersonal feelings (RMSEA = .04; CFI = .99; TLI = .99). This model was cross-validated with the second sample using CFA. The fit indices indicated an acceptable model fit (RMSEA = .06; CFI = .91; TLI = .98). Our results provide recommendations for combining the WBM items into subscales for analytic purposes, and for using these subscales in future well-being research.

28.8. The use of latent variable mixture modeling to examine the extent to which people are consistent in their responses to questions about their emotional wellbeing.

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Latent variable mixture analysis was used to examine whether individuals in a diverse sample responded in a consistent fashion to a variety of items measuring emotional wellbeing. **METHODS:** The data were obtained from patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at two medical clinics and adults on a waitlist for knee-replacement surgery, and from a stratified random community sample of adults in British Columbia, Canada (N = 1,666). An item bank consisting of 37 questions measuring emotional wellbeing was constructed based on a review of 32 QOL instruments (Kopec et al 2006). A 2-parameter IRT mixture model was specified by allowing the items' thresholds and factor loadings to vary across two latent classes. **RESULTS:** Relative to a one-class model, improved model fit was obtained when the measurement model parameters were allowed to vary across two

latent classes. Significant differences between the latent classes were observed for the parameters of several items, most predominantly those that were reverse-scaled. Emotional wellbeing scores adjusted for latent class membership were lower in class 1 (median difference = -0.27) and higher in class 2 (median difference = 0.32) relative to those based on a one-class model. CONCLUSIONS: People may not interpret and respond to all items measuring emotional wellbeing in a consistent fashion. Such inconsistencies could threaten the validity of comparing emotional wellbeing scores that are based on different sets of items.

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28.9. Longitudinal Association of Preference-Weighted Health-Related Quality of Life Measures and Substance Use Disorder Outcomes

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French, Michael, Departments of Sociology, Economics, and Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Miami, Miami, Florida

Objective: Examine the validity of preference-weighted health-related quality of life (HRQL) measures in a sample of patients with a substance use disorder (SUD).

Methods: Longitudinal data (baseline and 6-months) from 495 subjects with a SUD were analyzed from a study to test interventions to improve linkage and engagement with substance abuse treatment. Subjects completed the following preference-weighted measures: self-administered Quality of Well-Being scale (QWB-SA) and standard gamble weighted Medical Outcomes Study SF-12 (SF-12 SG); and clinical measures: Addiction Severity Index (ASI) and a SUD symptom checklist.

Results: In unadjusted analyses, the QWB-SA and SF-12 SG change scores were significantly correlated with six of seven ASI change scores. The change scores for neither the QWB-SA nor SF-12 SG were significantly correlated with changes in ASI employment status. In adjusted analyses, 3/7 ASI subscale scores were significantly correlated with changes in the QWB-SA and 5/7 ASI subscale scores were significantly correlated with changes in the SF-12 SG. Abstinence and remission were associated with statistically and clinically significant increases in the QWB-SA and SF-12 SG (range 0.046 to 0.064). Abstinence and remission effect sizes ranged from 0.352 to 0.585.

Conclusions: Both the QWB-SA and SF-12 SG appear to be valid measures of preference-weighted HRQL in patients with SUDs. Circumstances for using each measure will be discussed.

28.10. Predictors of Health-related Quality of Life in HIV Patients with Depression

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Tripathi, Shant, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System*

Objective: Previous studies consistently identify depression as an important predictor of health-related quality of life (HRQL) in HIV patients. To our knowledge there are no papers comparing the sensitivity or predictors of HRQL in HIV patients using different HRQL measures. In this paper we compare the sensitivity and predictors of two generic HRQL measures in a sample of depressed HIV patients.

Methods: 249 subjects completed baseline assessments as part of an ongoing study to test a collaborative care intervention to improve depression care in HIV patients. The HRQL measures included: self-administered Quality of Well-Being scale (QWB-SA) and the standard gamble weighted version of the SF-12 (SF-12 SG). Step-wise regression methods were used to determine significant predictors.

Results: Significant QWB-SA predictors (decreasing t-value order) included: depression severity, HIV symptom count, current panic disorder, number chronic physical illnesses, and income ($F=25.95$, $p<0.001$, adjusted R-squared=0.39). Significant SF-12 SG predictors included: depression severity, number chronic physical illnesses, and HIV symptom count ($F=51.19$, $p<0.001$, adjusted R-square=0.38).

Conclusions: The variance explained by each HRQL is similar. The QWB-SA includes a wider range of significant predictors. The choice of which measure to use can be made on the basis of time to complete (favoring SF-12) or interventions that target a wider range of predictors (favoring QWB-SA).

28.11. Development of the Revised Subjective Well-being Scale for Chinese Citizen and Its Nationwide norms

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In previous studies, we have developed subjective well-being scale for Chinese citizen (SWBS-CC) including 54 items. The scale was applied to a sample from Shandong province, and a local norms was achieved. Sampling from a wider area in mainland of China, this research examined the psychometrics of SWBS-CC. Based on the examination, the scale was revised and improved through factor analysis and logical analysis. The revised SWBS-CC included 40 items, and shown good psychometric properties. The norms sample was expanded to six capital cities from the whole country, and the nationwide norms was achieved.

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28.12. Happiness scores – not a good measure of quality of life

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INTRODUCTION: Economists are increasingly interested in life satisfaction or happiness scores. However, it is well known within the field of choice modelling that such rating scale measures are vulnerable to bias: respondents who naturally use upper portions of the scale have artificially low scope for improvement. Choice-based measures based on relative preferences for important aspects of quality of life have better properties (Lee et al 2007). The ICECAP instrument (Coast et al 2008) is such a measure.

METHODS: ICECAP was administered to 4300 citizens of Bristol, UK. Index values, previously elicited from a choice experiment, were applied to respondents' five ICECAP answers. Regression models explained variation in scores by sociodemographic and other variables, among Bristolians and among a pilot survey of 530 Australians who answered ICECAP.

RESULTS: Contrary to quality of life as valued by ICECAP, the older a British respondent was, the higher (s)he rated his/her life. Regression models suggested the trough in middle age quality of life is more severe in Australia.

CONCLUSIONS: Public policies that value capacity to benefit using happiness scores may discriminate against older people. ICECAP can quantify such effects and facilitate international comparisons that are not vulnerable to cultural factors in the use of happiness scores.

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29. Track 41 – Objective and subjective approaches in measuring differences in QOL

Track and Session Chairs:

Kenneth Land, Duke University – USA

Filomena Maggino, Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

29.1. Happiness inequality – in search for a new (and better) measure

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My presentation deals with differences in subjective quality of life. More precisely it deals with the question how inequality of happiness within nations can be measured in a theoretically meaningful way by use of a single, comprehensive index – much like the Gini index summarizes objective income inequality. So far, Veenhoven and collaborators have established the standard deviation of happiness/life satisfaction as the "gold standard" (Kalmijn and Veenhoven, 2005; Ott, 2005; Veenhoven, 2005). However, my presentation questions, for conceptual reasons, the appropriateness of the standard deviation as an inequality measure. My key argument is that it overlooks the paradox of inequality – saying that in very unequal societies, many are of equal status (Blau, 1977). It is shown that the standard deviation does a perfect job in measuring happiness diversity, but falls short in measuring happiness inequality. Hence for the latter a different approach is needed, and a new happiness gini is introduced. With the help of this new happiness gini I demonstrate which countries stand out as most equal and most unequal, and finally I discuss some country-level determinants of happiness inequality.

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29.2. Between “objective” and “subjective” quality of life measures. Material living standards and individual perception of life in a central Bosnia and Herzegovina area

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The lack of congruency between “subjective” and “objective” measures in the quality of life studies has been subject of discussion since long time (Diener e Suh 1997; Easterlin 1995; Oswald 1997; Cantril (1965), Ouwenel e Veenhoven (1991), Diener et. al. (1995), Schyns (1998), Inglehart e Klingemann (2000) e Hagerty e Veenhoven (2003)

The paper will follow this line using data recollected in a survey conducted in a small rural village in the Zavidovici’s area (Bosnia Herzegovina), where 150 women were interviewed using a questionnaire aimed at studying material living standards and subjective satisfaction on life.

Our aim is not to re-open an ancient debate on the theoretical soundness of different type of measures, but to show another occasion in which looking at only one “side of the street” may be a source of misinterpretation.

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29.3. Measuring Life Satisfaction: Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up Approaches

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Two approaches contribute to explaining the individual level variation of Overall Life Satisfaction (OvLS) and of Satisfaction with various Life Domains (DS): the bottom-up approach include considering each DS as predictor for the OvLS; the top-down perspective conceives DS as explained by the OvLS (Diener, 1984).

The basic argument for the first approach is that (objectively) fulfilling a specific need will increase the DS, implicitly increasing the OvLS.

The second approach finds implicit support in Cummins (2003) argument and empirical testing of the normativeness of life satisfaction (LS). People tend to adjust their LS in a certain range of values, depending on the average LS in their society. Most of the people tend to adjust their LS towards the positive values, avoiding a long term cognitive dissonance. This may apply to both the OvLS and to the DS. It implies that both tend towards similar levels of equilibrium, being inter-correlated, as other papers showed up (Ferran Casas et al., 2004; Hsieh, 2003).

Previous analysis, using various methodologies, provided a slightly stronger support for the top-down perspective (see Leonardi et al., 1999).

In our paper, we use structural equation modeling and the EQLS 2003 dataset, in order to test both approaches, controlling for the objective fulfillment of specific needs. We show up that the top-down model better fits the data, but the differences when considering aggregate country level indicators are not very high.

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29.4. Methodologies to integrate subjective and objective information to build well-being indicators

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The integration of objective and subjective indicators represents a crucial approach in order to come up with a solid scientific result and understanding of quality of life, also in the social policy perspectives.

Moreover, the need to integrate subjective and objective information comes from different sources (statistical offices and survey) and is causing a growing demand in the study of well-being and happiness of societies.

For this reason the definition of an integrating model is needed. This model requires firstly the definition of a conceptual framework from which it is possible to identify the proper analytical approach (causal analysis, multilevel analysis, life-course analysis, or explorative analyses). Secondly, it requires an organizational context in which the integration can be accomplished by relying on structured and systematic data, observed in long-term longitudinal perspective (e.g. systems of indicators) and in which particular technical issues (i.e. aggregation issues) can be managed.

The paper will discuss these aspects by referring in particular to the feasibility of the different statistical approaches taking into account their specific assumptions. The goal is to describe a procedure able to yield results, not only statistically valid and consistent with reference to the defined conceptual framework, but also easy to read and interpret at policy level

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29.5. Integrating subjective and objective information: an application on European data

Ruviglioni, Elena, Università Degli Studi Di Firenze

The paper describes a procedure aimed at integrating objective and subjective data by showing an applicative study on quality of life.

The study has been carried out on both subjective (from the European Social Survey project) and objective (provided by the Joint Research Centre – JRC – European Commission) data. The application shows how a simple integrative approach is able to reveal its efficacy in the perspective objective and subjective information.

The Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit (EAS) of the JRC has actually and fruitfully contributed to the preparation of this study.

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29.6. Child QoL and Poverty: Limits and Strengths in Objective and Subjective Approaches in an Empirical Investigation

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The main aim of this paper is to compare objective and subjective approaches in analysing child QoL and poverty.

In particular, we apply the methodology developed by Alkire and Foster (2008) to children using objective and subjective approach to show the strengths and the limits of the two.

The first case analysed concerns that of Afghans children.

The data collected during the survey by Handicap International have taken into consideration many dimensions of children wellbeing usually missing in standard surveys, but several of which are subjective.

The second case regards an ad hoc survey carried out in a slum area of New Delhi. In this case a subjective approach is adopted.

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29.7. Trends in the development of social indicators

Ostasiewicz Walenty – Wrocław University of Economics

After some period of stagnation in the researches of social indicators, the last decades have witnessed a renewed efforts in construction of social indicators. This paper intends to give a critical overview of the main strains of the researches in this field. It discusses also the problem of an extension of the traditional social reporting by the reporting of institutional performances with respect to their social value creation, as well as to supplement these reports by regular social hearings in order to identify new social demands.

29.8. Life Expectancy at Birth : Proposed Measure for Human Well-being

Mazumdar Krishna – Economic Research Unit Indian Statistical Institute

Human well being is the center of all human activities. Associated with this is the issue of measurement of human well being. This study proposes to measure human well being in terms of achievement in life expectancy at birth. . The reason behind is that, people expected to be most happy with added years of life - each and every people in each and every society in all time all over the world aspires for longer life. In fact, increase in life expectancy is an important manifestation of improvement in human well being. More over, life expectancy is associated with many other indicators representing human well-being. Therefore, it is worthy to obtain what are the major factors those determine the life expectancy of the people of a country. In this context, the study formulates a simultaneous equations model. Data for 2005 are used to estimate the model. Ultimately, relevant policies for improvement in life expectancies have been suggested.

30. Track 42 – Multidimensional and longitudinal analyses of objective and subjective well-being

Track and Session Chairs:

Peter Krause, Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung – Germany

Stefano Tarantola, Joint Research Centre – European Commission

30.1. On the Use of Social Clocks for Monitoring Multidimensional Social Development

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The conceptualization of social development as a multi- and not only a unidimensional process is certainly a major step towards a more realistic monitoring of societies. However, from the methodological point of view, it makes comparisons between social trends relatively difficult, as the units of different indicators are often hard to compare. This paper presents a solution to this problem of incommensurability by introducing the concept of social clocks (Mueller, 2005). They are represented by reference trajectories of the best performing, the average, or other reference countries with regard to different dimensions of development, such as e.g. the GDP per capita or the average educational attainment. Following an idea of P. Sicherl (1992) it is possible to determine, how many years a given country is ahead or behind the different reference trajectories mentioned before. Thus, time becomes the central concept for comparisons between (a) social indicators, (b) countries, and (c) points in time. It allows to determine whether there are asynchronies between different dimensions of the development of a country, how much it is behind or ahead of other countries, and whether its development is accelerating or slowing down. The fruitfulness of this approach is illustrated by analyses of the multidimensional development of the prospective East European member countries of the EU, about which Eurostat (2001, 2002, 2003) has published suitable figures regarding the period 1995-2006.

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30.2. On the integration of objective and subjective indicators through Bayesian networks: the case of active citizenship.

Mascherini Massimiliano - European Commission- Joint Research Centre
Tarantola Stefano - European Commission- Joint Research Centre

Over the last few decades, there has been an increase in the number of composite indicators (CIs) developed by various national and international agencies. Unfortunately, individual indicators are sometimes selected and grouped arbitrarily with little attention paid to the interrelationships between them.

Different approaches, such as PCA, can be used to explore whether the theoretical dimensions of the phenomenon are correctly identified in the composite indicator. Here we propose a Bayesian Networks approach to test the validity of a given structure of a CI and then we use the identified network for inferential purpose.

A Bayesian network is a graph-based model of joint multivariate probability distributions that captures properties of conditional independence between variables. Such models are effective to characterize probabilistic and causal relations among variables providing a clear methodology for learning from observations and performing probabilistic inference through very efficient algorithms.

In this paper we assess the structure of the Active Citizenship Composite Indicator, based on individual subjective variables, through the application of structural learning algorithms and we compare the results with the structure found by PCA. Then, we use the Bayesian Network model identified earlier, to establish possible causal relations between Active Citizenship and socio-economic objective indicators. The results confirm the effectiveness of the method applied.

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30.3. Economic development, human development and human rights: conceptual and empirical linkages for an integrated perspective

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It has been widely recognized that human rights and human development are the two faces of the same coin. In its fundamental contribution, Sen's human development and capability approach defines the aim of the development process as the expansion of human freedoms. Due to the overlapping ultimate objective of these two conceptual frameworks, a human rights-based approach to development must be adopted. Moreover, the idea that development and progress should be conceived in a multi-dimensional perspective belongs to both human rights and human development principles. An important aspect of adopting a rights-based approach to development is the possibility to monitor the progress in the realization of different dimensions of the rights to development. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the debate regarding the possibility to build up an integrated indicator of human rights and human development. It will analyze the linkages between indicators of economic development, human development and human rights, focusing in particular on economic and social rights (such as, right to education, to a decent work, etc). The objective is to observe if

these dimensions can represent the starting point to construct an aggregate indicator of rights-based human development.

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30.4. Why are middle-aged people so depressed? Evidence from West-German panel data

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Contemporary research about the effect of age on happiness is mixed. Some studies have shown an increase in happiness with age (i.e. Argyle 2001). More recent studies however reveal a u-shaped curve of either highest depression rates during mid-age (i.e. Blanchflower & Oswald 2008) or highest happiness levels (Easterlin 2006). All these studies, however, do not control for three confounding time variables: age, period and cohort effects. Only recently Yang (2008) has detected age, period and cohort effects in repeated cross-sectional US General Social Surveys over the last three decades.

Our analysis carries these findings forward to panel-data from West-Germany (GSOEP). By following individuals over 20 years, we can discern the complex developing composition of individual happiness. We run hierarchical 3-level variance component models (Rabe-Hesketh & Skrondal, 2005) and find a cubic age function with lowest level at mid-age. Also there is a period reunification effect and there are strong cohort effects drawing a line between pre- and post-war cohorts, baby boomers and off-springs of the baby bust. Moreover, happiness in mid-life is particularly determined by returns of professional and family life investments. Unemployment and the loss of the partner are scarring. Financial and health satisfaction are crucial. But all these determinants have a stark gender bias and a life cycle rationale.

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31. Track 43 – Comparative issues and cross-country surveys

Track and Session Chair:

Paolo Parra Saiani, Università Cattolica di Milano – Italy

31.1. Does Relative Standing Matter for Subjective Well-Being? Evidence from an International Cross-Section

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Dalenberg, Douglas, University of Montana, USA

Using changes in subjective well-being (SWB) as a way to evaluate economic progress is problematic because, over time in most locations, SWB has not shown a discernable trend. One way to explain this stylized fact – sometimes referred to as the ‘Easterlin Paradox’ – is that expectations quickly catch up to improvements in economic status, leaving relative income and long-term SWB unchanged. The literature on relative income and SWB in wealthy countries has consistently shown a negative correlation between peer income and satisfaction. However, some recent work in less-developed countries finds the opposite result, suggesting that the benefit of living among wealthier people and the public goods it brings may outweigh the negatives associated with being the poorest of a peer group. We use the World Values Survey to explore the effects of relative income across nations with widely varying per-capita incomes.

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31.2. Does Government Make People Happier?: Comparative Studies of Economy, Health, and Government's Roles in Quality of Life

Seoyong Kim (Ajou University)

Donggeun Kim (Ajou University)

KangHyun Shin(Ajou University)

Our studies empirically analyze whether or not government can make people happier. Generally the economic, political and health conditions are often referred as the determinants for quality of life. Although governments have influenced to the largest extent general people's quality of life, there have been very few studies over their roles, effectiveness and conditions for the sake of increasing the happiness.

Hence, it needs to answer the questions as follows: "What's relative power of government, compared to economic, political and health factors, in determining QOL?", "What's conditions for government to do something for quality of life?"

We try to answer those questions by doing comparative studies at the national level. The studies consist of two parts: First, we tests which factors including economic, political health and government relatively contribute to increasing the subjective wellbeing of nation. We confirm their relative power between four factors by making the regression test. Second, we find out the conditions by which government influences the quality of life. Those conditions include not only government's visible capacity factors such as its accountability and effectiveness, but also government's invisible ones such as openness and trust in government. This empirical study uses the raw data from World Bank, OECD statistic achieve, WHO(World Health Organization), ISSP(International Social Survey Program), World Value Survey, Euro barometer, GSS, The QOG

31.3. Fuzzy Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA): new opportunities for QOL comparative studies

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Case comparison in space, properties and time is an important element of social and political sciences. QCA (Qualitative Comparative Analysis) takes up a not well-defined space between qualitative and quantitative approaches, trying to go beyond the limits of both methods: it helps in works making comparisons between a medium-sized number of cases (10-30), in order to identify sufficient and necessary conditions for a specific studied outcome. In this sense, QCA does not estimate QOL but helps social researchers to interpreting empirical and theoretical patterns of conditions which are supposed to be linked to an observed outcome (QOL, for example). Statistical techniques are often not useful to compare a medium-sized number of cases, whereas case studies can be applied to more than 5 cases only with notable difficulty and unlikely for more than 10 cases: occupying this space between the two approaches, QCA hallows the analysis of causal complexity and process "equivinality".

Thus, QOL studies are a very interesting field for QCA (especially its Fuzzy-Set QCA version) for offered comparative possibilities, in term of number of cases and time series. In particular, QCA increases social research numbers to compare cases on QOL because of its capability not to refer only to quantitative index but integrating this information with a theoretical one: in these terms we can think QCA as a method between qualitative and quantitative approach

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31.4. Justice Evaluations as an Indicator of Subjective Well-Being: Measurement Issues.

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According to Senghaas, justice is one out of six prominent prerequisites of stability in modern societies. Perceived violations of standards of justice will lead to various symptoms of distress both on the individual (micro) level and on the societal (macro) level. We propose to treat perceived justice of a society as an essential part of people's subjective well-being. People

who think that they live in a society where justice principles are permanently violated should be prone to a variety of psychological symptoms.

(1) All distributions of social goods may be evaluated according to the question whether they are in line with justice standards or not. Wegener and Jasso made a proposal how to measure justice evaluations of income distributions: The Wegener-Jasso Justice Index JI sums the absolute values of the logged ratios of Is- and Ought-income for two occupations to calculate the perceived justice of an income distribution. In several international surveys (ISSP modules on social inequality I-III, ISJP), there was a battery of items allowing a calculation of the index. Our measure of justice evaluations is an alternative to the Wegener-Jasso Justice Index JI: it (a) uses all items available (i.e. nine occupations instead of two) and (b) allows additional interpretation. Using ISSP data, we look for individual correlates of our measures with various indicators of SES, and for cross-country differences of these relationships.

31.5. The Use of Data Suites for the Comparative and Global Analysis of QOL

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Traditionally, most indicators for the analysis of QOL are measured on the country level. This has recently been criticized as “methodological nationalism” (e.g. Beck 2002, Martins 1974), as this national focus may not be able to grasp current processes of globalization adequately. Such global trends (Beck’s example is the world risk society; one could add the internet, migration etc.) become ever more important for individual’s QOL. New units of analysis beyond the nation-state may be needed. There is, however, a problem with missing data for alternative levels of analysis.

To circumvent these problems, we introduced the idea of data suites (Anheier 2007). The basic idea behind indicator suites is that indicators of different units of analysis, and even with incomplete data, can still be brought together in a thematic (not statistical) way, and generate insights about relevant aspects of the relationship between globalization and QOL. Indicator suites are a compromise in the sense that they take the inchoate and incomplete state of quantitative indicators as a given, at least for the medium term, while refusing to accept the interpretative limitations this state imposes on descriptive analysis. The notion of indicator suites is informed by Tufte’s (1997; 2001) approach to the visual display of quantitative information.

We would like to discuss benefits and problems of this approach and assess its usefulness for the analysis of QOL in comparative and global perspective.

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31.6. Human values and subjective well-being. A study in an Italian context.

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Sciarra Caterina, University Of Florence

In the ambit of a quality-of-life project, firstly supposed to be used in order to help local authorities to improve their policy standards, two different surveys have been carried out in two middle small urban contexts in Italy (Fucecchio and Atri) by using the same questionnaire design.

Moreover, collected data allowed researchers to investigate thoroughly the relationships between subjective well-being and human values, observed in terms of importance that each individual attach to life ambits.

In this perspective, one of the questionnaire's areas aimed at studying human values by applying the well-known Thurstone scaling approach by asking interviewees to rank eight ambits (friendship, physical aspect, career, culture, family, earnings, social relationship and health).

The results of the analytical approach allowed us to point towards three main goals:

- testing the methodological soundness of Thurstone scaling approach in studying human values
- studying the relationship between human values and subjective well-being in cross-cultural comparison. This will be done in the perspective of managing "Thurstone data" as importance weights in building complex well-being indicators (F. Maggino, 2004)
- analysing differences and similarities between the two cultural contexts: data allowed us to understand how interaction between subjective well-being and human values may vary by shifting from a context to another, thought they can be considered similar at a macro level

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31.7. Are there cultural differences in the relationship between socioeconomic status and children's development and wellbeing?

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Gadermann, Anne, University of British Columbia

Hertzman, Clyde, University of British Columbia

Zumbo, Bruno D., University of British Columbia

Background

Previous research has found that there are large cultural differences with regard to the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and indicators of human development and well-being (Keating and Hertzman 1999).

Objective

The objective of this paper is to investigate whether the relationship between children's developmental outcomes and well-being and their families' SES is similar or different for the three largest cultural/linguistic groups of children in British Columbia (BC), Canada (English-speaking children, and Punjabi-, and Cantonese-speaking immigrant children).

Data source

In BC, Kindergarten children's physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, cognitive development, and communication skills are annually assessed by their Kindergarten teachers via the Early Development Instrument (EDI), and these data have been linked to SES indicators (i.e., family income from census data).

Method

A multilevel analysis was conducted to investigate whether the relationship between children's EDI scores and family SES differs systematically for the English-, Cantonese- and Punjabi-speaking children (N>30,000).

Results

For the English-, and Cantonese-speaking children, EDI scores were equally positively related to SES. For the Punjabi-speaking children, however, SES was not correlated with EDI scores.

Implication

The findings suggest that SES/family income is associated in culturally different ways to developmentally relevant processes.

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31.8. Comparing the Quality of Life in the United States with other Affluent Societies

Anderson, Ronald, University of Minnesota

This project began with a goal to conceptualize and implement an indicator system for altruistic behaviors and compassionate policies in order to compare affluent societies, and ultimately communities. Drawing upon existing research and data on social well-being and quality of life, an indicator framework was designed with nine domains, one of which was altruistic actions. The other domains were socio-economic well-being, child well-being, human life, health, non-violence, integrity and social justice, civil society, and environment.

Existing data were used for a collection of 50 indicators across the twenty most affluent countries. The data included not only OECD statistics, but also indices from private organizations such as Privacy International, the ISSP and the World Values Survey.

Consistent with Lindert (2004) and Pontusso (2005) the Nordic countries and Netherlands topped off the socio-economic index, but Japan, Switzerland, and Belgium joined this group at the top of the child well-being index. In some domains such as “integrity and social justice,” the majority of countries clustered around the middle of the distribution

It may be surprising to some that the United States falls at or near the bottom of each of the domain indices. One possible explanation is that the quality of life overall in the United States deteriorated over the past two decades under the influence of neoliberal and conservative policies that allowed the welfare of the wealthy to grow while t

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31.9. Subjective Well-Being in Post-Socialist Countries: Comparative Study of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan

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Although most people appreciate the increasing freedom and expansion of goods and services in their countries that come along with development into a market economy, the mean levels of life satisfaction have not improved after twenty years of transition and there is an apparent feeling of nostalgia towards to “good old days”. The study aims to understand how happiness is structured during the period of transition by looking at two former Soviet Union countries: Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. The data of the study is based on two survey projects: *Quality of Life in Central Asia and Caucasus: Case Studies of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (2006)*, and *Life in Transition Survey (2007)*. The results of the study confirmed the previous findings in the literature of happiness in transition, such as the influence of age, educational level and labor market status of the people on their subjective well-being. Through applying Allardt's (1993) welfare model, for Having, the study showed that people's life satisfaction is determined by both their current living standards and their evaluations of it with the past living conditions in both countries. Moreover, peoples' comparison of their living standards with their reference groups leads to low level of life satisfaction. Referring to Being, it has been found that increasing anomie is one of the most significant reasons of high levels of dissatisfaction with life.

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32. Track 44 – Qualitative methods in measuring QOL

Track and Session Chair:

Laura Camfield, University of Oxford – UK

32.1. "Unable to get what her friends have - even if she learns, she doesn't understand properly". Children's understandings of illbeing and poverty in five Ethiopian communities

Camfield, Laura, Young Lives, University of Oxford

Participatory research into how people living in material poverty define and experience poverty is increasingly common in developed and developing countries, highlighting the importance of being respected and able to preserve one's dignity, and having meaningful choices. Similar studies on perceptions of poverty and inequality have been carried out with children in North America and Europe, but almost none in developing countries, possibly because asking poor children in the global South about poverty is felt to be in dubious taste. The paper presents a study that used concepts of living well and badly as a vehicle for a qualitative exploration of Ethiopian children's understandings of poverty. It reviews qualitative literature on children's understandings of poverty and explores whether their predominant conception of poverty as comprising social exclusion, marginalisation, and stigmatisation is equally applicable in an Ethiopian context. The paper draws on data from qualitative research with a sub-sample of children (n=100, aged 5-13) from Young Lives, an international study of childhood poverty. It addresses two research questions: firstly, how do understandings of ill-being and its determinants differ between different types of community and children from different backgrounds within those communities? Secondly, what is the place of material poverty in children's understandings of ill-being and ways to improve the lives of children living badly?References

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32.2. Facilitating versus difficulting factors of personal well-being in adolescence from the point of view of 12 to 16 year-old secondary school students.

Malo, Sara

Navarro, Dolors

Alfaro, Jaime

González, Mònica

Casas, Ferran

Viñas, Ferran

A qualitative study, through the technique of group semi structured interviews, has been conducted with adolescents aged 12 to 16 years-old, with the aim of deepening in their understanding of the concept of personal well-being.

According to that objective, four different one-hour long interviews were carried out in the school setting with between seven and eight adolescents participating in each one. In all the four groups the adolescents, which were divided according to their scholar course and equivalent in terms of gender, were encouraged to talk about the elements which most contribute to personal well-being at their age.

Each session was recorded and transcribed literally afterwards. Two researchers created their own system of categories independently through the application of content analysis and using the guide of topics designed for the study just as a departure point. A third system of categories was agreed on during a long discussion within the research team.

The results obtained show which are the key elements the concept of personal well-being is composed of according to the participants and, also, which factors most facilitate or seem to add difficulties to their own personal well-being. Within both types of factors, both psychological and psychosocial variables are strongly considered. In this paper attention will be focused on describing the structure of categories which emerge from the followed procedure and the implications for the study of well-being.

32.3. Political Worries and QOL: how do Dutch citizens feel about society and how does that relate to their own well-being?

Schyns, Peggy, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research

In the Netherlands, every three months a sample of 1100 Dutch people is asked about their view on their personal life, Dutch society and Dutch politics. In addition to closed questions, the questionnaire also offers the opportunity to respondents to use their own words about certain societal and political issues.

In this paper, I will particularly look at how people talk about worries they have when thinking about contemporary Dutch society. How do they express themselves? How do they explain how they feel? Do they relate their worries to their own well-being? The qualitative programme Atlas-Ti is used to analyze and code responses to this open-ended question, and to relate it to how these worries are related to a person's well-being. Are people who worry more about society also less satisfied with their lives, or is rather the reverse that people who are satisfied with their lives are also more interested in the world outside, hence leaving them more open to worry about societal issues?

This qualitative analysis is an exploratory attempt to look at connections between personal and societal well-being.

32.4. The Significance of Fuzzy Approach in Studying Quality of Life

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Quality of life involves several aspects of life which are different according to the cultural backgrounds. Thoughts, values, visions, goals, and preferences regarding an ideal life are under the influence of culture.

Some social scientists assume quality of life as sense of welfare, sense of meaningfully and sense of value are three aspects of quality of life. According to some other definitions, quality of life reflects the quality of physical, emotional and social roles of members. The degree of concordance between the ideal and the current life is part of quality of life.

Considering that, the main aspects of quality of life are associated with the person's perception. This paper mainly focused on this question: how these perceptions can be reduced to the crisp variables to imply the quality of life? is and also, whether or not this method is accepted for analyzing of real world. Specifically, the use of Fuzzy sets for the accurate assessment of the quality of life.

Fuzzy sets not only imply if a person belongs to a specific set or not, but also indicate the intensity of belonging, using a score between 0 to 1. These sets evaluate the concepts more accurately and delicately than the crisp sets.

Overall, in this paper we demonstrate the common indices for quality of life and try to show that how through Fuzzy evaluation of these indices, the status of quality of life and the proportion of individuals in each category will change.

33. Track 45 – Measuring QOL through mixed methods

Session Chairs:

Jennifer C. Greene, University of Illinois – USA

Paolo Parra Saiani, Università Cattolica di Milano – Italy

33.1. A Framework and Measures for Monitoring QOL

Abbott L. Ferriss

Ten domains of the QOL provide a framework for measuring change in the well being of communities and regions. The ten domains include: Survival of the Species, Social Acceptance, Mastery, Affective Autonomy, Intellectual Autonomy, Egalitarian Commitment, Harmony, Conservatism, Hierarchy, Health. Each domain is measured by several social indicators from household surveys, government reports, or physical observations.. The ideal or desirable levels of measures may be set forth as goals by which progress may be evaluated . Procedures for combining domain indicators are suggested. The framework and measures may be applied to the Global Project Measuring the Progress of Societies.

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33.2. The history of Quality of life studies through a textual analysis of abstracts of Social Indicators Research articles

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Orsini Sante, Istituto Nazionale Di Statistica

Many theoretical contributions and researches exist on quality of life's issue. In order to study whether and how the way of dealing the "quality of life" concept has changed over time, a textual analysis has been conducted on titles and abstracts of articles published from 1974 to 2007 in the Social Indicators Research journal. Founded in 1974, Social Indicators Research has become the leading journal as regards the publication of results from researches that deal with problems related to the quality of life. The study intends carrying out a textual analysis of the articles (titles and abstracts) to identify the issues related to the Qol's concept and to have a synthetic idea on how the journal's scientific contributions have evolved over time.

More than 1.500 abstracts were downloaded from the journal's website and they are divided in sub-texts based on period of publication. Through the textual analysis it has been possible to compare the different sub-texts to know how the terms related to Qol have changed over the years. In synthesis, the study highlights an evolution of the concept throughout the years and a change from its original connotations: from a first period

markedly characterized by a planning approach related to policy decision, to a recent period, when the discussed topics are more articulated and more related to social subjects.

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33.3. A Composite Index of Well-Being

Bhattacharya, Sonali Dr

Hindu philosophy as evident from the knowledge of ancient Vedas realizes three stages of happiness: Materialistic Happiness, Mental Happiness and Spiritualistic Happiness, almost always in that order. An attempt has been made to understand the tri-dimensional concept of happiness and combining them to arrive at a Composite Index of Happiness and evaluate performance of various Nations in their persistency to achieve these dimensions of happiness. Therefore, political and socio-economic well being as well as law and order and technological well-being were taken as indicators of Materialistic Well-Being. Average of indexes for World Bank governance indicators 2008 was taken as proxy variable of political well-being. The indicators of economic well-being were taken as price level indexes, domestic and foreign market indicators, Gini's index and gross national savings and unemployment rate as well as fiscal deficit indicators. Social indicators were represented by Education (for All) Development Index(EDI), gender parity index, environmental well-being as well as family life index. Life satisfaction Index based on World Database of Happiness was taken as proxy variable for mental happiness. Importance given by society to practice of traditional values and virtues like honesty, trust, work ethics, tolerance and regulation on religion practices were taken as proxy variable for Spiritual Happiness Indicator.

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34. Track 46 – International Well-Being Index

Track and Session Chairs:

Robert Cummins, Deakin University – Australia

Anna L.D. Lau, Hong Kong Polytechnic University – China

34.1. Who are the supporters of Croatian membership in the European Union and NATO? Predictive value of Personal and National well-being

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Babarovic, Toni - Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia;

Cilic Burusic, Lidija - High School Dugo Selo, Zagreb, Croatia

The Republic of Croatia is a candidate member of associations such as the EU and NATO. Croatia's full membership in the mentioned associations is expected in the near future. Whether this membership will improve the quality of life for Croatian citizens is a fundamental issue in current public discussions. In this study, we tested if there are any differences between Croatian citizens who support and those who are opposed to Croatia's membership in the EU and NATO with respect to personal and national well-being. In addition, we investigated the differences between these groups with respect to particular socio-demographic characteristics and to what extent it is possible in terms of these characteristics to explain PWI and NWI in the groups of supporters and non-supporters. This research was conducted using a national representative sample of 4,000 adults. Besides their own explanations of Croatia's entry into the EU and NATO, citizens also filled in The International Well-Being Index (IWI, 2006). Social demographic data was also collected. Supporters of Croatia's inclusion into the EU and NATO are more satisfied with national and personal aspects of life. It is worth noting that the NWI is an important predictor of attitudes with regard to entry into international associations along with particular socio-demographic characteristics. The use of IWI as a predictor of social attitudes in this type of study is also discussed in this paper.

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http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/instruments/wellbeing_index.htm.

34.2. Similarities and differences in the PWI of Romanian and Spanish adolescents aged 13-16 years old

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Hatos Adrian – Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Oradea (Romania)

Results from two samples of adolescents aged 13-16 from Romania and Spain are presented ($N = 940 + 1,952 = 2,892$). The 7 items version of the Personal Well-Being Index has been used, together with an item on overall life satisfaction and a set of items on more specific life domains, including 5 school-related items. The item on satisfaction with spirituality and religion has been divided into two separated items.

PWI shows a good adaptation to the two languages: In both countries a PCA shows that the 7 items load in one component. Its correlation with the single item on overall life satisfaction is high and significant as expected (.613 for Romania and .598 for Spain).

The mean of the Spanish sample is 80.14, slightly higher than the expected normative range expected for western countries and according to previous Spanish results. However, the mean of the Romanian sample is much higher, 84.42.

In the Spanish sample girls score slightly below boys, but in both countries they display higher satisfaction with the school items.

For both samples, PWI and most of the satisfaction items decrease with age. However, among Spanish boys it slightly increases at 16.

Among Spanish adolescents PWI shows positive significant but rather low correlation with satisfaction with religion (.202), and moderate with satisfaction with spirituality (.328). By contrast, among Romanian adolescents PWI shows a rather high correlation with satisfaction with spirituality (.606) and moderate with sa

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34.3. Evolving the response scale for the Personal Wellbeing Index: From bipolar to unipolar

Cummins, Robert, School of Psychology, Deakin University

The response scale for the Personal Wellbeing Index is an 11-point (0-10) End-Defined Response Scale (Jones & Thurstone, 1955). This has many advantages over Likert scales but still can be further improved. In its current form the response scale is bipolar, using the

anchors 'completely dissatisfied' (0) and 'completely satisfied' (10), and the mid-point (5) defined as 'neutral'. The following problems are evident:

1. The scale format forces bipolarity on the data. For many applications this does not matter much but it is technically troublesome, making incorrect and unwarranted assumptions concerning the nature of the underlying construct.
2. It makes the assumption that all languages have an antonym for 'satisfaction'. This is incorrect. For example, there is no language equivalent for 'dissatisfied' in Hebrew.
3. The mid-point of 'neutral' or 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' has no psychological meaning. It is not a state that can actually be recognised in personal experience.
4. In the context of a complete questionnaire, the bipolar format makes it conceptually difficult to shift from positive to negative items (eg 'How worried do you feel?') which require a unipolar response scale (no worry – much worry).

It will be argued that all of these problems can be overcome by the adoption of a unipolar response format (no satisfaction – complete satisfaction). Moreover, data will be presented showing that the bipolar and unipolar response scales yield very similar data.

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34.4. Impact of Tsunami's peace Dividend on the Quality of Life of disaster survivors

Yashwant Deshmukh / CVoter Foundation- India

Destructive upheaval leaves behind a serene sense of serendipity. Four years on, in Indonesia's Tsunami ravaged Aceh Province that serendipity is gradually being replaced by gentle hints of peace and prosperity. What makes this study unique is the fact that these two Tsunami areas are also the hotspot of an ongoing armed conflict for a very long time. This probably makes it the first recorded use of The Personal Wellbeing Index as a formal Quality of life instrument among "multi-victim" respondents (those who were already suffering from conflict and now happen to be at the receiving end of a catastrophic natural disaster). Today the Tsunami displaced in Aceh are reaping the reward of quick and efficient intervention of the international community to help combat the Tsunami disaster effectively. The silver lining in the case of problem areas is the fact that unlike earlier, when NGOs appeared as the lone helping hand for relief in the region – at least so far as food, medical help, safe water and temporary and permanent shelters were concerned – the local Acehnese government (with a democratically elected leader at its helm since 2006, after the peace process and the resulting MoU between Jakarta and Aceh) has gradually brought a semblance of governance in the region. It is unique to observe what the process of democratization could actually mean in terms of quality of life for the respondents.

34.5. Individual, Community and National Wellbeing in Spain: a research from the point of view of older adults

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The research project that frames this work aims to contribute to Quality of Life knowledge in Spain, adding new data for both intra- and cross-national comparisons. Specifically, the objective of this paper is to present preliminary results concerning satisfaction with different life domains at personal, community and national levels.

A survey on Quality of Life of older adults carried out in 2008 is used (1). The sample consisted of 1,106 randomly selected people aged 60 years or more, living in family housing in Spain. The questionnaire was adapted from a previous instrument designed by the research team and used in the Madrid Region in 2005 (2), which considered objective conditions and subjective evaluations concerning satisfaction with several life domains (Fernández-Mayoralas et al., 2007; Prieto et al., 2008; Rojo et al., 2007). Two 11-point scales on satisfaction, based on the International Wellbeing Index (the Personal Wellbeing Index and the National Wellbeing Index) (International Wellbeing Group, 2006), were also included in the new survey. In addition, satisfaction with domains was questioned at an intermediate level, to measure the Community Wellbeing from an individual perspective.

Differences in satisfaction among the three levels of assessment are expected, finding lower rates of satisfaction with domains related to the national level, intermediate satisfaction rates at the community level, and highest satisfaction rates at the personal level.

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34.6. International Well-being Index – The case of Croatia

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Interest in measuring population well-being is increasing in the countries around the world. The International Well-being Index (IWI, 2006) is one of the measures that allows comparison of well-being across nations. In our survey-based study on a representative sample of Croatian citizens (N=4000; Nov/2008) we examined the psychometrics characteristic of IWI index, its correlates with demographic variables, and its predictive value for life satisfaction and the perception of the current life in the country. Two subscales of IWI, Personal Well-being Index (PWI: satisfaction with material status, health, achievement, relationships, safety, community, future security, spirituality) and National Well-being Index (NWI: satisfaction with economy, environment, social conditions, government, business, national security) were administered. Factor analysis confirmed the validity of the two sub-scales, and good reliability coefficients were obtained (both .87). Group comparisons by gender showed differences in PWI domains while comparison by age showed differences in PWI and NWI domains. Hierarchical regression analyses exploring PWI and NWI domains as predictors of life satisfaction and perception of current life were used with age, gender and income as covariates. Distinctive predictors of life satisfaction were mostly from PWI domains, while predictors of perception of current life were from NWI domains. The possibility of IWI as potential monitor of national well-being is discussed.

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http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/instruments/wellbeing_index.htm.

34.7. Italian students Personal Wellbeing (PWB): A pilot study

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The present study investigated subjective quality of life amongst two different age groups of young Italian students living in Pavia area (N = 348). Participants in the study were (a) young adults attending the University of Pavia (n = 172, mean age = 21.9); and (b) high school students (n = 176, mean age = 17.02), who were administered the Personal Well Being Index scale (PWB) (PWI-A, 4th Edition, Cummins, 2006). An experimental 2 x 2 (gender x age group) independent groups design was utilised and statistical evaluation was done by conducting a Multivariate Analysis Of Variance (MANOVA). The study found significant differences on scores obtained on the PWB between groups [$F(15, 244) = 116.09, p < .000$, partial eta square = .88]. Adolescents, in particular, showed a lower life satisfaction in comparison with university students. Gender was not found to significantly affect the life satisfaction perceived by the subjects. A significant interaction effect between gender and group [$F(15, 244) = 5.82, p < .000$] was also found. That is, gender by itself did not influence life satisfaction perceived. Importantly the interaction between group and gender was driven by the consistent difference in the male condition. The results will be discussed with respect to the single domains of PWB.

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34.8. Students' QOL - psychometric properties of Personal Well being Index (PWI)-Croatian version

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The aim of this research was to examine students' QOL and to evaluate the psychometric properties of PWI–Croatian version. The PWI was administered to a sample of Croatian University student population (N=438). Results revealed that students scored relatively high on PWI (74.95%SM); been the most satisfied with personal relationships and the least with the future security. Substantially lower scores were found on National well being index (NWI) (42.72%SM). Students were the most satisfied with the environment domain and the least with the government. There was no significant difference in either scale with respect to gender. Personal and national well being levels identified among Croatian University students are discussed in the light of socio-economic implications since sample represent groups that to become population of working age on whom development and future of the society resides.

The Croatian version of the PWI showed good metric characteristics. Reliability tests revealed Cronbach's alpha 0.799 for PWI and 0.859 for NWI. Factor analysis provided two latent dimension underlying PWI and NWI scales. Results revealed a positive correlation between unitary measure of satisfaction with life as a whole and PWI score ($r=0.722$, $p<.001$). Also significant correlations was found between satisfaction with life in Croatia item and NWI score ($r=0.773$, $p<.001$). Overall, results showed that PWI may be used as a valid and reliable instrument in research of QOL in student population.

34.9. Satisfaction with Spirituality and Subjective Wellbeing: Does it have a place within the Personal Wellbeing for Chinese Older Adults ?

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Compared to other age groups in Hong Kong, the elderly population is more likely to possess stronger spiritual beliefs that are rooted within traditional Chinese values and beliefs. Recently, The International Wellbeing Group agreed to the inclusion of 'satisfaction with religion or spirituality' as an additional domain to the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) for measuring subjective wellbeing (SWB). To generate further empirical evidence for its addition within the Chinese culture, a study was conducted with elderly people in Hong Kong. The main purpose was to determine whether 'satisfaction with spirituality' will contribute additional variance to SWB, beyond the original seven domains of the PWI. Using combined convenience and purposive sampling, 155 elderly people aged 65 years and above were recruited from community-based settings throughout Hong Kong. Individual face-to-face interviews were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire. Similar to earlier findings in Australia (Cummins, 2006) but in contrast to those from countries such as Bogota, Columbia (Wills, 2007) and Algeria (Tilouine, 2007), our results showed that satisfaction with spirituality did not contribute unique variance. Potential explanations for this will be discussed. The addition of this new domain, however, did not adversely affect the psychometric performance of the PWI which is consistently demonstrated to be favorable in earlier studies. Our findings also suggest that satisfaction with spiritua

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34.10. Psychometric study of the personal wellbeing in two Portuguese samples- community and patients

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The Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) used to include seven domains and now it includes one more domain, spirituality/religiosity. Items refer to specific life domains (life aspects) and the scores are averaged to produce a measure of SWB. The present study explores the properties of the eight items version of PWI. Participants were 662 individuals from the community, 59.2% males, mean age 30.82 years and a PWI of 69.24. The PWI score is similar to the previous validation (68.92); 233 individuals with a chronic disease, 73.8% females, mean age 39.02 years and a PWI of 61.82. Statistically significant difference exists for PWI between the two samples.

Exploration through principal component analysis for the community sample, exhibits two factors. However one component explains the solution in a satisfactory way. Regression analysis of PWI on 'Life as a Whole' for 177 of the participants without disease showed an R^2 of 0.73, and two items do not contribute in a statistically significant way for the prediction ("feeling part of your community", and "your spirituality or religion"). Internal consistency of the eight item version is 0.81. For the patient sample, a principal component analysis, showed one factor explaining 51.93% of the variance: Internal consistency was 0.86: the lowest value was for spirituality. Results show that the metric properties of the PWI are appropriate, and that the spirituality/religion item can be introduced without major changes in the metric properties

34.11. Cross-cultural validity of the International Wellbeing Index: The case of Macau

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The International Wellbeing Index (IWI) is a complementary measure to objective Quality of Life indicators that has been developed in Australia and applied in several cultural settings. This study investigates the psychometric performance of the IWI for Chinese in Macau SAR, China. The IWI was applied in 2007, through telephone interviews to representative samples of the population. The previously established factor structure of each of the IWI's two sub-indices has been confirmed for the Chinese population of Macau,

providing further evidence of the IWI's cross-cultural validity. However, the percentage of variance explained by each of the IWI's sub-indices in Macau was different than what has been reported elsewhere. The findings revealed strong psychometric performance and demonstrated the validity, reliability and sensitivity of the IWI in Macau

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34.12. Subjective Quality of Life in Vietnam: Translation of the Personal Well-Being Index

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Vietnam has undergone significant changes in the past few decades, and psychology, both as a profession and as an area of research, is still relatively new in the country. The majority of measurements available for health and well-being research are objective measures focusing on social indicators or on physical symptoms relating to health and disease. To date, there is no or very little availability of tools to measure subjective well-being that have been translated into Vietnamese and validated for use in Vietnam. Certainly, one of the key issues in the field of quality of life measurement is developing instruments suitable for use across different cultures. Therefore the aim of this project is to translate the Personal Well-Being Index (PWI) into Vietnamese, and to collect qualitative data regarding notions of quality of life in the Vietnamese context, and understandings of the items included in the PWI. This paper will provide an overview of the key findings and issues relating to the measurement of subjective well-being in Vietnam.

34.13. Affects, subjective wellbeing and regional culture: Results of the 4th Algerian Wellbeing Survey

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Davern, Melanie (University of Melbourne, Australia)

Cummins, Robert. A. (Deakin University, Australia)

Algerian Wellbeing surveys are conducted on an 18-month interval with general population since 2003. The questionnaire of the latest of these surveys (July 2008) covered various satisfaction domains in its first part. Its second part contained the short version of Ryff's Psychological Wellbeing (Autonomy, Competence, and Relatedness), and the short form of

Steger's Meaning in life scale. The four scales have been proposed as indicators of Psychological Wellbeing in Samman, E (2007)*. The third part contained 6 items on religious practice.

The final part contained ratings of 31 affective descriptors (Davern, Cummins & Stokes, 2007). Work on the results is in progress.

In the IWGp symposium of Florence we will present results related to the affects. We will explore how does the sample experience the affects proposed to them, knowing that three cultural groups are included in the sample: -inhabitants of the Mediterranean costal areas (Oran) - Inhabitants of the interior mountainous areas (known as Haut-Plateaux), and inhabitants of the Sahara desert regions (Adrar). The relationship between regional cultures and subjective wellbeing will be also highlighted.

34.14. Subjective wellbeing, social capital and identity in the Australian Jewish Community

Weinberg, Melissa, Deakin University

Cummins, Robert, Deakin University

Jewish people comprise less than 1% of the Australian population, yet they are over-represented in many fields, including medical, business, media and legal spheres. They represent a broad and diverse community, including descendants of some who arrived on the First Fleet, new immigrants, and a large proportion of Holocaust survivors and their families, all of whom came to Australia seeking a better quality of life. However, no study to date has explored the psychological wellbeing of this subgroup. The aim of the present study was to explore SWB in the Australian Jewish community. Other factors, including Social Capital and Jewish Identity, were also considered. Data from this study were compared to data from Survey 20 of the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index, allowing comparisons between the Jewish sample and a geographically representative sample of the Australian population. There was also a particular focus on the wellbeing of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. The study, conducted in October 2008, included 271 participants with a mean age of 34.84 (SD = 14.01). Overall, analyses confirmed differences in SWB between the two samples, with the Jewish sample reporting higher overall SWB. However, within the Jewish sample, participants who had both parents who were survivors of the Holocaust scored lower on many wellbeing variables, suggesting a possible transmission of trauma across generations. These and other findings will be discussed in this presentation.

35. Track 47 – Cross national comparison of happiness

Track Chair:

Ruut Veenhoven, Erasmus University Rotterdam – The Netherlands

Session Chairs:

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35.1. Modernization, cultural conflict and happiness: Analysis of 64 nations in the early 2000s

Achterberg Peter - Erasmus university Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Veenhoven Ruut - Erasmus university Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Societal modernization has resulted in greater happiness for a greater number of people. Still some aspects of modernization may reduce happiness. One possible detrimental effect is cultural conflict, which seems to be rising in modern societies. In that context, the relation between happiness and cultural conflict is examined in more and less modern countries of the present day world. Data from 64 nations are taken from the World Database of Happiness and the World values Survey.

Analysis at the nation level reveals that there are two kinds of cultural conflict, cultural fragmentation centered on linguistic and ethnic conflicts, and cultural polarization centered on religious and value conflicts. Cultural fragmentation is most common in traditional countries and appears to be positively related to average happiness. Cultural polarization is most common in modern countries and is negatively related to average happiness.

A subsequent multi-level analysis reveals that cultural conflict in a nation goes with a lower correlation between individual happiness and religiosity, while the correlation with income tends to be higher in conflict intense countries.

Explanations and implications are discussed.

35.2. A success story? Happiness in the new post-communist EU member states

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Ten of the post-communist countries managed to integrate into EU. Which are the subjective outcomes of socio-economic transformations in these countries? Did they manage to increase their citizens' happiness in this process? To give an answer to these questions I used data from Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (2001-2004), Standard Eurobarometers (2005-2007), World Bank Development Indicators and World Database of Happiness (1990-2007), comparing developments in average national happiness with economic (GDP, optimism concerning the level of living) and political (satisfaction with democracy) trends on the same time span. In all the studied societies, trends in happiness

were U-shaped after nineties, with a minimum around 1996-1997, when presumably transition crisis affected most of their citizens. Only after average 15 years happiness in these countries came back to the initial levels. The national levels of life satisfaction for all EU countries were correlated with country wealth, but the correlation is higher for post-communist countries. However the ranking of the countries by life satisfaction, satisfaction with democracy and economic optimism does not entirely match the ranking by GDP, and increases in material wealth of nations were not followed by similar increases in happiness. I discuss four alternative explanations: the effects are delayed, diminishing, negative, or simply the overall influence of country wealth on people's lives is overestimated.

35.3. Cross-country determinants of subjective well-being

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This paper tries to identify population preferences and optimal policy choices by estimating whether differences across countries are associated with the gaps in population happiness. Such differences may relate to cultural values and norms, historical events, formal institutions, the macro- and socio-economic condition. Previous contributions emphasized, for example, the role of democracy and decentralization (Dorn et al., 2008; Bjørnskov, Dreher, and Fischer, 2008), government efficiency (Helliwell and Huang, 2008), inequality (Alesina et al., 2004), national income (Deaton, 2007) and growth thereof (Easterlin 1974). Overall, this article tests about 100 country-level factors that may affect population well-being.

Using a cross-section of 30 OECD countries based on the 1997-2001 World Values Survey waves. Subjective well-being is measured on a 10-point life satisfaction, a retrospective assessment of the quality of one's life (Veenhoven, 2000).

Summarizing the empirical results, strongest associations with happiness are observable for good macroeconomic condition (unemployment, GDP), social mobility, an effective government, a good health care sector and education sector measured by their output. socio-political stability and stability in economic growth.

No correlation is observable for whether the government revenue is locally generated, the level of public health expenses or educational spending, income inequality, the progressivity of the tax system

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35.4. International Evidence on the Social Context of Well-Being

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This paper uses the first three waves of the Gallup World Poll to investigate differences across countries, cultures and regions in the factors linked to life satisfaction, paying special attention to the social context. Our principal findings are:

First, using the larger pooled sample, we find that answers to the satisfaction with life and Cantril ladder questions provide consistent views of what constitutes a good life, with an average of the two measures providing a clearer picture than either measure on its own.

Second, we find strong evidence for the importance of both income and social context variables in explaining within-country and international differences in well-being. For most specifications tested, the combined effects of a few measures of the social and institutional context are as large as those of income in explaining both international and intra-national differences in life satisfaction.

Third, the very significant influences of both income and social factors permit the calculation of compensating differentials for social factors. We find very large income-equivalent values for key measures of the social context.

Fourth, the international similarity of the estimated equations suggests that the large international differences in average life evaluations are not due to different approaches to the meaning of a good life, but to differing social, institutional, and economic life circumstances.

35.5. Is Small Government Beautiful?

Ott Jan - Erasmus University Rotterdam

In political debates there is an ongoing discussion about the optimal size of government.

People living in relatively comfortable positions and supporters of rightwing political party's, usually believe that governments should be modest in their aspirations and small. People in less comfortable positions, and supporters of leftwing party's, want more ambitious and bigger government. In the utilitarian approach the optimal size depends on the relation between size and happiness in nations. This relation was assessed in a comparative study of 143 nations in the years 2000-2006. It was found that the relation fully depends on the quality of governments. The correlation between size and average happiness is positive if this quality is "high", but negative if this quality is "low". These results are an indication that the quality of governments deserves more priority than their size.

35.6. Cognition and affect in appraisals of overall happiness

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Veenhoven, Ruut, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

How do we appraise how happy we are? One theory is that we compare life-as-it-is with standards of how-life-should-be. In this view, happiness is a coinage of the brain and heavily influenced by cultural preferences. Another theory holds that we rather infer happiness on the

basis of affective experience. In that view, happiness is an unreasoned experience that roots in the gratification of universal needs. Both processes seem to be involved and this begs the question of their relative importance. The Gallup World Poll provide a cue, since it involved both measures of average affect and of contentment in nations. Analysis of the data suggests that affective experience sets at least the minimum level, since there are no countries where people feel bad but are nevertheless contented. On the other hand, there are quite some countries where people feel good but are discontented.

36. Ph.D Workshop

Session Organazer and Chair:

Peggy Schyns, Institute for Social and Cultural Research – The Netherlands

36.1. Transition at Work: A Comparison of Job Satisfaction in Eastern and Western Europe

Angelescu, Laura - University of Southern California

Despite initial differences between the workers in Eastern and Western Europe in terms of job satisfaction at the onset of transition, the expectation was that, as the transition to a market economy progressed, these differences would get smaller. But an analysis of the World Values Surveys data shows that this was typically not the case. Looking at self reported levels of job satisfaction in the early and late 1990s, we see that not only there was no sign of convergence, but the difference between the two regions actually increased, especially due to a significant decrease in job satisfaction in the former communist countries between 1990 and 1999. The difference in job satisfaction between Eastern and Western Europe cannot be explained by differences in objective circumstances, such as demographic characteristics or life circumstances. Subjective attitudes towards what matters in a job and the perceived freedom of decision at work do a better job of explaining the lack of convergence. The winners of the transition process in Central and Eastern Europe seem to be the young and more educated. At the same time though, in both regions we see a negative effect of cohort replacement, with older cohorts in 1990 intrinsically more satisfied with their jobs than the younger cohorts who replace them in the sample by 1999. In Eastern Europe we also notice a considerable increase in people's concern with job security. This is not surprising for societies that started off with virtually zero unemployment and ended up with unemployment rates in the double digits.

37. Seminar – The Latest in QOL Coaching / How to get your ISQOLS Oral History Published

Panel organizer
Frisch Michael B.

37.1. The Latest In Quality Of Life Coaching

Michael B. Frisch

Quality of Life Coaching is sometimes referred to as “positive psychology” coaching or positive social science. This burgeoning field aims at increasing the quality of life, meaning, productivity, and happiness of people from all walks of life by applying quality of life and well being research. This talk surveys recent developments and career opportunities in quality of life consultation and coaching to communities, organizations, the general public, and professionals, including business people, teachers, lawyers, physicians, civil servants, hospital and other health workers.

37.2. How to Get Your ISQOLS Oral History Published

Michael B. Frisch

The goal of the Oral History and Education Project (OHEP) of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies is to produce video documentaries, oral histories and educational interviews with the top researchers in the fields of quality of life, well-being, social indicators, and other sciences, in order to preserve their academic legacies, share their findings worldwide (as in university courses etc.), and encourage a new generation of researchers, scientists, and oral historians (Frisch 2008). Exemplars of service to others are also being interviewed. This talk tells you how to take an oral history of your mentor or someone you admire in the field. This talk also tells you how to get this oral history published in a way that is recognized by a university as a research publication counting toward tenure. For further information, see:

References

Frisch, Michael B. (2008). The Oral History and Education Project of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies and the Gallup Institute for Global Well Being: A Way to Honor Distinguished Researchers and to Preserve their Legacies—The Alex Michalos Interviews. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 2 (4), 223-238.

38. Symposium – Enhancing the data infrastructure for empirical social and economical research: where do we stand and which way to go?

Organizer and Session Chair:

Denis Huschka, German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD) – Germany

In this session, we would like to discuss in greater detail a few selected activities carried out by several initiatives (e.g. the German Council for Social and Economic Data, International Data Forum) to improve data access and data quality in Europe and worldwide.

Good quality data is the basis for excellent social and economic research and thus for policy advice. Any decision by politicians should be based on knowledge, which often means numbers. It is our task as researchers to turn these numbers into knowledge.

The data infrastructure for researchers in Europe and worldwide is far from being perfect. Official statistics on the one hand provide researchers with valuable statistics but they come with limitations. Scientifically driven data production initiatives on the other hand come with limitations too, mainly related to sample sizes, general availability of data and a lack of longitudinal information. But innovations in survey methods and theoretical concepts mainly take place in those science surveys.

In the past there are some initiatives to observe that try to link science more closely to official statistics in order to improve data quality. Another goal of those embodied initiatives is to improve general access to data for researchers. One of these initiatives is the German Council for Social and Economic Data, which can be seen as a national counterpart of the International Data Forum, a quite young initiative on the international level.

The central goals of such bodies for the short and medium term fall into three main areas: providing a strong and permanent foundation for the data infrastructure, further improving the data situation in the economic and social sciences, and bringing data production in the social sciences to the top level internationally, which also entails participation in national and trans-national planning processes.

However, an improved statistical infrastructure is needed not only on the national level. As the European research landscape evolves, it produces increased demands on the data infrastructure in order for the social sciences and economics to develop their full potential in the area of social comparisons as well. By actively participating in important developments at both the national and international levels, bodies like the RatSWD intend to work even more intensively in this important field in the future. They already provide platforms for a fundamental discussion and planning process that is almost one of a kind both in Europe and beyond. If international and interdisciplinary strategic planning is to be successful in fostering empirical research and improving the research infrastructure, however, greater involvement of the professional scientific organizations representing the social sciences and economics will be urgently needed.

European research infrastructures have played an important role in the natural sciences for some time. The CERN nuclear research center may be the most prominent example, having been founded as early as 1954. In the humanities and other disciplines such as cultural studies, however, this tradition is almost entirely lacking. The same cannot be said for the social sciences (including economics) but the few infrastructure facilities that do exist (especially ESS: European Social Survey and SHARE) in these fields of research on both the national and international level do not display a unified, systematic approach.

To remedy this problem, the European Union (EU) has now accelerated the systematic planning process with the European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/esfri/docs/esfri-roadmap-report-26092006_en.pdf). The RatSWD was set up at an opportune moment to take advantage of this development, but most of the process of discussion and planning still remains to be done by bodies like the IDF and the RatSWD, the statistical offices, and the scientific community within the social sciences and economics. The first important step in this direction could, for example, be the organization of an international dialogue offering prominent representatives of the social and economic research community a forum for discussion on the strategic direction of empirical research and the data infrastructure necessary.

38.1. The German Council for Social and Economic Data as a Model for Platforms Which Bring Together Official and Academic Statistics (and Statisticians)

Gert G. Wagner - Berlin University of Technology; Director, German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) Max Planck Fellow, MPI for Human Development (MPIB), Berlin Faculty Member, DIW Graduate Center and Max Planck Research School LIFE, Chairperson of the German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD)

38.2. To be communicated

Eckart Hohmann - President of the Statistical Office of Hesse, Member of the German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD); Representative to the Federal Assembly in the Committee on Statistical Programming of the European Commission, Member of the Co-ordination Group for the Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies"

38.3. Internationalising the social science agenda: developing a strategic approach

Peter Elías

39. Symposium – The Canadian Index of Wellbeing

Organizer:

Alex C. Michalos, University of Northern British Columbia – Canada

Session Chair:

Munir A. Sheikh – Chief Statistician of Canada

39.1. Living Standards Domain of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing: an Overview

Andrew Sharpe

Centre for the Study of Living Standards – Ottawa

This paper provides an overview of the key elements of the living standards domain of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW). This domain is one of eight domains (the others are health, education, community vitality, environment, time use, democratic engagement, and arts and culture) of the CIW, a new composite index being released in May 2009 by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation. The paper focuses on living standard developments in Canada over the last 25 years, with a particular emphasis on developments since 2000. Trends in income and wealth are presented from the perspective of both average and median values. Trends in income and wealth distribution are also discussed, as are developments in poverty, the labour market and social programs. The paper concludes by identifying the ten headline indicators from the living standards domain that have been chosen to be included in the CIW composite.

39.2. An Overview of the Educated Populace Domain of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing

Bruno D. Zumbo, Martin Guhn, & Anne M. Gadermann,

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

In this presentation, we provide an overview of the Educated Populace domain of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing. In particular, we will review our recommended headliners (themes), and their respective indicators. In addition to the traditional indicators of participation, completion rates and educational achievement we adopt a lifespan perspective and include, for example, early childhood education, developmental status at kindergarten, as well as adult education and lifelong learning. Given the socio-political importance of equal access and participation in education, we also include an indicator for equity in education (i.e., the socio-economic gradient).

39.3. An approach to the Canadian Index of Wellbeing

*Alex C. Michalos, Andrew Sharpe, Jean-Francois Arsenault, Nazeem
Muharjarine, Ronald Labonte, Katherine Scott and Malcolm Shookner
University of Northern British Columbia
Centre for the Study of Living Standards – Ottawa Atkinson Charitable
Foundation, Toronto*

This presentation will present the foundations of the development of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, including its sponsors, basic framework, assumptions, goals, strengths and limitations, validation procedures and an illustration of the index itself based on its two most developed domains so far, namely, living standards and a healthy population.

40. Symposium – QOL as a valuable outcome in modern health care

Organizer:

ISOQOLS

Session Chair:

G. Gorodokin, New Jersey Center for Quality of Life and Health Outcomes
Research, New Jersey, USA

40.1. The value of QoL population norms for health care system of modern society

*Tatayana Ionova, Multinational Center for Quality of Life Research,
St.Petersburg, Russia*

At present, it is necessary to reconsider how best to measure success of health care. In this connection quality of life (QoL) appears to be an important patient-reported outcome in health care. QoL data in general population is a reliable background to evaluate the efficacy of treatment and rehabilitation programs, and to measure benefits of different medical-social interventions. QoL population norms make it possible to identify the grade of QoL impairment, if any, of a person, target group, or patients' population. Grading of QoL impairment is a starting point of management of different chronic diseases. We have introduced the conceptual model of grading of QoL impairment. This model provides health care providers with the quantitative values of QoL worsening as compared to healthy population. According to this model, a patient may experience no, mild (25% decrease from a population norm - PN), moderate (25-50% decrease from a PN), severe (50-75% decrease from a PN) or critical (>75% decrease from a PN) QoL impairment. The model has been tested on more than 1 000 patients with different chronic diseases: rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, hematologic malignances, and solid tumors. RAND SF-36 was used for QoL assessment. The conceptual model of the grades of QoL impairment was proved by the statistical one. A QoL population norm concept is one of the mile-stones of the modern health care system. Among other applications of QoL normative data is grading of QoL imp

40.2. Policy implications of quality of life in health care: cost-effectiveness analysis

*Theodore Ganiats University of California, San Diego, USA
Robert Kaplan University of California, Los Angeles, USA*

Patient reported outcomes (PROs) are useful at both the clinical and the policy level. While the clinical level is most interested in the outcomes and preferences of the patient, the use of PROs at the policy level may include community preferences, cost-effectiveness evaluations,

and clinical guideline development. This paper summarizes some of the key methodological issues in the use of health-related quality of life (HRQOL), an important type of PRO, in cost-effectiveness analysis. Theory will be reviewed regarding the justification of HRQOL as an outcome in a cost-effectiveness analysis, and classic methodological concerns will be discussed. The key part of the talk will be the presentation of a data from a randomised trial that followed two groups of patients: those referred for cataract surgery and those referred to a heart failure clinic. These patients were administered the EQ-5D, HUI, QWB-SA, and SF-36 at baseline and at follow-up. Not surprisingly, the absolute measure of HRQOL varied as a function of which measure is used, but in addition, the change in HRQOL, the value used in a cost-effectiveness analysis, also varied between instruments. The magnitude of this variation was great enough to potentially impact the findings of a cost-effectiveness analysis, raising the question as to which instrument should be used in a clinical trial. The implications of these finding will be discussed.

40.3. Monitoring self-reported quality of life amongst patients attending a palliative medicine outpatient clinic to aid treatment decision taking

Samuel Salek Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK

Studies in palliative medicine are difficult because the cases are clinically heterogeneous and attrition rates are high through disease progression and patient death. Evaluation of the efficacy of any clinic services is notoriously difficult and it would be ethically problematic to randomly select patients for a control group. The Revised McGill Quality of Life Questionnaire (R-MQOL) designed to assess all five domains (physical well-being; physical symptoms domain; psychological domain; existential domain; support domain) in this population, was used to monitor patients attending outpatients. Over a two-year period, 219 patients attended the weekly palliative medicine outpatient clinic at the regional oncology centre. There were 906 palliative care consultations during two years. Data was analysed to assess the sequence effect of palliative medicine outpatient attendances. Patients reported improved global QoL at first follow-up self-assessment (p 0.002), improved physical well-being (p 0.004), and an improved psychological domain (p 0.01). Patients attending palliative medicine outpatient clinic showed a surprising improvement in their reported QoL from first to second visits, despite their progressing disease and impending death. This efficacy suggests that clinic attendance may be a cost-effective contribution in improving patients physical and psychological well-being.

40.4. Quality of life as the core of general paradigm of therapy and palliative care in clinical medicine

A. Novik National Medical Surgical Center, Moscow, Russia

G. Gorodokin New Jersey Center for Quality of Life and Health Outcomes Research, New Jersey, USA

The global goal of treatment of patients with different chronic disorders is to improve or maintain a patient's QoL. Therefore, QoL measurement is the key criterion for assessment of treatment efficacy in addition to traditional clinical outcomes. Considering the clinical

heterogeneity of patient population, QoL appears to be a measure which is able to provide unification of treatment outcomes. Therefore, unification of the term “quality of life” is worthwhile. QoL is integral characteristics of physical, psychological and social functioning of a patient based on his/her perception. Similar understanding of the term “quality of life” by health care providers is the first condition necessary to achieve unification of treatment outcomes. Another condition is the use of relevant patient-reported outcomes tools to assess QoL and symptoms. Comprehensive unified evaluation of treatment outcomes anticipates QoL measurement before, during and after treatment. Decision-making paradigm of therapy and palliative care with QoL is a core outcome applicable to patients with chronic diseases regardless of the disease stage. In conclusion, QoL is the key point of the modern paradigm of therapy and palliative care in clinical medicine. QoL is the main goal of treatment in patients suffering from chronic diseases, and QoL parameters are critical outcome measures. Universal decision-making algorithm should be based on the comprehensive QoL assessment in all stages of a disease.

41. Symposium – Special Issue in Measuring Subjective Well-being

Organizer:

Filomena Maggino – Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

Session Chair:

Willem E. Saris, President of the European Survey Research Association,
ICREA Visiting Professor of the Department of Quantitative Methods
at ESADE – Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona – Spain

Discussant:

Munir A. Sheikh, Chief Statistician of Canada

41.1. Measurement requirements for comparative research

*Willem E. Saris President of the European Survey Research Association,
ICREA Visiting Professor of the Department of Quantitative Methods at
ESADE – Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Spain*

The measurement requirements for comparative research specified in the literature for concepts with reflective indicators are: configural invariance, metric invariance and scalar invariance. Configural invariance is obtained if the same standard factor analysis model should hold for all different groups. One has to add to this requirement the equality of the loadings to speak of metric invariance and to obtain scalar invariance, the intercepts should also be equal in the different groups.

In this presentation, we argue that these requirements are too strict. There are two reasons for this point of view.

The first reason is that we think that a distinction has to be made between the interpretation of the questions (cognitive part of the model) and the response process (the measurement part of the model). We will specify a response model that makes a distinction between a measurement part and the cognitive part. We will argue that it can happen that the above specified requirements are not satisfied because of differences in the measurement process or in the cognitive part or in both. It is essential that the cognitive part is the same across groups because otherwise people have different ideas about the concepts of interest. Differences in the measurement part are less fundamental. One can estimate the differences in this measurement process separately and correct for these differences. As a consequence, we suggest that the above mentioned requirements for comparative research should hold after correction for measurement errors.

The second reason is that in testing for significant differences across countries test are done for parameters of single indicators while these indicators are combined to an index. Therefore, a significant deviation of one indicator across countries in a set of other indicators may have only a very minimal effect on the total score for the index and the deviation may be rather irrelevant evaluating the index as a whole.

These points will be illustrated by index construction of variables of the European Social Survey.

41.2. Composite indicators for evidence based narratives

*Stefano Tarantola Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit (EAS)
Andrea Saltelli – Joint Research Centre – European Commission*

We review the recent debate around the use of composite indicators for policy and the suggested requirements for their development (ie the need for robustness assessment in order to improve the defensibility of the message brought by the composite indicator).

Composite indicators are very common in fields such as economic and business statistics, and in a variety of policy domains such as industrial competitiveness, sustainable development, globalisation and innovation (Saltelli, 2007). The proliferation of this kind of indicators is a clear symptom of their political importance and operational relevance in decision making (Nardo et al., 2005).

As reported in Saltelli et al., 2008, it is obvious that, <<from a purely mathematical point of view, the aggregation convention used for composite indicators deal with the classical conflictual situation tackled in multi-criteria evaluation. Thus, the use of a multi-criterion framework for composite indicators in general, and for sustainability and well-being indices in particular, is relevant and desirable (Funtowicz et al., 2002; Munda, 1997 , 2005, Ülengin et al., 2001). However, the so-called “multi-criterion problem” can be solved by means of a variety of mathematical approaches, all of them plausible. This situation is due to Arrow’s impossibility theorem (Arrow, 1963), which proves that it is impossible to develop a “perfect” mathematical aggregation convention. This implies that it is desirable to have mathematical algorithms that may be recommended on some theoretical and empirical grounds, or alternatively to test how robust results are with respect to different aggregation procedures. This makes sensitivity analysis a fundamental step during the development of any composite indicator (Saisana et al., 2005; Saltelli et al., 2004).>>.

Munda (2004) insists on the importance of the quality of the aggregation convention, which is to guarantee the consistency between the assumptions made and the ranking obtained. Such quality depends crucially on the way this mathematical model is embedded in the social, political and technical structuring process. In other words, composite indicators are context-dependent and present both technical and socio-political uncertainty.

These uncertainties may not be neglected. They must be dealt with caution and above all be made as transparent as possible. Transparency must remain one of the main ingredients in developing composite indicators. This is especially true for the problem of weighting individual indicators, which remains the most important source of uncertainty and debate.

Although other factors may have a certain impact on the final scores and rankings (such as the imputation of missing values, the type of hierarchical structure chosen to represent the framework, or the aggregation method chosen), the issue of weighting plays a central role to the development of a composite indicator. The weighting, i.e. the need to combine in a meaningful way the underlying individual indicators, should ideally be made explicit (this is almost never the case for composite indicators that appear on the media) and agreed by an as-wide-as-possible public. This agreement is practically impossible to achieve, so specific participatory techniques (such as budget allocation) have been developed and can be used to take into account the different subjective value judgments without the need to agree on a unique set of weights. In this

paper we show a case study using the most straightforward of the participatory methods for weighting: the budget allocation process. we strongly suggest to test the robustness of the country rankings to the weights proposed by different actors, to see whether the differences in the weights provide consistent results in terms of rankings. We will show this in our case study.

All things considered, a careful analysis of the uncertainties included in the development of a CI can render its building more robust. A plurality of methods (all with their implications) should be initially considered, because no model (CI development strategy) is a priori better than another, provided that internal coherence is always assured, as each model serves different interests. The CI is no longer a magic number corresponding to crisp data treatment, weighting set or aggregation method, but reflects uncertainty and ambiguity in a more transparent and defensible fashion

41.3. Validating Subjective Measures: A Multilevel View

Bruno D. Zumbo Professor of Measurement and Statistics, University of British Columbia, Canada

Filomena Maggino – Università Degli Studi Di Firenze

Barry Forer

There is a growing number of survey and measurement systems in which one gathers individual data but, by design, one does not make inferences or decisions about individuals but rather for an aggregate such as a school district, neighborhood, or state. Examples of such surveys include a policy and health oriented survey of school readiness in children, the Early Development Index (EDI), which was developed in Canada but used in many countries. Recently Zumbo (in press) and Zumbo and Forer (in press) have called such survey and measurement practices “multi-level measurement”. In striking contrast to multi-level measurement, however, our widely-used measurement and testing models (including our psychometric and validation models) are, by historical precedent, geared to individual differences, as are our constructs and construct validation work. Our purposes in this presentation are to (a) review the work to date defining multilevel measurement and (b) to provide guidance for statistical practice. To date, the work has focused primarily on subjective measures, but we will also explore the possible uses and contrasts with objective measures.

42. Symposium – Does Economic Growth Improve the Human Lot? Reassessing the Easterlin Paradox

Organizer:

Richard Easterlin, University of Southern California – USA

Session Chair:

Wolfgang Glatzer, Universität Frankfurt am Main – Germany

42.1. Happiness and growth the world over: Time series evidence on the happiness – income paradox

Richard Easterlin – University of Southern California (USA)

Laura Angelescu – University of Southern California (USA)

There is no significant relationship between the improvement in happiness and the long term rate of growth of GDP per capita. This is true for three groups of countries analysed separately -- 17 developed, 9 developing, and 11 transition -- and also for the 37 countries taken together. Time series studies reporting a positive relationship confuse a short-term positive association between the growth of happiness and income, arising from fluctuations in macroeconomic conditions, with the long-term relationship, which is nil.

42.2. Trends in happiness and social capital: is there any linkage?

Stefano Bartolini – University Of Siena

Most popular explanations cannot fully account for the declining trend of US happiness during the last thirty years. I test if the relationship between social capital and happiness at the individual level may account for what is left unexplained by previous research. I provide three findings. First, several indicators of social capital are significantly and positively correlated with happiness. Second, social capital indicators show a declining trend. Finally, the happiness trend is largely related to the increasing trend of income, the increasing trend of reference income, and the declining trend of social capital mostly its relational and non-instrumental components. A test on German data confirms that the trend of social capital plays a large role in predicting the long term happiness trend.

42.3. How much, for whom, and with respect to what?

Andrew Clark – Paris School of Economics, France and IZA, Germany

43. Symposium – National Accounts and the Happy Planet Index: Different levels of Analysis for Measuring Progress

Organizer:

New Economics Foundation

Session Chair

Valerie Møller, Chair of Quality of Life Studies Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) - Rhodes University – Grahamstown – South Africa

Discussants:

Tommaso Rondinella, Lunaria – Progetto QUARS Sbilanciamoci – Italy

Louise Skilton, Office of National Statistics – UK

Societal progress is an extremely complicated and multi-faceted concept, and yet one that is important to everyone. How can we develop a system that does justice to this richness, but can also be grasped and followed quickly by citizens from all backgrounds? In this session we would like to introduce two approaches that compliment one another. One is the Happy Planet Index, which is a single figure that measures the ecological efficiency of achieving well-being within a given society. The other, are extended national accounts - a structured set of measures of the inputs, processes and outputs of societies. National Accounts of Well-Being would be presented as a subset of this. We would invite experts in the field to participate in discussion around shaping such national accounts and bringing together a coherent call for governments to adopt such an approach in assessing societal progress.

43.1. The Happy Planet Index: The ultimate efficiency measure for human progress

Saamah Abdallah

43.2. National Accounts of Well-being: Measuring the multiple dimensions of subjective well-being

Juliet Michaelson

44. Symposium – QOL & Quality of Care for People with Disabilities: The DIS-QOL Project

Organizer:

The DIS-QOL Project Group

Session Chair:

Ann M. Green, Clinical & Health Psychology – University of Edinburgh –
UK

44.1. Measuring Quality of Life in Persons with Intellectual and/or Physical Disabilities: Cross-cultural Development and Validation of the WHOQOL Disabilities Module

*Guus van Heck Department of Medical Psychology & Neuropsychology,
Tilburg University, Tilburg, (The Netherlands)*

AIMS: To report on development and validation of a measure of quality of life for people with intellectual and/or physical disabilities in a cross-cultural context of 18 national centres.

METHOD: This study examined the applicability of the WHOQOL-Bref as well as the necessity of add-on facets reflecting the adaptational tasks encountered by disabled individuals and their proxies. A field trial version was developed, using the outcomes of expert review and focus group methodology, and was subsequently cross-culturally tested.

RESULTS: The WHOQOL-Bref with its general domains of physical health, psychological health, social relationships and environment should be extended with specific subscales tapping on the impact of disability and focussing on discrimination (discrimination, advocacy, future prospects), choice (control, choice, autonomy), and acceptance (communication ability, social acceptance, respect, social network and interaction, social inclusion and contribution, personal potential). In addition to a description of the construction of the WHOQOL-Bref (original version)/WHOQOL-Bref-ID (slightly adapted version for persons with intellectual disabilities) plus Disabilities module, preliminary results of the cross-cultural study will be presented.

CONCLUSIONS: The new quality of life measures have good psychometric properties, are relatively short (39 items), easy to use, and available in self-report and proxy versions.

44.2. Measuring the Quality of Care of People with Disabilities

Ann M. Green Clinical & Health Psychology, University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

AIMS: To develop a cross-cultural quality of care measure for people with intellectual and physical disabilities, drawing on views and experiences of people with disabilities, and conceptual and empirical literature; to use this to examine the quality of care of people with disabilities and its contribution quality of life.

METHOD: Using standard WHOQOL methodology, following expert review, 78 focus groups were run in 14 centres in Europe, Asia, South America and Australasia with people with intellectual and physical disabilities, carers, and professionals; preliminary items were generated and piloted; and revised versions of the measure were tested in a study of 3772 participants in 14 centres worldwide.

RESULTS: A combination of classical and modern psychometric approaches was used to analyse the data, resulting in separate versions of the measure being developed for intellectual and physical disabilities. The adaptations necessary for the development of the measure (in self-report and proxy versions for people with ID) will be described; and the results of the cross-cultural quality of care study will be presented.

CONCLUSIONS: The measure of Quality of Care is relatively short, easy to use, and available in self-report and proxy versions. It has utility in research, epidemiology and as a clinical tool devise programmes to enhance quality of care and quality of life of people with disabilities, and evaluate these in the context of individual goals, standards and concerns

44.3. The Attitudes to Disabilities Scale (ADS): development and psychometric properties

Ramona Lucas - Fundacio Institut Català de l'Envel·liment, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain)

AIMS: To develop a cross-cultural measure of attitudes to disabilities for use with people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

METHOD: Focus groups with people disabilities, carers and professionals in 14 centres worldwide generated themes for inclusion as facets of the measure, later tested in a pilot study and larger field trial.

RESULTS: The focus groups generated 447 themes clustered on facets of attitudes to disabilities. The top five were lack of understanding of disability, compassion, exclusion/avoidance, discrimination and underestimation of ability. Items were generated reflecting these facets and a Delphi exercise was carried out to achieve consensus on the pilot versions of the measure, which included 38 items; after analyses of the psychometric properties the scale was reduced to 16 items. Results of the cross-cultural study will be presented.

CONCLUSIONS: The measure is available in 4 versions: relating to general attitudes to disability and for direct use with people with physical disabilities (ADS-D (G)) or intellectual disabilities (ADS-ID (G)); and focussing on attitudes to personal disability and for direct use with people with physical disabilities (ADS-D (P)) or intellectual disabilities (ADS-ID (P)). Use of the scale will help us to learn about attitudes towards different disabilities and this will help policymakers and governments to act to combat negative attitudes towards, thus improving the quality of life of disabled people.

44.4. The field study of the DIS-QOL Project: the Italian centre results

Rosa Frazzica Centre for Training and Research in Public Health (CEFPAS) (Italy)

AIMS: To develop a cross-cultural measure of quality of life for people with intellectual and physical disabilities, to be used at global level.

METHOD: Under the leadership of the Edinburgh Centre and following standard WHOQOL methodology, 5 focus groups for people with intellectual and physical disabilities, care-givers, and professionals, were run by the Italian centre (CEFPAS). Subsequently, the quality of life measure was piloted on 100 cases in Italy (28 people with intellectual disabilities and 72 people with physical disabilities); then a larger field trial was carried out involving 341 cases (19 people with intellectual disabilities and 322 people with physical disabilities, e.g. multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, hearing impairment, stroke).

RESULTS: Data were analysed using various psychometric approaches. Different versions of the measures were developed for intellectual and physical disabilities. Through factor analysis, the most important items in determining the quality of life of people with disabilities were identified in the Italian sample as well as in the global one. Responses frequencies were then reviewed. The main results on quality of life of the Italian field study will be presented in the talk.

CONCLUSIONS: The new measures of Quality of life have proven to be useful in culturally different contexts for obtaining information on quality of life of people with various types of disabilities.

45. Plenary session – “Planet Italy”: measuring and understanding QOL in Italy

Organizers:

Filomena Maggino, Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

Giampaolo Nuvolati, Università di Milano - Bicocca – Italy

Chair:

Guido Martinotti, Professor of Urban Sociology – Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane – SUM – Italy

45.1. To be communicated

Linda Laura Sabbadini – Head of "Direzione centrale per le indagini su condizioni e qualità della vita" – Istituto Nazionale di Statistica – ISTAT

45.2. Development and quality of life policies: issues from the ongoing experience of targeting essential services in the South of Italy

Paola Casavola - Università della Calabria - Regione Campania – Controllo strategico

45.3. Quality of local development: welfare, environment and community

Tommaso Rondinella – Lunaria – Progetto QUARS Sbilanciamoci – Italy

46. Plenary Session – Indicators on children quality-of-life in international comparison: methodological issues

Organizers:

Ermenegildo Ciccotti, Istituto degli Innocenti – Florence – Italy

Filomena Maggino, Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

Chair:

Anna Maria Bertazzoni, Director – Istituto degli Innocenti – Florence – Italy

46.1. The Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI): What Have We Learned From 10 Years of Tracking Changes in the United States?

Kenneth Land - John Franklin Crowell Professor of Demographic Studies and Sociology – Duke University

46.2. Lessons learned from 20 years of producing a Data Book on child well-being indicators

William O'Hare - Annie Casey Foundation - The International Society of Child Indicators

46.3. Indicators of personal well-being as subjective indicators of children's quality of life

Ferran Casas - Director – Institut de Recerca sobre Qualitat de Vida – Universitat de Girona

46.4. Towards maps of indicators on the condition and the well-being of children in Italy

Valerio Belotti; Enrico Moretti - Italian Childhood and Adolescence Documentation and Analysis Centre - Centro Nazionale di Documentazione e Analisi per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza

47. Plenary Session – QOL and Sustainability: Concordant or Conflicting Goals of Societal Development?

Organizers and Chairs:

Heinz-Herbert Noll, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Director 'Social Indicators Research Centre' (ZSi) – Germany

Filomena Maggino, Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

47.1. Consumption and Happiness – A Sustainable Liaison?

Ruut Veenhoven – Emeritus-professor of 'Social conditions for human happiness' – Erasmus University Rotterdam – The Netherlands

47.2. Do Good Lives Have to Cost the Earth?

Saamah Abdallah - New Economics Foundation

47.3. Quality of Life and Sustainability: Comments from a Third World Point of View

Valerie Møller – Chair of Quality of Life Studies Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) - Rhodes University – Grahamstown – South Africa

47.4. Quality of Life and Sustainability – Views and Evidence from the Arctic Societies

Jack Kruse, University of Alaska Anchorage – ISER – Greenland

Birger Poppel, Ilisimatusearfik – University of Greenland – Greenland