

*Prospects for Quality of Life
in the New Millennium*

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Oluremi Hezekiah Abimbola

Women self-employment in Nigeria: state, trend and implications for quality of life.

Self-employment has been found to be a factor in employment generation, empowerment of the disadvantaged portion of the population and overall enhancement of a society's quality of life. This paper examines the interface between self-employment and quality of life with particular emphasis on women population in Nigeria. It begins by investigating the state of women's quality of life in Nigeria vis-à-vis their participation in self-employment. The study found that despite some deliberate efforts in form of programmes, policies and declarations; women are still not well represented in the self-employment field, thus impinging negatively on their economic power and their quality of life. Some factors, which are socio-cultural and economic in dimension, were identified to be responsible for this trend and suggestions for overcoming them are made.

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Session Tue1d

Larissa Abruítina

An international comparison of health conditions among Inuit and Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka.

This paper presents results of the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA). Probability sampling techniques were used in all countries to ensure that the 7,000 interviews statistically represent all Inuit adults living in Inuit settlement regions as well as the indigenous peoples of Chukotka. The intent of SLICA is to develop a new way of measuring living conditions that is relevant to arctic Native peoples, to compare living conditions among Native peoples of the Arctic, and to better understand the relationships among living conditions. The intent of this paper is to focus on a comparison of health conditions.

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Session Wed1b

Olayinka C. Aina

Land use conversion: a challenge to healthy environment and sustainable physical development in Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.

This research examines the incidence of land use conversion and its adverse effects on the environment of Ikeja, Lagos State. It identifies the nature, magnitude, causes and effects of the changes on both the inhabitants and the physical environment. The findings revealed that majority of the buildings in the area have been illegally converted from initially designed uses to more intensive uses. The main reason being the quest for more economic gain by property owners and the central nature and position of Ikeja, attracting people and businesses to itself. This has consequently given rise to serious economic and social cost and other negative externalities that adversely affect the environment. The paper recommends that legal and articulate control policies must be put in place to effectively control existing illegal conversions and curb future occurrences.

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Session Thu2a

Olayinka C. Aina

The contribution of non-governmental organisations to the alleviation of urban poverty: the case of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Poverty is evident among Nigerians in spite of the country's abundant resources and spirited efforts of government to alleviate it. In order to redress the deplorable state of many communities in Ibadan, the government has initiated many development policies, but the solution seems to aggravate rather than to abate. However, the contribution of non-governmental organisations in alleviating poverty in urban areas cannot be overemphasised. This paper attempts to evaluate the activities, problems and contributions of NGOs in alleviating poverty in the city of Ibadan. In realisation of government inability to satisfy the needs of the masses in the study area, this paper proposes further strengthening of the NGOs for effective and sustainable developmental activities to alleviate the suffering of the poor masses in Ibadan and the country as a whole.

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Session Tue3c

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Tourism development in Nigeria: a potential for economic growth and job creation.

A visit to any of the states in Nigeria will show the tremendous opportunities for tourism. Nigeria is blessed with lots of such tourist resources as archaeological reserves, historical monuments, rich cultures, wildlife and beaches, to mention a few. This could readily make it possible for Nigeria to be included in the list of potentially rich tourist attraction and destination in the world. However, packaging of investment in tourism in Nigeria has been lagging due to over-reliance on crude and allied resources, which is definitely not healthy for the economy. This paper examines the potentials that can be exploited for tourism growth as a sustainable resource for economic growth and job creation in Nigeria. It further evaluates the clogs in the wheel of effective tourism development in the country. The paper recommends a comprehensive tourism survey and development planning of all natural and man-made tourist attraction sites. Long-range tourism development must be a total commitment of all tiers of government including the private sector if tourism is to make a lasting positive contribution to economic growth in Nigeria.

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Session Thu1c

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The effect of empowerment model on diabetic adolescent's quality of life.

The present semi-experimental applied research was carried out on some 47 diabetic adolescents in two health centers using census approach in order to investigate the effect of empowerment model on their quality of life between 2005 and 2006. The subjects were randomly divided into two groups of case and control. The research tools included: the questionnaires of demographic information (characteristics), special quality of life, knowledge, self-efficacy and self-esteem of the adolescence. The validity and reliability of the questionnaires were evaluated by content validity and Alfa–chrounbach tests respectively. After collecting the pre-intervention data (pre test), the empowerment model was performed on the subjects of the case group according to the triple steps (perceived threat, problem solving and evaluation). The data were collected and analysed two and five months after the empowerment intervention. The obtained results are as follows: Chi–square test showed no significant difference between the groups of case and control in terms of their demographic characteristics (such as age, gender, literacy) ($p>0/05$). Independent t- test indicated no significant difference between the two groups in terms of their quality of life before and after the empowerment intervention ($p>0/05$), but there was a significant difference between the two groups after the intervention in terms of different scores on the quality of life ($p=0/0001$). Based on the results of applying the Paired t-test, there was a significant difference before and after the intervention in the case group in terms of their mean quality of life ($p=0/0001$). Overwhelmingly, according to our findings in the present research, implementation of the empowerment model intervention has been highly effective on the diabetic adolescence's quality of life, and it is suggested that this model to be applied to other age groups of our society in a wider range.

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Session Wed3c

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The effect of family-centered empowerment model on haemophilic pediatrics's QOL and their parents.

The present semi experimental practical research was performed with the aim of investigating the effect of empowerment model on the quality of life of some 60 haemophilic school age children and their parents, using census method. The subjects were randomly divided into two groups of case and control. The research tools included the questionnaire of demographic characteristics, parents' quality of life, as well as the haemophilic children's quality of life (Haemo-Qol), questionnaire of knowledge, parents and children's self-efficacy. Validity and reliability of the mentioned questionnaires were assessed by content validity and alfa-chrounbach methods. After collecting the pre-intervention data (pre test), the family-centered empowerment model intervention was performed on the case group based on the four steps of perceived threat, group discussion, educational participation and evaluation. The posttest was carried out 1.5 months after the intervention. The results obtained from the data analysis showed that: the two groups case and control had no significant difference in terms of demographic characteristics (children's age, gender, parents' job) using chi-square test. Also, independent t-test showed no significant difference between the quality of life of the children's and their parents before the intervention in the two groups of case and control ($p > 0.05$), while, after the intervention, there was a significant difference in terms of the mean scores of the parents' quality of life ($p = 0.0001$). Paired t-test showed also a significant difference before and after the intervention in terms of the parents quality of life in the case groups ($p = 0.0001$). Further the results showed a significant difference between the two groups after the intervention in terms of the haemophilic children's quality of life, using independent t-test ($p = 0.0001$). The conclusion is that the implementation of family-centered empowerment model intervention increased the haemophilic school age children's and their parent's quality of life and it is suggested that the model be performed on other haemophilic people with different age groups and with higher research populations.

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Session Mon3d

Beatriz Arita

Perceptions of quality of life in Mexico: a confirming factorial model.

The study of essential needs and of individuals' development revolves around the acquisition of abilities that enable people to confront life and search to meet their needs. From the approach of human development of the United Nations, these capacities are evaluated with an index that contemplates the level of income, education and life expectancy of nations. However, the perception of quality of life is a continuous process of evaluating capacities that the individual develops to confront life and also, an evaluation of the results referred to as subjective well-being. Subjective well-being indicators are life satisfaction and happiness. The subjective capacity scale, the personal and national well-being index and the happiness scale were applied to a representative sample of adult population of the urban zone of Culiacán, Sinaloa in Mexico (n= 1,181). The exploratory factorial analysis clearly confirms the factors of "belief of capacity", "satisfaction for Culiacan", "satisfaction with social support" and "satisfaction with security", explaining a total variance of 56.9%. The confirming factorial analysis shows the strength of each factor with their manifest variables and a high interfactorial correlation.

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Session Tue2b

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Using the Personal Well-being Index to explore subjective well-being of high-school and college students in Romania.

Global and domain satisfaction of 1155 high-school (age 14-19) and 851 college students (age 18-30) in Romania's county Bihor were investigated using Personal Well-being Index (International Well-being Group, 2005) together with measures of satisfaction with friends and with family. Contrary to the general view of adolescence as an age of dissatisfaction, respondents reported higher levels of subjective well-being (males 80.5, females 77.6) than college students (males 74.7, females 73.6). These levels are also higher than those measured earlier by the same authors for general population in Romania. A possible explanation is that parental economic and affective support has buffered the difficulties of socioeconomic transition. The structure and socio-demographic correlates of Personal Well-being Index were also assessed. Subjective well-being is positively correlated with socio-economic status of the adolescents. The Index shows satisfactory psychometric properties, although the structure of domain satisfactions is different compared with countries like Australia, standard of living being the highest contributor to global subjective well-being.

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Session Tue3a

Renée Bear

Individual subjective well-being maintenance: does complete adaptation to challenging life events occur over time?

A comprehensive series of studies have demonstrated that subjective well-being (SWB) sample means for Western populations reliably lie within the narrow, positive range of 70-80% of the measurement scale maximum (%SM). In other words, on average, people in Western nations report being 70-80% satisfied with their lives as a whole. The outstanding consistency of these data has enabled researchers to describe population life satisfaction (LS) and SWB in terms of an empirical normative standard and provides a preliminary and integral step towards establishing the adaptive parameters of individual SWB.

Nevertheless, as the overwhelming majority of studies in the field have investigated SWB or LS cross-sectionally, the consistency in population sample means derived from cross-sectional surveys cannot confer stability in individual levels of SWB over time, nor confirm the operation of adaptation processes or the degree to which individual SWB may recover following challenging life events. While some longitudinal research investigating the temporal dimension of adaptation exists, these studies remain scarce and are limited by problematic methodologies. In this paper, the findings from a longitudinal study of over 2000 general population adult Australians who participated in up to five waves of an extensive, ongoing, nationally representative survey (The Australian Unity Well-being Project) will be described. In this study, statistical analyses were conducted utilising multilevel modelling techniques with a focus on ameliorating the methodological design problems inherent in longitudinal research in this area to date. Validated scales germane to the investigation of individual SWB maintenance were selected from surveys and included: global and domain specific measures of SWB; validated depression, stress and anxiety scales; and items designed to elicit information regarding life events. Results of these analyses provide new insight into adaptation processes at the level of the individual, and the most interesting of these findings will be presented.

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Session Wed1a

Maarten Berg

Income inequality and happiness in nations.

All modern nations reduce income differences to some extent, and as a result there is an ongoing discussion about what degree of income inequality is acceptable. In this discussion libertarians oppose egalitarians and a principled consensus between these positions is not possible. Consensus can only be reached on the basis of a consequential ethic and one of these is the utilitarian ethic, which judges the matter on its consequences for the happiness of citizens. This paper follows this utilitarian approach and considers the relation between income inequality and happiness in 75 nations. Four variants of utilitarianism are applied: 1) standard utilitarianism using average happiness in nations, 2) egalitarian utilitarianism using inequality in happiness in nations, 3) negative egalitarianism using the percentage unhappy citizens in nations and 4) 'Rawlsian' egalitarianism using the happiness of the poor people in nations. None of these analyses show a distinct effect of income inequality on the happiness of citizens. This non-difference cannot be attributed to insensitivity of the happiness indicators, since we see strong relationships with other variables, such as with gender inequality. Apparently, we can live with sizable income differences and even with the highest degrees of income inequality such as presently exist in Latin America.

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Session Thu3b

Maarten Berg

Modernity and happiness in nations how should we raise our children?

It is generally accepted that education by parents and teachers is important for the development of individuals and society as a whole. It is less obvious what educational philosophy should guide the educators. Many believe that individualism has gone too far and that traditional norms, values and community structures should be reinstated. These people are opposed by those who plea for the modern individualism that emphasizes unicity, freedom and assertiveness. In this article, the debate will be approached from an utilitarian approach. It is studied what type of society contributes to the 'greatest happiness for the greatest number'. Countries are compared on their 'national character' and on their coinciding dominant values. The question is how national character correlates with average happiness scores in those nations under investigation. It is concluded that, although individualism may have disadvantages, the net-effect should be valued positively.

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Session Tue1c

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Bridging cultural relativity in quality of life ratings by Anamnestic Comparative Self Assessment (ACSA).

Definitions and measures of happiness and subjective well-being (SWB) have high cultural relativity. In a global commonwealth, SWB should be commensurable across cultures. The conventional question (CQ) about global SWB uses a scale between e.g. "perfect" and "terrible". However, Asians and Westerners, for instance, use such scales quite differently. Also trivialisation and mood-of-the-day effects reduce the reliability of responses. A review of the biases of scales suggests that QOL data are not comparable across cultures or sub-cultures.

ACSA's singularity is having the respondent rate her SWB relative to her memories of her best and worst periods in life as the anchors (+5 and -5) of the scale. Respondents typically attribute +5 to periods of love experiences, births or achievements, and their nadirs, rated -5, are typically bereavements, a serious disease or war experiences. These experiential scale anchors are presumably minimally cultural. With ACSA, ratings for current SWB are relative to these individual anchors (JLB, *Bioethics* 13: 272-287, 1999).

ACSA and the CQ were administered in parallel to 2545 university hospital patients suffering from a wide range of psychiatric and somatic diseases.

Contrary to CQ, ACSA was not influenced by trait-like socio-demographic variables such as sex, age, and marital status. In patients with end-stage liver disease, the difference in mean rating between the situation before and after life-saving liver transplantation reached 4.1 points on an 11-point scale with ACSA, versus only 1.7 points with CQ. The lack of responsiveness of the CQ may be due to response shift. ACSA is strongly responsive to objective change.

In cross-sectional studies, ACSA should be considered as a complement or an alternative to conventional global SWB instruments. Comparing ACSA and the CQ, to make intercultural comparisons and in longitudinal or intervention studies, ACSA is probably more sensitive and reliable. It may circumvent the necessity of adjustments for several confounding factors, including socio-demographic variables and cultural traits. When socio-demographic variables are the endpoint, the CQ is necessary. In a universalistic perspective acknowledging cultural differences, ACSA may help to render SWB commensurable worldwide.

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Session Thu2c

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Measurement of human well-being: a possible new approach.

Traditionally human well-being was measured by increase in gross domestic product per capita (PCGDP). GDP reflects only material output. But only increase in material output or material consumption does not reflect completely the improvement in human well-being. GDP does not include any measurement of quality of life or deterioration of the environment. The Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) takes into account a few indicators of social development viz. life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, mean years of schooling along with per capita real gross domestic product (PCR GDP). This study proposes a new index to measure human well-being which would include fresh water withdrawal, deforestation, carbon dioxide emission, infant survival rate, calorie intake as percentage of requirement along with the variables incorporated in the HDI. The proposed index of human well-being would reflect economic and social well-being and environmental degradation. The proposed index has been estimated for different time points (1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000) for a large number of countries. The study attempts to compare the relations among human well-being measured by PCGDP, PCR GDP, HDI and New Index. The analysis would be extended to income group-wise.

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Session Mon2b

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Early retirement and subjective well-being: a cross-country approach.

In many OECD countries retirement patterns have changed quite radically in recent decades through the introduction of programmes or options for leaving the labour force before the official retirement age which is mostly significantly above the average retirement age. Typically, these programmes have been motivated as creating improved welfare for the affected older workers and better job opportunities for young workers. The focus in the paper is on testing available evidence for the eventual welfare or well-being effect from programme innovations by looking at micro-based evidence from The Eurobarometer collected for more than 30 years, from the eight waves of the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) and from the first wave of the SHARE data. Panel analyses on the ECHP data will be performed, tracking changes in the well-being of the elderly over time. As older cohorts reap windfall gains from the opening of early retirement programs while younger cohorts finance and fully internalise them, we expect that well-being from early retirement programs will decline for successive cohorts. An empirical challenge will be to identify separate cohort effects on well-being from age and period effects. This will be done either by imposing functional form restrictions on the actual dependence relations or by applying a method of identification suggested by Heckman and Robb (1985). In addition, the level and trend in labour force participation among older workers have differed in such a way across countries that possible gender differences in reported subjective well-being will also be a point of special relevance and interest in the paper.

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Session Thu2d

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The heart in HAART: changes over time in the Quality of Life of patients enrolled in the public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in the Free State province of South Africa.

This paper reports on the quality of life of patients enrolled in the public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in the Free State province of South Africa. Earlier statistical analysis of cross-sectional, baseline data collected from 371 patients enrolled in the programme revealed that it was not access to treatment per se that enhanced the quality of life of those who have come forward for ART. Rather, it was the health benefits associated with treatment, levels of stigmatisation, quality health care services, and the ability of persons to access support and care, both from within and outside the health care sector, that were independently associated with quality of life. This paper employs these baseline data and data from subsequent follow-up interviews with the same patients to determine longer-term trends in the quality of life of patients on ART and to investigate the correlates and determinants of quality of life of those taking ARVs, using panel data econometric techniques.

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Session Thu3c

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Comparing well-being in the east and the west of Algeria.

Algeria is a Third World country which has for more than a decade gone through harsh difficulties during its democratic transition phase. Due to this, among other factors Tiliouine, Cummins and Davern (2006) have found that both Personal and National Well-being are very low. Their study concerned solely the Western part of this vast country. Our paper reports on the measurement of the same aspects using the same measures, i.e. the International Wellbeing Index, with a sample of university students in the Eastern part of the country. The results will be presented and commented in the light of recent research in the field.

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Session Wed1a

Gerard Boyce

An investigation into the socio-economic determinants of self-assessed health status in South Africa.

Ten years into democracy, South Africa is still characterised by high levels of poverty and inequality. Recent studies estimate the Gini coefficient for South Africa to be one of the highest in the world whilst poverty estimates for the country range to as high as 40% of citizens being classified as living in poverty.

Whilst the hypothesis that absolute income has a role to play as an underlying determinant of health is widely accepted, support for recent empirical findings that suggest that the distribution of income itself is an underlying determinant of health is mixed.

In the South African context of high poverty and inequality, this debate is argued to be especially relevant. In addition, this debate is argued to assume greater relevance as the results and apparent policy implications suggested by competing hypotheses reflect contemporary economic policy discussions surrounding the prioritisation of growth (absolute income) versus redistributive (relative income) economic policies.

Using data for 2004 from the Human Science Research Council's (HSRC) nationally representative South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), this study explores the effect of absolute income and relative income on individuals' self-assessed health. Relationships are explored by means of categorical data analysis techniques using the ordered probit model in particular.

Results are consistent with prior empirical work that finds that there exists a positive, concave relationship between absolute income and health. Support for the role of relative income as a possible determinant of health status, however, is limited to certain special cases.

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Session Wed2d

Johan Calitz

Characteristics of the water challenge to alleviate poverty on local government level.

Water sources must be closely monitored, especially in rural areas because agricultural and private consumers are competing for the same source of water.

Extreme poverty still exists especially in the rural areas in South Africa. Rural areas fall under the responsibility of local authorities. Many countries have started with projects to get water to poverty stricken communities so that they can cultivate some sort of income. It seems that in many areas great successes have been registered. It also showed that if the local community can take responsibility for the management of their water resources, the more successes are recorded.

The influence of HIV/AIDS can also come into the picture. If the HIV positive escalates into full-blown Aids naturally more people in those local authority areas will die and less stress will be on the water resources. On the other hand more HIV positive people in the urban areas might move back to the rural areas, putting stress on water resources.

Proper water management can create better crops and food opportunities thus it might help the HIV positive people to gain access to healthier food everyday. This might help the cost of medication to decrease for the household, so more money can be used to cultivate crops. If the household can sell some part of the crops that is not used by the household, household income and the standard of living can increase. This was observed with some projects in Asia and Africa even in Southern Africa.

Water management needs urgent attention at this stage in South Africa. Local authorities such as Belfast, Delmas and Brits have been in the media lately because they are not managing their water resources well.

This paper will show these managers and other planners from these local authorities how they can make a success if water resources are well managed, this could lead to increasing the standard of living of their subjects in their area of jurisdiction.

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Session Tue3c

Laura Camfield

Universal coverage but unequal outcomes? An exploration of factors affecting the use of health services and the impact of sustained ill health in Northeast and South Thailand.

Previous research in Northeast and South Thailand by the Wellbeing in Developing Countries ESRC Research Group (WeD) demonstrated the importance of health to people's quality of life. This finding held for people from all age groups (especially middle-aged and old), and all types of site (near and remote rural, peri-urban, and urban).

Health was seen as an important economic and social resource and its absence often lead to financial and psychological stress. For example, according to data from the WeD Resources and Needs Questionnaire (RANQ), during 2004 55% of the sampled households (n=1,832) experienced severe 'health-related shocks' (e.g. serious illness, accident, or injury), which caused a marked reduction in income, consumption, or asset holdings (range 16-64%). During the same period 15.4% of households had members who during the last year had been badly injured/ ill for at least a month (13.2-17.9%), 82.5% of which sought treatment (63.7-88.7%).

Interestingly, while households in South and Northeast Thailand were equally likely to have sick household members, households in the Northeast were much less likely to seek treatment, and much more likely to experience a reduction in their material wellbeing as a result of a health-related shock (RANQ). While the economic differences between Northeast and South provide a partial explanation, the introduction of the 30 THB health scheme in 2001 (offering near-universal coverage) has begun to address these inequalities. But if the problem is not primarily one of access, then what is it?

This paper presents the results of further qualitative research exploring the health-rectification behaviour of people in the Northeast and South. It examines why people in the Northeast are less likely to seek treatment, and highlights other factors that might explain why in the Northeast the effects of poor health far exceed those of shocks relating to the household, market, state, or environment (RANQ).

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Session Mon2b

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Estimating a structural model of causal paths between health and socio-economic status: evidence from a European older workforce survey.

Several methodological difficulties arise when analysing the association between health status (HS) and socio-economic status (SES). Beside the traditional challenge of how to capture the variety of dimensions of individual health and socio-economic status, there are other problems which the literature attempts to solve; namely, the existence of intermediate factors and confounding mechanisms as well as the bi-directional nature of the HS-SES relationship. To tackle these issues, we construct a structural model describing the variety of dynamic causal paths which relate different health dimensions to different socio-economic measures. The model is estimated using Asymptotic Least Squares (ALS) which we regard as a means of simultaneously testing for several potential causal paths between HS and SES. Though ALS have never been used in the literature on socio-economic inequalities in health, it actually provides an appropriate framework to account for the above-mentioned problems with respect to simultaneity, intermediate factors and confounding mechanisms. Thus, a wide range of simultaneous equations of endogenous variables (quantitative or qualitative) can be properly handled without restricting the set of health or socio-economic indicators which can be considered. The set of relationships between the coefficients of the structural model and the coefficients estimated from the reduced-form state the identifying restrictions. Lastly, the paper delivers ALS estimates from several specifications of the dynamic causal paths between health and socio-economic status in order to test more particularly temporal persistence in health from early childhood to old age. These specifications differ either in the structural relations they describe or in the measurement of health and/or socio-economic status considered. We use data from the SOCIOLD survey where the targeted population is the older workforce (above 50 years old) from six EU countries; namely Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands and the United-Kingdom. Not only is the resulting dataset derived from a common questionnaire to allow strict cross-country comparisons, but it has also been designed to provide a variety of potential instruments to overcome identification problems. The results highlight significant associations of SES components and health conditions that are pretty robust across countries. We also found significant effects of tastes and behaviours and of early childhood environment factors on the pattern of individuals' current health status.

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Session Wed2d

Chin-ing Helen Chen
Chiung-jen John Chien

Holistic Living Management for better quality of life in the 21st Century: a preliminary study on curriculum design.

With the rapid change of the society around the world, the numbers of suicide and violence are increasing. There is no exception in Taiwan. How can the educator help the young students to prepare a better quality of life to face the challenge in the 21st Century?

Conventionally, many scholars have tried to create indicators to measure Quality of Life. Even though those indicators might have provided certain objective measurements for certain institutes to easily evaluate Quality of Life, the authors believe that various people can have different viewpoints on quality of life due to cultural differences.

This paper intends to share “A Holistic Living Management” curriculum design based on a Holistic Model which integrates Eastern Philosophy and Western Science as an Integrative System Model. This paper first discusses presuppositions of the model through a related literature review. It then describes the details of curriculum design and their relationships with better quality of life. In addition, a descriptive evaluation is provided for reference.

A Holistic Model consists of body, mind, spirit, and environment. That is, it regards a human being as a whole person of body, mind and spirit. Moreover, it considers the interaction between the human being and the environment (i.e. the eco-system) as a factor of quality of life.

As educators, we regard every student as a whole person. We can use curriculum design to put into place a programme to increase the quality life of the young generation.

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Session Tue1c

Ying-Shih Chen
Chun-Hue Fan

Consumption experience and satisfaction of a hot spring resort in Mid-Taiwan.

The purpose of the paper is to explain the relations between experiencing consumption, satisfaction and the willingness of tourists to revisit hot spring resorts in central Taiwan. Suggestions are provided for hot spring businesses.

A questionnaire was administered to tourists after their experience of staying at the resort. Items in the questionnaire include consumption characteristics, demographic statistics, expectation before experiencing and evaluation after experiencing the resort, as well as overall satisfaction.

Results suggest that most of the tourists are from the service industry and their major purpose of a tour is to take a hot spring bath. Main sources of information about the resort are from newspapers, magazines, relatives and friends. The most common reasons for choosing a hot spring resort to stay for the night are a reasonable rate, recommendations from relatives and friends and a hot spring swimming pool. Tourists emphasise the social effect and relaxation effect on their expectations before experiencing and evaluations after experiencing the resort. Eight dimensions were extracted by factor analysis. These included professional service, attractive advertisements through mass media, relaxation, curative effects of a hot spring bath, facilities, features of the resort and personalisation, word of mouth from consumers, broadening horizons and social activities.

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Session Thu1c

M.L. Cocks
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Cultural significance of biodiversity: the role of medicinal plants in urban African cultural practices in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

The Declaration of Belem (1988) has emphasized the ‘inextricable link’ between biological and cultural diversity. The term biocultural diversity was introduced by Posey to describe the concept denoting this link. To date this concept has been used only in reference to “indigenous people” who, as part of their traditional lifestyles, use biodiversity to sustain their cultural identity. This paper therefore aims to explain why Xhosa people living in urban areas in South Africa continue to use wild plants for cultural purposes. This is achieved by documenting the uses and assessing the value of the most frequently traded plant medicines regarding their physical and non-physical use and evaluating the significance of these plants to a sample of urban users stratified by income. The majority of the medicinal plants sold and used were used to address non-physical afflictions and requirements.

The highest level of amayeza use was recorded amongst poor households, followed by middle income and wealthy households. The study also demonstrates the significant role that wild plants play in providing health services and a feeling of ‘well-being’ among urban groups. We propose that the recognition of the cultural and spiritual values associated with wild plants should be used as a tool to enhance biodiversity conservation efforts in South Africa.

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Session Thu2a

Attie Coetser

Language as social indicator.

The “social indicator movement” took into account a number of socio-economic aspects of life to measure the welfare of society. Unfortunately, language has so far not featured prominently in such charting of life. This paper would argue that language should be one such indicator, as it is assumed that language plays an important role in people’s lives. A pilot study will be reported on, which showed that language is regarded as an important component in people’s subjective well-being. Twenty-five different life domains were identified, with mother tongue, a second, third and foreign languages among them. Respondents were requested to add a value of one to five to each of these life domains. The importance of mother tongue turned out to be very high, with a second and a third language also quite high. The paper argues that language be included in surveys on subjective well-being and the welfare of society, especially in a multilingual country such as South Africa.

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Session Wed1c

Robert A. Cummins

The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index: 2006 overview.

The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index has been used to monitor the subjective wellbeing of the Australian population since April 2001. To date, 14 surveys have been undertaken, each one involving a new nationwide sample of 2,000 people. This paper will summarise our most interesting cumulative findings to date. These will include population changes in SWB over time in response to national and international events. We will also describe the identification of population sub-groups who have low SWB through the use of normative data for both population and discrete demographic groups. This line of investigation has led to the recognition of gender differences in response to difficult circumstances of living, such that males are at greater risk. Finally, the dominance of household income and a partner-relationship to maintain normal levels of SWB will be discussed.

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Session Thu1d

Robert A. Cummins
Anna L.D. Lau

The Personal Wellbeing Index as one of four theoretically linked measures of subjective wellbeing.

This paper will discuss the relationship between four forms of measurement that can each be used to estimate subjective wellbeing. The first, and most basic, is Core Affect. This mood state is measured as a blend of happiness, contentment, and excitement. It is object free, pervasive within the brain, and is proposed as the aspect of functioning that is defended by SWB homeostasis. The question of 'satisfaction' that most closely approximates core affect is 'How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?' Because this item is referring to the self in an abstract way, people answer it by using a heuristic that takes them to core affect. The third and fourth measures are both multi-item scales. The oldest of these is the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS). Its five items form a single factor that is a close approximation to Life as a Whole. The Personal Wellbeing Index takes a different approach, in having seven items that are intended to represent the first-level deconstruction of Life as a Whole. Unlike the SWLS, where the items all represent the same single construct, the domains of the PWI have a dual representation. They represent the broad life area to which they refer (e.g. Health) but they also, in aggregate, represent Life as a Whole. The theoretical connections between these four scales will be discussed in the context of empirical data. It will be proposed that the study of these four forms of measurement in interaction has the potential to yield important insights into the construct of subjective wellbeing.

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Session Tue3a

Lía Rodríguez de la Vega

Quality of Life and migration: application of the Well- Being Index on immigrants to Argentina, 2004-2005.

At present, due to migratory movements, many societies have a growing cultural variety where we find many ethnologically different human groups that are subjected to a same social and political order, but differentiated one from the other.

Argentina is a traditional country of migrations that, since the middle of the XX century has had a reduction of international overseas migration consequently causing the migration from bordering countries to become more apparent.

This exploratory research develops the application of the Well Being Index on 150 immigrants to Argentina during 2004 and 100 immigrants during 2005 considering the first generation of different immigrant groups, older than 18 years, male and female, living in Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires Capital District, Greater Buenos Aires Area and Province of Buenos Aires) and the comparison between them.

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Session Thu2b

Richard Devey
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Comparing objective and subjective quality of life indicators of partnered and single mother households in South Africa using the 2002 General Household Survey.

The incidence of single parenting appears to be increasing in South Africa (Keeton, 2004). The increase in single parent households in society has led to continuum of views on the relationship between family structure and child wellbeing. Heuveline, Timberlake & Furstenberg (2003) summarise research that suggests households of biological parents who reside together continually are most valued because such households provide the necessary economic and emotional investment for the child; the poverty status of single parent households is largely responsible for such households not being able to achieve equivalent investment. Other authors argue that single parents are capable of providing a respectable quality of life for their children (cf Wilson, 2002).

In this paper we ask how many women in South Africa are single mothers and what are the similarities and differences between partnered and single mother households with regard to objective and subjective quality of life indicators?

A secondary analysis of selected indicators from the 2002 General Household Survey (GHS) was conducted. A partnered mother was defined as a woman aged between 18-49 who resides with her partner and at least one of her children. A single mother was defined as a women aged between 18-49 who resides with at least one of her children but either does not have a partner (de jure) or does not reside with her partner (de facto). A wealth index based on asset ownership was calculated (after Filmer & Pritchett, 2001) using selected social and economic indicators.

De jure single mothers occur in significant numbers in South Africa (2.8 million or 25.1 percent of women aged 18-49). Partnered and de facto single mothers respectively constitute 24.7 and 6.5 percent of women aged 18-49. Partnered mother households are wealthier (based on asset ownership) than de jure and de facto single mothers. Single mothers rely on different strategies – employment, support from other family members, and social welfare – to sustain quality of life. De jure single mothers show the highest rate of uptake of the child support grant but uptake rates remain very low. For subjective indicators, lower percentages of de jure single mothers report satisfaction with life in general while higher percentages report often feeling lonely compared with partnered mothers. Of concern is that if the number of single mothers continues to grow without increased effort to reduce gender inequality and to improve uptake of social welfare (such as the child support grant) more women – and their children – will achieve a relatively lower quality of life.

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Session Mon3c

Catherine Dinan

Development of a skin cancer quality of life instrument.

Skin cancer, like other types of cancer, remains a significant health problem worldwide despite large-scale preventive programmes (Marks, 1999; McCarthy, 2004). The assessment of QoL has become increasingly important in the process of monitoring quality of care and improving services for people with skin diseases (Gurel. et al., 2004). Quality of life is measured for clinical, research, auditing, political and financial purposes (Finlay, 1997). QoL assessment collects information from a patient's perspective about the impact of disease on daily living and provides a systematic and scientific basis for evaluating the benefits of treatment in terms of what patients' value (Anderson & Rajagopalan, 1997). Measures of QoL have particular significance for skin cancer because, although not generally life threatening, they frequently have a major impact on patients' psychosocial state, social relationships and everyday activities (Deyo, 1991). The aim of this study is to develop a new, short, self-administered subjective quality of life (QoL) instrument for patients with skin cancer. The items contributing to this QoL instrument are currently been developed from semi-structured individual interviews with patients' with a diagnosis of skin cancer. The reliability and validity of this instrument will be tested on data gathered from a pilot study conducted on patients (n=100) with skin cancer attending the Skin Alert Clinic, Townsville, North Queensland. Additional validation data will be generated from a subsequent 100 patient longitudinal study.

The secondary aim of this study is to identify the extent to which demographic, personality, symptoms, social support and psychosocial factors predict quality of life. Specifically, the unique contribution of demographic variables, medical variables, social support and personality on patients' QoL will be assessed. The quality of life of patients with skin cancer has been under researched and this study aims to provide a valid and reliable tool to meet this need.

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Session Thu3b

Liz Eckermann

Gendered responses to the domains of the Personal Wellbeing Index: a cross-country comparison between Australia and Lao PDR.

Large scale social surveys in all parts of the world tell us that women's objective conditions of life still seem to be worse than men's (disposable income, job opportunities, access to power and decision-making, leisure time, competing roles). Some quality of life measures, especially those which examine both objective conditions and subjective perceptions, show that women's quality of life is lower than men's. However, the Personal Wellbeing Index, looks only at subjective measures and in Australia consistently reveals higher scores for women than men. The concept of resilience, which is so central to the theory behind the Index is the most plausible explanation for such differences. The paper compares the findings in Australia with those found in Lao PDR. The results suggest that resilience still seems to explain gendered responses in some domains but in other domains cultural, political and religious factors appear to diminish gender differences.

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Session Tue1d

Patrick A. Edewor

Street children and adolescents In Lagos, Nigeria.

This paper is based on a study carried out on street children and adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. The study was aimed at understanding their social characteristics and background as well as their behaviour. Two methods were used: a survey of street children and adolescents in purposively selected parts of Lagos metropolis as well as case studies. The results show that the majority are males. They have low levels of education and are from poor and large families most of which are polygynous. Parental neglect, discontent at home, marital instability in the family of orientation and poverty are major causes of being on the street. The children and adolescents sleep under bridges, in market places, in uncompleted buildings and in motor parks and vehicles. Their survival strategies include engaging in some income-yielding activities such as carrying loads, packing refuse, being bus conductors, and begging. The females engage in prostitution. Street families, a variant of street living, as well as destitute families are also increasingly becoming common, with serious implications for the survival of children. Substance abuse and engaging in risky sexual behaviour are common. They are faced with the problem of police harassment, extortion and molestation from area boys. The paper concludes by making recommendations for policy based on the findings.

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Session Wed3c

Felicity Edwards

Quality of life, bliss and the transformative interface.

Wouldn't you like to have "the have the face of satisfied desire?" (Kabir's poem, "To be a slave of intensity"). How can we personally determine the quality of the experience we have of life? What does it mean to choose bliss? Some psychotherapies are making remarkable headway with this – particularly cognitive therapy. What I am suggesting here is that we support and develop an increasingly integrated approach, seeing the possibilities arising in the integral understanding of change from lower to higher quality of life. Where in our being does change happen? I am suggesting that the locus, or rather loci, of transformation are at least to an extent definable and, with practice, experiential. Such experience involves investigating the nature of the transformative interface, becoming aware of its portals, and working with the dynamism of its modalities. Since quality of life involves spirit as well as matter, let's see this investigation as coterminous with parts of the new integral spirituality. And with the increasing acknowledgement of the interconnected and interdependent relations between the environment and ourselves, it is appropriate to envision technologies of psycho-cosmic transformation in connection with the study of QOL. What kind of ontology is helpful here? We already know a good deal about it in theory, but how do we become what we know?

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Session Wed3d

Cathy Rozel Farnworth

Developing quality relationships between Northern consumers and Southern producers using quality of life methodology.

The relationship between Southern producers and Northern consumers in organic agriculture is impoverished. Although producers and consumers are actually connected through lengthy commodity chains, there is generally a strong sense of felt disconnection. They do not feel part of the same system. People in the chain lack physical presence for one another: they exist in the realm of ideas, if at all.

As part of my work to find ways of creating what I call ‘quality relationships’ between producers and consumers, I have been working on a ‘quality of life toolkit’, which is capable of capturing the needs and aspirations of smallholders and plantation workers in situ. The aim is to contribute a new ‘bottom-up’ methodological approach to the process of social certification in organic agriculture. I have carried out extensive research with organic smallholders and plantation workers in Madagascar in the development of the toolkit. This work feeds into concurrent work that aims to stretch the ‘circle of concern’ of consumers to include the well-being of producers.

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Session Mon2b

Taiye Fasola

Indigenous means of preserving herbal preparations in Ibadan, Nigeria.

About 70% of Africans rely on herbal medicine hence depend largely on medicinal plants which are indiscriminately harvested from the rural communities. The uses of these plants can be expected to increase further due to population growth and the increasing importance being attached to traditional health care by the World Health Organisation. The loss of certain plant species and reduced supply of other important plants would have a direct impact on human health and well-being. There is therefore the urgent need to conserve medicinal plants that are most frequently harvested. It is when people know the importance and uses of various plants that they appreciate the need for conservation.

However, one of the problems facing the use of phytomedicines today is the high spoilage rate due to improper preservation which may result in incessant collection of plants from the wild. This has a great implication for conservation and thus improved shelf lives of phytomedicines will reduce the rate of collection from the wild.

A survey of three major markets in Ibadan revealed the different ways of processing and storage of medicinal plants to prolong shelf lives of herbs. These include the use of preservatives of plant origin such as *Xylopiya aethiopica*, *Eugenia aromatica*, *Aframomum melegueta* and *Piper guineense*. As an example, anti-malarial decoctions were preserved with *Allium ascalonicum*, garlic was used as preservative in preparation for respiratory problems while *X. aethiopica* was present in some other formulations.

The amount of preservatives to be added and their role in the reduction of frequency of collecting and preparing fresh herbal formulations is highlighted.

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Session Thu2a

Oluyemi Fayomi

The United Nations and humanitarian assistance in the Niger Republic.

One of the most noble of all human goals is the international responsibility for the alleviation of suffering. As the process of globalization accelerates, the United Nations finds itself at the center of world events. Today, there are many potent forces transforming the world. Environmental and economic forces are rearranging relations among nations. Niger Republic is currently plagued by widespread famine resulting from years of drought and recent locust infestation. The world has reacted by providing much needed aid and funding, but crises can be averted with more efficient aid distribution and disaster planning. Despite a global effort to combat famine, hunger is still persistent in Niger republic. Countries that are unable to fund a famine lowering system are “another disaster waiting to happen”. The lack of Early Warning infrastructure is largely responsible for much of the destruction in famine-stricken Niger. Over the past year, there have been discussions on the need to reform the humanitarian agencies.

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Session Tue3c

Wolfgang Fellner

How to overcome the methodological differences in quality of life research?

We are used to distinguishing between “subjective” and “objective” concepts of quality of life. Subjective theories try to capture variables that might be responsible for making people feel good (feelings of pleasure or satisfaction). Despite the problems associated with measuring feelings, the shortcoming of such theories is that they very often lack a conceptual explanation for why (or why not) and under which circumstances those variables make people happy. Objective theories try to tell something about quality of life by looking at different aspects of living conditions. For such theories it is always difficult to explain what aspects are considered (and which ones not) being important (“central capabilities” – Sen). The difficulties of both approaches may have a common solution. The challenge is to explain valuations/preferences. To do so, it is unavoidable to look at quality of life from a dynamic perspective and to find out how preferences emerge. A concept that overcomes the above mentioned difficulties therefore needs to have the time and space dimension. Hugo E. Pipping’s concept “Standard of Living” tries to do so by looking at social structures of society from a dynamic perspective.

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Session Tue 1a

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Measuring the individual quality of life among elderly people.

The multidimensional nature of the concept of Quality of Life (QoL), the need to progress in its holistic understanding and the consideration of both objective life conditions of individuals as well as the subjective assessments that these individuals carry out on their life conditions, are the most prominent scientific strategy in QoL research at the present time.

In this context, the aim of this paper is to identify the relevant dimensions of QoL, to measure levels of satisfaction and to weight their relative importance in a global model of QoL among elderly people.

In order to achieve this goal and to capture properly the specific dimensions of QoL, a face-to-face survey using SEIQOL-DW instrument, which allows spontaneous responses from individuals on their QoL, was carried out in 2005. The universe was the population aged 65 years and older living in family housing in the region of Madrid (Spain).

Analytical and multivariate statistical techniques will be applied to work on this proposal.

Differences in nominating QoL dimensions as well as levels of satisfaction and weightings with respect to specific dimensions are expected.

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Session Mon3b

Domingos Leite Lima Filho

Education, citizenship and social inclusion: new ways for the public policies of quality-of-life.

The main objective of the present text is to contribute to a conceptual systematization on the public policies of education and quality-of-life. After discussing the categories of public policies, education and quality-of-life we can through a critic of the social role of the some programs of public politics related to the thematic education and quality of life in Brazil and the currently process of its implementation. We emphasize its relationship with the reform of Brazilian State and transformation of social relations in the context of globalization. In this article we analyze, particularly, two programs of public politics: i. the "Paraná in Action", of the Government of the State of the Paraná; ii. the "Program Voluntary Civil Service", of the Federal Government. The "Paraná in Action" is a program of the Government of the State of the Paraná, co-ordinated for the Special Secretariat of Relations with Community. This program has as its objective to take citizenship and social inclusion to the low income population in the diverse cities of the State. The Program Voluntary Civil Service is on program the public policies developed off the National Program of Stimulation to First Job for Young - PNPE. This program has for general objective to take care of to the young of low income of 16 the 24 years of age that are in situation of social vulnerability. The Program seeks to offer innovative and creative formative chances of personal, social and professional development so that the young participants can construct a way of access to the majority and to the full exercise of the citizenship, by means of its allied integral formation to the concrete experience of the voluntary rendering of services to the community. We conclude this paper by identifying positive and negative points of these educational programs and social insertion and as they contribute in general to the enhancement of the quality-of-life of the participants and society.

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Session Tue1c

Harry Finkenflügel

Prospects for community-based rehabilitation in the new millennium.

In the early eighties of the last century, Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) has been promoted as an alternative to Institution-based rehabilitation. The general idea is that the community organises support for people with disabilities in order to enable them to participate in all community activities. The community and people with disabilities are assisted by volunteers and rehabilitation facilitators and as such CBR is not only a de-centralised but also a de-professionalized type of rehabilitation. There is a lively discussion whether people with disabilities should be supported in their own community. Some have argued that CBR is a second-rate, dispersed type of rehabilitation that is only invented because policymakers do not want to spend enough money on rehabilitation of people with disabilities. Others have emphasised the importance of acquiring skills that are directly relevant for people with disabilities, involving others in the rehabilitation and opening up mainstream facilities for people with disabilities.

The debate is also reflected in the academic literature. A systematic review of 128 articles on CBR shows that the evidence for CBR is incoherent, basically because the available research covers many aspects but only few in depth. Evaluation studies are limited in number and studies that incorporate the clients' view are really exceptional. There is no tradition of using Quality of Life (QoL) instruments in the evaluation of CBR programmes.

It is argued here that the effectiveness of CBR cannot be assessed solely by looking at the number of people assisted, the functional progress of the people involved and the costs of the programme. Most important is to get to know if people with disabilities, as a main stakeholder and beneficiary of the programme, think that the support they got was really helpful and did add to their Quality of Life. Only recently researchers have used QoL instruments, or parts of it, in the evaluation of programmes. These experiences strongly suggest including QoL instruments in the evaluation of CBR programmes.

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Session Thu 1a

Luke Yat-chung Fung

Street songs, street dances – new immigrants’ strategy to improve quality of social life in urban Hong Kong.

Urban life can be frustrating. This is especially true to new immigrants of cities. Subject to sudden change in habitat, new city dwellers demand urgently a well-knitted social network to uphold the quality of their social life. In fact, in a world of strangers, social network serves as an arena for interaction, a centre for interpersonal influence, a source of mutual aid, a reference group, and, last but not least, a constructor of collective identity.

This situation is currently evidenced in Hong Kong among new immigrants from Mainland China, whose volume has increased significantly after the Chinese Government resumed its sovereignty over the city in 1997. These new immigrants dwell mainly in public housing estates located in relatively remote “satellite towns” within the territory, and poorly equipped with community facilities. Borrowing German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies’s vocabularies, their living environment is undoubtedly transforming from a *Gemeinschaft* style of close and intimate social relationship with familiar community members, to a rather modern and urbanized *Gesellschaft* style of functional and task-oriented relationship with strangers.

While detached suddenly from family and community networks, which used to be their most important safety net, these immigrants actively establish new connections with fellow immigrants and local neighbours through a unique channel adopted in their village hometowns: street performances, including singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments. Through participant observations and interviews, this paper records a study aiming at an examination on how these street performances have functioned as a means to help new city dwellers release tension, gather fellowship and develop neighbourhood, which ultimately upholds, maintains and improves their quality of social life in an unfamiliar urban setting.

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Session Thu2b

Anne M. Gadermann

Quantifying the short-term temporal characteristics of subjective well-being.

Previous research investigating subjective well-being (SWB) commonly utilized cross-sectional designs, focusing on the level of SWB and its correlates. In contrast, the investigation of its temporal characteristics has been largely neglected (Bostic & Ptacek, 2001). Accordingly, Diener (1996) voiced the necessity to study the short-term temporal characteristics of individual's SWB. Particularly, he suggested to further investigate the intra-individual fluctuations or variability of SWB. In addition, Lucas, Clark, Georgellis, and Diener (2003) noted the importance of using a more individual-based approach by investigating within-subject trends, which provides additional information to investigating average group trends as typically done when using statistical methods such as repeated measures ANOVA. In this light, the present study explored the short-term temporal characteristics of SWB and its potential correlates. Specifically, we examined the intra-individual variability and the within-subject trends or trajectories of SWB and its components life satisfaction, positive, and negative affect. Over a two-week period, 27 participants (78% university students, 85% females, mean age of 29 years) provided SWB data every other day. Before and after this period, participants completed questionnaires assessing personality variables (the big five, self-esteem, and spheres of control), perceived social support, hassles, physical health, and several open-ended questions. The results provide evidence that participants experienced a significant amount of intra-individual variability in their SWB and its components as assessed with the median absolute deviation. Furthermore, inter-individual differences in the intra-individual variability were related to several of the personality and other variables. Results of multiple regression analyses indicated that deliberation (one facet of the big five dimension conscientiousness), social support, and age accounted for 58% of the total variance of intra-individual variability in SWB. In contrast, the slopes of the individual trajectories of SWB were on average statistically non-significantly different from zero. This was determined using linear regression as a curve fitting method (for each individual separately over time) and replicated with structural equation modelling with a linear and quadratic model. Our findings demonstrate that important information is gained by concurrently examining the temporal processes of SWB at these two levels of analysis: the trajectories as well as the intra-individual variability. It revealed that the participant's trajectories during this time period were on average flat, and that, at the same time, participants experienced a significant amount of intra-individual variability of SWB that was meaningfully related to several of the other study variables.

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Session Thu3b

Anne M. Gadermann
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The importance of investigating differential item functioning in quality of life research.

The investigation of differential item functioning (DIF) has become of growing interest in quality of life research. One of the reasons for this growing interest is the increase in cross-national comparisons. However, the analysis of DIF is vital for any group comparison because the validity of the inferences made from test scores could be compromised if DIF is present. DIF occurs when individuals from different groups show different probabilities of endorsing an item after being matched on the underlying latent variable that the item is supposed to measure. If items are functioning differently in two groups this may not only compromise the comparisons made on the scale score but also affect further analyses such as correlating this scale score with another variable. It is important to note that if DIF is detected, this could be due to item impact or item bias (whether the group differences are due to relevant or irrelevant attributes of the scale, respectively). The present paper addresses DIF in the context of quality of life measures. DIF detection techniques are demonstrated with data collected by Ed Diener and his colleagues, the International College Student Data, during 1995-1996 in 41 nations. We will investigate gender and cross-national DIF with regard to the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS), a 5-item measure that assesses global life satisfaction. With an eye toward the audience of quality of life researchers, we will describe two user-friendly statistical methods: non-parametric IRT, which presents DIF from both a graphical and numerical perspective, and logistic regression, which builds on researchers' familiarity with regression modeling. We will discuss some of the strengths and limitations of each of these methods. Thus, this paper emphasizes the importance of investigating DIF in quality of life research and provides workable methods appropriate for quality of life researchers.

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Session Tue1a

Anne M. Gadermann
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Measuring the affective components of subjective well-being across nations: is the assumption of measurement invariance tenable?

For several decades researchers have compared nations on subjective well-being (SWB) with the aim of investigating what makes a good society (Diener & Suh, 2000). These cross-national comparisons are often described in terms of “cross-cultural” comparisons. Such comparisons presuppose that the underlying conceptual structure of SWB is invariant across these nations. If this is not the case—the factor structure is varying across nations—then one is not comparing the same phenomenon and cross-national comparisons may be confounded by measurement artifact. The present paper investigated the assumption of measurement invariance with regard to Diener’s Affect Balance Scale across samples from China, Australia, and the USA (i.e. one collectivistic and two individualistic cultures, respectively). This scale is frequently used to assess the affective components, positive and negative affect, of SWB. The total sample consisted of 1255 college students (Australia: 289, China: 531, and USA: 435). A multi-group confirmatory factor analysis (MG-CFA) was conducted using the Pearson correlation and maximum likelihood estimation. Because of the ongoing discussion regarding the bipolarity versus the independence of positive and negative affect, we tested for measurement invariance with a one- and two-factor model of the scale. The invariance testing begins with the baseline model of construct equivalence. The baseline model specified the same number of factors and the same pattern of fixed and free loadings for each nation group. This baseline model did not fit for either the one- or the two-factor models; therefore, further testing for invariance was not meaningful (Vandenberg & Lance, 2000). Given that the MG-CFA resulted in the rejection of the assumption of construct equivalence, factor analyses were conducted for the three countries separately. These factor analyses revealed an interesting pattern: Whereas the two factors, positive and negative affect, were negatively correlated in the Australian and US samples, they were positively correlated in the Chinese sample. The two-factor exploratory factor analyses (EFA) resulted in an acceptable fit for all three samples, indicating that the less restrictive model of the EFA fits the data better than the more restrictive CFA in the American and Australian samples — the CFA is based on the strong simple structure assumption where off-loadings are set to zero. It is noteworthy that the simple structure CFA two-factor model only fit for the Chinese sample. These results are discussed with regard to their implications for cross-cultural research utilizing this scale and instruments assessing quality of life in general.

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Session Mon2a

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Child-rearing practices and quality of life.

Family is the primary institution in which children learn attitudes, values, and behaviors not only to relate to themselves but with other persons in a variety of different situations as well. Child-rearing practices, have an important role on aspects such as how the child understands and explains the world around him/her, the performance in school, and, in general, on different dimensions of life including happiness. It is within the family that the child first develops a sense of him/her self, its capabilities, the meanings of and about the ways to relate to others. This study presents the results of a segment of an evaluation aimed at determining the contribution of a federally funded program to improve the quality of education in schools in Mexico. Parent's participation is an important component of this program. This study compared child-rearing practices and children's quality of life of two samples of parents and their respective children in schools with and without the program. In total, 30 parents and their respective children were interviewed. Results showed some differences between the samples on both variables. The most important differences were related to the educational level of parents and to their income.

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Session Wed3c

Yannis Georgellis
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Adaptation towards reference values: a non-linear perspective.

Adopting a prospect theoretic approach, we posit that a divergence between workers' actual and reference values for key workplace characteristics causes disutility that could spur them into action to achieve their aspiration or reference values. Using large-scale panel data, we discover that the process of adaptation towards reference values is a non-linear one, best captured by an Exponential Smooth Transition Autoregressive (ESTAR) model. Interestingly, we find that shocks in job satisfaction dominate shocks in wages or hours of work in terms of the speed of adjustment towards reference values. Our findings reaffirm the importance of reference points as determinants of labor market behavior, lending further credence to the relative utility hypothesis.

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Session Thu2d

Wolfgang Glatzer

Quality of Life in Europe and abroad: a comparison of comprehensive quality of life measures.

The question of this article is concerned with the quality of life in the European Union compared with the other continents and regions of the world. The objective side of quality of life is described with comprehensive indicators as incorporated by the Human Well-Being Index (HWI), the Human Development Index (HDI), and the World Index for Social Progress (WISP). The subjective side of quality of life is explained with regard to the perceived quality of life in terms of satisfaction with life and the affect balance scale.

The conclusion outlines the quality of life in Europe and abroad with respect to differences and similarities. Obviously different measures lead to different results but Europe competes with North America. Measured differences inside the European Union are often as significant as the differences to the other regions of the world.

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Session Tue3b

Alex Hakuzimana
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Quality-of-life assessment of HIV-positive adults in Kigali, Rwanda.

Assess quality of life as perceived by adults living with HIV in Kigali, Rwanda using the World Health Organization's Quality of Life Brief-Form module (WHOQOL-BREF), compare results to global general population norms and previous HIV-related studies in other parts of the world, and assess the scale's ability to detect differences according to health status.

The WHOQOL-BREF was administered to 250 HIV-positive adults attending the Treatment and Research AIDS Centre (TRAC) HIV Clinic of Kigali, Rwanda and to 50 HIV-negative comparison controls. Mean ratings of the four domains: physical, psychological, social and environmental were compared to norms as well as the results of two HIV-related research reports from Taiwan and Italy. Discriminant validity was also evaluated: independent samples t-tests to assess differences according to HIV serostatus, self-reported health status and CD4 cell count; one-way ANOVA to assess differences across WHO HIV stage.

Environmental ratings were significantly lower for both the HIV+ and HIV- subgroups compared to norms for well populations and other HIV populations (Italian, Taiwanese), while psychological domain ratings appeared similar to or better than the latter comparison groups. The HIV+ subgroup physical and social domain ratings were lower compared to well population norms but consistent with the Italian and Taiwanese comparison groups. Ratings were significantly poorer for the HIV+ compared to HIV- adult Rwandans on the physical domain ($p = .00$). For the HIV+ overall those who perceived themselves to be ill had poorer ratings in the psychological ($p = .00$) and social ($p = .01$) domains compared to those perceiving themselves as being healthy. For those with CD4 count ≤ 200 cells/ μ L, physical domain ratings were poorer ($p = .00$) while social domain ratings were inexplicably better ($p = .01$; but moderate effect size of 0.5) compared to those with CD4 count > 200 . The physical and environmental domains were sensitive to disease stage differences.

The WHOQOL-BREF instrument was inconsistent in detecting differences in health-status variables among Rwandan adults living with HIV. The environmental domain may be more reflective of locale-specific issues than those related to HIV.

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Session Thu3c

Virgene Hanna

Arctic children: resources for well-being, a view from the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic.

Political institutions and modes of development differ greatly across the arctic. Despite these differences the potential for common elements among families has received limited attention. This paper examines resources and attributes among Inuit and Chukchi households with children and describes the environments for these children growing up in arctic communities. The data are from interviews conducted between 2002 and 2005 for the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic and represent indigenous households in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. An adult in the child's household was interviewed, so the data reflect the perceptions of a family member.

The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic was designed by an international team to develop indicators relevant to each participating country and culture. Various dimensions can be used to gain insight into the social, physical, and cultural environment where these children live and the role they play in children's homes. This analysis is structured around dimensions developed by the Multi-National Project for Monitoring and Measuring Children's Well-Being. The domains and one example of a variable include: Safety and Physical Status (traditional healing in the community), Personal Life (social support), Civic Life (civic actions), Children's Economic Resources and Contributions (wage employment and harvest/herding activities), and Children's Activities (participation in household activities). The presentation will focus is on positive resources in these children's lives that contribute to living in an arctic community.

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Session Tue1b

Thomas Hansen

Financial satisfaction in old age – a satisfaction paradox or a result of accumulated wealth?

Extant research on financial satisfaction has been intrigued by the paradoxical finding that older people, despite substantially lower average income, are more financially satisfied than younger age-cohorts. This research has, however, been unable to account for economic resources other than earnings. We ask whether the elderly are more financially satisfied than the non-elderly, and if so, whether this is a result of more accumulated wealth and less debt among the aged. Last, we address whether assets and debt can explain age-differences in financial satisfaction across the entire range of incomes.

Presumably, elderly with low income also have limited accumulated wealth. Data are from the first wave of the Norwegian Life Course, Ageing and Generation (NorLAG) study, which comprises data from telephone interview, postal questionnaire, and registry data (e.g. economic resources) on 5589 persons aged 40-79 years. We find that the elderly are more financially satisfied than younger persons, and that the age effect on financial satisfaction largely is mediated by assets and debts. Assets and debts, however, to a lesser extent mediate the effect of age at lower incomes.

We conclude by theorizing why the elderly tend to be financially satisfied even at low incomes. In particular we focus on differences between age-cohorts regarding upbringing, aspirations, and coping mechanisms.

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Session Wed2c

Neil Higgs

Understanding poverty in South Africa.

South Africa has a very high Gini co-efficient of 62. A growing emphasis on remedial action to redress the inequalities caused by our past makes the reliable measurement of people's quality of life - and poverty levels in particular - in quantitative terms an increasing imperative.

This led us to develop a simple measurement framework specifically to measure people's quality of life. Termed the Everyday Quality of Life Index (EQLi), it comprises a suite of measures encompassing inter alia socio-economic status (with special reference to poverty), urbanisation, health (nutrition, exercise and fitness), stress/pressure, quality of the environment and an overall measure of well-being.

The initial framework was developed from a structured questionnaire administered to a probability sample of 2 000 South African adults in 2002. From this, a 52-item shortlist was derived to create the series of measures. This has been tested and refined in three subsequent annual studies, each of 3 500 people across urban and rural South Africa.

The suite's poverty measure is based on the provision of basic services (water, sanitation, power, discomfort), access to telecommunications and transport, and adequacy of nutrition. Hence, our measure ascertains people's levels of deprivation. Zero means no material deprivation; 100 means almost no basic needs are filled. In 2003, the mean of the measure stood at 43; in February 2005, it stood at 41. This is a small but statistically significant improvement. The advantage of this measure over income data is that – survey income data in South Africa is notoriously unreliable; income segmentations do well at differentiating between people with reasonable incomes but tend to fail at the very top and very bottom of the wealth spectrum; and, the minimum income one needs depends on where one lives (the concept of product purchasing parity), the size of one's family, other dependants (such as the extended family in black culture) and other monetary assets one might have.

The paper will cover briefly levels of access to amenities, employment and claimed income levels, and will focus mainly on the poverty measure, developing a poverty segmentation and showing what specific parts of South African society have the most severe poverty levels, comparing 2005 data with 2003 data. It concludes with the national priorities around poverty alleviation and discusses the implications for policy-makers and service providers in South Africa.

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Session Mon2c

Neil Higgs

Measuring everyday quality of life in South Africa – the development of the Everyday Quality of Life suite of composite measures.

South Africa has a Gini co-efficient of 62, one of the highest in the world. As a result, measures of wealth and socio-economic status are amongst the most ubiquitous of social indicators in South Africa. However, a growing emphasis towards measurable service delivery targets and remedial action to redress the inequalities caused by our past makes the reliable measurement of people's quality of life across additional domains and in quantitative terms an increasing imperative.

This led us to develop a simple framework to measure people's quality of life in key domains that extend well beyond that simply of wealth. Termed the Everyday Quality of Life Index (EQLi), it comprises a suite of measures encompassing socio-economic status (with special reference to poverty), urbanisation, health (encompassing nutrition, exercise and fitness), stress/pressure, quality of the environment, satisfaction of human needs, connectivity, optimism, subjective well-being (happiness), and an overall measure of well-being, the EQLi itself.

The initial framework was developed from a structured questionnaire administered to a probability sample of 2 000 South African adults in 2002. From this, a 52-item shortlist was derived and used to create the series of measures. This has been tested and refined in three subsequent annual studies, each of 3 500 people across urban and rural South Africa.

This paper outlines the development of and rationale behind the quality of life model that provided the framework for this suite of measures, including the use of correspondence analysis in the development of composite measures of quality of life in the various domains and in the construction of the overall EQLi measure itself. Some of the basic results for South Africa will demonstrate the use of the measures and what this means for South Africa.

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Session Wed1d

Timothy Hinks
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What is the structure of South African happiness equations? Evidence from quality of life surveys.

The issue of what determines subjective well-being has been at the centre of a recent flurry of research in the economics field. A necessary part of this understanding is the role relative positions (economic, social, geographic) of economic agents, particularly individuals, play in life (commonly referred to in the literature as rivalry). In this paper we concentrate on whether the structure of happiness equations of South Africa are the same/similar to those of developed countries. The analysis uses three of the Durban Quality of Life Studies. Firstly these three data series are pooled and a variety of covariates are tested for their significance on happiness. These include age, marital status, employment status, household income and relative household income. Next we estimate yearly cross-sectional models to see if there are consistent findings of what determines happiness across the period considered. Our findings indicate there may be some structural differences between results from the Durban studies and those of international findings. Age appears to play no role in happiness likelihood, nor does marital status. Being unemployed does significantly and negatively effect happiness as does the size of household income, relative household income and whether living in a formal dwelling place. When we distinguish between employment categories we find that being self-employed negatively affects happiness, contradicting findings for developed countries. Future research will concentrate on the most recent Durban studies, in which information on health and crime are available, both of which are expected to significantly effect happiness given the well documented nature of these problems in South Africa.

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Session Mon3a

Cheng Jen-Son
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Leisure lifestyles and health-related QOL in Taiwan.

The research aims to explore the relationship between leisure lifestyles and healthy quality of life and treats leisure lifestyles as segmentation variable to segment Taiwanese people for studying the difference of different groups in terms of demographic variable and health-related quality of life. There are 662 valid questionnaires in this research and the modified leisure lifestyles scale includes six dimensions: travelers, self-realization people, morning exercisers, exercisers, family people, social supporters; the scores of self-realization people are the highest and the scores morning exercisers are the lowest. The results reveal that as to Taiwanese's physical and psychological aspects of health-related quality of life, the physical quality dimension is better than the psychological quality one. By using leisure lifestyles as segmentation variable, the researcher can segment Taiwanese people into four groups: morning exercisers, traveling and social people, static recreation group and active exercisers; the people of leisure lifestyles who love exercises more have better health-related quality of life.

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Session Thu1c

Cara S. Jonker
A. Nel

Emotional intelligence, job characteristics, burnout and engagement among nurses.

In the late 1990's the organisation of care changed dramatically from being target centred to patient care centred because of economic and social developments (LeBlanc, Bakker, Peeters, Van Heesch & Schaufeli, 2001), which meant a closer relationship between the patient and the nurse (Begat & Severinsson, 2001). This closeness also meant that there were limited opportunities for nurses to remain untouched by the patient's life. In South Africa the growing number of HIV-positive patients contributes to negative feelings like stress and depression which may ultimately be fatal for the emotional health of the nurses working closely with such patients (Visinti & Campanini, 1996). According to Cherniss (1995), it is becoming more important for nurses to use more complex cognitive skills such as accuracy and rapid decision-making and to display 'consumer friendly' attitudes in ways that may be in conflict with the expression of their genuine feelings.

It is because of these changes from the last decade that research is now beginning to focus on understanding the causes and effects of emotions at work (Weiss & Cropanzano, 1996). According to LeBlanc, Bakker, Peeters, Van Heesch and Schaufeli (2001), there are many causes for negative emotions like stress and depression.

The objective of this research was to investigate the correlations between emotional intelligence, job characteristics, burnout and engagement among nurses in the Gauteng- and North-West Provinces in South Africa. A cross-sectional survey design was used. A non-probability convenience sample was taken from 507 nurses in hospitals and clinics in the North-West and Gauteng Provinces. The Emotional Intelligence Scale, Maslach Burnout Inventory – HSS, Utrecht Work Engagement Scale and Job Characteristics Scale were used as measuring instruments. Cronbach alpha coefficients, inter-item correlation coefficients, Pearson-product correlation coefficients and Spearman-product correlation coefficients were used to analyse the data. The results showed that positive state or emotions are positively related to vigour, dedication, professional efficacy, own emotions, others' emotions and emotional management. Own emotions and emotional management also correlated positively with professional efficacy and others' emotions. Workload is positively related to payment, emotional labour, staff support, work environment, communication demands and emotional exhaustion, while communication demands is positively related to payment, emotional labour, overtime, work environment and emotional exhaustion. The results also identified emotional exhaustion to be positively related to mental exhaustion, job security, and staff support and negative related to vigour and dedication. Finally, a proposed structural model show that there are clear paths between job demands, job resources, emotional intelligence and work wellness.

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Session Thu2d

Mary Joyce

The role of NPOs in macromarketing and quality-of-life (QOL) indicators.

The role of a non-governmental organization (NGO) is to provide needed community services, and advocate for public policy that will improve community indicators by addressing root causes of a social problem. NGOs exist to build social capital, direct electoral activity through advocating for public policy changes necessary to community quality-of-life, and provide a dimension of thought regarding civic engagement and the social compact that transcends the profit motive. In recent years, there has been a shift from cooperation among NGOs, government, business, and foundations, to that of competition. This has affected the ways in which NGOs are building their contexts for strategy and rivalry vis-à-vis their “collaborators” to effect positive change in QOL indicators. Some would like to see the NGO eliminated from the collaborative, but who would perform the duties of the NGO that are in the gap between government services and market-based products? It is the social capital created here, in areas that are disquieting to the public or rendered invisible through rhetoric, which must be generated by NGOs, organizations that in part exist to force discussions of equality, liberty, and well-being. In this session, examples of a cross-section of NGOs, and the work they do, will be provided. Each example will serve to illustrate the importance of the compact between NGOs, macromarketing, and QOL indicators.

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Session Thu3d

Lutz C. Kaiser

Gender-job-satisfaction differences across Europe - an indicator for labor market modernization.

In 14 member states of the European Union, women's relative to men's levels of job satisfaction are compared by using data of the European Household Community Panel. The countries under consideration can be assigned to three different groups. Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands do not show significant gender-job-satisfaction differences. In contrast, in Portugal men are more satisfied with their jobs than women. However, in the vast majority of the investigated countries female workers show a significantly higher level of job satisfaction. As the majority of women are disadvantaged compared to men in the labor market, the findings clearly demonstrate a gender-job-satisfaction paradox in these countries. From this point of view, only Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands display gender-job-satisfaction equality.

The results suggest that objective (socio-economic and institutional) determinants of labor market statuses and subjective (assessed and evaluated) perspectives are mutually complementary. The more restrictive the labor market access and process is for women, the more likely a gender-job-satisfaction paradox is to emerge in any country. With regard to the process of labor market modernization, the results support the hypotheses that equal opportunities for women and men like in Scandinavian countries and also partially in the Netherlands implicate that the gender-job-satisfaction paradox does not appear anymore due to a fading-out process over past decades.

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Session Wed3a

Jack Kruse

Relationships between social problems and other dimensions of living conditions: an international Arctic analysis.

Violent death rates are generally high among Arctic Native peoples and are a source of major local, regional, and international concern. At the same time, discussions about violent death, depression, alcohol abuse and other social problems often focus on treatment and mitigation of the problems themselves, drawing negative public attention. In 2003 Charles Dorais of Makivik Corporation, Kuujjuaq, Canada and Ed Ward of Maniilaq, Inc., Kotzebue, Alaska suggested as one of five international analysis themes, relationships between social problems and other dimensions of living conditions. Dorais is a member of the Canadian Steering Committee and Ward is a member of the Alaska Native Management Board. The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic offers an opportunity to examine social problems such as violent death in the context of living conditions that contribute to well-being and thereby may reduce the prevalence of social problems. This paper examines our hypothesis that overall well-being and social problems are both related to a combination of other dimensions of living conditions including domestic and cash production, strength of cultural values, social participation, and a sense of local control. The analysis is based on over 7,000 personal interviews with Inuit adults in Greenland, Canada, Chukotka, and Alaska.

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Session Wed1b

Kamlesh Kumar

Human rights of refugees in India: problems and prospects.

The present paper aims to examine the protection of human rights of refugees in India. The present paper looks into the norms, values, policies or legal regime to protect refugees' rights as well as civil society including non-government organisation's assistance to the refugees and problems in their quality of life in the country.

Even though India is the largest democracy of the world, it faces the problems of two and a half lakh refugees from the countries such as Tibet, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iraq and others. The refugee problem is a serious one for India given its own burgeoning population and scarce resources. Factors such as the rise of religious nationalism, ethnicisation of politics, state terrorism, anarchic, majoritarianism and above all state refusal to conform to norms set by the international refugee regime, rendered the refugee stateless and subjects for inhuman treatment which violates their basic human rights. In spite of being on the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), India has neither ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its additional protocol of 1967 nor taken any initiative for the creation of a domestic legal regime for the refugees.

In recent years, the human rights of refugees and their protection are a sovereign act of each state. In this context, the present papers looks at the scope of policy framework for the permanent solution to the protection of human rights of refugees that will ensure their quality of life in the New Millennium in India.

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Session Thu1b

Leslie Laczko

Quantitative indicators of ethnolinguistic diversity: a comparison of simple and composite indices.

It has become increasingly well known among scholars and the general public that most states in the contemporary world system are not ethnically or linguistically homogeneous, and that the homogeneous nation-state is very much the exception on the world stage. Indeed, in a world with thousands of distinct ethnic groups and languages and fewer than 200 independent states, we should expect most states to be heterogeneous to some extent. Over the past few decades several attempts have been made to quantify the volume of ethnic and linguistic diversity within states. Some of these indices are composite measures that take into account various dimensions of ethnolinguistic diversity. Examples include the early ELF index and the more recent one proposed by Vanhanen. Other indices, such as those of Kurian, are basically single-item overall estimates of the relative size of a country's non-majority population. The proposed paper will briefly compare and contrast these measures a) in terms of their overall level of agreement and b) with special reference to their classifications of the Canadian case.

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Session Wed1c

Zakes Langa
Pieter Conradie
Benjamin Roberts

Slipping through the net: digital and other communication divides within South Africa.

The paper presents part of the results of a survey on South African Social Attitudes, conducted in 2003. The empirical evidence appears to suggest that the digital divide in South Africa-whether based on computer access, internet access or usage reflects wider social inequalities in the country, notably along race, geographic, income, education, and to a lesser extent, gender lines.

The paper also shows that patterns of income, race, education and geographic inequalities observed in relation to access to and use of digital technologies are relatively similar to those observed in other, older forms of information and communication technologies.

Finally, the paper provides an initial examination of whether having access to a computer or the internet in South Africa exerts an influence on political trust and participation. Findings suggest that users most frequently discussed politics than the general public and recognised the importance of the vote. Yet they were less trusting of government and other institutions, less likely to vote in the 1999 national elections and more uncertain about their voting intentions in advance of the 2004 general election.

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Session Thu3a

Makram Larguem

Unhappy at home: should you blame your partner's job? An empirical study of happiness transmission.

Do happy or unhappy individuals contaminate the other members of their household? The idea of within-household contagion effects has very seldom been explored in the literature, probably because the available household data are in general not informative enough with respect to the interdependence between the members of households.

This paper incorporates some theoretical ideas from epidemiological models to the study of within-household spill-over effects. Two main goals are actually targeted. First, I examine the extent to which the overall household level of job satisfaction influences the level of life satisfaction of each of the parents; overall household job satisfaction being measured as the sum of individual levels, other than that of the individual of interest. Second, I explore how the probability of divorce is sensitive to the partners' levels of life satisfaction.

I use the French version of the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) for the period 1994-2001. The results show that individuals' levels of subjective well-being (bad-being) at the workplace have significant effects on the probability that the other family members become happy (unhappy) with their own lives. This result is robust to the variety of economic and socio-demographic factors I control for. In particular, it seems that family size is an important determinant of the extent to which individual job satisfaction spreads out to the other members of the household. Indeed, while couples without children show a higher level of happiness, the latter seems to be decreasing with partners' levels of job satisfaction. This effect, is, however, insignificant within households with children. Probably, what this suggests is that self-assessed levels of life satisfaction comprise some selfish behaviour component.

I also provide evidence that job dissatisfaction has a strong effect on the probabilities of divorce and that the strength of such an effect is also conditional on the presence of children.

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Session Tue2a

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A modified version of the Personal Well-being Index for measuring subjective well-being of people with cognitive impairment.

Measuring the subjective well-being of people with a cognitive impairment is challenging due to methodological difficulties. A primary concern is whether the respondents are capable of providing both valid and reliable responses on their personal subjective states. The Personal Well-being Index-Intellectual Disability (PWI-ID) has been developed for this purpose. It comprises a parallel form of the normal adult version. This paper reports data on the PWI-ID obtained from 600 older adults in Hong Kong who have mild and moderate cognitive impairment. These people comprise a mix of acquired cognitive impairment from medical conditions such as dementia, and intellectual disability. They were recruited from both institutional and community settings using convenience sampling. The PWI-ID scale was administered in face-to-face interviews conducted with each participant. This comprised a pre-test protocol and the 7 test items. The pre-test, which is an additional part of the normal test protocol, determines their ability to respond validly to either the usual 0 to 10 response scale, or a reduced choice format. All scores are then standardized to a 0-100 scale distribution. The majority (70 to 80 percent) of participants, from both the mild and moderately cognitive impaired groups, were able to respond successfully to the PWI-ID scale. Of these people with an intellectual disability, 60% had mild and 40% had moderate level of impairment. The psychometric performance of the PWI-ID scale was found to be good and concurred with data gathered in Australia and of the adult PWI. We conclude that the intellectual disability version of the PWI is a suitable, reliable and valid subjective well-being measure for people with cognitive impairment.

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Session Tue3a

Chris le Roux

“Doors are opening and distances are disappearing”. Report on the Unisa/Unesco/Nepad/Angola initiative on in-service training of primary school teachers in Angola.

Human resource capacity building is high on the African Development agenda. Education, an often cited field for development, has become one of the most important issues for the African Renaissance to become and remain a successful reality. It was during the 32nd Session of the General Conference of Unesco (Oct/Nov 2003) that Angola requested assistance in the field of Education, Science and Culture for their post-war development effort. Unisa’s School of Education expressed interest in collaborating with Unesco to address, amongst others, the issue of in-service training of primary school teachers. This evolved into a Unisa/Unesco/Nepad/Angola collaboration to reach a number of objectives. A four-person task team has visited Angola twice since July 2005 to start a process of realising some of these objectives. The first two phases dealt specifically with broadening the knowledge and skills base of curriculum developers, teacher trainers and education managers. This paper aims at sharing this experience and informing the conference on goals, progress, opportunities and challenges in this regard.

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Session Tue1c

Uriel Leviatan

Relationship of social status with health and well-being among members from kibbutz communities adopting different levels of structured social inequality.

Prior research had demonstrated a strong positive relationship of positions on status dimensions (such as managerial hierarchy, education, race, income, wealth) with health, well-being and organizational commitment (e.g. Adler et al., 1994; Adler & Ostrove, 1999). The same direction of relationship was also shown in findings of research in the communal kibbutz communities in Israel, although the relationships there were much weaker (Leviatan, 1980). The question raised was whether the found differential effects (on health and well-being) of social status positions, were due to the social (status) positions themselves and to the differential outcomes they offer their incumbents, or were they the result (at least in part) of the larger social environment and the social expectations it creates for individuals in the differential positions.

The current study builds upon the fact that some kibbutz communities have recently changed their structure, gave up on major parts of their communality and equality principles, and introduced differential salaries instead. Thus, these kibbutz communities created social environments similar to those in society around them. We studied about 840 individuals in 36 kibbutz communities. These kibbutzim were grouped according to levels of communality and adherence to principles of equality among members (operationally defined as number of years since adoption of differential salaries). Individual respondents held differential status positions that were comparable across the various groups. Analysis demonstrated that the top status positions in the compared groups of kibbutzim reported similar levels of satisfaction with personal influence, information, social relations, opportunities for self development, and initiative-taking opportunities. They also reported similar levels of health and well-being as measured by various indicators. Yet, relationships of status level with health indicators and well-being were much lower within the traditional kibbutz communities as compared to the relationships found in the kibbutz communities transformed to become more similar in their structure to the outside world. I conclude that the "steepness" of gradients of health that relate to social status positions, is determined to a large extent by outside social expectations, rather than the components of the positions themselves. Finally, I discuss the significance of these findings for society at large and for the kibbutz communities in particular.

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Session Wed2d

Uriel Leviatan
Gila Adar
Chana Goldemberg

Socio-economic inequality, social capital, well-being and health – causal relationships exemplified by kibbutz communities.

Researchers (e.g., Wilkinson, Marmot, Kawachi, Kaplan and others) over the last one and a half decades have suggested that socio-economic inequality within societies, populations, or communities is negatively related to both mean levels of health indices, well-being, and life expectancy in same societies. This relationship, which is claimed to be causal, is hypothesized to be mediated by levels of social capital – both physical and psychosocial – which is affected by the socio-economic inequality and in its turn influences levels of health and well-being. Critiques of this causal model argued that too many other variables (such as cultural background, size, economic standing, and heterogeneity of population) consistently go hand in hand with level of socio-economic inequality and thus allows alternative interpretations for the findings. To overcome such methodological problems, we (Leviatan & Salm, 2006) exploited the research opportunity offered by the structurally changing Israeli Kibbutzim. Our findings (of only two pairs of kibbutz communities) showed that increased socio-economic inequality in a community brings about deterioration in average level of health among its elderly kibbutz members, even when the mean economic level of the compared communities was held constant. However, that study still had some methodological shortcomings which are remedied in the current study. Here, we increased the number of kibbutz communities from 4 to 36, the sample size grew from 140 to 840, and the age distribution from 30 years up (rather than from 55 years and up); we introduced variability in number of years passed since communities adopted arrangements expressing socio-economic inequality; we allowed for testing the intervening positions of indices of social capital (that could not be tested in the original study); and introduced variables dealing with the work domain.

The findings strongly support the study hypotheses and the causal flow model relating levels of socio-economic inequality in a community to levels of existent social capital which, in its turn influences expressions of mean health/illness and well-being in those communities. The current study design allows the rebuttal of alternative explanations for the findings and directs one to understand why socio-economic inequality (as such) in communities, has a strong effect on health and well-being.

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Session Mon3c

Jenn-Chang Liou
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Su Fa Lin

Association of smoking and diseases of >53-year-old men and women in Taiwan.

Smoking has been associated with most of human non-communicable diseases. However, relatively few studies indicate the relationships between smoking and diseases after controlling socio-demographics of a specific population. The purpose of this research was to reveal the experience of smoking and its association with diseases of the middle-aged and elderly people in Taiwan. Data were from the “1999 Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly in Taiwan”, which was a questionnaire survey research conducted by the Health Promotion Bureau of Taiwan. It was administered to 4440 randomly selected subjects by means of face-to-face interviews. Results indicated that 40% of the males and 3.6% of the females were current smokers. One third (34.3%) of the sample reported having hypertension, 24.9% cataract, 24.7% arthritis, 21% gastrointestinal tract disease, 18.9% heart disease, 14.7% diabetes, 13.9% respiratory tract disease, 8.8% renal disease, 7.4% gout, 6.3% stroke, 2.9% cancer or malignant tumours.

Males reported higher percentages of hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, gastrointestinal tract disease, cataract, and cancer or malignant tumours than females. On the contrary, females reported higher percentages of stroke, respiratory tract disease, renal disease and gout. A simple correlation analysis was performed to reveal the relationships between smoking experience and diseases. Results indicated that smoking was negatively related to hypertension, heart disease, arthritis, and cataract. Smoking was positively related to stroke, respiratory disease and gout. No significant relationship was detected between smoking and diabetes, gastrointestinal disease, renal disease, and cancer or malignant tumours. Further, a partial correlation analysis was performed to investigate the relationships between smoking and the diseases by controlling age, gender, and education. Results indicated that only respiratory tract disease and gastrointestinal disease were positively and significantly related to smoking. No significant association with smoking was found for other diseases studied in the research. The findings of the relationships between smoking and diseases in this research seem not quite consistent with that from other research. Further investigation is needed to detect the true relationship between smoking and diseases.

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Session Mon2d

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The residents' satisfaction of qualities of four local parks at Taichung City, Taiwan.

Parks can provide green environments and leisure facilities to increase people's quality of life. The purpose of this study was to investigate the residents' satisfaction of environmental and leisure qualities of four local parks at Taichung City (Gung-Yi Park, Ying-Tsai Park, Le-Chiun Park, Jung-Mei Park), Taiwan. Facility planning, leisure facilities, sport facilities, plant condition, lighting condition, toilet condition, maintenance of each facility, safety of each facility, numbers of each facility, sanitation of parks were the indicators to investigate the environmental and leisure quality of these parks. There were 50 residents surveyed at each park from October to November 2005, respectively. Two hundred valid data sets were accepted in this study. After data analysis, the results were the following: Facility planning, sanitation except toilets, and safety of each facility at these parks were described as the top three best qualities. Toilet condition, sport facilities and maintenances of each facility in these parks met with the residents' lowest levels of satisfaction. Besides toilets, the environmental qualities were better than the leisure qualities of these parks. Regarding the results of this research, we would like to suggest the Taichung Government to put more efforts to maintain the toilets and leisure facilities of the local parks to improve the residents' quality of life.

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Session Thu1c

Pei Lin Lua
Getrude Cosmas
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Health-related quality of life profile in Malaysian epilepsy population with different demographic characteristics.

The possibility of adverse drug reactions and psychosocial implications has led to current emphasis on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) assessment in chronic diseases such as epilepsy. The main objective of this cross-sectional study is to determine HRQoL profiles in epilepsy patients with various demographic backgrounds in Sabah, Malaysia in view of its unique multiracial and multicultural population. Comparison of HRQoL profile between different genders, ethnic origins, religions, marital status and employment status was specifically intended.

Patients who have been diagnosed with epilepsy were recruited from ten public hospitals in Sabah. They were approached, explained about the study and invited to participate. Upon written consents, they proceeded to complete the Malay Quality of Life In Epilepsy – 30 (QOLIE-30) instrument which assesses Seizure Worry, Overall QoL, Emotional Well-Being, Energy/Fatigue, Cognitive Functioning, Medication Effects and Social Functioning.

Data analysis was carried out using SPSS 12 for Windows. One-hundred-and-thirteen patients participated in the study. The respondents ranged from 18-76 years with a mean age of 31 years. The majority were Kadazandusuns (n=46; 40.7%) and many were unmarried (n=68; 60.2%), Muslims (n=50; 44.2%) and unemployed (n=54; 47.8%). Overall, male patients reported higher scores for all HRQoL domains (significant for Emotional Well-Being). Among the races, significantly higher scores were reported by the Chinese patients compared to the Malays ($p = 0.045$) while no significant difference was recorded among the different religious groups. Additionally, married patients experienced better HRQoL in the majority of areas investigated. Unexpectedly, unemployed respondents were significantly better emotionally ($p = 0.016$) compared to their employed counterparts. These outcomes indicate that demographic characteristics are influential in determining the HRQoL of epilepsy patients. Consequently, healthcare professionals could utilise such information in planning the best treatment and care for them. An ideal epilepsy management should incorporate HRQoL improvement by considering both the medical and psychosocial impacts towards patients.

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Session Mon2d

Esther Maddux

Steps for maximizing the prospect of optimal quality of financial life in the new millennium.

The quality of the personal behavior system we use to respond to financial needs determines the ultimate quality of financial life we experience. If one's financial life is not satisfactory, changing the personal behavior system used to manage money can change the financial results experienced. This paper provides a framework for observing how intrapersonal and interpersonal power imbalances influence financial responses resulting in financial problems. It provides action steps that can be taken to resolve the problems. The personal behavior pattern used to navigate life determines the quality of financial life. If a dysfunctional personal behavior pattern is used, it has to become more fully functional to move toward optimal financial quality of life.

If we grow up in an environment where we are conditioned to seek wisdom, understanding and direction externally, we learn to seek fulfillment externally rather than relying on the inner self to create our financial choices. Once we leave the family of origin, the focus for seeking direction is transferred to other external people, places, or things. This displacement of focus causes one to be disconnected from the wisdom, understanding and direction residing within the natural self. This focus of attention has to be redirected to the inner self to discern responses to meet financial needs in an optimal way.

It is each person's mission to know what is his or hers to do and to take the action to make it happen. We do not have to do everything alone. We can consciously join life energy with others to do things for us that we cannot or prefer not to do for ourselves.

We can consciously do for others things that they prefer not to do for themselves. But for optimal financial quality of life to exist, the intrapersonal and interpersonal balance of power has to be appropriately placed. This paper provides a model for observing personal power imbalances and guidelines for correcting imbalances related to financial issues to move toward optimal financial quality of life.

The paper includes a case study describing a couple experiencing unsatisfactory quality of financial life. It provides: a personal behavior model for observing abnormal behavior patterns leading to the misuse of intrapersonal and interpersonal power ultimately expressing as financial problems; guidelines for changing intrapersonal behavior patterns to be more functional; guidelines for changing interpersonal behavior patterns to be more functional, and guidelines for managing power imbalances related to finances when there are differences of opinion.

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Session Wed2c

Wiseman Magasela
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Towards a democratic definition of poverty: socially perceived necessities in South Africa.

International literature on poverty shows that the understanding and definition of poverty project from different conceptual frameworks. One of these conceptual approaches is the consensual or democratic definition of poverty which investigates socially perceived necessities in a particular society at a specific time. In this paper the democratic definition of poverty approach and its methodology is applied to the South African context. The qualitative phase using the focus groups technique is discussed and participants' responses analysed. Emanating from the qualitative phase, a list of socially perceived necessities were tested as part of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS). The results from this national survey are presented with an analysis of how the responses of different groups compare, looking at responses by sex, population group, age, area type and subjective income poverty levels. The paper concludes with recommendations on how these findings could be used to inform the understanding and measurement of poverty in South Africa.

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Session Mon2c

Filomena Maggino

Developing and using subjective indicators of community quality of life: the case of Florence, Italy.

The City and the University of Florence (Italy) sponsored two surveys in order to study the quality-of-life perception and evaluation among the Florentine residents by using a sample of 1200 inhabitants (stratified by age, gender and district). Two different data-collection methods were applied on the same individuals for the two surveys: a paper-questionnaire with an interviewer and a CATI questionnaire. One of the objectives introduced in the ambit of the project was the definition of specific composite subjective indicators in accordance with the peculiarity of the city. Such indicators concern different aspects of the city life and were defined in terms of personal life (familiar and social networks), of evaluation (as regards the urban environment, the individual mobility, the security), and of perception (as regards the cultural and tourist dimensions and the subjective image of the city).

The presentation focuses on the data analysis that allowed firstly, the analysis of the consistency of the indicators, secondly, the investigation of aggregations of the indicators and, thirdly, the identification of clusters of subjects showing different levels of evaluation and perception.

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Session Wed2b

Mahar Mangahas
Linda Luz B. Guerrero

Twenty years of social weather reporting in the Philippines.

In 2005, Social Weather Stations (www.sws.org.ph) marked its 20th year of operation in the Philippines as a unique non-profit research institute specializing in measurement of the quality of life, the quality of governance, and public opinion. Intellectually, it originated from the Social Indicators movement (Mangahas, ed., *Measuring Philippine Development*, Development Academy of the Philippines, 1976), now known generically as Quality of Life or QOL studies. To be relevant during Ferdinand Marcos's authoritarian period (September 1972-February 1986), the social indicators agenda added the issues of democracy, freedom and good governance to standard QOL concerns such as economic well-being, health, education, public safety and the environment.

Survey trials in Metro Manila (1981-82) and nationwide (1983), already using the now-trademarked term "Social Weather," showed the practicality of subjective indicators as a means of measuring QOL. The suppression of such work within a government institution supposedly having academic freedom led to the decision to establish SWS in 1985 as an independent private institute to do opinion polls, and measure QOL as a joint activity, leading up to the election ultimately contested between Marcos and Corazon Aquino.

The Social Weather Reports, based on national surveys done twice a year in 1986-1991 and quarterly since 1992, provide a historical record of the Philippines during the administrations of Aquino (1986-1992), Fidel Ramos (1992-1998), Joseph Estrada (1998-2001) and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2001-present). The techniques of self-sustained Social Weather reporting draw simultaneously from QOL studies, public opinion research, and market research.

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Tuesday Plenary 2

Thembakazi Mantshule
Robin Richards
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Mapping partnerships and good practice in resource distribution for community-based HIV service delivery in Greater Alexandra: a case study.

Residents in Alexandra affected and infected by HIV/AIDS are most dependent on community members, families and friends and local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for care and support. Without such support the quality of life of those affected by the virus would certainly diminish. A scan of current literature on the provision of HIV services at the suburb level in poor areas in South Africa suggests that there is a dearth of literature on how to improve the delivery of HIV services provided by CSOs. CASE was commissioned by Kagiso Trust and the Synergos Institute, New York, to map partnerships and good practice in resource distribution for community-based HIV services in the Greater Alexandra area. The research made use of qualitative methods, interviews and focus groups to collect the data.

This paper highlights some key research findings including the role played by CSOs in the delivery of HIV services and the relationship between these local organisations and donors in the delivery of such services. Although beneficiaries of HIV services were generally satisfied with the services and assistance they receive from CSOs in Alexandra, they listed a shortage of resources (including food parcels and money to pay volunteers) as obstacles to improve the quality of HIV care. Funding and donor organisations supporting local HIV care-giving organisations highlighted the duplication of services and lack of coordination as some of their key frustrations. A lack of capacity and resource deficiencies (including inability to formulate coherent project proposals and a lack of financial accounting and management systems) within smaller HIV service organisations were cited as some of the key reasons for organisations not receiving support. The research found that for HIV service levels to improve, and by implication the personal well-being and quality of life of those affected by HIV, there needs to be better coordination and cooperation amongst local CSOs and between CSOs, government and larger companies in the corporate sector. This would reduce the unnecessary duplication of services and the wasteful use of existing limited resources. Training in project management was also a key factor determining CSO ability to provide sustainable HIV services. The Alexandra case study may provide useful pointers to improve and facilitate resource distribution in other disadvantaged communities in South Africa.

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Session Wed3b

Faith Martin
Karen Rodham
Laura Camfield

Measuring individual quality of life in Northeast Thailand: preliminary results of the validation of the Global Person Generated Index.

Whilst condition specific quality of life (QoL) measures exist for use in Thailand, this paper presents some of the first research into an individualised approach to QoL measurement in Thailand. The Global Person Generated Index (GPGI) is an adaptation of the Patient Generated Index, removing the emphasis on health. Respondents nominate what is important to their QoL, then rate their satisfaction in relation to their ideals and indicate relative importance of nominated areas. As such, the measure is useful for semi-structured interviews, providing both qualitative and quantitative data for analysis.

This paper presents preliminary results from the validation study of the measure. Along with demographic information, Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) and Positive and Negative Affect Schedule, the GPGI was administered to 160 adults living in either a semi-rural village or an urban “slum”. Follow-up data was collected at approximately 5, 30 and 31 weeks from baseline in order to assess reliability. The GPGI was also used to obtain participants’ perceptions of why areas of life were important. Responses were translated from Thai into English.

Quantitative data analysis revealed an effect of season on QoL perceptions, in addition to generally supporting reliability and validity of the GPGI. The measure appears reliable for comparisons of groups, although not of individuals. The GPGI correlated moderately with the SWLS as expected based on a study that used a measure similar to the GPGI (the SEIQoL).

Most commonly mentioned important areas of life varied little over time and included money, family, health, home and work. Qualitative data were generally short statements, examined using content analysis. Many reasons were provided for why areas were important: because it would lead to an easier lifestyle (especially frequent when “money” was nominated); it was vital to survival or safety; and it would enable another activity. Links between different areas of life were clear, with perceived pathways from health to work to money and to a good and happy family. Less common areas of importance included being able to provide help to others, religious activities and the weather.

The usefulness of the GPGI methodology was supported. Both individual and more universal areas were nominated as important, highlighting the need to consider both aspects. Reasons for importance provide further information about the content of what is important, potentially useful for intervention planning. The link between season and QoL perceptions illustrates the vital role played by external context in determining QoL.

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Session Mon3a

Stephanie Martin

The importance of social relationships and standard of living to settlement patterns in the Arctic.

This research is part of a broader concern with understanding the effects of rapid social, political, economic and environmental change on indigenous people in the Arctic. It examines the importance of social relationships and standard of living to settlement patterns by asking, “Why do indigenous people in the Arctic choose to remain in remote settlements with few jobs, high costs of living, and poor housing conditions?”

The main hypothesis is that extended informal social relationships are important for people’s satisfaction and their decisions to remain in their communities. Conceptually, peoples’ traditional hunting and fishing activities, social support, and community attributes, as well as employment affect their preferences for moving or remaining in their communities. This expands the idea that migration decisions are based primarily on expectations of higher income, in order to understand migration in the context of Arctic living conditions.

This is the first empirical study comparing peoples’ desire to move or remain in their communities among people with similar cultures across the Arctic. The analysis combines data from the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic on 7,000 individuals with indicators for communities in the US (Alaska), Canada, Russia (Chukotka) and Greenland. Besides examining individual and community level determinants of migration preferences, the research describes variations among countries. Including community and national level variables in the analysis links the research to public policy. Understanding peoples’ migration preferences helps to understand how economic development, educational and service delivery policies can be more effective.

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Session Wed1b

Johan Martins

Household budgets as a social indicator of poverty and inequality in South Africa.

In the absence of a universally accepted method of calculating poverty, household expenditure can be used to provide an indication of inequality of wealth and serve as an indicator of poverty. Household expenditure comprises expenditure of private households on goods and services, irrespective of their durability. The portion of household budgets allocated to different types of goods and services provides an indication of the material standard of living of a population. The article discusses different definitions of poverty and compares the state of poverty according to these definitions in selected countries. This is followed by an analysis of South Africa's economic position in the world and a comparison of the household budgets and demographic profile of South African households that fall into different income groups in order to identify the differences between the poorest and the wealthiest households in South Africa. Income inequality in South Africa is further elucidated by means of the Gini coefficient. A comparison is also made between the household budgets of the poorest households with the minimum financial living level requirements in South Africa to maintain their health and have acceptable standards of hygiene and sufficient clothing for their needs.

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Session Mon2c

Mehrdad Mazaheri
Peter Theuns

Effects of variations in the type of response format in ratings overall life satisfaction and life dissatisfaction.

Self-report rating scales are commonly used to assess overall life satisfaction. A useful rating scale should provide an unbiased, reliable and valid measure. This study investigates the effects of variations in the type of response format on overall life satisfaction and life dissatisfaction ratings and the relationship between these constructs when measured by a rating scale with different response formats.

A sample of 1737 volunteering students (70% females), randomly assigned to twelve conditions, rated their current overall life satisfaction and life dissatisfaction. Each condition used one of twelve rating scale formats, differing in polarity (bipolar = very dissatisfied to very satisfied versus unipolar = not at all (dis)satisfied to very (dis)satisfied), scale direction (horizontal versus vertical), and anchoring (-5 to +5, Not Numbered, and 0 to 10).

For life satisfaction ratings, a negative skew was found for all response formats, but, a higher percentage of respondents scored in the upper part (center to top) of the scale with anchor points (-5 to +5) than on the scales with anchor points (Not Numbered) and (0 to 10). Univariate Analysis of Variance indicated significant main effects of anchoring (-5 to +5, Not Numbered, and 0 to 10) on life satisfaction. Using the same analysis indicated that main effects of anchoring (-5 to +5, Not Numbered, and 0 to 10), and, polarity (Unipolar Vs Bipolar) on overall life dissatisfaction rating. Moreover, polarity \times anchoring interaction and also the scale direction \times anchoring interaction were found to be significant on life dissatisfaction (not satisfaction) ratings. Significant correlations was shown between overall life satisfaction and life dissatisfaction correlated significantly in all groups, but, remarkably, the correlation was negative for unipolar and positive for the bipolar response format.

Our results suggest that the type of response format may influence both overall life satisfaction and life dissatisfaction ratings as well as the relationships between these two constructs. This study has confirmed, specifically, such influence in the case of bipolar and unipolar response scales.

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Session Mon2a

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Anamnestic Comparative Self-Assessment (Acса) to measure Subjective Well-Being (Swb): a cross-cultural comparison of Iranians and Belgians.

Globalisation increases the need for suitable “quality of life” (QOL) measures suitable for cross-national comparison or aggregation of data across cultures. QOL as a construct is noted to be influenced by many factors such as, socio-demographical and cultural variables. It is important, therefore, to ensure that an instrument developed in one culture is valid in another. The current study, including two experiments, was designed to compare the sensitivity ACSA (1) to cultural differences, (2) to some socioeconomic and demographic variables and (3) to variations in response format.

A sample of 424 volunteers, Iranians= 83, (teachers, 29 % females), and Belgians= 341, (students, 72 % females), rated their current SWB on the ACSA, a rating scale for global SWB. Besides some socio demographic data were collected. The results of independent t-test comparing the mean and Levene’s test to compare variances of SWB of the two surveyed samples (Iranians and Belgians) revealed no significant difference between score means ($M_{Iran} = 70.48$, $M_{Belgium} = 70.75$) ($t(422) = .11$, $p < .91$) of SWB rating and also variances of scores of SWB ratings of two samples ($SD_{Iran} = 19.81$, $SD_{Belgium} = 19.91$) ($F = .26$, $p = .61$). Meanwhile, using Univariate Analysis of Variance (ANCOVA) a significant main effect of (1) gender ($F(1,45) = 5.57$, $p = .023$) was found in Iranian sample (not Belgian sample).

A sample of 148 undergraduate students (M age = 19.10) who assigned randomly to three groups, were asked to rate their current overall SWB on the (ACSA). The ACSA presented in three formats: two equivalent vertical and horizontal bipolar scales and a numerical rating scale. Two sets of anchor points were evaluated: (-5 to +5) and (0-10). The results of the ANOVA to compare the score means and Levene’s test to compare variances of SWB rating on different formats of ACSA indicated that the SWB rating was not influenced by the direction of the scale (Vertical Vs Horizontal) nor by the kind of anchor points ((-5 to +5) or (0-10)). A negative skew for SWB rating displayed on all scales but a higher percentage of scores distributed on the upper part (center point to top) of the scale with anchor-points (-5 to +5) than scales with anchor-points (0-10).

In cross-notational and cross-cultural comparison studies, depending on one’s study objectives, ACSA should be considered as a complement or an alternative to conventional SWB instruments.

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Session Thu2c

Krishna Mazumdar

Quality of Life Index.

It has been widely recognized that per capita income of a country and quality of life (QOL) of the inhabitants of a country do not always move together. Therefore, to observe the attainment of countries in terms of QOL, we have to obtain a separate index for QOL. This study attempts to form QOL index for a number of countries and takes into account production function approach, where, the QOL index is a function of different attributes related to the basic needs fulfillment of people of a country. In reality, each country in a point of time has a fixed amount of resources. The country tries to fulfill the basic needs of its people with this fixed amount of resources. It is capable of fulfilling such needs in different combinations and it will try to maximize fulfilling basic needs of the citizens. But every combination will not yield equal QOL to the people. At a point of time a country has a combination of attributes. The QOL index of a country at a point of time is function of this combination of attributes.

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Session Thu1d

Andrew McNess

Bereaved young adults and the gendered experience of social support and social isolation.

The thesis examines the social experiences of bereaved young siblings aged 18-30 located within the Australian states of New South Wales and Victoria. Bereavement can alter individuals' prior beliefs and understandings of their social life-world. Bereaved young adults are likely to reassess the overall worth of particular social values, while their social interactions can become increasingly awkward and anxiety-producing. In this regard, social isolation often appears an inevitable by-product of bereavement.

In most cases, male and female experiences deviated in relation to the factors they identified as representing satisfactory social support. The factors which contribute to bereaved young adults experiences of social isolation were also suggestive of a gender dimension. However for both sexes, the continuing support from a wide range of social networks was personally advantageous for it indicated social tolerance towards – and ongoing recognition of – the reality of one's grief.

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Session Tue1d

Mohamed Meziane

Quality of life in developing cities.

As everywhere in the world, Algeria has its own proportion of needy and poor people. The destiny has made life in this country more difficult. Two important events have been a major factor that changed the life of the whole society. The first one was the drastic change from the beginning of the nineties from a socialist economic model to a more liberal one. In almost the same period, the second factor was more cruel, because it plunged the country in a bloody political circle which harvested more than two hundred thousand people.

Today, Algeria is experiencing significant relief due to a series of political decisions of reconciliation. People have started living a more secure life, but the consequences of the mentioned factors, among others, are still placing heavy difficulties on cities life. Because of the security problem that lasted almost a decade, and the drive for job hunting, a large number of people have been migrated from rural areas to the main cities. 65% of the population occupies only 4% of the total land.

Due to this demographic fact, major cities have been shaped by social pressure from the flux of migrants from rural areas to cities. The security problem and the high need for housing makes the priority of city planning and forecasting something of a luxury. In the absence of global and futuristic vision of cities, citizens have created new shelter constructions in, for the most part, an illicit manner. Under the pressure of the housing demand, decision makers concentrate on constructing high buildings. Cities are usually described as being an immense dormitory. The quality of life is being reduced to fulfil the urgent demand for housing construction. People in cities are looking forward to finding a better environment, all the services needed and space where they can find satisfaction, pleasure and in one word, a better quality of life. Aware of this problem, the officials have appointed a minister in charge of cities. A new law about the city has been adopted recently (January 2006) by the Algerian parliament.

Thus, life in the Algerian cities is raising many questions that need to be discussed in terms of quality of life. This paper focuses on a developing city and how this city is making and shaping peoples' lives as well as how people perceive their lives as being affected by what the city is offering them.

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Session Wed2b

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Health and quality of life of older people: a replication after six years.

Partly replicating a survey undertaken six years earlier (September 1999), we report results of a survey of people aged 55 and older (N=750) in the former Northern Interior Health Region of British Columbia. Replicated aspects include health status measured by the Short Form 36 (SF-36), social support, care-giving, housing, worries and problems, criminal victimization, quality of life measured by standard items including satisfaction with life as a whole, with the overall quality of life, happiness, Contentment with Life, Subjective Well-Being and satisfaction with a wide variety of specific domains of life (e.g., health, family relations, leisure activities). The seven discrepancy core items of multiple discrepancies theory (MDT) are also included as predictors of health and quality of life.

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Session Mon3b

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A longitudinal study of the relative explanatory power of multiple discrepancies, income and age.

We will report results of the first two waves of three panels. Two random samples from British Columbia were obtained from mailout surveys in February 2005 (N=771) and May 2005 (N=708), and one from Prince George in February 2005 (N=490). Panels were created from these surveys on the basis of respondents agreement to participate in a second wave in 2006. The three panels have sizes of N=370, N=379 and N=242. The seven core discrepancy variables, income and age from multiple discrepancies theory (MDT) will be used to explain several dependent variables using the MDT model involving direct and indirect effects. Dependent variables include the usual set: satisfaction with life as a whole and with the overall quality of life, happiness, Diener's Subjective Well-Being, Lavallee and Hatch's Contentment with Life Assessment Scale, General Health and Michalos and Zumbo's Subjective Quality of Life Scale. This will be the first time the core of MDT will be tested in a longitudinal format allowing assessments of the relative explanatory power of the so-called Bottom-Up and Top-Down hypotheses, including income and age.

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Session Mon2a

RoseAnne Misajon
Lenore Manderson

Impact of mobility impairment: a multi-country, interdisciplinary study.

The RESILIENCE project (REsearch into Social Inclusion, Locomotive Impairment and Empowerment through Networking, Collaboration and Education) is an interdisciplinary, multi-country study, which examines the impact of mobility impairment on people in Australia and South-East Asia. The general aims of the study are to explore, in different cultural settings, the individuals', as well as the communities', experiences and perceptions of locomotor disability, and how personal, social, economic, and gender factors influence adaptation, self-perception, social roles, and quality of life. The first phase of the project, which included both quantitative and qualitative components, aimed to identify key themes in regard to mobility impairment. This was conducted in three countries: Australia (N=169), Thailand (N=210) and Malaysia (N=210), in both urban and rural populations. The paper will provide a brief overview of some of the key results obtained in regard to health-related quality of life and the impact of health on daily activities.

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Session Thu1a

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The value of sight: differences in health-related QoL between the visually impaired and non-impaired.

To determine if the disutilities related to the consequences of impaired vision obtained from a community based sample differ significantly to that from people with impaired vision and if the degree of vision impairment is related to the time willing to be traded.

180 participants with impaired vision were recruited from hospital clinics and rehabilitation agencies. Three levels of impairment were sampled: those with mild (<20/20-20/60); moderate (<20/60-20/200) and severe (<20/200) impairment. A stratified (by socio-economic status) sampled control group of 184 non-impaired cases from the Melbourne metropolitan area was included. A 6-item multi-dimensional vision-specific questionnaire, the VisQoL was administered. Additionally, disutilities were obtained from mean time-trade-off (TTO) values from the total of the VisQoL items.

The community-based sample was significantly younger than the vision impaired (VI) group (there was no significant difference within the VI cohort by strata). Analysis controlled for age between the community and VI groups. As predicted, people with VI rated their vision-related quality of life as poorer than those from the community on the VisQoL total (16.9 vs 9.0, $F=344.9$, $p<0.001$). Consistent with this, the visually impaired were willing to trade more time for their own perfect health (0.21 vs 0.06 years, $F=38.3$, $p<0.001$). When the value of impairment was examined, however, there was no significant difference in TTO weighting (disutility) between the VI and community groups (0.87 vs 0.86, $p>0.05$). There was also no significant difference in the TTO weightings for those with mild (0.87), moderate (0.83) and severe vision impairment (0.89), $p>0.05$.

While each group rated their own health significantly differently, concern about the consequences of vision impairment is equally shared by those with impaired vision and people from the community.

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Session Mon2d

Valerie Møller
Ida Erstad

The good and bad times of life: narratives on subjective well-being in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Detailed descriptions of the best and worst times in one's life were produced in a study to pilot-test the cross-culturally neutral ACSA (Anamnestic Comparative Self Assessment) measure of subjective quality of life in South Africa. The ACSA measure aims to eliminate the problem of cultural bias by allowing people to define the endpoints of subjective quality-of-life scales in their own terms. It uses subjects' memories of the best and worst periods in their lives as the anchors of the scale. Subjects then assess their current quality of life in terms of their best and worst life experiences. ACSA has proved particularly useful in health-related quality-of-life studies that trace the shifts in morale of patients undergoing treatment for illnesses.

The South African pilot study aimed to test the match between evaluations of well-being according to the ACSA and conventional measures. Participants in the study were subjects living in urban and rural areas in or around Grahamstown, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. The quota sample included younger and older men and women as well as patients at a local TB hospital. Subjects rated their life satisfaction and happiness according to the conventional 5-point labelled scale used in earlier South African studies of quality of life and the ACSA scale. The paper reports comparative results.

Subjects were free to choose which anchor to describe first. It was observed that the order in which subjects told their life stories – that is, starting with the best or the worst time in life – was related to their current evaluation of quality of life. The paper reports a typology of the best and worst times of life according to stage in the life cycle and gender. It also examines personal aspirations at the times when subjects felt most positive and most negative about their life circumstances.

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Session Thu2c

Alexandre Morin
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Economic and living conditions in the Canadian Arctic.

Conceived by the SLiCA International team with the close cooperation of Canadian Inuit organizations, the Survey of Living Conditions among Canadian Inuit was included into Statistics Canada's post-census Aboriginal People Survey (APS). It was conducted in 2001 among a probability sample of 5 950 adults living in the four arctic regions in the country. This paper presents the main results from the survey, complemented with data from the 2001 Canadian census and other segments from APS, focusing on the Nunavut Territory. Considering the material living conditions (mainly demography and housing, education, economy), it shows some problematic situations. When these situations are compared with the people's perceptions, some apparent discrepancies are revealed. This paper suggests that perceptions provide meaning to the material environment, in which social ties seem to play a central role.

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Session Tue1b

Tirelo Modie Moroka

Knowledge, perceptions, attitudes and practices of HIV/AIDS: a comparative study of cross-border migrants and Batswana.

The current politico-social and economic situation in some parts of east and southern African region has resulted in large numbers of citizens leaving their countries in search of greener pastures. This situation has particularly been worse for Zimbabwe from which many people have migrated over the years to South Africa, Botswana and even as far off as Namibia. The influx of Zimbabwean immigrants has inevitably stretched the resources in neighbouring countries. With respect to health service provision, host countries such as Botswana and South Africa, for instance, have found it difficult to provide adequate services, not only to immigrants, but also to her citizens as well.

Given the AIDS pandemic across Africa, health professionals and researchers are trying to understand the social context in which people are likely to take precautions to protect themselves against HIV infection, but the current state of knowledge about the linkages between HIV/AIDS and cross-border migration is not known.

The proposed study combined both quantitative and qualitative cross-sectional methods of enquiry to test the hypothesis that knowledge, attitudes and socio-cultural beliefs about HIV/AIDS would impact engagement in high-risk sexual behaviours. The study further tested the moderating role of social support. Potential respondents were recruited from both rural and urban settings in Gaborone and in Francistown, Botswana. About 132 respondents were interviewed for the study.

Generally, results indicate that on average, respondents had a moderate knowledge about AIDS. Preliminary results show that Zimbabwean participants scored significantly higher on the AIDS knowledge measure. Results also showed that Zimbabwean respondents scored higher on depression, learned helplessness and lower on social support and adherence to sociocultural beliefs. High risk behaviours, mostly related to survival such as commercial sex work and accommodation of women traders by migrants were reported. Barriers to safer sex behaviours were reported as lack of access to health care, fear of the immigration/police and language and cultural barriers. As such, condom use was reported as low. The buffering role of social support was not proven.

Socially excluded groups such as crossborder migrants face major barriers to successful integration into host countries at any level. Cross-border migrants (especially those that are unemployed and rely on “piece jobs”) face the “simultaneity of effects” of their citizenship, socioeconomic class and often gender-based discrimination, and are represented among the low-income, the unemployed and those with poor health outcomes in general. The implication of this paper is that health gains for crossborder migrants are likely to be reversed if regional steps are not taken to redress the imbalance in health care provision between local populations and crossborder migrants.

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Session Thu2b

Tirelo Modie Moroka

Toward social justice: environmental quality, health outcomes and urban social capital in low-income areas in Francistown, Botswana.

Urbanization, especially in developing countries, has substantially increased the vulnerability of the mass of low-income urban dwellers. The livelihoods and quality of life for many of the poor, especially in Latin America, Asia and Africa, have deteriorated significantly over the years. Urban areas are increasingly unable to provide for their populations, resulting in poverty, massive unemployment, job cuts, poor housing, lack of or poor public services, and a compromised health status. Botswana, a country that lies in the southern part of Africa, has had its share of urban problems such as the mushrooming of squatters and low-income urban settlements. Despite efforts to address the substandard living conditions in low-income urban areas, these problems have continued to grow. These living conditions are potentially stressful to the residents and likely to affect their health.

The primary aim of the study was to examine the complex relationship between community-level stressors and interveners and health-related quality of life among residents of low-income neighborhoods in Francistown, Botswana. Using a cross-sectional quantitative design (both descriptive and explanatory) and closed-ended interviews with a random sample of 388 residents, this study examined the role of chronic life stressors and environmental quality on overall health status, and the physical, psychological and level of independence domains of health. The major hypothesis of the study was that community-level stressors would influence health-related quality of life and that social capital would moderate these relationships.

Findings indicate that neighborhood quality is a more powerful predictor of health status than socioeconomic status and individual life stressors. Social capital was also found to be a significant positive predictor of health status and a moderator of structural factors. Social capital moderated the effects of low environmental quality on level of independence and on physical health outcomes, but not on psychological and overall health status. These findings suggest that as the environment gets better, stressors are reduced, hence promoting better health outcomes. The study ends with implications for social justice, public health and social work practice and research, focusing mostly on the role of social capital and environmental quality in predicting health outcomes. Specifically, attention needs to be focused on political and civic society commitment for poverty alleviation and reduction of the threat of insecurity and violence, cultivating social capital and good governance, and improving the health and social environments.

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Session Thu3c

Mourad Moulai-Hadj

Maghrebbarometer: a way to research development in the Maghreb Arab region.

The development of globalization and the advance of social, economic and political changes across the entire world has influenced the Maghreb Arab region in terms of democratic development, women's empowerment and the political adhesion of the majority of the population. These fruitful conditions require analysis by social scientists as these changes may affect the destiny of the development of a democratic society and the development of the quality of life of the population.

Knowledge of social needs requires the development of a research policy which could be adopted by different research institutions in the Maghreb Arab countries. This can be achieved by conducting field research with the use of modern tools to collect and analyse data, and by establishing a new research tradition which seeks to conduct research annually to build and develop understanding.

There are institutions called Eurobarometer or Latinobarometer. Lets think about the creation and the development of a research institution that can be called Maghrebbarometer. Our contribution to the seventh conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies may be a good opportunity to present our project and discuss with colleagues the main ideas and themes so that these may be developed and enriched.

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Tuesday Plenary 2

Dana Müller

The unattainable dream of continuous employment in Germany – breaks in employment concerning men and women and their effects on the further course of employment.

European societies are faced with different problems, like obsolescence or decline in the birth rate or discrimination of migrants. One main problem in Europe is unemployment and underemployment. The changes in the standard employment relationship have resulted in controversial discussion over the last few years in Germany. There should be a change from continuous to discontinuous employment histories. Therefore we considered how the timing and the duration of breaks appear in employment history and the patterns of returns.

Women have to look for the “perfect timing” for having a child and they have to cope with the difficult balance between family and profession. The discrimination of women is obvious. Giving birth to a child or being unemployed at the beginning of a career can have a negative impact on the further course of employment.

Analysis of this topic requires biographic flow data which gives information about the changes in employment. We are using unique data from the Federal Employment Agency and the Institute of Employment Research (IAB), the so called IAB-employment-sample from 1975-1995 with additional data from the German pension insurance and data from the “employee- and recipient of benefit history” until 2003.

The analysis of employment biographies is on the one hand done separately for men and women for different birth cohorts and on the other hand for different age ranges (20-30, 20-40 and 20-50 years). This examination makes it possible to look at patterns of employment biographies in detail and facilitates the analysis of age-, periods- and cohorts effects. The analysis was conducted for the duration and the number of employment and unemployment spells, and for the cumulated income over the life cycle.

During the time frame between 1949 and 2003, over 70,000 West-Germans were analysed. Initial results are: there was no continuous employment over the life cycle for West-German men. The result for women shows that - besides a general increasing labour participation over time – breaks e.g. due to the birth of children led to disadvantages which can hardly be balanced in later employment history. This occurs despite the legal requirement for no discrimination of women in the developed country of Germany.

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Session Thu2d

Georg P. Mueller

Trust and life satisfaction in Eastern and Western Europe.

Trust in others simplifies our daily transactions and reduces our subjective risk of being deceived by our social environment. Consequently this paper argues that general trust in others is positively correlated with life satisfaction. An empirical investigation of the survey data of the European Value Study 1999/2000 shows that this correlation holds indeed for most of the analyzed countries in Eastern and Western Europe. The mentioned analysis however also reveals that the shape of the relation between general trust in others and personal life satisfaction varies from country to country: in some national contexts life satisfaction increases more rapidly with general social trust than in others.

One of the possible explanations for this variation is different trust in law enforcing institutions such as police or justice. If citizens have confidence in these institutions, it is hypothesized that the absence of general trust in others has less impact on life satisfaction than in the reverse situation, where these institutions are believed to fail in prosecuting the deception of trust. This buffering of the effects of general trust by confidence in law enforcing institutions can for most East- and West-European countries be confirmed by statistical analyses of the mentioned value-survey. Hence, it should generally be possible to increase life satisfaction by increasing the buffering effects of confidence in police and justice. Again, the strength of these buffering effects varies between different countries and law enforcing institutions. The paper gives for the 33 analyzed countries an overview of these buffering effects. Contrary to general expectations, the differences between Eastern and Western Europe with regard to the mentioned buffering effects are relatively small.

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Session Tue3b

Rodreck Mupedziswa

All that glitters is not gold: Johannesburg and migrant access to social services.

South Africa is the economic powerhouse of Africa. Consequently the country has attracted large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers particularly post 1994 when the new democratically-elected government took over the reins of power. By 2003, an estimated 85 000 refugees and asylum seekers had found their way into the country. While on paper the South African constitution is essentially inclusive in terms of access to social services, it would appear refugees and asylum seekers residing in that country have been losing out in the sense that South Africa appears to be sinking into the quick sands of a different brand of "apartheid" – inequitable access to social services.

Refugees and asylum seekers in particular have been short-changed in this regard.

Indeed while the pre-1994 apartheid system played out in the form of "(white) citizen against fellow (non-white) citizen", the post 1994 form of 'apartheid' has presented in the form of "nationals versus non-nationals" (irrespective of the citizenship status of the non-nationals) with the latter on the receiving end. Research has shown that the situation appears particularly serious in the city of gold - Johannesburg. Many migrants that had been lured to Johannesburg by tales of abundant opportunities, have upon arrival in Johannesburg, to their disappointment and amazement, discovered that "all that glitters is not gold". Indeed the migrants have quickly learnt-and the hard way too - that while Johannesburg may at the surface appear a glittering, cosmopolitan city full of opportunities, there are, in fact, no easy "gold deposits" for picking by the average migrant. Sadly, all there is, they have discovered, is a difficult life based on the notion of "survival of the fittest". Services including health facilities, are not easily accessible.

The author argues that it is pertinent for all concerned to appreciate that there is much to be gained from promoting an inclusive policy that inter alia promotes social services for all those that are within the borders of South Africa in general and Johannesburg in particular. The authorities in South Africa are therefore urged to revisit the issue of migrant welfare in the country, with a view to ensuring refugees and asylum seekers do not continue to be prejudiced, as the consequences for South Africa in general and Johannesburg in particular, of continuing on such a route would be too ghastly to contemplate.

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Session Thu1b

Montagu Murray
Christiaan Pauw

Quality of life in the household context.

The article argues that, from a development perspective, the family could be considered the most important institution in the low-income context in Africa. It is therefore important to find ways of measuring Quality of Life in the context of the household as the temporal-spatial manifestation of the family. Through the course of several years of literature studies and fieldwork, NOVA researchers have identified 25 constitutive elements of the generic satisfier “household”. The article explains how the NOVA Quality of Life (QOL) Database was used to generate questions that explore the nature and function of these elements with regard to the manner in which household members actualise their fundamental human needs - a notion coined by the Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef. The complete set of questions provides an instrument that measures general QOL in terms of the ability household members have to actualise all their human needs in the context of the household.

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Session Mon3d

W.A. Naudé
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The quality of metropolitan city life in South Africa.

In South Africa more than 32% of the population resides in only six metropolitan areas, and with rapid urbanisation, the quality of metropolitan city life will increasingly become an indication of the overall quality of life in the country. Recent comments about the growth of South Africa's urban areas have been negative, prophesising increases in unemployment, poverty, crime and, environmental degradation.

In this paper we construct an index for South Africa's six metropolitan cities that consist of both material and non-material aspects of life, including measures of the quality of the environment and of life. By comparing how this index and its components have changed over the period 1996 to 2001 (and in some cases 2004) we are able to objectively evaluate city quality of life. We also use regression analysis to determine the extent to which the various cities have been able to turn improvements in per capita incomes into a better environment, higher literacy and longer lives.

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Session Wed2b

Anna Nieboer
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Preferences on long term-care services.

The extent to which long term care contributes to people's well-being varies across services and individuals. People require different types of assistance to maintain well-being, depending on their functional limitations and social circumstances. To guide policy in long-term care, information is therefore needed on the relative value of different services within and across patient groups. Based on Social Production Function theory, we investigated people's preferences in a discrete choice experiment to optimize supply and demand in long term care services.

A general population sample (N=1082, aged 50 to 65) participated in the discrete choice experiment. They were asked to choose the best care scenario out of a set of two for a hypothetical patient. Four patient profiles were used (fragile elderly and patients with dementia, with and without partner). The scenarios described long term care in terms of ten attributes (i.e., characteristics of care), each with 2 or 4 levels. The attributes were: number of hours of care per week, assistance with social activities, transportation services, living arrangement, provision of care by stable helpers, flexible delivery of care, coordinated service delivery, waiting time, waiting lists in months, and private payments per week.

All attributes of care were considered important. In general, most value was attributed to transportation services, having the same person providing care each time, and whether or not long term care services were well coordinated. However, there were differences between the patient groups, confirming the notion that peoples' physical, mental and social vulnerability affects people's valuation of different services. Overall, services of long-term care produce more well-being to singles and people with dementia than to people living with a partner and fragile elderly. People who combine these two risk factors benefit the most from all services, which confirms the idea that these patients also face the highest threat of deteriorations in well-being because of the combination of physical, mental and social vulnerabilities. An exception is transportation services, which are considered more important for fragile elderly.

The results make clear that long-term care services hold different value for different individuals. This implies that standardization of care is ill advised. To generate as much well-being for as many people as possible, it is better to optimize the distribution of resources in a way that maximizes total value obtained from services, and minimizes unfulfilled needs. Note that in this sense the generated data allow for major improvement of policy models: To optimize policy in long-term care, one should develop allocation models that offer the opportunity to balance the budgetary requirements of different services against the welfare that they produce for individuals.

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Session Tue2d

Sihaam Nieftagodien

Exploring consumption patterns and living standards of black households in South Africa.

Recent growth in the motor and mobile telephone industries are indicative of increased household consumption levels. However, a recent household level dataset points to the stagnation of consumption, presenting conflicting messages. What these observed patterns are and where they occur are pressing questions for understanding welfare trends in the current politico-economic climate. This paper intends to expand on research by Van der Berg, Nieftagodien and Burger (2003) and Nieftagodien (2005) by further investigating the influence of asset ownership (or the lack thereof) on the consumption patterns of black households and convergence towards consumption patterns of their white counterparts.

The analysis will use the Income and Expenditure Survey of 2000 and All Media and Product Survey 2005. First, a review of the consumption patterns present in the Income and Expenditure survey will be conducted, focusing on the link between income levels, asset ownership and consumption as well as living standards and consumption for different race groups. A similar analysis using the All Media and Products Survey data will be performed to further analyse observed patterns. While these datasets are not directly comparable, observations from two datasets may provide deeper insight into underlying patterns while perhaps also revealing patterns as yet unobserved.

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Session Mon3c

Brenda M. Kabika Nsanzya

The National Arts Festival and the role of the poor.

Since the advent of post-apartheid period, South Africa has been preoccupied with initiatives to redress past racial injustices, address unemployment, poverty reduction and development. Various forms of cultural and heritage programs including festivals are being enthusiastically promoted to become major tourists' attractions in the emerging cultural and heritage industry with anticipated results for development and poverty alleviation.

Apart from the acclaimed effects of tourism on the economy and the physical environment, festivals can contribute to social and cultural changes in host societies, including changes in value systems, traditional lifestyles, family relationships, individual behaviour or community structure. If pursued uncritically and uncontrolled the appropriation of culture/heritage may cause more harm than good for the communities and the nation at large. During the festival disused buildings and, alleyways which usually provide social gathering territories for the city centre's homeless community, are re-claimed by the Municipality and Festival organizers and reconfigured as performance and market stall spaces. Policed and licensed, these formerly ignored spaces become economically productive and embodied by performances, thus sustaining the preferred festival gaze.

There are negative and positive effects of the festival to the community of Grahamstown. For example, there are many hidden costs to events, which can have unfavourable economic effects on the host community, such as rise in the price of goods beyond what the poor in the area can afford. The National Arts Festival is often credited for generating new employment in the destination. However much of this employment is short-term, unskilled and low-paid. Tensions between resident and visitors appear to be an experience of some residents of Grahamstown.

This paper presents preliminary findings from a pilot study conducted during the 2005 National Arts Festival in Grahamstown.

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Session Wed1c

Giampaolo Nuvolati

Quality of life in the cities: a question of mobility.

Contemporary cities are characterized by an increasing concentration of populations using a limited set of services and resources. Accessibility to services can be evaluated according to educational, cultural and economic disparities, but also considering traffic, transport, places morphology and other issues concerning urban mobility.

The first part of the paper deals with the concepts of accessibility, mobility and technology as crucial and interdependent aspects to look at in order to evaluate quality of life in the metropolitan as well as in the medium sized cities. This part is developed according to a theoretical framework based on the Amartya Sen's categories of goods, functionings and capabilities. In the second part of the paper Census and survey data regarding mobility to go to work or to school and services accessibility in Italy will be analyzed in order to test similarities and disparities between regions and types of cities.

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Session Wed3b

Julia S. O'Connor

Social indicators and the measurement of poverty, inequality and social exclusion in the 25 member European Union.

This paper focuses on the 25 member European Union and explores the prospect for convergence and/or divergence in key socio-economic dimensions. It uses the set of social indicators covering four dimensions of social exclusion, namely financial poverty, employment, health and education, which from 2003 are being used by all EU countries in biennial reports on social inclusion. Reforms have taken place to varying degrees in all welfare states over the past couple of decades and recent EU initiatives, in particular the National Action Plans on employment and social inclusion, have been directed to developing an employment anchored social policy framework in all member states. This paper explores the implications of these developments for convergence in outcomes with a particular focus on gender equality, poverty and social exclusion and considers how to measure and compare changes in these areas across EU member states. It asks whether or not the social indicators enhance our ability to analyse convergence and divergence in policy choices, design and outcomes across EU countries and to identify changes in the division of responsibility between the state, the market, the family and voluntary sector in the provision of services? At a more general level, does the renewed interest in the development of social indicators, which is evident not only the EU but in the OECD and the UN, provide an opportunity to develop a framework for comparative analysis of the complexity of welfare effort and output? In particular, does it reflect significant progress in the comparative measurement of gender equality, social exclusion and poverty or does it merely reflect a repeat of earlier social indicator efforts that yielded little because of data shortcomings?

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Session Wed3a

Brian O’Leary

Changes in the quality of life of Durban’s people.

Durban, which is the busiest port and is the second largest industrial hub in South Africa, has a developmental vision, which includes the statement: “with its residents living in acceptably serviced housing, and with a generally high quality of life that can be sustained.” This vision is in response to South Africa’s transitional aspirations to move from an inequitable apartheid state to a democratic society with greater socio-economic parity.

Since 1998 the eThekweni Municipality, which is the local authority responsible for the city of Durban, has been undertaking annual quality of life surveys in order to monitor the changes in the quality of life of Durban’s people. The results indicate that parity of life satisfaction between race groups is as far apart in 2005 as it was in 1998.

The aim of this paper is firstly to undertake trend analysis, from a local government perspective, of key objective and subjective variables. Secondly, to identify the domains which have the greatest impact on satisfaction with life. Lastly, to compare the issues identified by the black sub-sample, which have the lowest level of life satisfaction, with those identified by the sample as a whole.

Structured questionnaire interviews have been conducted in 14 300 dwellings between 1998 and 2005. The samples drawn each year were representative of the city’s demographics and have also been conducted in a range of housing types, such as traditional dwellings, informal and formal settlements. The data from these structured interviews will be the basis for analysis in this paper.

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Session Wed2b

Jan Ott

Government and quality of life in nations.

Many political discussions concentrate on the quality of governments and their optimal size. The quality of governments is extremely important for economic growth in nations. According to the World Bank a country improving the quality of its governance from low to average can quadruple the income per capita of its population. The World Bank has developed six indicators to measure the quality of governments and has collected data about this quality in many nations. Three of these indicators are related to the effectiveness of the civil services and the correlations between these indicators are high. It is therefore acceptable to work with four indicators for the quality of governments that represent four different fundamental institutional characteristics: voice and accountability, political stability, regulatory quality, and quality of civil services.

This quality of governments, and in particular the quality of civil services, is not only important for economic growth but also for happiness in nations. There are however some differences between poor and rich nations. In poor nations the importance of the quality of government on happiness is primarily economical; better governments create more wealth and more wealth promotes happiness. In rich nations the quality of government appears to promote happiness not only by creating more wealth but also in other ways. In poor nations the quality of government has primarily an impact on average happiness; in rich nations it has not only an impact on average happiness but also on the distribution of happiness. The impact of governments on wealth and happiness depends not only on the quality of governments but also on their relative size, for instance in terms of consumption and transfers and subsidies. There are positive correlations between the size of governments and wealth and happiness if the quality of governments is above average. In poor nations, where the average quality of governments is low, there are negative correlations between the size of governments and wealth and happiness; in rich nations these correlations are positive.

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Session Wed2a

José Pais-Ribeiro
Susana Marques

Satisfaction with health, quality of life, disease behaviour, and hope in general population.

Hope is defined as the perceived capability to derive Pathways to desired goals, and motivate oneself via Agency thinking to use those pathways (Snyder, 2002). Snyder has been developing the construct and the ways in which to measure it since the mid-1980s. Global self-ratings of health is an adequate measure and research shows that it is an independent predictor of mortality say Idler and Benyamini (1997) in a review. Global quality of life can be accessed also with one item. Disease behaviour can be defined as any action implemented by a person feeling sick to clarify his condition and the treatment to follow (Kasl & Cob, 1966).

The aim of the present study is to relate hope, and its two dimensions, with health satisfaction, quality of life perception and disease behaviour in a community non patient sample.

The present study includes a convenience sample of 337 individuals from the community, 46.6% females, age $M=40.62$ years (range 18-80 years), school level $M=8.05$. They completed a questionnaire that includes demographic information, a measure of disease behaviour with four items (Cronbach Alpha=0.82), a one-item measure of health satisfaction, a one-item measure of quality of life, and a Portuguese version of the Hope: Hope Scale includes 12 items and consists of four Agency, four Pathways, and four distracter items. The Portuguese version of Hope Scale shows similar metric properties with the original version (Cronbach Alpha of 0.75 for the overall scale, 0.69 for Pathways, and 0.66 for Agency).

Results show that total Hope Scale and its dimensions Pathways and Agency are not correlated with age or education. Hope Scale shows a low correlation with quality of life perception ($r(337)=0.16, p=0.002$), a moderate correlation with health satisfaction ($r(337)=0.23, p<0.0001$), and a low correlation with disease behaviour ($r(337)= -0.15, p=0.006$): Agency shows a moderate correlation with quality of life perception ($r(337)=0.29, p<0.0001$), with health satisfaction ($r(337)=0.33, p<0.0001$), and a low correlation with disease behaviour ($r(337)= -0.16, p=0.003$); Pathways is not correlated with quality of life, health satisfaction or disease behaviour.

Results suggest that Hope, particularly Agency thinking, can be an interesting variable to be considered in studies about subjective aspects of health and disease.

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Session Tue2d

Christiaan Pauw
Montagu Murray

Fundamental Human Needs Theory applied in quality of life measurement.

The article endeavours to illustrate how the Fundamental Human Needs Theory of the Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef was further developed by NOVA researchers to measure Quality of Life (QOL). Max Neef's notion is that the best development process will be that which allows the greatest improvement in people's QOL. QOL depends on the possibilities people have to adequately satisfy their fundamental human needs. In addition it is explained why Max Neef's distinction between needs and satisfiers is a valuable theoretical contribution to QOL Measurement. The limitations of Max-Neef's theory are highlighted. The article describes how NOVA expanded and further developed Max-Neef's theory to build instruments to measure QOL in terms of the possibility individuals have to adequately actualize their fundamental human needs.

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Session Mon3a

Supa Pengpid

Health risk behaviours, health education needs and perspectives towards public health services in the rural South African communities.

The aim of this study is to investigate health risk behaviours of rural South Africans, identify their health needs, specify the preferred health education methods and assess their attitude toward rural public health services.

Through cluster sampling 310 adult participants from rural communities were interviewed using a structured interview, including items on history of illness and treatment, health risk behaviours, knowledge about health risk factors, health information needs, and satisfaction with rural public health services.

A quarter of rural people have history of illness in the past month. The majority (have never had annual health check up (77.5%) and dental check up 91.3%. Few (22.33% men, 20.7 % women) of them had had self breast and testicles examination. The majority have high health risk behaviours especially lack of physical exercise (67.5 %), and eating behaviour (added salt to meal 88.3% and eat fatty food 76.4%). The majority have insufficient knowledge about health risk behaviours and possible disease. Health information was felt to be highly needed and group education was the preferred method.

Unhealthy health behaviours were identified in this rural population. Health education and health promotion programme is highly needed in rural South Africa communities.

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Session Tue2d

Supa Pengpid

Perceptions about healthy eating, physical activity and weight control among a rural sample of black adolescents in South Africa: implications for health promotion.

The aim of this study was to investigate perceptions about healthy eating, physical activity and weight control among a sample of rural black adolescents in South Africa. The sample consisted of eighteen focus groups made up of 186 male and female black adolescents in Grade 8 (Mean age 13.8) from three secondary schools in the Mankweng area, Limpopo Province. From the analysis of the focus groups five major themes emerged: (1) healthy eating (type of foods, food preparation, unhealthy eating), (2) physical activities (types of activities, body image, effects), (3) weight control (types, purpose, negative effects of obesity), (4) sources of information (relatives, professionals, media), and (5) health promotion programme design (wish to run it by themselves with support from nurses and teachers, open to the community, and accessible by location and time). Although adolescents in this study had basic knowledge about healthy eating, physical activity and weight control, findings demonstrate that youth still have misconceptions about weight control and reduction. Findings are discussed in view of integrating obesity prevention in school-based health promotion programmes in South Africa.

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Session Wed3c

Christopher Phiri

Livestock, livelihoods and poverty in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa: a case study of Chris Hani District Municipality.

Rural poverty in South Africa is dated back from the colonial and apartheid era. In post apartheid South Africa rural development is focused on agricultural development focusing on the resources the rural poor have such as livestock. The research question posed is how sustainable is livestock production to the rural poor in the Chris Hani District Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa? Rural livelihoods in the Eastern Cape depend on the capabilities and resources that the households have. This research adopted the qualitative and quantitative approach to explain the extent to which the rural poor sustain their living through livestock production in Chris Hani District Municipality. Rural poverty is dynamic in the researched areas of Intsika Yethu, Sakhisizwe and Engcobo Local Municipalities. Households in Isikobeni, Mkawababa, Xume, Nobokwe, Nqonqora, Sikobeni, Manzimahle, Upper Mnxel and Upper Lufutha are depending on livestock for their livelihoods. Rural households in Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) sustain their living in different ways. However livestock has become the major source of livelihoods socially, culturally and economically with most of the households involved in wool growing, poultry and piggery while those without livestock rely on government and NGO developmental projects. Culturally livestock is used for rituals, funeral ceremonies and circumcision. Economically they are selling beasts to cater for their problems and for buying necessities and paying school fees. However government's social grants, child support grant and disability grants is another source of income. Despite the increasing poverty in the rural areas of CHDM, livestock is a property the rural poor are capable of using to sustain their living.

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Session Tue3d

Gerrit Pienaar

The alleviation of poverty by security of communal land tenure – the land titling debate in South Africa.

More than fourteen million people in South Africa, that is almost a third of the population, practise communal land tenure. This is mainly in the rural areas and previous homelands, which are characterised by lack of secure land rights and inadequate access to land, severe over-population and widespread poverty. In sub-Saharan Africa communal land tenure often results in environmental degradation and unproductive farming activities.

Several solutions to these problems are proposed. On the one hand, there is a strong notion that individualisation of land tenure by a land titling programme, as proposed by the Peruvian economist De Soto, would secure land rights, develop land markets, enlarge individualised capital assets and increase commercial institutions' investment in agricultural enterprises. This could in turn alleviate poverty and foster better economic conditions for rural people, improve productivity and introduce sound farming practices. On the other hand, sociologists and anthropologists warn against simplified solutions and the breaking down of community structures, which are presently one of the few support mechanisms of many communal societies. In many instances the introduction of land titling programmes in sub-Saharan Africa led to land-grabbing by affluent businessmen and politicians and land sales by unsuspecting villagers to unscrupulous developers, thus exacerbating the poverty in rural areas. The Communal Land Rights Act 11 of 2004, which was promulgated but has not yet commenced, is an effort by the Department of Land Affairs to protect the land tenure rights of people practising communal land tenure in rural areas by anti- eviction measures, the recognition of so-called new order rights and the registration of certificates of communal land tenure in accordance with a communal general plan lodged at and approved by the surveyor-general.

In this paper it is proposed that titling in itself is not the final solution to problems pertaining to communal land tenure, and that there are several negative social and economic effects which must be taken into consideration when embarking on a titling programme. On the other hand, legislative protection alone does not achieve sufficient security of tenure for informal land rights and communal property. The solution lies in a combination of a suitable titling programme for informal or communal land rights, combined with legislative measures to protect these rights. The provisions of the Communal Land Rights Act 11 of 2004 are critically analysed to establish whether these measures will establish suitable land tenure security and the alleviation of poverty in rural areas.

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Session Tue3d

Birger Poppel

The importance of a mixed cash- and harvest herding-based economy to living in the Arctic – an analysis based on the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA.

“Subsistence” is both a highly disputed theoretical concept within several social sciences’ disciplines, an often used term/word in international debates and conventions on indigenous peoples’ traditional hunting rights, and an integral part of indigenous peoples, communities and organisations’ campaigns for their rights to maintaining traditional lifestyles.

The domestic and cash economies of the north are highly interrelated. As Wolfe and Walker (1987) reported, "...a family's subsistence production is augmented and supported by cash employment of family members...The money generated in the commercial-wage sector of the economy enables families to capitalize in the subsistence sector. The combination of subsistence and commercial-wage activities provides the economic basis for the way of life so highly valued in rural communities."

The international core questionnaire applied in the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA offers opportunities to examine the importance of a mixed cash- and harvest herding based economy to living in the Arctic, relationships between traditional hunting, fishing and herding activities and activities in the market economy sector, the respondents’ satisfaction with the actual composition of the different activities as well as the preferred composition and the relationship to the overall well-being and the individual.

This theme, the importance of a mixed cash- and harvest herding based economy to living in the Arctic, is one of five international analysis themes suggested by the indigenous peoples’ representatives participating in SLiCA.

The analysis is based on more than 7,000 personal interviews with Inuit adults in Greenland, Canada, Chukotka, and Alaska.

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Session Tue1b

Birger Poppel

Why a survey of living conditions among indigenous peoples in the Arctic?

In 1994 Statistics Greenland conducted a Survey of Living Conditions in Greenland based on the Scandinavian model for measuring living conditions. One of the lessons learned was that this survey either did not reflect the welfare priorities of a large part of the Greenlandic population or documented inconsistency between the goals of the individuals and their actual choices.

In connection with the analyses and reporting of the Greenlandic living conditions study in 1994, it became obvious that problems arose when a research design presupposing a high degree of social and economic homogeneity internally, and hence the presence of universally necessary resources from a relatively homogeneous late industrial society, were transferred to a country which first of all is characterised by a non-parallel development, secondly can hardly be described as industrialised, and thirdly has its own cultural and historic profile.

The conclusion to these findings, experiences and consultations with researchers, indigenous organizations, and governments in Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the United States and Russia were that any further research into the living conditions of the indigenous population in Greenland and other indigenous peoples of the Arctic would require a new survey instrument designed specifically for countries in Arctic regions where a large numbers of indigenous residents still rely on the harvest of local resources for food. It was furthermore concluded that it was more important to draw comparisons between Greenland and other Arctic regions rather than between Greenland and European countries.

This presentation focuses on some of the methodological and theoretical deliberations, the major objectives and the research design of the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA.

SLiCA has been conducted in a partnership between researchers and the indigenous peoples in the countries and regions. The significance of this partnership will be addressed too.

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Session Tue1b

Mariekatrine Poppel

Relationships between violence and different living conditions – An analysis based on the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA.

Domestic violence affects first of all the women and the children of the families and has an impact to the families' and the society's social, cultural and economic life and especially to the children's growing up. Gender and violence is often analyzed from the women's perspective. In this project the focus is on men, masculinity, and men's power practices.

This project gives the opportunity to describe and illuminate the problem from different field approaches using different sources. It gathers information on men's violence from several different sources, including drum songs, narratives, police reports and findings from the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA.

The international core questionnaire applied in SLiCA offers opportunities to examine the relationships between the respondents' backgrounds and resources, satisfaction with different aspects of life as well as the overall well-being of the individual. Furthermore it is possible to investigate whether the person has been assaulted, faces different problems in the household or in his work relations in general, as well as the degree of unemployment, and the educational background. In addition to these factors, other social problems can be examined. Most prominent is that alcohol is involved in most cases of violence.

The analysis is based on over 7,000 personal interviews with Inuit adults in Greenland, Canada, Chukotka, and Alaska.

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Session Wed1b

Don Rahtz

Consumer well-being, macromarketing and quality of life (QOL).

As the marketing discipline continues to evolve, the issue of consumer well-being has become one of increasing interest. This is true in both the academic and business arenas. As this evolution continues to occur, the examination of the construct is relevant from both a macromarketing and a QOL indicators perspective. The intent of this paper is to provide an overview of the development of the notion of consumer well-being in the business and public policy environments. In addition to providing an historical look at the nature of consumer well-being, this paper will also examine the evolution of indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, that have been used to measure the construct. In doing so, the paper also examines ways in which consumer well-being measures are increasingly finding their way into the discourse between public policy and business. In this session, examples of the application of consumer well-being measurements within various sectors will be provided. Each example will serve to illustrate the (potential) importance of the construct and how it can be used to provide common ground between decision makers from both the public and private sectors. The paper ends with a discussion regarding future prospects for the construct as a tool within the private and public sectors.

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Session Thu3d

Don R. Rahtz
Clifford J. Shultz
Anthony Pecotich

Marketing research and its impact on judicial reforms and quality of life in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a country generally regarded to have among the lowest reported measures for quality of life. Numerous factors in this complex country contribute to these measures. As part of a cross-sectional study the authors have examined the judicial system, using marketing research methods to assess consumers'/citizens' attitudes of/toward that system. In this session, the authors share findings from a portion of that study, with implications for data collection and systemic understanding, judicial reform, and ultimately enhanced QOL for the citizen-stakeholders of that system.

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Session Thu3d

Joseph Ranallo
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The rings of our lives and the lives of our rings: enhancing the quality of our lives through Oriental healing balancing.

More than any other healing modality, Oriental Medicine draws on deliberate parallels between quality of life and balance. For easterners, balance is a state in which our spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical faculties are in sync. When we are in balance, we feel calm, satisfied, comfortable, at ease, and stress and pain free. Regrettably, life has a way of continually challenging this delicate balance. External, climate-induced pathogens, improper diets, excessive emotions, fatigue, trauma, parasites, infections, dependencies, over indulgences, political and social issues, and heredity can easily knock and keep us out of balance. Over five thousand years ago, the ancient healers and spiritual masters of the east discovered the secrets of balancing and rebalancing. Until recently, these mysteries have remained out of the grasp of most unenlightened mortals. Only the privileged, chosen few had access to them. These were the only people who could enjoy the benefits of balancing to enhance the quality of their lives. In the second half of the last century, following twenty years of painstaking research, South Korea's Tae-Woo Yoo, O.M.D., Ph. D, discovered a hand-based acupuncture system that, inadvertently, made the elusive, esoteric, protected knowledge of the past available to a broader, educated public. One of the principles that Dr. Yoo formulated is that each of our fingers has a direct correspondence to one or more of our internal organs: thumb-liver; index finger-heart; middle finger-spleen; ring finger-lungs; baby finger-kidney. Furthermore, each of these organs controls a dominant emotion: liver-anger; heart-joy; spleen-brooding; lungs-grief; kidneys-fear. From Dr. Yoo's work, contemporary researchers and practitioners have developed immediate, inexpensive, safe, pain free balancing systems that anyone can learn and employ with minimal training. One such system allows us to diagnose and correct our physical and emotional imbalances simply by wearing a proper combination of white and coloured metal rings on specific fingers of our hands. By so doing, we can learn the art and science of balancing and thus can immediately and permanently enhance the quality of our own and the lives of others.

This session offers participants multiple benefits. For the academically curious, it will provide a condensed basis for the theoretical framework of Oriental Balancing methods. The more practical participants will also be able to diagnose and correct their current imbalances. Participants are invited to bring to the session two rings made from white metal (silver, aluminum, etc.) and two rings made from coloured metal (yellow gold, brass, copper, etc.). With these rings they can begin their ascent into a rewarding, balanced life style.

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Session Wed3d

Luca Rebeggiani

Income inequality, consumption and subjective well-being – comparing Germany and Italy 1950-2005.

Sixty years after the end of World War II, the two defeated countries face similar socio-economic problems, characterized by low growth rates, disadvantageous demographic changes and high unemployment rates. This negative development might be surprising from a historical perspective, considering the great economic performance exhibited in the Fifties and Sixties by the two countries, which brought them to catch up rapidly with the G8 group.

This paper analyzes the consequences of the economic evolution during the post-war period on the socio-economic structure of the two countries. Using a large data set including several waves of the Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichprobe (EVS) and the Survey of Household Income and Wealth (SHIW) from Banca d'Italia, we review the development of personal income distribution in the post-war period. We furthermore analyze the patterns of consumption structure, analyzing whether they show evidence of growing social disarticulation. In a last step, we take subjective measures into account, adding the subjective perception of living standards to our analysis.

The results show clear signs of an increasing polarization starting from the early Eighties, after a long period of social equalization experienced by both countries. In Germany, this development has accelerated in the last years, while Italy still suffers from its big regional differences. The indicators for subjective well-being have worsened in both countries during the last 15 years.

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Session Tue2a

Katrin Rehdanz
David Maddison

Urban air quality and life satisfaction in Germany.

So far, measurements of people's preferences over differences in environmental quality such as urban air pollution have been derived mainly by using environmental valuation techniques such as the hedonic price approach or the household production function approach. The hedonic price approach is based on the assumption that perfectly mobile individuals would relocate in order to eliminate the net advantages of different locations. Consequently, the household's implicit valuation of a marginal change in the level of an amenity or disamenity can be inferred from the household's chosen location on the hedonic property price. The household production function approach uses information on households defensive expenditure patterns to discover how they value an environmental bad such as air pollution or noise nuisance.

This paper proposes a different approach to derive information on people's preferences for local urban air quality. It analyses panel data of the German socio economic panel (GSOEP) in an attempt to explain differences in self-reported levels of well-being. Mindful of existing research a large number of other explanatory variables are included to control for socio-demographic differences (like age, gender, marital status, health, education or number of children), economic circumstances (like income or employment status) as well as neighbourhood characteristics (like type of living area, topographical or geographical characteristics) including differences in local air quality. Differences in local urban air quality are indicated by how much an individual feels affected by air pollution in their residential area.

So far, few studies exist analysing differences in environmental quality using data on life-satisfaction or happiness. Van Praag and Baarsma (2001) studied the external effects due to aircraft noise nuisance at the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and found a trade-off ratio between happiness and exposure to noise. Environmental pollution has also been found to reduce happiness (Welsch, 2002). He uses cross-section data for 54 countries. Pollution is measured on a per country basis indicated by differences in air (sulphur, nitrogen and particulates) and water quality (phosphorus and solids). Our study is different as we use individual data for Germany. The evidence suggests that even when controlling for a range of other factors, there is a strong negative effect of higher local urban air pollution on life-satisfaction. On the basis of the results it is determined how small improvements in local air quality would benefit people living in Germany.

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Session Thu2a

Robin Richards
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Measuring quality of life in informal settlements in South Africa.

South African cities attract thousands of new residents every year in search of work and a better life. The housing backlog coupled with a shortage of housing subsidies to address this backlog, means that for many South Africans, there is no alternative but to live in informal housing and shack settlements. Informal settlements are therefore here to stay for at least the next decade. Given the importance of these residential areas, research needs to be undertaken to determine how to improve the lives of residents living in shack settlements. This theme has received little attention by QoL researchers in the past and the paper begins to address this information-gap by exploring the quality of life of informal dwellers in three distinct city areas in South Africa: Buffalo City; Durban and Alexandra, Johannesburg. The paper investigates the factors that are most important in improving the quality of life of informal residents as well as the main obstacles to a better quality of life. The paper makes use of regression analysis to investigate the issues which shape quality of life in these areas.

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Session Wed3b

Benjamin Roberts

Confronting the divide: attitudes to inequality in South Africa.

The extent to which the political and economic transformation that accompanied South Africa's transition to democracy has benefited those that were previously disadvantaged is subject to much debate. As one of the world's most inequitable societies, increasing attention has been devoted to measuring changes in people's incomes and income inequality over the first decade of freedom. Despite a resolute commitment by the government to address the pervasive poverty and inequality and the diverse package of policy responses adopted over the decade, empirical evidence suggests that poverty may have increased. Inequality may also be stagnating due to worsening intra-racial inequality and only a marginal decline in inter-racial inequality. The HSRC's 2003 South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) contained a set of measures aimed at exploring respondents' attitudes to inequality in a reasonably direct manner. This paper provides some insight into people's attitudes towards the changed circumstances borne by the post-apartheid period, including aversion to prevailing levels of inequality, the perceived role of the state in meeting the inequality challenge, and support for different modes of redistribution.

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Session Mon3c

Benjamin Roberts

Poverty diagnostics using poor data: strengthening the evidence base for pro-poor policy making in Lesotho.

Increasingly national statistical agencies are being called upon to provide high quality data on a regular basis, to be used by governments for evidence-based policy development. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) give impetus to this, and bring a prerequisite for comprehensive “poverty diagnosis”. Often the data that are required are not available, or are incomplete while the concepts that are to be used may be ambiguous or require adaptation to local conditions. The poverty analysis of Lesotho in this article represents a contribution towards the emerging culture of evidence-based policy-making in developing countries in that it explores changes in key poverty-related social indicators. Techniques for dealing with poor data are discussed and an approach to developing a poverty threshold adapted to the local conditions of Lesotho is described.

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Session Mon2c

Benjamin Roberts

Empowerment and equity in pro-poor policymaking: youth and poverty reduction strategy paper processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The transition to adulthood is a crucial stage of human development during which young people leave childhood and begin to prepare for or assume new roles and responsibilities, most especially as adult worker, citizen and community participant, spouse, parent, and household manager (Lloyd, 2005). It is thus a period of profound psychological, economic and biological change. Ultimately, the nature and quality of young people's lives depend on the extent to which they successfully negotiate through this critical period.

Nonetheless, in sub-Saharan Africa, the likelihood that young people will successfully navigate the transition to adulthood is impeded by the suite of challenges that confront them. In spite of the increasing prominence of youth and youth rights as a subject of academic enquiry and policy debate over the last decade, poverty rates among young people in the region are rising. This is partly attributable to rapid population growth, but also to processes of globalisation that have exacerbated the unequal distribution of the gains of growth, resulting in mounting inequality and social exclusion. Apart from poor economic conditions, the HIV/AIDS pandemic poses salient risks for young people, implying a continued growth in young peoples' need for reproductive and other health services. Furthermore, despite improvements in school attendance, there remain sizable differences according to wealth and residential status. Mounting pressures on school systems may further compound concerns over school quality, which is seen as a key determinant of relatively poor learning outcomes. Youth unemployment also remains a substantial challenge, with youths experiencing more than double the average unemployment rate.

Governments have a salient role to perform in addressing these obstacles and facilitating successful transitions to adulthood by pursuing policies and programmatic interventions aimed at reducing poverty and expanding opportunities for young people. Recognising this, a particularly noteworthy recent development has been the adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach. Introduced by the World Bank and IMF in 1999, the approach requires developing countries to prepare a PRSP as a precondition for accessing concessional finance and debt relief. Premised on national ownership, broad-based participation, comprehensiveness, pro-poor policy outcomes and a long-term perspective for poverty reduction, the approach has fast become the dominant mechanism for development policy in Africa. More than half the countries in the region have finalised or are busy preparing their poverty reduction strategies. As such, PRSPs represent a potentially significant instrument for addressing the needs of African youth living in poverty.

Based on a review of PRSP documentation and other evidence, the paper begins by examining the extent to which the voices of the youth have been incorporated into PRSP formulation processes. This is followed by an assessment of the extent to which youth issues (especially in respect of education, health, employment, and social protection) have been mainstreamed into the policies and programmes contained in the PRSPs. Finally, the paper reviews preliminary evidence on the implementation of economic growth and social sector policies, and reflects on the likely impact on the lives of youth in Africa.

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Session Wed3c

Héctor Rodríguez
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Application of the Well-Being Index in the Guaraníes (Guarani) of Salta, Argentina.

The Guaraníes of Salta, self-called Ava Guaraní, belong to the Tupí- Guaraní linguistic family and they are usually known as Chiriguano. Related to them, we find another ethnic group in the region, the Chané of Arawak affiliation, but who have adopted the Guaraní language. The Guaraníes settled along the Oriental spurs of the Andes in the present Bolivian departments of Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija and the Bolivian Chaco (Izozo) and were a migrant population during centuries. They migrated to present day Bolivia in early times and built their settlements in the Andes Cordillera piedmont and bordering Chaco. The Guaraníes constituted Neolithic mobile groups. This population could not be conquered by the Incas but, since the XVIII century a network of Franciscan Missions was established in the greater part of Guaraní territory, being only a few the communities that kept themselves out of the control of the missions or the ranch owners. By 1919, the missions were secularized and many people were forced to look for paid work in other parts while some others continued migrating to Argentina, where, at the end of XIX century and the beginning of the XX century, there was an economic rise in the North East. This migration would continue for a long time. This work presents the first application of the Well-being Index among 60 Salta Guaraníes, men and women, over 18 years old, during 2005.

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Session Tue2b

Franz Rothenbacher

Quality of life of public servants in European comparison.

The aim of the presentation is to examine the objective living conditions in the public services and their subjective perception by public servants themselves in several European countries by the use of large-scale comparative data sets like the ECHP and the Labour Force Survey. It seeks to give an answer to the open question, if there really is a decline in the objective living conditions (income, pensions, working time, etc.) caused by reforms to stabilize public finances with regard to demographic ageing. It furthermore intends to investigate, if the subjective perceptions by public employees with their social and work position is declining as well. Thus, are public employees getting less satisfied with their life in general, their income and working conditions, among others, during the last two decades?

Thus, the paper investigates the living conditions of public servants in a way as broad as possible (e.g. income, working conditions, housing, health, pensions, family relationships, etc.) and looks at the subjective perception (satisfaction) of these living conditions. Earlier analyses could show that satisfaction in the public sector is higher than in the private sector, that females working in the public sector are more satisfied than when working in the private sector, that females working in the public sector are more satisfied than men working in the public sector. The main predictors for these results are a permanent job and the level of income. The presentation will look at the temporal development of satisfaction of public employees. Is there really a decline of satisfaction in the public sector with income, working conditions? Do public employees really reflect the step-by-step worsening of employment conditions in the public sector by their subjective perceptions?

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Session Wed3a

Stephen Rule

Religion and QOL in South Africa.

A review of over 600 papers on religion relates religiosity on the one hand to a reduced incidence of depression, hypertension, suicide, abuse of alcohol and drugs, youth delinquency and premarital or extramarital sexual activity; and an enhanced sense of personal well-being, life expectancy, hope, self-esteem and educational attainment, on the other. In the absence of a South African literature on these topics, this paper examines national survey data in South Africa to determine the relationship between religious participation and beliefs and quality of life as measured in terms of life satisfaction, household access to modern conveniences, and satisfaction with government institutions. The data show a significant but not very strong statistical relationship between religiosity and QoL. People who attend religious meetings the most frequently and who hold the most orthodox religious views emerge as being more likely to be satisfied with their lives and to be part of households with access to modcons. The relationship between religiosity and the political sphere is more complex, however.

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Session Wed3d

Egide Rwamatwara

International migration and human capital management in Africa: a challenge to sustainable development.

International migration of African skilled professionals, commonly referred to as ‘brain drain’, continues to be a major concern for policy makers and academics at national and regional levels. The brain drain is cited as the major barrier to the achievement of sustainable development in Africa. Although the effects of the brain drain are differently experienced from country to country, this paper supports the widely held view that the level and trend of the brain drain in Africa in general has reached alarming heights and that the continent cannot embark on a meaningful economic development take off without addressing and reversing the current brain drain trend.

Although economic factors are put at the front line of push and pull factors, the paper analyses the social and political factors which significantly influence the decision to leave one’s home land. In addition to the common analysis of migrants leaving Africa towards the most developed countries as their final destination, the paper analyses the intra-regional movement of skilled professionals.

Moreover, although all sectors of expertise are concerned by the brain drain, existing reports focus on migration of specialists in specified fields such as health and IT sectors. This analysis expands the magnitude of the brain drain to all sectors. Furthermore, discourses insist on the voluntary nature of the skilled professionals’ migration with limited reference to forced migration within and without Africa. The paper analyses the trends of human capital flight caused by forced migration in Africa.

Furthermore, the available data on brain drain are based on estimates and are hardly reliable as a basis for policy and decision making effort to reverse the brain drain and/or to limit its effects on the socio-economic development of the continent. This lack of reliable data and dubious source of information on the phenomenon give ground for speculations and unscientific interpretation which can misguide policy makers. The paper revisits the shortfalls of data collection and proposes strategies to document the African ‘brain drain’ from a holistic approach. The analysis of the brain drain phenomenon in Africa goes beyond the mere loss of expertise; it covers the implication of physical absence, temporary or permanent, of the skilled professionals. The paper recommends investment in research in order to collect accurate, detailed and reliable data on brain drain at country and regional levels.

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Session Thu1b

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Perception of cultural barriers for the access to pre-paid health system for Taiwanese immigrants to Argentina.

The Chinese immigration to Argentina has developed in three periods starting in 1914 (World War I). Chinese from Taiwan came during the second period (early '80s).

This paper considers the relation between quality of life, migration and health, mainly focusing on cultural barriers for the access to medical attention and how it is perceived by these Taiwanese immigrants, affiliated to a pre-paid managed system of medical attention in Buenos Aires City. We are interested in their preferences and expectations about it, as a result of an exploratory qualitative research through semi-structured interviews on this population (21-60 years, men and women, affiliated to the Health Plan of the Italian Hospital, with at least one medical consultation since their affiliation).

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Session Thu1b

Rick Sawatzky
 Pamela A. Ratner
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Multidimensional measurement of life satisfaction: a story is found in the residuals.

Many multidimensional life satisfaction instruments are based on the premise that overall life satisfaction can be measured by averaging satisfaction scores pertaining to various areas of life. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) has been widely used to test the implied indirect reflective measurement model (i.e., a second-order factor model), and item parceling has been recommended as one approach to overcome the distributional challenges associated with the use of ordinal variables and to account for unspecified sources of covariance among the items. Our study was designed to compare the results of CFAs based on the use of item parcels to results of other CFA approaches that do not rely on item parceling. We used CFA to replicate Huebner's (1998) proposed measurement model for the 40-item Multidimensional Students' Life Satisfaction Scale (MSLSS) in a randomly selected sample of 1,444 adolescents in British Columbia. The MSLSS is designed to measure adolescents' satisfaction with their family, friends, living environment, school and self as the basis for obtaining an overall life satisfaction score. We compared CFAs based on item parcels to CFAs based on Pearson correlations and polychoric correlations among all items, and we tested a modified model by specifying a methods factor to account for the correlations among ten negatively-worded items. The results did not support Huebner's proposed measurement model. Our methodological comparisons did not lead to different conclusions about model fit, although the use of polychoric correlations resulted in improved global fit statistics. Our modified model (with a methods factor) resulted in a statistically significant improvement in chi-square (Δ Satorra-Bentler $\chi^2_{(45)} = 1588.67$, $p < .001$) and the global fit statistics were indicative of a well-fitting model (e.g., RMSEA = .051; AGFI = .97, NNFI = .97). Nonetheless, the standardized residuals (ranging from -7.58 to 14.96) as well as the discrepancy between the observed and implied correlations (ranging from -.23 to .16) remained exceedingly large. Methods for examining patterns in the distribution of the standardized residuals, as the basis for further examining model specification and fit, were explored. We conclude that our analyses do not support the use of item parceling to examine the measurement structure of this multidimensional life satisfaction instrument. A measurement model based on polychoric correlations among all of the items, with a methods factor, was most favorably supported in our study. We recommend that scrutiny of standardized residuals is imperative prior to drawing conclusions about model fit.

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Session Tue1a

Martina Schäfer

Regional engagement of small and medium enterprises - How does it contribute to quality of life in rural areas?

Facing globalization, the discussion about the societal engagement of business – expressed by the term “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) – has won importance. The concept of CSR represents a shift from a narrow shareholder-orientation to a broader stakeholder-orientation and includes aspects of taking responsibility for the ecological and social resources of society.

The project “Regional Wealth reconsidered” is looking at the societal engagement of small and medium enterprises and their contribution to sustainable development and quality of life in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. For our research we have selected the organic agriculture and food sector - a pioneering sector that is characterized by a high commitment to environmentally sound production. Although relatively small, the organic agriculture and food market is an economic growth sector in many industrial countries.

The presentation will concentrate on the regional and local engagement of enterprises and their potential for improving quality of life in rural areas. The results are based on questionnaires and additional case studies. The questionnaires concentrated on recording the ecological and social activities of the enterprises, based on an indicator set developed within the project (Schäfer et al. 2004; Schäfer/Illge 2006). In the case studies it was possible to analyze the institutional context of the entrepreneurial activities and to reconstruct the economic and civil society networks the enterprises are engaged in.

In the session I want to present some of the results on the local and regional entrepreneurial networks of this sector and their importance for improving quality of life in rural areas. I will focus on aspects like promoting regional marketing and regional identity, creating social capital between different regional actors, building bridges between city and countryside and preserving natural resources and the landscape. Since many industrial countries are faced with severe economic and social problems in peripheral rural areas, the results can contribute to developing new perspectives and strategies for these regions.

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Session Tue3d

Peggy Schyns

Cynical and unhappy? The relationship between (political) cynicism and subjective well-being in Europe.

The relationship between politics and subjective well-being seems to be a rather unexplored area in the social sciences. Although we can find some studies at the national level, indicating a positive relationship between national well-being and several political indicators such as the ideological complexion of governments and the presence of a welfare state, at the individual level even fewer studies are found. Although Barnes and Kaase's influential study Political Action (1979) dedicated one chapter to the relationship between personal dissatisfaction and political action, lately not much research focusing on this relationship at the individual level has been carried out.

In the past decades political cynicism has become a major concern in Western democracies. Rising levels of political discontent are being reported with concomitant – presumed - negative consequences for our political systems. But what are the consequences of these cynical attitudes for an individual's subjective well-being? Is there a relationship at all?

In this paper, the relationship between political cynicism and life satisfaction is addressed. If citizens hold grudges against politicians and/or the political system as a whole, does this affect their subjective well-being? Or, is it rather the reverse case: do unhappy people also tend to become political cynics? In addition, what is the relationship between an individual's cynical personality and his or her subjective well-being?

This exploratory paper uses Dutch student data, a survey on political cynicism among Dutch adults and the European Values Survey to study the empirical relationship.

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Session Tue3b

Andrew Sharpe
Lars Osberg

New estimates of the Index of Economic Well-being for OECD countries.

In the late 1990s, the authors of this abstract developed a new composite measure of well-being called the Index of Economic Well-being. The salient feature of this index was that it organized the economic well-being domain into four dimensions: consumption flows, stocks of wealth, equality, and economic security. In a paper presented in July 2000 at the ISQOLS Conference in Girona, Spain (and subsequently published in Social Indicators Research), estimates of the Index were presented for 12 OECD countries for the 1960-1996 period.

Since then we have greatly advanced our research program on the measurement of economic well-being, both conceptually and empirically. The objective of this paper is to present this new research on the Index of Economic Well-being. The first part of the paper will discuss progress that we have made on methodological issues associated with the construction of composite indexes, and in particular the adoption by the Index of Economic Well-being of a linear scaling technique for all variables. The advantages and disadvantages of this technique will be discussed. The second part of the paper will present new estimates in both level and growth rate terms of the Index of Economic Well-being for 12 OECD countries up to 2004 and discuss the factors behind these trends.

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Session Wed1d

Prahlad Singh Shekhawat

Rethinking development and quality of life.

Indicators of development like gross national product and other purely economic criteria are increasingly seen as insufficient. The need for higher GNP leads to productive systems and consumption patterns that are not in harmony with the carrying capacity of the environment and our planet. GNP does not measure the fair and equal distribution, unpaid labour, social sector indicators like employment, health and education.

The Human Development index is a composite standard of three fundamental indicators (1) Life expectancy (2) Education measured by combined estimate of adult literacy and average years of schooling (3) economic standard of living in terms of purchasing power after adjusting for the local cost of living. These three indicators are given equal weight.

The Redefining Progress project in U.S.A has developed genuine progress indicators which take into account quality and distribution of economic growth. It particularly considers the value of housework, care for children and elderly, voluntary work, free time or family and community activities etc. These activities can be viewed as good for the economy and well-being although no money changes hands.

Some years ago the King of Bhutan suggested the idea of Gross National Happiness. The economist Richard Layard argues in his book "Happiness: Lesson From a New Science", that public policy should be devoted to increasing happiness rather than wealth or success. Similarly Paul Martin in his book "Making Happy People" proposes how we can bring up our children to be happy because happiness is arguably the most important thing in life.

In order to overcome the limitations of the major approaches to well-being Amartya Sen has advanced the capability approach because it builds human capacities to be able to choose and fulfill valuable goals in terms of both subjective and objective factors and values. The Capability approach has the merit of offering a multi-dimensional analysis including participatory strategies, agency and autonomy of individuals and distributional assessment of individuals' well-being.

The difficulty on agreeing on a common ethical and cross-cultural perspective and developing measurable indicators should not lead us to become cynics or postmodernists. The hope remains that agreement on some minimum core values is not only necessary but possible provided the agreement is democratically and cross-culturally arrived at without denying cultural plurality.

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Session Wed1d

Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi

The current state and future perspective of ageing in Iran: a sociological study of quality of life.

The paper addresses the issue of the rapid increase in elderly people as more and more men and women live longer. While ageing attracts the attention of policy-makers in a large part of the industrial world, in Iran, the problem has yet to be addressed. Large numbers of ageing people in Iran, as in many other parts of the Third World, suffer low quality of life and hence face social disadvantages. The paper explores how growing old in Iran involves numerous problems such as physical decline, social isolation, adjustment to retirement life, risk of poverty, and the like are some of the social problems observed among the ageing people. Today elderly research is generally expected to focus on health and social welfare systems as an integral part of development in Iran. Though this process has become quite common in the more developed world, yet in the less developed world, it still has a long way to go. So far as Iran's demographic make-up is concerned, the country's elderly population is prone to increase in future decades because of the current voluminous young population structure in the country. Sociologically speaking, ageing is currently no longer a privilege of a few, but it is increasingly becoming a norm for all rather than an exception for a few. That contributes to health and ensures quality of life in older age. Governments must also understand that the growing numbers of ageing individuals in society will change dependency ratios, increase the costs of pensions and other social security costs. In this survey five hundred elderly people were studied. Not only Iran is projected to have increasing numbers of elderly people in the future, but many other developing societies will have the same destiny, and the scenario needs adequate research and planning.

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Session Mon3b

Vijay Kumar Shrotryia

Relationship between life satisfaction and job satisfaction: a study of employees in Shillong, India.

The study aims to bring out the relationship between life satisfaction and job satisfaction of employees in Shillong. The respondents have been randomly selected from various backgrounds like banks, insurance companies, colleges, university, schools, electric corporations and government employees and from all the cadres of work. Their satisfaction level at Likert's 5 point scale (1 being least satisfied and 5 being most satisfied) both with life as well as with job has been studied on the background of their experience, position, gender, marital status, family responsibilities and nature of employment. Their opinion as to whether happy workers are productive workers or productive workers are happy workers is studied and compared across above mentioned backgrounds. The correlation between job satisfaction and life satisfaction is established through data.

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Session Thu2d

Vijay Kumar Shrotryia
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Shifts in life satisfaction and understanding of happiness in Bhutan: 2000-2005.

The present study is based on a follow up work of the last study which was done in the year 2000. The objective of the study is to find out the developments on different variables of life satisfaction and happiness during the last five years. A comparison is made across rural-urban perceptions and causal factors are identified towards the end. Further the trend is studied and analysed using suitable statistical tools. The study is more pertinent because the nation as a whole follows a development philosophy called Gross National Happiness and such type of studies are not carried out on a regular basis at the governmental level.

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Session Wed2a

Clifford J. Shultz
Don R. Rahtz

An introduction to marketing's contributions to quality of life.

Marketing fundamentally is a provisioning technology and collection of practices that, when administered wisely, can enhance quality of life for large numbers of people. This sentiment/reality frequently is at odds with popular interpretations of marketing and perceptions by academics outside the marketing sciences. Nevertheless, markets and marketing are among the world's oldest institutions; societies emerged because of the need for divisions of labor, efficient management, and effective sharing of scarce resources. Goods and services to improve people's lives were administered via markets and the process to effect improvements was/is marketing. The purpose of this special session is to demonstrate the historical and current links of marketing to QOL; that is, Macromarketing essentially is the study of marketing and its effects on marketing systems and QOL for large numbers of stakeholders in those systems. Presenters in this session will share some research findings (1) to stimulate conference participants to reframe their thinking vis-à-vis marketing, and (2) to encourage participants trained in disciplines other than marketing to consider their work vis-à-vis markets, marketing and quality of life.

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Session Thu3d

Clifford J. Shultz
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Macromarketing as an outlet for QOL research.

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce attendees to macromarketing, and to invite scholars to consider ways that they may contribute to this discipline and its primary scholarly outlet: the Journal of Macromarketing. Macromarketing emerged as a formal discipline in early 1970s, following seminal work for several decades on marketing aggregations, marketing systems. This emergence was partly in reaction to a shift in the marketing academy toward managerial practices rather than societal welfare. Serious questions in the academy about the extent to which marketing had taken a turn from its genesis: to organize practices and systems in societies with the objective to improve quality of life for stakeholders in society. Macromarketing literally is intended to address big/important issues, beyond comparatively simple exchanges between buyers and sellers, or even relationships between companies and customers. In an increasingly interconnected world of markets, marketers, and their stakeholders, macromarketing becomes increasingly important as a mechanism to study shortcomings of marketing and its unintended deleterious effects; as well as to provide solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

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Session Thu3d

Kobra Smohammadi

Some psychometric particulars of the 192-question Ivans and Coup questionnaire on quality of life of female teachers of Tehran Middle Schools in 15 scales.

The present paper is aimed at “basic study of some psychometric particulars of 192-question Ivans and Coup questionnaire on quality of life” conducted on female teachers of Tehran Middle Schools in 15 scales: Economic Welfare, Physical Welfare, Personal Growth of Marital Relations, Parent-Child Relations, Family Extension, Over Marital Relations, Humanitarian Behavior, Job Specifications, Job Satisfaction, Job Relations, Creative and Artistic Behaviors, Sports Activities during Leisure Time, Political Partnership.

To reach the research goals, the said questionnaire was presented to 200 female teachers of middle schools of Tehran in school year 2002-03. The teachers were selected on multi-phase cluster basis. After collecting the replies to questionnaires, the frequency tables and percentage of personal particulars of the research sample, tables of mean statistical indices, standard deviation, mean, extension, minimum and maximum of crude scores were prepared for different scales.

Using statistical analyses of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient, the research questions were replied as follows: Does the questionnaire and subscales enjoy proper internal consistency using Cronbach Alpha? Based on information gathered on internal consistency, the scales A, C, D, F, G, O and P enjoy acceptable Cronbach Alpha. Does the questionnaire QLQ enjoy proper psychometric status for Tehran teachers? The information gathered show that utilization of subscales for studying the quality of life of Tehran Teachers in said areas is allowable due to their permanent existence. The permanent existence of other subscales can be re-examined in subsequent studies. In addition the correlation table of 16 subscales of the questionnaire has been prepared and presented.

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Session Mon3a

Christian Suter

Dimensions of subjective well-being.

Using data from the Euromodule survey and the Swiss Household Panel this contribution examines dimensions of subjective well-being and their determinants for several European countries (Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland). Subjective well-being is generally measured by several specific questions concerning the level of satisfaction with different realms of life. Our Euromodule and Swiss Household Panel data contains several of such questions dealing with the satisfaction of respondents, such as satisfaction with one's apartment, current job, standard of living, income, health, education, neighbourhood, public safety, environmental situation. One of the main issues that arise in relation to these questions is whether each of these different aspects of well-being must be analyzed separately or whether a general index should be constructed. The paper addresses this question by conducting a factorial analysis for each country to see if there is a common, latent structure underlying the different aspects of satisfaction. In a second step regression models are computed for estimating the effects of the most important determinants for each dimension of subjective well-being. Empirical analysis reveals two main results: First, subjective well-being is a two-dimensional concept. In all of the six countries examined, a dimension of individual subjective well-being and a dimension of societal subjective well-being can be distinguished. Individual subjective well-being - which is the most important dimension - concerns the micro-aspects of happiness, that is, all of those aspects which impact directly the individual level. These include satisfaction with personal resources available, like health, income, standard of living and education. Societal well-being refers to satisfaction with the broader social environment - e.g. the quality of life of municipalities and districts, as measured by public safety and the environmental situation. Secondly, the impact of objective living conditions on well-being is confined to the individual dimension of well-being. In all of the six countries there is a strong relationship between individual subjective well-being and both, direct and indirect indicators of poverty and the traditional inequality and stratification measures. By contrast, societal well-being seems to be largely unaffected by income, deprivation or other measures of inequality and objective living conditions.

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Session Thu1d

Ranjini Thaver

The disabling societal impact on individual disability: a reflective essay.

This reflective essay will question the norm that a decrease in the quality of life for people with physical disabilities is caused by 'them not adjusting to society' as their bodies and minds change. I will demonstrate that in fact, part of the reason for a decreasing QOL is precisely because "society" changes its attitudes towards, and expectations of, the disabled, that could lead to the detriment of the physically disabled, and the relationships that have existed hitherto. I will use a combination of theory and self-reflected experiences to demonstrate how this process works, and how it is perpetuated. The American Disability Act, through its laws, incentive programs, and information dissemination to different institutions in society will be analyzed to determine the degree to which it successfully centralizes the lives of the disabled in society.

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Session Thu1a

Habib Tilouine

Stability and change in the Algerian population's well-being.

Well-being has been investigated in Algeria in two occasions. The first survey was conducted using the International Well-being Index (IWI), which comprises two subscales: the Personal Well-being Index (PWI) and the National Well-being Index (NWI), in fall, 2003 with a sample of 1417 subjects (709 females, 708 males). In spring, 2005, the same measures were included in another survey with a much larger sample (2909 subjects: 1463 females, 1446 males). The results indicate a sharp rise of well-being scores on both scales. This has been consistently noticed in all the measured domains. However, different trends are found as far as sex, age and marital status groups are concerned. Some of these findings will be presented and commented on the light of the improvements of security and the economic situation of the country.

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Session Wed1a

Adrian J. Tomin
Robert A. Cummins

Subjective well-being as an affective construct? Theory validation and construction with an adolescent sample.

It is generally agreed that subjective well-being (SWB) consists of both cognitive and affective components, however, the relationship between cognition, affect and SWB is not entirely known. Despite research suggesting that cognition and affect are separable constructs, it remains uncertain as to the relative contribution of each to SWB. A recent study by Davern (2004) has provided some extraordinary evidence that outlines a potential link between these constructs. More specifically, that SWB is driven by affect, not cognition and personality as previously thought. The aim of the present study will be to explore Davern's finding that SWB is driven by affect and not cognition, using a sample of adolescents from various high schools in the Melbourne Metropolitan region. In Davern's study, mean age of participants was 52, with a standard deviation of 15.37 years. It is important that similar research be conducted on a younger sample to validate Davern's findings and explore whether or not similar psychological processes are operating in adolescents and adults. This presentation will outline major findings from a subjective well-being study conducted in November 2005 using a sample of 146 high-school students from years 7 – 11 (age 12 – 17). More specifically, the superiority of core affect theory over personality theory and Multiple Discrepancies Theory (MDT) in explaining individual SWB judgements. Altogether, 60% (59% adjusted) of variability in SWB, as measured by the Personal Well-being Index School Children (PWI - SC; Cummins & Lau, 2004), could be predicted from scores on three core affective adjectives (happy, content and alert).

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Session Wed1a

Adrian J. Tomy
Robert A. Cummins
Mark Stokes

A re-analysis demonstrating the importance of core-affect to subjective wellbeing theory and development.

There is a growing body of research which suggests that, contrary to previous opinion, SWB may be a direct product of core affect (an object-free blend of pleasant and unpleasant feelings and activation). For decades, research has reported on the importance of personality, most particularly extraversion and neuroticism, in determining individual SWB set-points. In particular, personality forms the core of the Dynamic Equilibrium Model developed by Headey and Wearing (1989). Their results led them to propose that although unusual circumstances have the potential to alter individual SWB set-points above and below equilibrium, such deviations are usually short lived as stable personality factors are called on to play an equilibrating function. These ensure that, under most circumstances, SWB reverts back to baseline levels. Our presentation challenges this conclusion by re-analysing their data. Using structural equation modelling we show that positive and negative affect explain more variance in life satisfaction, and provide a greater model fit, than either personality or the Dynamic Equilibrium Model. These results support the idea that core affect, not personality, is driving individual SWB judgements. We suggest that measures of core affect should be more widely included in SWB research.

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Session Mon2a

Graciela Tonon de Toscano

María de los Angeles Aguilera

Quality of life of professionals that assist people in Argentina.

The paper presents the results of a study developed since 2003 to 2005 about the quality of life of professionals that assist people (social workers, psychologist, nurses, medical doctors, etc) considering the conditions in which they develop their every day work. It describes the characteristic of the national context and shows how much it affects the quality of life of these professionals. The study took place in different regions of the country: Buenos Aires city (the capital district) another cities in the Buenos Aires province and another provinces (Salta, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Córdoba). We used the MBI (Maslach Burnout Inventory) and completed it, with special questions prepared to know the characteristics of the institutional context where the professionals work. During these three years, more than 500 professionals agreed to collaborate by answering the questionnaire.

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Session Tue2b

Graciela Tonon
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Young people's quality of life in Buenos Aires metropole (2004-2005).

Young people present different characteristics as a group, in different parts of the world, as social representations about youth each society constructs, influence in youth quality of life. In this project we applied (for the second time, the first one was in 2004) the well being index in young people (male and female) between 16 to 18 years old, to know their quality of life. First of all we describe the particularities of the national context. This project continues our objective of exploring the possibility of using the index in young people in Latin American countries, considering the different characteristics this group presents, in relation with the same group in developed countries. At the same time it shows the difference between the results obtained in 2004 and in 2005.

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Session Wed1a

Ümran Topcu
Nilay Evcil

The role of NGOs in the sustainability of city identity: two cases from İstanbul.

Cities with high growth rates, especially in developing countries, tend to become areas of major concern due to various reasons such as; socio-cultural values being ignored and local identities getting lost. The case is the same for İstanbul. İstanbul metropolitan city, with its limited resources and high population growth is a special case for the research of identity problems.

One common reason that has negative impacts on this matter is known as urban design that has no or very little public participation. Starting from this point of view two important concepts become clearer: loss of city-identity and the role of NGOs (non governmental organizations). City identity has been a very clear indication of citizens' belongingness to the locale where they live.

This paper attempts to evaluate two locales in İstanbul, from the NGO's point of view of handling the local identity, improving the local quality of life and participating in the urban planning process.

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Session Wed3b

Ming-Chang Tsai

Instability, freedom and subjective well-being: beyond the income factor.

While quality of life research had long identified national wealth and economic growth to be major factors of the level of subjective well-being of a country, this study suggests that the characteristics of social institutions are of great importance in explanation. Two dimensions of social structure are hypothesized. First, socio-economic instability, which renders life situations of the people to be less predictable and controllable, should have negative influences in level of happiness and life satisfaction of a society. Second, economic and political freedom, by way of reducing constraints from the state or capital in economic activities and civic participation, should enhance subjective well-being. Empirical testing is based on 80 countries in cross-national design. Levels of “feeling of happiness” and “life satisfaction” drawn from Ruut Veenhoven’s World Database of Happiness are used as dependent variables. Preliminary findings indicate that when a country’s national income and annual growth rates are controlled, instability in price generates unfavorable effect on happiness and life satisfaction during the 1990s; two additional instability measures (unemployment as well as urban population velocity) do not generate expected influences. While economic freedom produces positive effect, political liberty has little impact. Some other controls used in the regression model include a Sub-Saharan Africa dummy, colony experience as well as the income share of the lowest 40 percentage of the population. This study concludes that the current debates on explanation of subjective well-being of a society can greatly benefit from incorporating freedom and stability factors in addition to the conventional material element.

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Session Tue2a

Martin Valenkamp
Hannes van der Walt

‘Quality of Life’ as a basic principle in/for the different scientific disciplines, including education.

The meaning of the concept ‘quality of life’ is controversial in the social sciences. It has a broad range of meaning, and can include (inter alia): happiness, well-being, the pursuit of pleasure and avoidance of pain, health, wealth, emancipation (of women), and a sense of meaning or significance, even luck – in brief, everything that would normally be included in the expression ‘the good life’. Meanings attached to the concept seem to be unavoidably subjective in nature, but quality of life as a construct remains objectifiable in terms of some of its structural aspects. Objectification seems especially viable in the sphere of economic well-being, but we also see a growing fruitful orientation on the quality of life concept / construct in education and in clinical approaches of children with psychiatric disorders. The aim of this rather philosophically oriented presentation and the ensuing discussion is to make the ‘quality of life’ concept / construct more visible and practical in educational and other disciplinary contexts, and to make progress towards discovering guidelines for doing so.

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Session Tue2c

Famke van Laren

Using a public health approach to gambling.

New Zealand has been hard hit by the introduction of the electronic gaming machine (EGM) a decade ago. The health and well being of large segments of the population have been detrimentally affected by gambling (not just identified problem gamblers). Numerous international studies have indicated that gambling has been closely linked to family violence, relationship breakdown, fraud, corruption, white collared crime, theft, and job loss. The quality of life for many individuals, families and communities has been adversely affected by the legalisation and normalisation of gambling.

Gambling is no longer an illegal form of entertainment. Rather, it has become an accepted and advertised form of entertainment with promises of riches and dreams coming true.

Public health and health promotion are relatively new concepts in the field of gambling. During the last 4 years the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGF) has been at the core of implementing a public health approach to gambling problems.

Using the ABCDE model and the People Centered Approach the health promotion team at PGF began their work in allocated communities. Being able to offer health promotion in these communities enabled PGF to gather information and gain first hand experience on improving the quality of life by facing the challenges and being part of the successes in building community capacity, resiliency and empowerment. Each community has been unique (different population group, community need variants and varying levels of poverty) and using a public health approach has brought about change in many different ways. It is these differences and the versatile application (to any issue) of the ABCDE model and the use of the PEOPLE System that has created a strength-based vantage point for these communities.

This paper discusses the evolution of the development of one of the four year pilot community action groups aimed at developing strategies to reduce the harm caused by gambling in a lower socio-economic community. It reflects the in-depth learning and strategic planning for community development, the numerous challenges and barriers that were faced, and how a public health approach can bring about improving the quality of life through capacity building, empowerment and resiliency in community, individuals and family.

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Session Tue2d

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Jobs as Lancaster goods: facets of job satisfaction and overall job satisfaction.

Job satisfaction is an important, readily available measure of the worker's utility derived from the job. It thus allows the identification of those characteristics which have a differential impact on the worker's utility. This is important since higher job satisfaction is likely to result in higher performance at work, decreased absenteeism and tardiness. Most empirical studies rely on the assumption that individuals make a judgement about their job as a whole. However, this approach does not explicitly allow for the possibility that an individual remains equally satisfied with her or his job when certain of the facets of job satisfaction change, for example, when working conditions deteriorate but this is accompanied by a compensating wage increase in a way that the overall job satisfaction remains the same. Hence, overall job satisfaction can be viewed as a weighted outcome of the individual's job satisfaction with each one of the facets. This assumption is similar to Lancaster's theory of consumption behaviour. In this approach, each job has a number of properties or facets from which utility is derived and two different mixes of characteristics for the same job may be viewed by the worker as equally attractive.

This approach to investigating job satisfaction is better suited to address a number of important issues such as the effects on job satisfaction of the major changes of work organisation that firms have experienced during the last three decades. These changes have had an impact on pay practices, job contents, working conditions and environment and job security. Our analysis is based on the European Community Household Panel and covers 10 EU countries over the period 1994-2001. One advantage of these data is that they provide information on overall job satisfaction, but also on satisfaction with intrinsic as well as extrinsic aspects of jobs. We estimate a two-layer model where the job satisfaction is viewed as an aggregate concept consisting of different components or facets. The results show that satisfaction with different facets of jobs are interrelated and the reported overall job satisfaction depends on the weight which is attached to each of these facets by the individual worker. The study attempts to identify the national specificities in terms of the individual and job characteristics effects on the facets of job satisfaction. The econometric methodology accounts for unobserved sources of individual heterogeneity and for time-specific effects.

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Session Wed2a

Ruut Veenhoven

Happiness scale interval study in 74 languages: an attempt to improve the measurement of happiness in nations.

Happiness in nations is measured using survey questions. Often these questions involve verbal response options, such as 'very happy', 'fairly happy' and 'not too happy'. Average scores are computed by assigning numerical values to these verbal response options, e.g. 3 for 'very happy', 2 for 'fairly happy' and 1 for 'not too happy'.

There are four problems with this practice: 1) It assumes that the distance between response options is equal, e.g. that the difference between 'very' and 'fairly' is identical to the difference between 'fairly' and 'not too' happy. 2) There is much variation in words used for response options, common terms are 'completely happy', 'quite happy' and 'unhappy'. 3) There is also much variation in the number of response options, the number ranging from two to seven. 4) The words used for response options may have slightly different denotation in different languages, e.g. the French word 'heureux' may convey a greater degree of satisfaction than the English word 'happy'.

These problems are addressed in a web study among university students of 74 languages. Respondents read survey questions on happiness that have been used in their country. For each question separately, they rate the relative value of each of the response options in their language. They do this on a computer screen on which they see a bar scale that they can divide into sections by shifting separation lines. The response options are presented next to the scale and move with the bars. On the basis of the responses we compute the average numerical value assigned to verbal response options in different question formats and in different languages.

This allows the transformation of observed responses to different questions on a common 0-10 numerical scale. This information will be used to calculate new averages and standard deviations from the available responses to this kind of questions on happiness. It is expected that this will improve the comparability of happiness in nations.

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Session Wed2a

Dries Verlet

**The main determinants for subjective well-being: a quest for the Holy Grail?
Can local governments enhance the quality of life?**

Governments implicitly consider the enhancement of the quality of life as a touchstone of the effects of their policies. More and more this has become an explicit purpose and criterion in the political discourse. The question whether and to what extent the quality of life is improved through government intervention is rather difficult to answer. The main stumbling blocks in this context are both the measurement of policy effects as well as the interpretation of the concept “quality of life”.

The search for an acceptable definition of the concept “quality of life” inevitably includes the difficulty as to how this abstract central theme can be measured. In essence, the main discrepancy is the distinction between the use of objective (economical or social) indicators on the one hand and subjective indicators on the other.

In our paper, we focus on the use of subjective indicators. The latter approach is also called the study of the “perceived quality of life” or the “subjective well-being”. In this approach the emphasis lies with the evaluation of the individual's life, both in the sense of the evaluation of contentment (the cognitive aspect) and in the sense of affective reactions (state of mind and emotions). Besides the evaluation of life in general, we also analyse the satisfaction with more specific aspects of the daily life. Although it is clear that the analysis of the quality of life as such deals with the macro level of analysis, the subjective well-being is situated on the micro level.

Based on the resource-theory on subjective well-being, we analysed the main determinants of people's evaluation of life as a whole and also more specific aspects. In order to study this, we had set up a face-to-face survey research design. More specific, we present in our analysis the empirical data of 1873 adult citizens spread over the three biggest Flemish cities (Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges).

In our search for the main determinants we took a wide range of variables into account. Their relative importance was analysed using multivariate regression analysis.

In our paper we demonstrate that the determinants of the subjective well-being in general do not conform to the evaluation of all specific aspects of daily life. A distinction has to be made between the satisfaction with more private aspects (as family life and health) on the one side and more public aspects (as local government and the neighbourhood) on the other. In particular, we analyse to what extent government policy can enhance the perceived quality of life.

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Session Wed2b

Joar Vittersø
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Satisfaction, engagement and outdoor recreation. Results from a day reconstruction study in Norway.

Despite the positive emotionality often considered inherent in nature experiences, rather small effects of outdoor recreation on life satisfaction have been empirically established. One reason could be that outdoor experiences produce a variety of good feelings, only some of which are associated with life satisfaction. This hypothesis was tested in a questionnaire study among Norwegian adolescents (N= 82). Immediately after a weeklong winter-hike, participants gave brief reports of their experiences during the last two days, following the procedures of the Day Reconstruction Method. Participants also answered questions about personality traits (such as Openness and Engagement), life satisfaction and their emotions in general. Life satisfaction was found to predict a sumscore of positive emotions in general ($\beta = .46, p < .001$), but not a sumscore of positive emotions during the hike ($\beta = .11, ns$). Engagement did not predict positive emotions in general ($\beta = .09, ns$), but it did predict positive emotions during the hike ($\beta = .33, p < .01$). When specific feelings, rather than a single sumscore variable, were analysed, highly satisfied individuals were found to report their experiences during the trip as pleasant rather than interesting or challenging. Persons with high scores on Engagement described their feelings as interesting and challenging rather than pleasant. The implications of the findings for theories of well-being are considered.

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Session Thu1c

Joar Vittersø
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Eline Røed
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Does sex make us happier? A cross-national study between South Africa and Norway.

Subjective Well-Being (SWB) and sexuality are investigated among students in Cape Town (South Africa) and Tromsø (Norway). Questionnaire data (N= 182 from Cape Town and N= 144 from Tromsø) indicate that students from Cape Town have lower scores on life satisfaction and higher scores on negative emotions compared with students from Tromsø. Compared with the Cape Town sample, the Tromsø students reported an earlier age of sexual debut, a higher number of sexual partners and more liberal attitudes toward sexuality. Total number of sexual partners was uncorrelated with SWB, whereas the number of sexual partners during the last year correlated positively with SWB. However, this effect was not significant in the Tromsø sample.

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Session Wed2a

Elisabeth Wacker

“My Way“ – Being a part of is not everything, taking part is more: personal budget as a steering system for participation and quality of life of disabled people.

Since the beginning of the new millennium, Germany gathers first experiences with a new social steering system: the Personal Budget.

The following issues are introduced: Rethinking Disability: from integration to inclusion; redesigning support: from charitableness to autonomy; rehabilitation “all inclusive” or custom-built support? This is due to the new conceptualisation of disabilities as it is presented by the ICF, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO, 2001). Macht – Geld – Sinn? (Might – Money – Purpose?) Is money an object to better the quality of life?

The way to go is self-government (this means the allowance to use one’s own possibilities and resources), decision-making (this means exercising to handle with tailor made support), enabling (this means to recover and improve individual competences and potentials) and money (this means a Personal Budget to buy the needed and preferred care).

The key position on the way from rehabilitation “all inclusive” to a custom-built support might be due to an individual-centered care sponsored by a personal budget.

In Germany, the personal budget actually is in its nappies. With our research project “PerLe: Person-centered Support and Quality of Life” we are involved in the different activities to make the reorientation of the German rehabilitation system come true and refer the results of the first year of the pilot project.

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Session Thu1a

Ed Ward
Marg Kruse

Survey of living conditions in the Arctic among Inuit, Iñupiat, Sami and the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka: lessons learned for the Social Sciences.

This paper focuses on lessons learned during the design of a survey unique to the priorities and needs of the indigenous peoples who choose to live in the Arctic. It is written from the perspectives of a member of the Alaska Native Management Board (Ed Ward, an Inuit resident of Kotzebue Alaska) who has been an active participant at both national and international levels, and the person responsible for logistics and database development (Marg Kruse). The authors describe how collaboration evolved across disciplines and cultures.

A primary goal of SLICA was to create an international survey instrument. The SLiCA research team began as a group of interested social scientists, including statisticians, political scientists, doctors, ethnographers, and anthropologists. Native management boards for each country had final say on the design of the questionnaire, the sample design, and the procedures taken to ensure that the survey benefits their people. A major focus of the paper is how the social scientists and Native management boards interacted to produce an international core questionnaire.

Technology had a great deal to do with the feasibility of this project. The authors assess the contributions of questionnaire design databases, the project website, international collaboration through email, and other technologies. Verbatim notes, for example, proved useful on those occasions when differences of opinion arose after decisions had been made. The authors also assess the necessity of face-to-face meetings, and collaborative fieldwork to achieve project objectives.

Funding has been a major obstacle. The authors examine the impact of national funding constraints on the project as a whole as well as steps taken by national teams to support the funding and implementation of the project in other countries. Of special interest are the implications of combining the international research project with a national research project, the Canadian Aboriginal Peoples Survey. This collaboration both dramatically infused the project with resources and expertise and introduced unexpected layers of challenges, including a questionnaire that differs in part from the “international core” SLICA questionnaire and restrictions on data access.

Research involving the collaboration of international researchers and indigenous peoples is likely to become increasingly in demand as problems and policy solutions are seen as spanning national boundaries. Both positive and negative lessons learned from the experience of the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic can contribute to the success of these future efforts.

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Session Tue1b

Narelle Warren
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More than SF-36? Using narratives to elaborate health and well-being data in recent lower-limb amputees.

Limited research has been conducted exploring the health-related quality of life of people who have undergone a major amputation, and much of this work has been concerned with the efficacy of prosthetics and developing condition-specific measures. Certain factors have been identified as central to psychosocial adaptation to the changed body: prosthetic experience, phantom limb pain, coping, and physical functioning. More specifically, greater adaptation and higher quality of life is reported where the amputee reports high social supports, few catastrophizing cognitions, high prosthetic use, few health comorbidities, and autonomous self-care. Much of this data, however, has been collected via the widespread use of quantitative instruments, which obscures many of the complexities encountered by people who have recently undergone amputation. This paper seeks to explore these complexities in the health-related quality of life of recent amputees through narratives elicited during in-depth interviews to elaborate data collected through a standard measure of self-reported health and well-being (the SF-36 instrument).

Sixty inpatients aged 21-89 were recruited following the amputation of one or both lower limbs whilst at four (2 rural, 2 urban) rehabilitation centres in Victoria, Australia. The project used an ethnographic, iterative approach. Quantitative data was collected through the use of the SF-36, an internationally validated measure of perceived health and well-being, which was elaborated during in-depth interviews with participants. Results were compared with the Australian population norms, and indicated a significant decrease in health-related quality of life in relation to the physical components. However, narratives suggest that participants often viewed these limitations as temporary, and anticipated a return to higher levels of physical functioning post-rehabilitation. Results also indicate that participants scored significantly lower on three of the four mental components as compared with the Australian population norms, but no significant difference was found in regard to mental health (amount of time a person experienced feelings of nervousness, anxiety, depression and happiness), which is inconsistent with the qualitative data obtained. Implications of these and other findings on the SF-36 will be discussed.

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Session Thu1a

Dave Webb

Assessing personal well-being in remote Tibetan communities.

This paper reports on the implementation of the PWI survey in a remote area on the Tibetan plateau located in the Qinghai province of China. It represents the first such application and measurement of life-satisfaction for people of Tibetan ethnic origin. The results based on a varied sample of $n = 102$ indicate that the survey meets the requirements of survey validity and scale reliability. In addition, the findings reveal some differences across the subject demographics of gender, lifestyle and life situation i.e., whether participants live a nomadic existence or otherwise. Results from the research together with suggestions for further research combined with implications will be presented at the conference in July.

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Session Tue3a

Margaret Westaway

Personal quality of life in a middle income Johannesburg suburb: a reflection of 10 years of democratic governance.

Although quality of life (QoL) is relatively stable, it is subject to changes in living circumstances. In general, white South Africans report the best QoL and black South Africans the worst. This trend was interrupted in 1994, where QoL for black and white South Africans was for the first time on a par. Five years later, QoL for black South Africans returned to prior 1994 levels, suggesting that 1994 election promises (houses, jobs and income redistribution) were largely unmet. With the repeal of the Group Areas Act and adoption of an interim and permanent non-racial constitution, more affluent black South Africans have had better access to housing, education and employment opportunities. In order to ascertain whether 10 years of democratic governance have affected personal QoL, a study was conducted with a stratified random sample of 375 black and 358 white residents of a middle income Johannesburg suburb in 2004. A structured questionnaire was designed to obtain information on socio-demographic characteristics, personal QoL, health status and satisfaction with life in general. Respondents rated their satisfaction with self, partner, family life, friends, leisure, neighbours, income, social life, health and happiness on an 11-point scale, where 0 represents completely dissatisfied and 10 completely satisfied. Responses were summed for overall personal QoL. Health status was measured on a 5-point scale ranging from poor to excellent. Most black (74%) and white (92%) respondents had completed high school, and 76% of black and 78% of white respondents were employed. There were significant differences between black and white respondents on length of residence ($p < 0.01$), reflecting more recent arrivals for black than white residents. There were no differences between black and white residents on personal QoL, health status or life satisfaction ($p > 0.05$). Respondents who rated their health as good or better had significantly better personal QoL than respondents who rated their health as poor ($p < 0.01$). The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of item sampling adequacy was 0.86, demonstrating that the 10 domains adequately represented personal QoL. Coefficient alpha for personal QoL was 0.81, indicative of very good reliability. Stepwise multiple regression analyses showed that happiness explained 46% of the variance in life satisfaction and health an additional 5%. It would appear that democratic governance, with better access to housing, education and employment opportunities, the liveability factor, makes a substantial difference to personal QoL, health, happiness and life satisfaction.

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Session Wed3b

Margaret Westaway

The impact of chronic disease on health-related quality of life in South Africa.

Chronic diseases, such as diabetes mellitus (DM) and hypertension, account for a substantial amount of South African health care. As there are no cures for DM and hypertension, the primary goals of health care for these patients are to maximize functioning in everyday life and to achieve the highest level of well-being, thereby improving their health-related quality of life. To determine the impact of chronic diseases on health-related quality of life, a study was conducted with 243 South African DM outpatients (100 with hypertension) and 371 controls, with no self-reported chronic diseases/disabilities. The patients reported more limited physical and role functioning in comparison with their social functioning. They also had poorer health than well-being. Patients with DM alone reported relatively high levels of physical, role and social functioning indicating that one of the goals for health care has been achieved. Patients with hypertension had significantly poorer functioning, health and well-being than patients with DM alone ($p < 0.05$). It would appear that dual chronic conditions place an added burden on health-related quality of life. Controls consistently reported good health-related quality of life, indicating the interdependence of functioning, health and well-being. They also had significantly better functioning, health and well-being and lower levels of pain than patients with DM alone and patients with DM and hypertension ($p < 0.01$). Overall findings indicated that chronic disease impacts negatively on functioning, health and well-being, patients with dual chronic conditions have greater decrements in their health-related quality of life than those with a single chronic condition and functioning, health and well-being are core elements of health-related quality of life.

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Session Mon2d

Veslemøy Wiese

How do school contexts and student characteristics contribute to student well-being and quality of life as reflected in the voice of students-at-risk?

Our study concerns psychological health and/or school adjustment and seeks to identify precursors or correlates of being defined a student “at risk”, as reported by teachers or as indicated by very low levels of self-reported school well-being.

Qualitative and quantitative data from 8 classrooms in two schools have been collected. Responding to open-ended questions in a self-administered questionnaire 181 students have described their ways of being at school, among peers and at home. Using factor analytical techniques these descriptions have been used to establish various “identity profiles”. Data on each student’s sociometric status, academic proficiency (grades) and teacher/student relations have been collected by means of records, observations, linking of student questionnaires and personal interviews. Three dimensions were identified as describing the students’ self-regulatory practices (“identity profiles”) at school, four dimensions described their ways of attaining dignity and stature among peers. Finally, 5 factors described the students’ ways of being at home.

Two rather distinct categories of “students at risk” can be identified: Group A, labeled by their teachers as causing worry and concern, and Group B, with very poor self-reported well-being at school.

Group A: Compared to the other students (N=159), Group A (22 students) tend to be expressive, restless, noisy and variable at school (self-descriptions). While seeking attention they report low “mastery” at school and tend to be in opposition at home. While marginal, they are not completely isolated among peers.

Group B: Compared to the rest of the students (N=156), Group B (25 students) share the following characteristics: hold little power among peers, are quiet at home, compliant at school, and sociometrically marginal among peers. They report believing that some of their co-students are more powerful than others, and that bullying of students in their own class takes place. Particularly low in well-being are boys who achieve well academically but at the same time share the low profile characteristics of group B as a whole. Group B girls are low on self-reported “mastery” (of the proscribed student roles), rather unpopular among their peers, tend to be involved in girl rivalries, feel targeted by powerful others, and do not feel that their teachers know and appreciate them. Students in group B tend to report behaving differently at home and at school.

Low well-being is significantly correlated with lack of power-seeking behaviours, low grades and marginal sociometric positions among peers. Paradoxically, for boys low well-being is significantly correlated with high self-reported mastery of the student role, whereas for girls poor well-being is significantly correlated with low mastery of the student role, as would be expected.

Together with high achievement, power-seeking behaviour reinforces subjective well-being by attracting attention and fostering recognition from teachers and peers. Quiet, non-positioning students and students who do not possess competencies valued by the schools remain non-recognized, at risk and lacking in well-being. The criteria for recognizing mastery in girls and boys seem to differ rather dramatically.

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Session Wed2d

Eduardo Wills

Why is subjective well-being (SWB) in Colombia so high: a problem of method or particular Colombian explanatory factors?

Measurement in Colombia of subjective well-being, the degree to which a person evaluates his whole life as satisfactory, has resulted in consistent high rates despite “objective” conditions of Colombian society (social conflict, poverty, income distribution). Wealth and income distribution has increased in the last years in the country while social conflict and violence remains high. Colombian SWB rates are also high in comparison to international standards.

This study explores possible explanations for this fact using six different hypotheses at three different levels of analysis: i) the individual level, ii) interpersonal relations (social desirability, social pressure to demonstrate happiness, trust), iii) regional (cultural) differences in the country. It also tests possible differences in rates of subjective well being due to the application of different methods for its measurement (specific domain satisfaction variables versus top-down model (using Diener scale), and DRM method, Kahneman, et.al.,2004). DRM method was used to assess the affective component of how university students live and experience their life in a time-use and experience framework, determining how much time is used doing what and how does it feel. The study presents the results of an ongoing research in Colombia and Bogotá. It examines results of the application of the PWB (Personal Well Being Index) in the Colombian capital (Bogotá) using specific life- domain aspects as compared to top-down approach suggested by Diener. The paper discusses the importance of the domain specific factors of security, community connectedness and future security for Colombia in the explanation of variance in the satisfaction with life as a whole scale.

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Session Tue2b

Alison Woodcock
Clare Bradley

Validation of the revised 10-item HIV-Treatment-Satisfaction Questionnaire status version (HIVTSQs) and new change version (HIVTSQc) in an American sample.

Previous validation of the HIV-Treatment-Satisfaction Questionnaire status version (HIVTSQs) in the USA and Canada found nine of its ten items performed well but the demands item needed revision. The nine items could be scored either as two subscales or as a single total treatment satisfaction scale. Subsequent validation of other language versions supported the nine-item scale but not the two subscales. The HIVTSQs has since been used in several trials, where the treatment satisfaction scale was found to be sensitive to differences between treatments. This study investigated the psychometric properties of the revised ten-item HIVTSQs and the new change version (HIVTSQc).

English-speaking Americans completed the revised HIVTSQs at baseline and Week 48 of a clinical trial comparing three different anti-HIV treatment regimens, and completed the HIVTSQc at Week 48. The HIVTSQc asked patients to compare their present treatment satisfaction with satisfaction before the trial. The ten aspects of satisfaction included were the same as those in the HIVTSQs. Demographic and viral load information was collected. Statistics employed in psychometric validation were item distribution and frequency of missing values, Principal Components Analysis, item-total correlations and Cronbach's alpha, Spearman's Rank correlation, Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests.

At baseline, 126/152 patients completed the HIVTSQs fully. The negatively skewed distribution of the revised demands item resembled that of the other nine, with comparable missing data. Principal Components Analysis found a ten-item total treatment satisfaction scale (Cronbach's alpha = 0.89). The two-subscale structure was not supported, either for the ten items or for the nine items previously included. There were no gender or age differences in treatment satisfaction, but a significant ethnic difference. Viral load was not significantly related to treatment satisfaction. The control item, asking how well the patient thought their HIV had been controlled recently, was significantly associated with viral load only for the White patients. At Week 48, the association for African-Americans and Hispanic patients had become stronger, suggesting that their understanding of viral load results may have improved during the trial. At Week 48, 97/106 patients completed the HIVTSQc fully. Principal Components Analysis found a ten-item total treatment satisfaction change scale (alpha = 0.92). Viral load change between baseline and Week 48 correlated significantly with patients' perceptions of change in HIV control (HIVTSQc control(c) item scores), but not with treatment satisfaction change scores.

The excellent psychometric properties of the HIVTSQs and c support their use in clinical trials.

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Session Thu3c

Maria N. Yelenevskaya
Larisa Fialkova

Between dream cities and reality: personal narratives of ex-Soviets in Israel.

Domestication of space is a major problem for migrants. This paper analyzes personal narratives of immigrants from the countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU) who arrived in Israel in the 1990s. The material was drawn from in-depth unstructured interviews conducted in 1999-2002 and 2005. Interviews of the first cycle were conducted for a big project on immigrants' personal narratives. The second cycle included focused interviews devoted to the perception of cities. Besides adults who matured in the USSR the sample includes interviews with adolescents who immigrated to Israel as small children.

Soviet Jews were predominantly city dwellers. Before emigration most subjects had lived in metropolitan regions such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, etc. The geographic array of the home-towns of our interviewees is widespread: they came from 49 towns of the FSU. Most of them lived in the European part of the FSU, the rest in the Asian and Caucasian republics. The interviews were conducted in 16 towns and a kibbutz, and none of these are beyond the "Green Line". The most numerous groups were residents of enclaves: Haifa, Upper Nazareth, Ashkelon, and Beer Sheva.

Immigration stories are permeated with explicit and tacit comparisons of the space of the two countries, and the new homeland tends to be at a disadvantage. The cities of origin are idealized, and their image has disintegrated into hospitable and warm cities of pre-emigration life on the one hand, and unfamiliar, alien cities of post-Soviet period on the other. In Israel many immigrants chose to live in the so-called development towns, which in fact are among the least developed in the country. Attracted by relatively inexpensive apartments, new immigrants were trapped in places where jobs are scarce and the quality of life has been dropping recently. In reflecting on various towns, interviewees focus on physical and symbolic dimensions, the most frequent being: big-small, center-periphery, exposed-protected, and powerful-weak. In contemporary Russian culture center is associated with high social status and good quality of life. In Israel the opposition center-periphery has retained its significance, yet the whole country is considered by many immigrants as deeply provincial, the conviction that is supported by publications in the Russian-language media.

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Session Thu2b

Hao Yuan

Subjective well-being in transitional society: the case of China.

With high economic growth and increase in economic freedom, a great decline in subjective well-being (SWB) occurred in China. This paper tries to find out how the social transition impacts on SWB by using the data from World Values Surveys in 1990 and 2000. The Structural Equation Model (SEM) is chosen to test the multilevel relationships among socio-economic resources, materialism, self-agency and SWB. The findings show that materialism is clearly negatively related to SWB. Socio-economic resources play a much smaller role in SWB than do materialism and self-agency. Yet, self-agency is found to be strongly positively associated with SWB. The results of the multi-sample SEM shows that the shift from socialist to materialist society and the decline of self-agency may offer a good account for the decline in SWB in China. In addition, males and females respectively show quite different dynamics of judgment making on SWB.

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Session Mon2b

Jin Zhang
JoAnn Farver

Toward a measurement model of subjective well-being: a cross-cultural study.

The relations among demographic variables and subjective well-being (SWB) components in Chinese and American cultures were examined with 742 individuals. Three hundred ninety four were from Los Angeles, CA and 348 were from Mainland China. Subjects ranged in age from 17 to 39 years ($M=22.3$, $SD=5.17$). The Satisfaction With Life Scale (Diener et al, 1985) and Lu's (1997) Chinese Happiness Inventory were found to be reliable and valid in measuring SWB in the Chinese group. The results revealed a three-factor model of SWB (cognition, positive and negative affect). However, there were different factor structures for the American and Chinese groups. The findings suggest the measurement model of SWB is a reliable and valid construct in the two cultural groups that were sampled. The results of the present study provide a basis for the future research on SWB and its applications in organizational behavior.

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Session Mon2b

Anke Zimmermann

Financial satisfaction over the life cycle: only a matter of income?

Money does not buy happiness, but various studies have shown that financial satisfaction is, among other domains, an important determinant of individual well-being. Contrary to the common belief that financial satisfaction mainly depends on an individual's income, evidence from the U.S. General Social Survey (GSS) indicates that life cycle financial satisfaction follows a U-shaped pattern, whereas life cycle income shows an inverted U-pattern. To judge from studies in Germany and Norway, this pattern for financial satisfaction is not unique. The aim of the present analysis is to explore the determinants of financial satisfaction, including not only income but also the possible impact of debt burden. The puzzling difference between the life cycle pattern of financial satisfaction and income could possibly be explained by psychological processes - i.e. the emotional strain of debt might undermine the positive impact of income on financial satisfaction. I use consumer expenditure surveys from 1994-2002 from the U.S. Department of Labor for the analysis of the burden of debt, where the burden of debt is defined as the ratio of debt to after tax income. Life cycle patterns for financial satisfaction and income are derived from the GSS and responses from both surveys are matched according to common characteristics, such as age, year of birth, gender, race, income and education. Life cycle patterns are derived from regressions of the dependent variable on age, controlling for year of birth, gender, race and education. The results show that the burden of debt has a significant negative impact on financial satisfaction. Although income shows a significant positive effect on financial satisfaction, it seems that the emotional strain that is caused by financial debt undermines the positive effect of increases in income with age and causes the observed U-shaped pattern of life cycle financial satisfaction.

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Session Tue2a

Anke Zimmermann
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‘Happily ever after?’ Marriage, divorce and happiness in Germany.

Do people revert to their previous level of well-being after they get married? The answer is no. An analysis of 20 waves of the German Socio Economic Panel indicates that, on average, marriage has a lasting impact on life satisfaction, equal in magnitude to the effect of cohabitation prior to marriage. In the year of marriage and that immediately following there is also an additional boost in life satisfaction, a “honeymoon period” effect. Contrary to the conclusion of an earlier analysis of the same panel by several psychologists, our findings are consistent with the “social support” interpretation of the benefits of marriage, and reject the “selection” hypothesis. The difference is because we use an expanded model, one taking account of cohabitation and special characteristics of the sample. Our results also contradict the strong “setpoint” model of psychology, which sees life circumstances as having a negligible impact on life satisfaction. These results hold for both men and women.

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Session Mon3d

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