

INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR  
QUALITY OF  
LIFE STUDIES

2021 AWARDS



# ISQOLS AWARDS 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## General Awards Committee:

Co-Chairmen: Daniel Shek (Hong Kong) and Kai Ludwigs (Germany)

Members: Joe Sirgy (USA); Graciela Tonon (Argentina); Talita Greyling (South Africa); Stephanie Rossouw (New Zealand); Martijn Burger (The Netherlands)

## Best Dissertation Award Committee:

Jan Delhey and Francesco Sarracino

## Best Annual ARQOL Awards Committee:

Daniel Shek and Esther Otten



# THE AWARDS



# Best Dissertation Awards

The aim of the prize is to promote the activity of young researchers working on quality-of-life, happiness, and well-being issues.

All dissertations that have been successfully defended during the two calendar years prior to the award deadline are eligible for consideration.



# 2021 Best Dissertation Award: First Prize



**Lucia Macchia**

“Subjective well-being and economic and political conditions in Latin America”



Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Research Affiliate at the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. Behavioural scientist with an interdisciplinary background and an interest in happiness, physical pain, socioeconomic factors, and public policy. Integrating methods from psychology and behavioural economics, she explores how socioeconomic factors shape human wellbeing and behaviour. To study these topics, she uses large-scale datasets and experiments as well as a wide variety of statistical methods.

# 2021 Best Dissertation Award: Second Prize



**Antje Jantsch**

“An investigation into the relationship between subjective well-being and (relative) wealth in Germany”



Research Associate, External Environment for Agriculture and Policy Analysis (Agricultural Policy) [Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies \(IAMO\)](#)

# 2021 Best Dissertation Award: Second Prize



**Lucia Moran**

“Quality of life in children and youth with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability”



Lucía Morán, PhD, is Teaching and Research Staff at the Faculty of Psychology at Oviedo University (Spain) and adjunct professor at Open University of Catalunya. Her research focus on quality of life of people with disabilities, although it also extends to other groups at risk of social exclusion. She has published scientific papers in impact journals and she has coauthored several instruments to assess quality of life. She received the Second 2018 AMPANS Award on Research and Innovation concerning Intellectual Disabilities.

# 2021 Best Dissertation Award: Honorable Mention



**Susanne Elsas**

“Satisfaction as an outcome,  
as a means, and as a cause”



Susanne Elsas has been a research associate at ifb since 2019 and has been responsible for family reporting since 2021. She received her doctorate in 2020 on questions of social science satisfaction research at the Chair of Empirical Microeconomics at the University of Bamberg.



# 2021 Best Dissertation Award: Honorable Mention



## Jessica Dávalos Aceves

### “The Impact of Economic and Social Context Over Human Well-Being in Latin America”

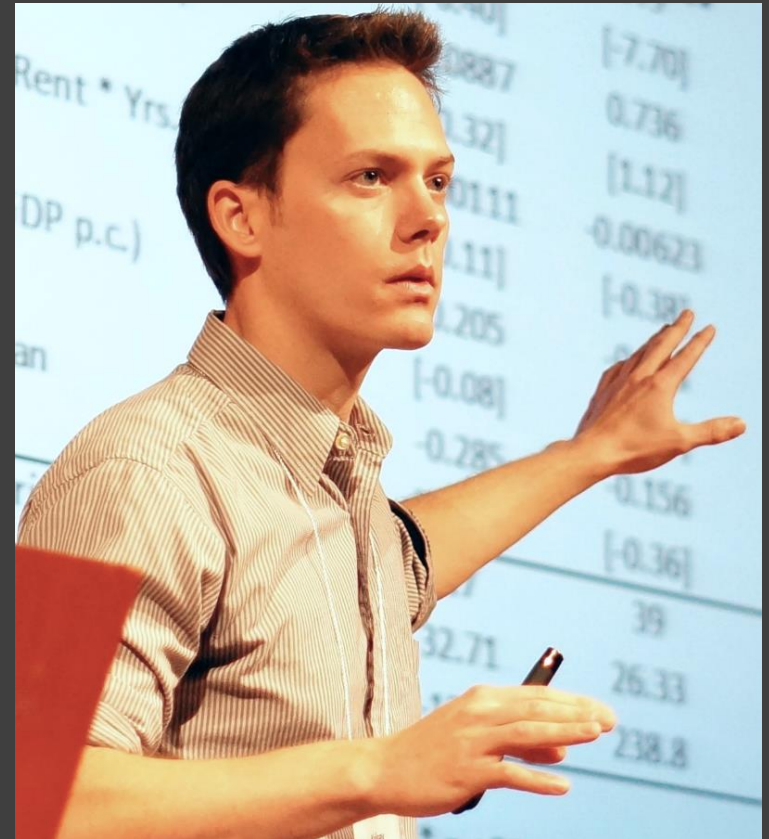
- Ph.D. Economic Studies, University of Guadalajara in Mexico.
- Research interests: Well-being and economic performance; Green economics, sustainability and their relationship with quality of life.
- Research stay at the École Normale Supérieure Paris in France
- Presentation of research work during workshop at the Technische Universität Kaiserslautern in Germany. -Presentation of research work during online workshop with participants from Germany, Peru and Mexico.



# Young Scholar Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be designated a Young Scholar shall be evidence of a substantial contribution to QOL/well-being/happiness research and has completed his/her doctoral work during the last seven years.





2021 Young Scholar Award  
**Kelsey J. O'Connor**

# 2021 Young Scholar Award

## Kelsey J. O'Connor



- Kelsey's goal is to contribute research leading ultimately to a redefinition of success in national discourse, thereby supporting systems, both public and private, to promote subjective well-being.
- Researcher at STATEC Research (Luxembourg)
- IZA Research Affiliate, GLO Fellow, and Gallup Research Advisor
- ISQOLS Co-Vice President of Professional Affairs & Board of Directors Member
- Advisory Panel Member for What Works Centre for Wellbeing (U.K.)
- Ph.D. Economics, University of Southern California
- 12 papers, two book chapters, one book review, and one dictionary entry, published or forthcoming in publications such as:
  - *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Kyklos*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Review of Behavioral Economics*, *International Journal of Community Well-Being*, and *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.
- Contributed to the organization of three conferences, one workshop, and one seminar series, all regarding quality-of-life
- Given nearly 50 presentations in 15 countries



2021 Young Scholar Award  
**Xiaoqin Zhu**

# 2021 Young Scholar Award

## Xiaoqin Zhu



- Assistant Professor (since August 2021), Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China
- Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
- Research interests: Youth well-being (positive youth development, character development, life satisfaction); leadership development (leadership qualities and well-being); youth program implementation and evaluation; family processes in Chinese contexts.
- 47 publications including peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, edited special issues, and conference presentations; 6 publications under review or in preparation;
- 9 research grants, over HK\$20.9 million, in the capacity of Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator

# Research Fellow Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be designated a Research Fellow shall be evidence of a substantial contribution to QOL, wellbeing, happiness research





2021 Research Fellow Award

**Milena Nikolova**



# 2021 Research Fellow Award: Milena Nikolova



- Research focuses on the (subjective) well-being causes and consequences of economic development, labor market arrangements, migration, and institutions
- Research passion: engaging in rigorous quality of life research that can inform public policy debates
- Rosalind Franklin Associate Professor at the University of Groningen, affiliated with Brookings, Bruegel, IZA, GLO, CELSI, and the Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health (Uni Groningen)
- Co-editor (economics) of the *Journal of Happiness Studies*, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Population Economics* and *International Review of Economics*; Editor of Section “Welfare, Well-Being and Happiness” in the Springer Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics
- Steering Committee Member, Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business (University of Groningen)
- Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park
- 18 academic articles, 5 book chapters, 5 research reports, 13 policy blogs
- 102 peer reviews, 73 verified editor records
- Supervision of 4 Ph.D. students, committee member of 5 external Ph.D. students, supervision of 13 MSc Students, and 62 BSc students
- Ranked top 6% of all economists and top 5% among women economists according to RePEc (based on publications in the past 10 years); 971 citations on Google Scholar, H-Index (Google Scholar) = 15
- Given 28 invited talks, 32 conference presentations
- Co-organizer of the GLO/EHERO Happiness Economics Sessions at ISQOLS (since 2019)

# Distinguished Quality Of Life Researcher Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be designated a Distinguished QOL Researcher shall be evidence of a lifetime and substantial contribution to QOL/wellbeing/happiness research.





2021 Distinguished Quality  
Of Life Researcher Award  
Rhonda Phillips

# 2021 Distinguished QOL Researcher Award: Rhonda Phillips



- Rhonda's research and outreach efforts focus on community quality of life and well-being with career achievements recognized with induction into the College of
- Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) and establishment of the ISQOLS Rhonda G. Phillips Endowed Track in Community Development and Community Well-Being.
- Other honors include three-time Fulbright Scholar, and UNESCO Core International Faculty Member in Community, Leadership and Youth Development.
- Author or editor of 30 books focusing on making the places we live better for all, including *The Handbook of Community Well-Being* (2017, Springer); *The Handbook of Community Development, Perspectives from Across the Globe* (2018, Routledge); *Sustainable Communities, Creating a Durable Local Economy*; *Community Development Indicators Measuring Systems*; and the text, *Introduction to Community Development*.
- Editor of the book series *Community Quality of Life and Well-Being* published by Springer in partnership with the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies
- Founding Editor of the book series *Community Development Research and Practice*, (Routledge and the Community Development Society) Co-founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *International Journal of Community Well-Being*
- Co-founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Local Development & Society*
- Positions held with ISQOLS: President, beginning 2013 through December 31, 2016; Vice President, Programs, 2010-2012; helped transition ISQOLS operations to professional staff for nonprofit management, for stabilizing processes; implemented processes for conference hosting proposals and have helped transition to annual conferences, with dates confirmed multiple years in advance; created and appointed positions for Development (fundraising).



2021 Distinguished Quality  
Of Life Researcher Award  
Ron Anderson - posthumous

# 2021 Distinguished QOL Researcher Award: Ron Anderson - posthumous



- Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, at the University of Minnesota.
- Doctorate at the Stanford University in 1970,
- Served as faculty member of the University of Minnesota until retiring in 2005.
- Developed and published a computer learning game called “The Social Indicators Game,” which was published by Random House.
- Served as Director of the University of Minnesota Centre for Survey Research. That role prepared him for directing a series of large international surveys of how teachers adapt to new information technology in their teaching. To conduct these studies under auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), he obtained several multi-million-dollar research grants.
- Co-Editor of *Social Science Computer Review*, a Sage Academic Journal
- Recipient of the William F. Osburn Lifetime Achievement Award on Communication and Information Technology from the American Sociological Association.
- Was a member of the ISQOLS Board of Directors since 2014.
- Professor Anderson had 125 published articles and 12 books, the last three of which address the topics of suffering and alleviation of suffering.

# Distinguished Service Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be given a Distinguished Service Award is outstanding service to the Society in a leadership position.





2021 Distinguished Service Award  
Ming-Chang Tsai



# 2021 Distinguished Service Award: Ming-Chang Tsai



- Research Fellow, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- Chair, Department of Sociology, National Taipei University
- Dean, College of Social Sciences, National Taipei University
- Deputy Director, Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica
- President, Taiwanese Sociological Association
- President, RC55-Social Indicators, International Sociological Association
- President, International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, 2019-2020
- # of articles in Social Indicators Research: 11
- # of articles in Journal of Happiness Studies: 2
- Applied Research in Quality of Life: 2
- Author of Global Exposure in East Asia (Routledge, 2015)
- Author of Family, Work and Wellbeing in Asia (Springer 2017)
- Author of Quality of Life in Japan: Contemporary Perspectives on Happiness (Springer 2020)



2021 Distinguished Service Award  
Jill Johnson

# 2021 Distinguished Service Award: Jill Johnson



- Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Administration from Arizona State University
- Executive Director/Program Manager for the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies since 2015
- Helped increase ISQOLS operating budget by over \$100,000 USD since 2015; increased total revenue by \$200,000 USD since 2015
- Helped coordinate 6 international conferences (300+ participants)
- Implemented a new member management system; increasing membership by 305 members since 2015
- Facilitated 29 Member research webinars (and counting)
- Designs and disseminates both ISQOLS E-news monthly newsletter and SINET quarterly newsletters
- Coordinated the development of 10 Endowed Tracks
- Enhanced website and social media presence

# Best Annual Applied Research in Quality Of Life (ARQOL) Paper

The basic requirement for eligibility for the Best ARQOL Paper Award is selection of the best paper in the last year of ARQOL.

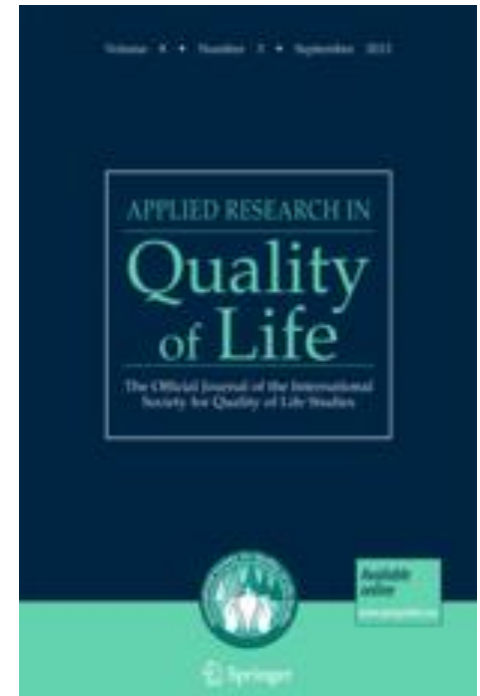


# 2019 Best Annual Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) Paper Award



*Shopping-Life Balance: Towards a Unifying Framework.*

M. Joseph Sirgy, Dong-Jin Lee & Grace B. Yu



# Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition

The basic requirement for eligibility for this award is significant accomplishment by an organization (private or public sector organization) to the development and use of QOL measures in serving its constituency.

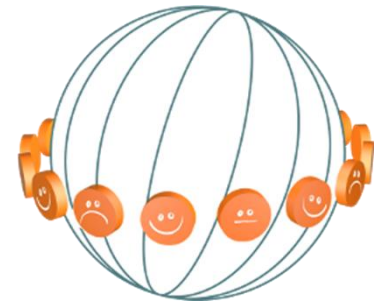




2021 Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition

**Foundation for the Study of  
Happiness for the World  
Database of Happiness**

# Notes on the World Database of Happiness



The World Database of Happiness is a 'finding archive'

≠ a bibliography, though it includes one

≠ a data archive of primary data

= a collection of processed data, such as means and correlations

(research findings)

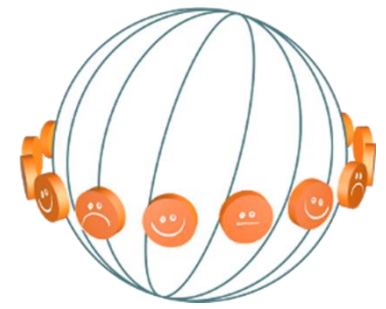
The World Database of Happiness limits to research findings on happiness in the sense of life-satisfaction

Research findings are described on electronic 'finding pages', which contain information about the

- People investigated
- Measure of happiness used
- Observed level of happiness
- Observed correlation with other variables



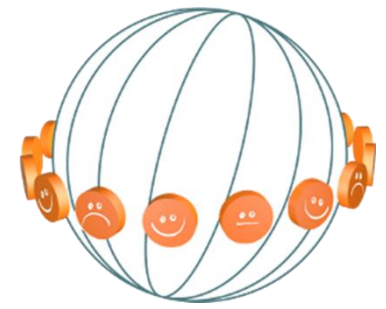
# Notes on the World Database of Happiness



Currently, the World Database of Happiness consists of some 40.000 such finding pages. These pages can be sorted in different ways using fine-grained classifications, such as by

- Population: public, place and time  
E.g.: self-employed in advanced economies in 2010
- Research design: cross-sectional, longitudinal, experimental, cross-national  
E.g.: findings on happiness before and after change from wage-employment to self-employment
- Subject of investigated correlates  
E.g.: Employment history

# Why we need such a finding archive



The World Database of Happiness is a tool for accumulating of knowledge on happiness. An overview on the growing research on this subject is clouded by

- Conceptual confusion
- Scattered publications
- Different languages and technical terminology

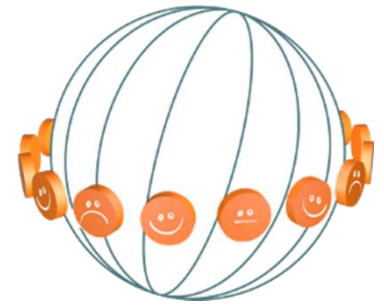
The World Database of Happiness by-passes these problems by

- Selecting all research findings on happiness in the sense of life-satisfaction
- Describing these findings in a standard format and terminology
- Making these descriptions free available on internet

As such the World Database of Happiness prepares for research synthesis

The finding archive allows for a new way of referencing in review papers, using links to on-line finding pages. An example of this new presentation technique is given in this synthesis of research on happiness and consumption

# Aim of the World Database of Happiness



The mission of the World Database of Happiness is to promote greater happiness for a greater number of people.

It does so by providing solid information on happiness on the basis of which individuals and organizations can make well informed choices.

Use of the World Database of Happiness since start in 1998 (count by 31-12-2012)

- Visits to the website: 1.442.444
- Citation (Google Scholar): 3.520
- Media mentions (Nexis Uni): 576



# WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS

ARCHIVE OF RESEARCH FINDINGS ON SUBJECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF LIFE

[This database](#) [Collections](#) [Search](#) [Reports](#) [Related](#) [Research Field](#) [FAQs](#) [About us](#) [Join us](#)

print

## Harvesting Happiness Research

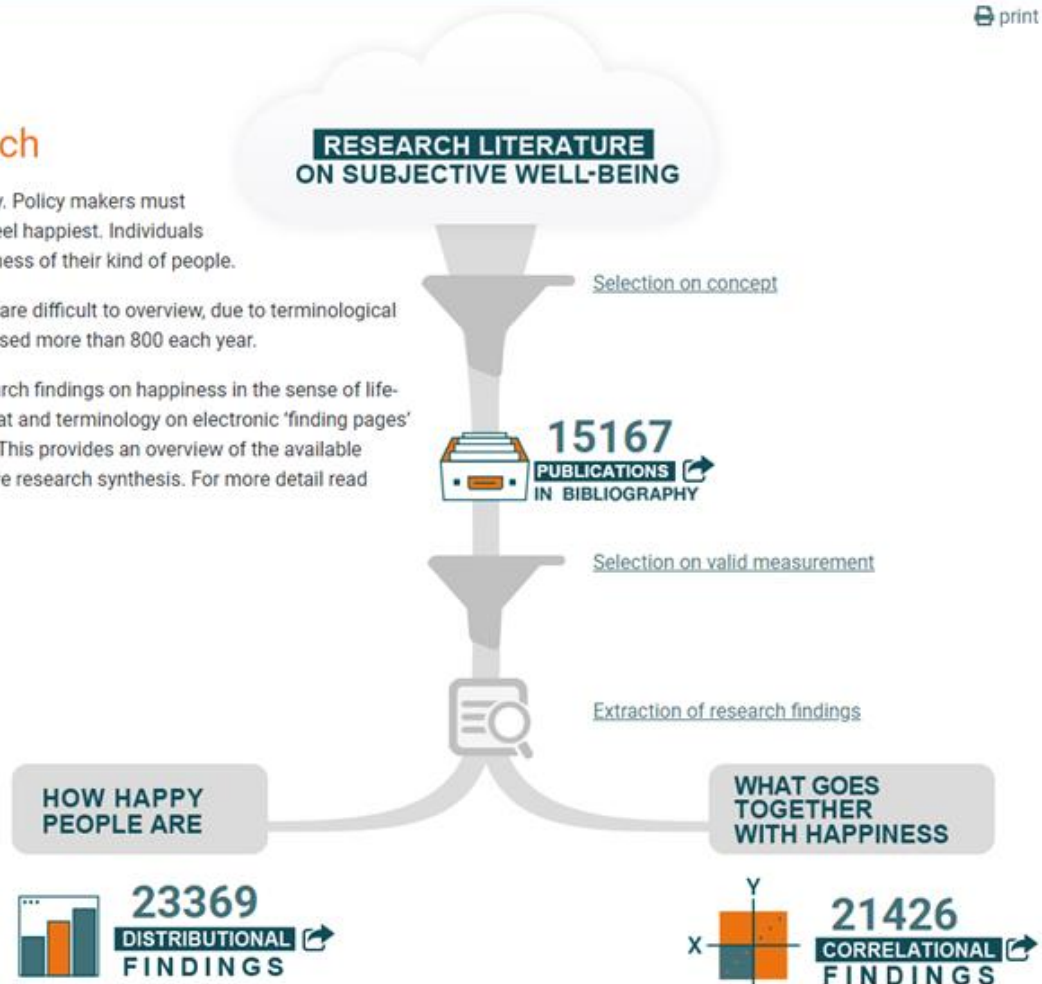
In order to get happier, we must know what makes us happy. Policy makers must know in what kinds of societies and organizations people feel happiest. Individuals must know what ways of life tend to add most to the happiness of their kind of people.

Scientific research on happiness is booming, but its results are difficult to overview, due to terminological Babel and the growing number of studies, which is now passed more than 800 each year.

In the World Database of Happiness, we gather all the research findings on happiness in the sense of life-satisfaction. We describe these findings in a standard format and terminology on electronic 'finding pages' which are sorted by subject, place, time and methodology. This provides an overview of the available research findings on happiness and prepares for quantitative research synthesis. For more detail read ['What is this World Database of happiness?'](#)

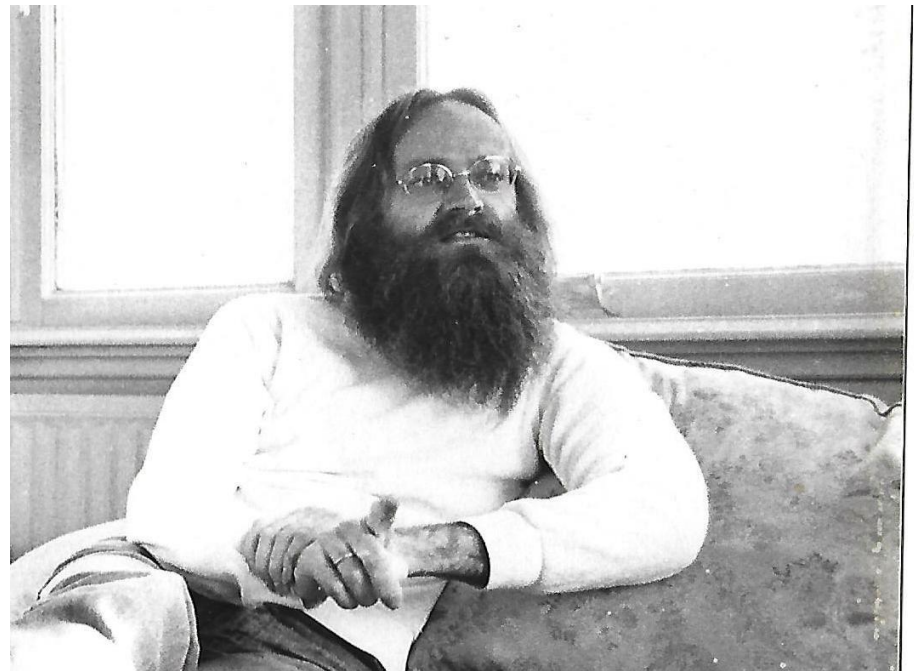
**Key points** in: English, [Nederlands](#).

[How to search in this source](#)



# The Pope of Happiness: A Festschrift for Ruut Veenhoven







Meeting of *Working Group 06: Social Indicators* of the International Sociological Association in New Delhi, India 1986. Front row from left: Deborah C. Poff, Alex C. Michalos, Wolfgang Glatzer, Rudolf Andorka; standing from right side: Ruut, Arne Mastekaasa, unknown, Bruce Headey, Torbjorn Moum, Hanneke de Haes, unknown, Denis F. Johnston.



Ruut, Joachim Vogel, Torbjorn Moum, Alex C. Michalos, Wolfgang Glatzer and Valerie Møller at Alex and Deborah's home during the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) conference in Prince George, British Columbia in 1995.



Ruut's Inaugural Lecture,  
Erasmus University, Rotterdam  
2002



Joachim Vogel and Ruut at  
ISQOLS conference in  
Girona, Spain 2000





Ruut and Wolfgang Glatzer, ISQOLS conference in Grahamstown 2006



ISQOLS group dayoff at Amakhala Game Reserve, South Africa in 2006.  
Front row: unknown, Wolfgang Glatzer, Ruut Veenhoven, Valerie Møller, Alex Michalos, Richard Estes, Claudius Claibourne, Linda Guerrero, Filomena Maggino.  
Back row: Nova de Villiers, Deborah Poff, David Webb, Don Rahtz, Mahar Mangahas, Esther Otten, Welmoed Spahr, Heinz-Herbert Noll, Denis Huschka, Dong-Jin Lee, Robert Cummins.



Robert Biswas-Diener and Ruut  
at Robert's dissertation defence  
at the University of Tromsø,  
Norway 2009.



Ruut and Robert A. Cummins, ISQOLS conference  
in Venice 2012



Ruut at the Ruut Veenhoven Award ceremony for Mohsen Joshanloo in Rotterdam 2019.



Ruut and team of the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization at Erasmus University, Rotterdam 2019.