



International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

"exploring wellbeing and happiness"

21st
ISQOLS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rotterdam, the Netherlands
21st-25th August 2023

Towards a People-First Economy:
A World to Win

2023 International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Annual Conference Summary

Dear all,

As ISQOLS president and chair of the organizing committee, I would like to thank you for your active participation and insightful presentations at our annual conference on happiness and well-being. The exchange of research, ideas, and experiences has not only enriched our collective understanding but also reaffirmed our shared dedication to improving the quality of life for all. Special thanks go to our scientific committee and local organizing committee without whom this event would not have been possible. As we bring this year's event to a close, we hope to welcome you again next year in Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia (June 25-28, 2024). As warming-up for next year's conference, we are preparing a special issue on Well-being in Asia in Frontiers in Psychology (all ISQOLS participants are invited to submit). Until then, I wish you safe travels, fruitful research endeavors, and a path filled with joy and happiness.

All the best,

Martijn Burger

President ISQOLS 2023-2024





This year's conference theme, "Towards a People-First Economy and Society: A World to Win", attracted over 400 participants from 58 countries. Presentations ranged from an array of topics including:

- Happiness Economics
- Wellbeing in the World and in Regions
- Promoting Worker Well-Being in Organizations
- Community Development and Community Well-Being
- COVID-19 and Well-Being
- Promoting Well-Being: Public Policy and Development
- Applied Research in Quality-of-Life
- Qualitative Methods for the Study of Quality-of-Life, Well-Being, & Happiness
- Well-Being in Different Populations
- Well-Being in the World and in Regions, Health and Well-Being
- Big Data and Well-Being
- Beyond GDP: New Understandings and Measures of Progress
- Well-Being, Sustainability and Perspectives for Social Progress, Equity and Well-Being
- Advancement of Quality-of-Life and Well-Being of Children
- Methodological Issues in the Study of Quality-of-Life, Happiness and Well-Being
- Quality of Life and Environment



Conference Lecturers:

Alex C. Michalos Lecture: Jan Delhey (Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg), "Is the Happiness Party Soon Over? A New Sociological Take on the Happy Life"

Special Keynote Lecture: Ruut Veenhoven (Erasmus University Rotterdam), "Happiness Research: Past and future"

Special Keynote Lecture: Leo Bormans and Qadir Nadery - "When Both Sides Come Together"

Edward F. Diener Lecture: Jan-Emmanuel De Neve (Oxford University), "Wellbeing at Work: Insights from the World's Largest Study on Employee Wellbeing"

Richard J. Estes Lecture: Amanda Janoo (Wellbeing Alliance), "Towards a People-First Economy: the Wellbeing Economy Movement"

General Keynote: Barbara Fredrickson (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), "The Goods in Everyday Love: Implications for Individuals and Communities"

*Barbara Frederickson's video recording of her lecture is available on the conference platform. [View here.](#)

Pre-Conference Field Trip: Kinderdijk Windmills UNESCO Heritage Site.



A handful of participants enjoyed a pre-Conference Field Trip: Kinderdijk Windmills UNESCO Heritage Site. 19 Kinderdijk windmills, built in 1700's to keep water out of the polder, it is the largest concentration of old windmills in the Netherlands and one of the best-known Dutch tourist sites. Thank you to the organizers, Peggy Schyns and Martijn Burger, for arranging the visit!



Conference Education Grants

ISQOLS was proud to provide full conference registrations and travel stipends for eight individuals from the following countries: Philippines, India, Brazil, India, Armenia, South Africa, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia

~Grant Recipient Reflections~

"This conference has been an enlightening and transformative experience for me, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the organizers and sponsors for making it possible. First and foremost, the knowledge I've gained during this conference has been invaluable. The sessions and presentations were not only informative but also thought-provoking. I had the privilege of listening to experts in their respective fields, and their insights have broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of quality of life and wellbeing. Furthermore, networking opportunities at this conference were exceptional. I had the chance to connect with peers and professionals from around the world who share my passion and interests. These connections will undoubtedly lead to future collaborations and partnerships that will benefit not only me but also my organization and our shared goals. The interactive workshops and discussions allowed me to engage in meaningful conversations and exchange ideas with fellow attendees. These interactions have sparked new ideas and approaches that I can implement in my work, which will ultimately contribute to the growth and success of my university. Moreover, the cultural diversity present at the conference was a true highlight. Learning about different perspectives and experiences has been eye-opening and has reinforced the importance of global collaboration in our rapidly changing world." - Yufi Adriani (Indonesia)

"Attending the conference gave me an invaluable experience because I met the experts in well-being studies whose research has been crucial in shaping my academic journey, and whose work was referenced extensively in my Ph.D. thesis. Meeting them in person was inspiring. In fact, I talked extensively with Professor Joe Sirgy about the possibility of a book on well-being in the context of India in the series which he edits. Attending the conference has significantly boosted my academic motivation to explore and expand in this field of study." - Chinglen Laishram (India)

"It goes without saying how significant the annual ISQOLS conference was. Having attended for the first time in 2023, I was genuinely impressed by the exceptional organization of the event, the quality of the presentations, and, most importantly, the warm reception of a newcomer like myself within the community. At every turn, from coffee breaks to lunches, I encountered kind-hearted individuals eager to hear my thoughts and share their experiences. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Lina Martinez and Mariano Rojas for their invaluable support and insights during the session where I presented my work on happiness and indigenous peoples. They inspire me in how to position myself and make an impact in Latin America's academic and nonacademic environment. I intend to follow their work closely. Another standout moment for me was having the privilege of witnessing the special keynote lecture by Ruut Veenhoven. I've been an avid follower of his work for many years and hold him in high regard. Seeing him in person, presenting his ideas and vision in an approachable manner instead of just reading his articles, was a genuinely moving experience. I became an even bigger fan." - Luciano Sewaybricker (Brazil)



ISQOLS 2023 AWARDS



**Young Scholar Award:
Diya Dou**



**Young Scholar Award:
Antje Jansch**



**Fellow in QOL Research:
Chris Barrington-Leigh**



**Fellow in QOL Research:
Arthur Grimes**



**Fellow in QOL Research:
David Bartram**



**Distinguished QOL Researcher
Award: Ming-Chang Tsai**



**Distinguished Service
Award: Carol Graham**



**Award for the Betterment of the
Human Condition: Management
Institute for Quality-of-Life
Studies (MIQOLS)**



**Best Annual Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) Paper Award:
Headey, B., Trommsdorff, G. & Wagner, G.G. (2022). Alternative recipes for life
satisfaction: Evidence from five world regions. ARQOL, 17(2), 763–794.**

ISQOLS 2023 Best Dissertation Awards

1st prize: Veronica Vienne “Essays on Well-being and the Environment”.



2nd price (jointly):

Leonie Steckermeier “Autonomy and the good life. Toward a better understanding of the inequality of perceived autonomy and its significance for individual life satisfaction.”

Chris Swerts, “Towards a better understanding of the quality of life of adolescents in youth care: the development of the Quality of Life in Youth Services Scale (QOLYSS)”



3rd price (honorable mention): Alba Aza, “Longitudinal study of quality of life in people with acquired brain injury”



ISQOLS 2023 Best Poster Awards

First Prize: The Multidimensional Drivers of Well-Being, Place Attachment, and the (Im)Mobility Decisions of Rural Residents: Empirical Evidence from Germany (Johnson Kansime and Antje Jantsch)

Second Prize: Work-Family Interference and Life Satisfaction: What Is the Role of Life Goals? (Gamze Ipek, Prof. Sonja Drobnič and Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke)

Third Prizes:

Subjective Well-Being of Parents and Childless People at Older Age (Maximilian Tolkamp)

-and-

In Diversity we Trust: Experimental Evidence from Europe (Abilio Henrique Berticelli de Freitas and Vincent Teixeira)





Scientific Committee: Martijn Burger (chair), Talita Greyling (University of Johannesburg), Martijn Hendriks, Marloes Hoogerbrugge, Anthony Lepinteur (University of Luxembourg), Kelsey O'Connor (STATEC), Emma Pleeing, Spyridon Stavropoulos (University of Patras)

Local Organizing Committee: Martijn Burger (chair), Erik Bemelmans, Aartie Bhawaniebhiik, Danny Bos, Alyssa Cijssouw, Martijn Hendriks, Marloes Hoogerbrugge, Emma Pleeing, Peggy Schyns (SCP), David van de Ven, Mercede van Voorthuizen, Oskar Wolthoorn

ISQOLS Conference Organizers: Martijn Burger (ISQOLS President) and Jill Johnson (ISQOLS Executive Director)

**SEE YOU
NEXT
YEAR!**



ISQOLS 2024 Conference: Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia 25-28, June 2024

Complete our 2023 conference survey and enter to win a *FREE* 2024 Conference Registration



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

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