



A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF SOCIAL REPORTS AND RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INDICATORS, SOCIAL TRENDS, AND THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE. NEWS INCLUDED OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE 55 ON SOCIAL INDICATORS AND SOCIAL REPORTING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Fairness and the Perceived Economic Condition of Family in Asian Societies

Ming-Chang Tsai

This short essay aims at two goals. First, it shows to what extent Asian people evaluate their families' economic situation differently. Second, it reports the level of association of two potential covariates—fairness and fatalism—with perceived family well-being. This briefing suggests that when an individual sees income distribution as fair, he or she also expects a better economic situation of the household, at least in a short timeframe.

Fairness refers to a belief in a just world. A feeling of fairness results from evaluation of whether justice is in operation. Whether the outcomes or shares are equally distributed is usually not an issue, as long as these practices do not exclude certain participants from competing for shares. Fairness thus does not imply homogeneity or equality as a consequence—people may perceive inequality to be fair and equality to be unfair. Evaluation of fairness usually is morally charged, in contrast to an emphasis on procedures or a set of rules defined by laws.

In general, a feeling of fairness incurs an expectation about one's well-being, because an individual believes justice is in practice and the consequence of it is proper and acceptable. In a fair game, an individual's effort ensures a gain which is deemed right and reasonable. Specifically, when a person considers income distribution in a society fair, this means that the share of income obtained by a subpopulation is perceived to be appropriate and acceptable. That is, the gain obtained is in proportion to the effort spent. In a society considered fair, social inequality can still be large but favored by the mass public (Starmans, Sheskin and Bloom, 2017).

To test the hypothesis that a feeling of fairness is positively correlated with subjective well-being, I mobilize data of national probability samples from the wave 4 of the Asian Barometer Survey (www.asianbarometer.org), which was conducted during 2014-16. In what follows, I show the correlation of fairness and two measures of family well-being across 14 high- and low-income countries in Asia. The sample sizes vary: it is over 4,000 for China, while for others, it ranges between 1,000 and 1,600. Figure 1 (see page 2) displays the level of the family's current economic situation as reported by respondents (the original question is "how do you rate the economic situation of your family today?"; response can be from "very good" to "very bad" on a 5-point scale). In this region, high-income societies (Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore) do not necessarily report a higher score on this indicator, except for Singapore. In contrast, for the remaining nine lower-income countries, their average scores are higher. Thus, national income level does not predict the reported economic situation of the family in this region.

Figure 2 (see page 2) shows the result for another indicator of family well-being, which is a personal forecast of the family's economic situation "a few years from now" (on a 5-point scale). The lower income country group appears to be more optimistic on this indicator of prospective well-being, as Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan report substantially lower scores. Note that Singapore is able to maintain a high level of prospective family well-being.

The coefficients of bivariate correlation shown in Table 1 (see page 2) provide evidence for the proposed hypothesis. In the first column, fairness in income distribution (measured by response to "How fair do you think income distribution is in (country)?" on a four-point scale) is positively correlated with the family's current economic situation in 13 out of 14 studied populations. The second column displays the level of correlation with the family's future condition. The result as a whole is less satisfactory, because there are only four societies in which the correlation coefficient is higher than 0.10. Thus, fairness forecasts subjective family well-being at present better than for the future.

The third and fourth columns additionally provide the results of a correlation analysis from a measure of fatalism, as this attitudinal factor has been prevalent in

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passivism as well as personal withdrawal from society. Fatalism in this sense is a belief in lack of ability to change the society and thus adoption of retreatism as a strategy of adjusting to the world, particularly in the Asian context (Weber 1946).

It can be expected that the more fatalistic an individual is, the more he or she might feel satisfied about their families' economic conditions either now or in the future. The outcome for this hypothesis, however, is somewhat limited. Fatalism as I measured with response to the question "Wealth and poverty, success and failure are all determined by fate" (on a four-point scale) does not show positive correlation consistently across the studied populations. In both Singapore and Malaysia, there exists positive association with two family well-being indicators. In China, the relationship is just the opposite. Other societies show mixed results.

In sum, fairness is a strong predictor of family well-being for most of the Asian societies, while fatalism does not consistently affect the perceived economic conditions of family. The issue of fairness thus should be incorporated in future analysis of subjective well-being in understanding how Asian people forecast their well-being in an environment of fast economic growth and increasing social inequality.

References

- Starmans, C., Sheskin, M., & Bloom, P. 2017. Why people prefer unequal societies. *Nature Human Behavior*, 1(4), 1–7.
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Continue to page 2...

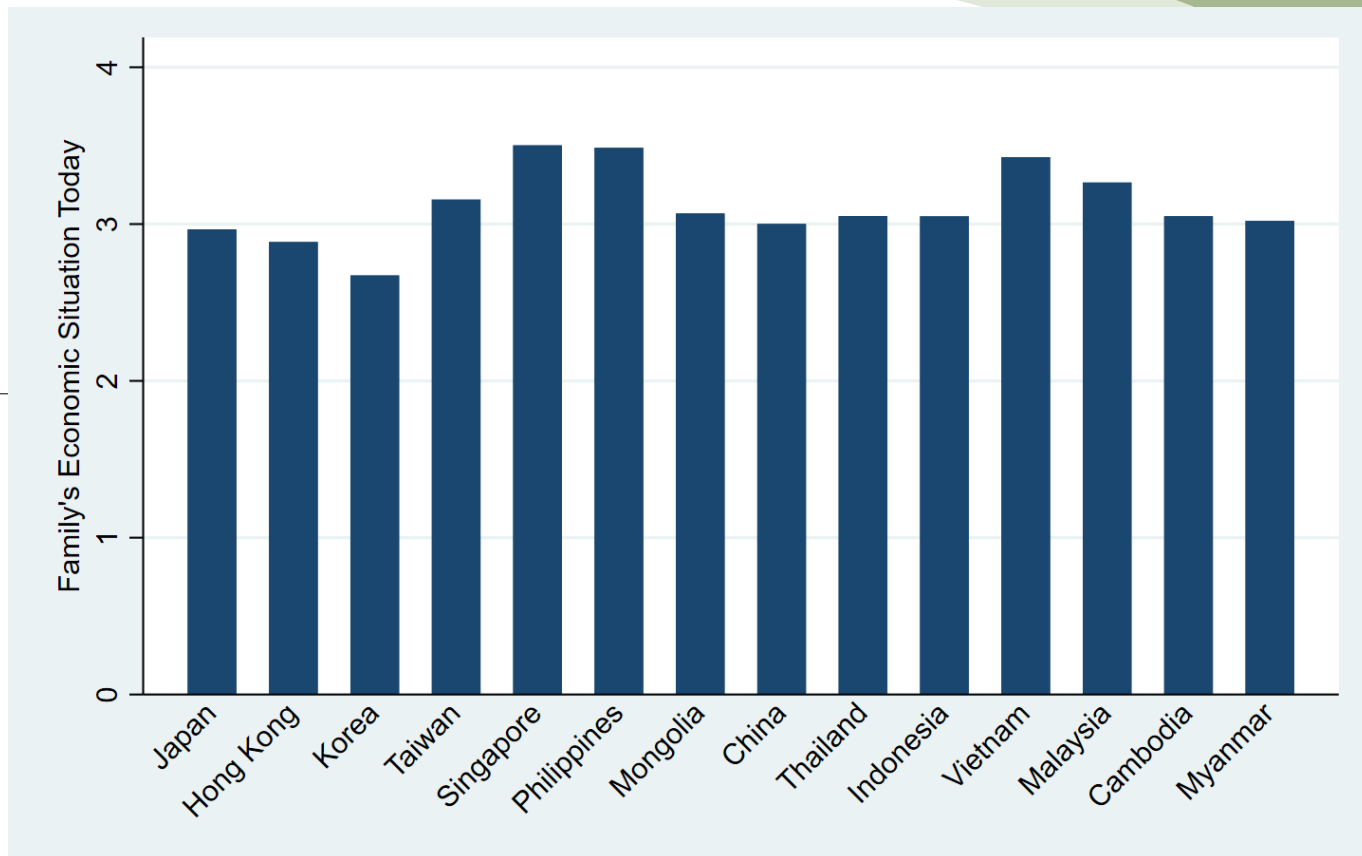


Figure 1: The Perceived Current Economic Situations of the Family in Asia

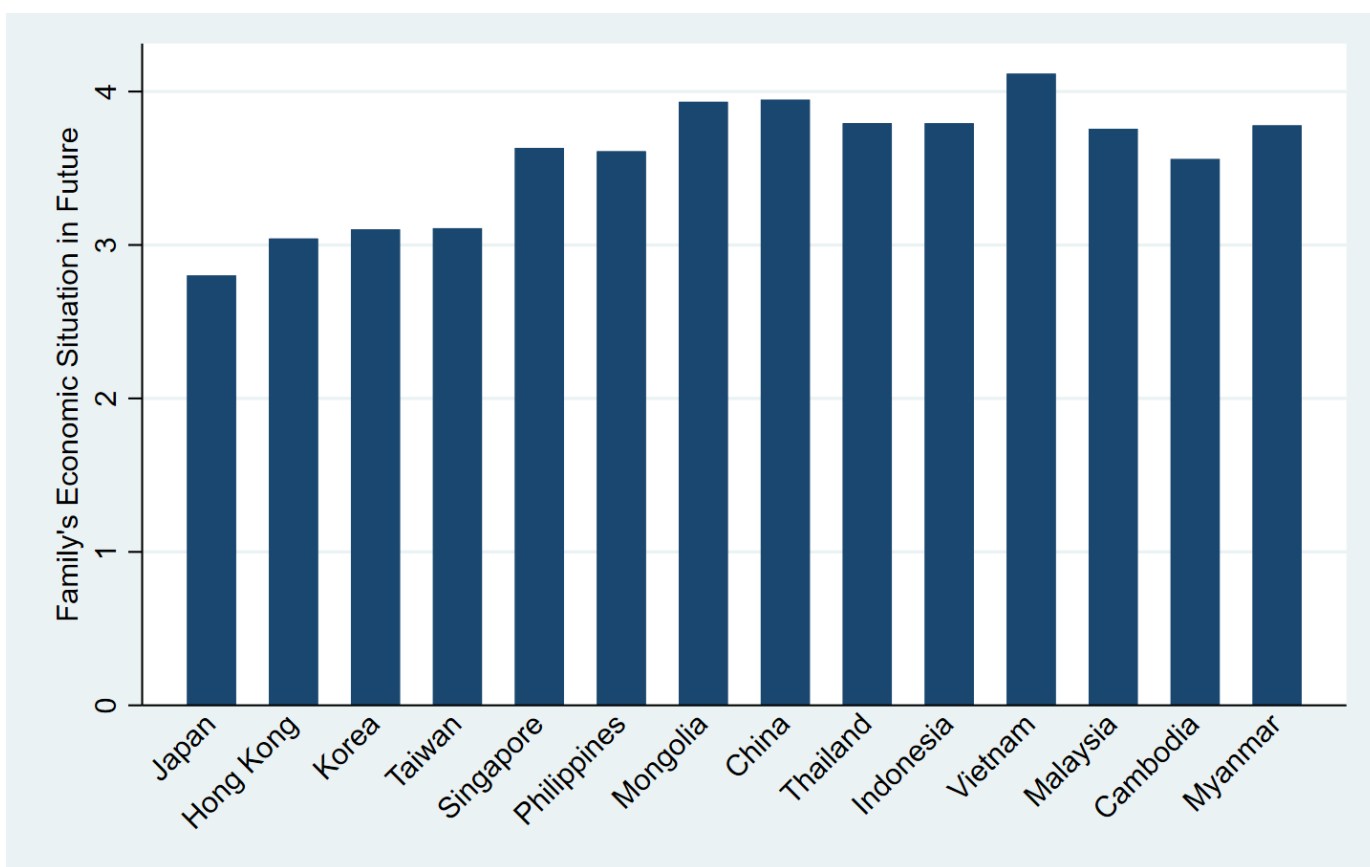


Figure 2: The Perceived Future Economic Situation of the Family in Asia

Table 1: Correlation Coefficients for the Family's Economic Situation

| | Fairness in Income Distribution with | | Fatalism with | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Family's Economic Situation as Now | Family's Economic Situation in Future | Family's Economic Situation as Now | Family's Economic Situation in Future |
| Japan | .20*** | .10** | -.07* | .01 |
| Hong Kong | .15*** | .02 | .01 | -.07* |
| Korea | .09** | .14*** | .01 | .06* |
| Taiwan | .12*** | .07* | -.08** | -.04 |
| Singapore | .25*** | .17*** | .12*** | .14*** |
| Philippines | .14*** | .02 | .12*** | -.00 |
| Mongolia | .08** | .05 | .03 | .08** |
| China | .18*** | .10*** | -.07*** | -.07*** |
| Thailand | .21*** | .10** | .07* | .05 |
| Indonesia | .16*** | .06* | -.02 | -.00 |
| Vietnam | .04 | .07* | -.00 | .03 |
| Malaysia | .24*** | .28*** | .15*** | .10*** |
| Cambodia | .18*** | .16*** | -.03 | -.00 |
| Myanmar | .12*** | .06* | -.02 | .05* |

***<0.001 **<0.01 *<0.05

2019 ISQOLS CONFERENCE IN GRANADA, SPAIN (SEPTEMBER 4-7) 2019

Nearly 350 participants representing over 50 countries gathered together from September 4-7 in the beautiful city of Granada, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to discuss topics related to quality-of-life, wellbeing, and happiness. The 2019 International for Quality-of-Life Studies annual conference at the University of Granada, Spain included four days of an exchange of research focused on the theme, "happiness in a multicultural world."

The event began on Wednesday, September 4th, with a day of pre-conference workshops, led by M. Joseph Sirgy ("A Crash Course in the Psychology of Well-Being and Quality-of-Life" and a review of the ISQOLS official certification program), and Lara Fleischer ("The future of OECD well-being measures").

Later that evening, participants were greeted with delicious food and beverages at the welcome reception. Old friends and veteran colleagues mixed and mingled with new and budding young researchers. ISQOLS President, Ming-Chang Tsai, and local host organizer, Jorge Guardiola both warmly welcomed the participants and toasted to the upcoming symposium. Bienvenidos a Granada!



Thursday, September 5th, started in the morning with an enlightening presentation by the Alex C. Michalos Lecturer, Stefano Bartolini. Bartolini, a professor of economics at the University of Siena and well-known author of many popular science essays and academic articles, presented "Manifeto for happiness. Shifting society from money to well-being". His research focuses on the causes and possible solutions of the increasing poverty of well-being, human relationships, time and natural environment in developed and developing countries. His presentation ended with several key practical ideas: change our cities, change our schools, increase job satisfaction, and focus on preventative happiness by encouraging relationships in policy-making.

The rest of the day was filled with discussions, presentations, and posters related to ideas ranging from gender and quality-of-life, well-being around the world, consump-



consumption and economic issues, adolescent quality-of-life, life-span, happiness and sustainable development, well-being and policy, health, human suffering alleviation, education, job-satisfaction and work.

Guests paused for a brief moment to pay tribute to and remember the work by our esteemed, late colleague: Professor Elizabeth Eckermann. Liz had a long history with ISQOLS and sadly recently passed away after battling brain cancer. Her husband, John, and son Simon, graciously attended the conference and hosted a special memorial, honoring the life of a woman we all recognize as a pioneer in gender and women's rights in quality-of-life.

The day was capped off by another stimulating lecture performed by Sir Michael Marmot, the Ed. F Diener Lecturer. Marmot is the current director at the Institute of Health Equity at University College of London, and his lecture, "Social Justice and Health Equity" immediately challenged the listeners to contemplate the state of health in our world and local communities. "Health is telling us something fundamental about our society", he remarked, and presented compelling evidence for why research should be focused on breaking the link between deprivation and poverty and quality-of-life's impact on life expectancy.

The ISQOLS President and Conference hosts invited participants to gather for one last time on Saturday evening to celebrate a successful conference and commend this year's award recipients.

Congratulations also to the following six Education Grant Award winners, all earning \$1000 USD grant for their travel and attendance to the ISQOLS 2019 conference: Natia Partskhaladze (Georgia); Chitra Nair (India); Adi Cilik Pierewan (Indonesia); Shoirakhon Nurdinova (Uzbekistan); Jaqueline Moodley (South Africa); Natalia Kopylova (South Africa)



SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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We would like to sincerely thank Jorge Guardiola and his team, the local host organizer in Granada, for his careful and excellent arrangement of the conference proceedings. Thank you to all the student volunteers for their diligent service!

Overall, the 2019 ISQOLS Conference enabled colleagues from many parts of the world, from different disciplines, with different cultures and visions of the world, and following different methodologies to meet together with one common goal: to generate knowledge that helps to increase quality-of-life, happiness, and wellbeing for all people. Thank you to all who attended and participated! We look forward to seeing you all at next year's conference in Rotterdam!

ISQOLS MEMBERS: Access conference resources at <https://isqols.org/Conference-Resources/>

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE NEWS



2019 AWARDS

The 2019 ISQOLS Awards were presented at the annual conference in Granada, Spain. The selections were made by the General Awards Committee: Chair Kai Ludwigs (Europe), Chair Daniel Shek (Asia), Joe Sirgy (North America), Mahar Mangahas (Asia), Ferran Casas (Europe), Habib Tiliouine (Africa), Graciela Tonon (South America); Best Dissertation Award Committee: Jan Delhey and Francesco Sarracino; and the Best Annual ARQOL Awards Committee: Daniel Shek and Esther Otten. All of us at ISQOLS would like to congratulate these recipients on their excellent contributions and dedication to quality-of-life, wellbeing, and happiness research. Learn more about our awards program at isqols.org/awards

2019 BEST PHD DISSERTATION AWARDS

FIRST PLACE: Jennifer Gerson

"Social media use and subjective well-being: An investigation of individual differences in personality, social comparison and Facebook behaviour"

This thesis investigates how social media use is associated with subjective well-being (life satisfaction, eudaimonic well-being and affect) by examining the role of individual differences. The popularity of social networking sites has increased significantly over the past decade, with the most popular social media site, Facebook, now reporting over 2 billion users (Facebook Newsroom, 2018). With such widespread use, it is important to understand how Facebook use is related to its users' subjective well-being. Previous research has yielded mixed results; however, many of these studies have not taken individual differences into account. Therefore, this thesis investigates how individual differences in personality, social comparison orientation, and Facebook engagement styles are associated with user subjective well-being. The results of this thesis suggest that how Facebook is associated with subjective well-being is dependent on individual differences and demonstrates the importance of accounting for individual differences when studying the relationship between Facebook use and subjective well-being.



SECOND PLACE



Martijn Hendriks

"Migrant Happiness Insights into the broad well-being outcomes of migration and its determinants"



SECOND PLACE

Efstratia Arampatzi

"Subjective Well-Being in Times of Crisis, Evidence on the wider impact of economic crises and turmoil on subjective well-being"

READ FULL COPIES OF THESE DISSERTATIONS AND SEE ALL SUBMISSIONS AT <https://isqols.org/dissertationaward>

2019 RESEARCH FELLOW AWARDS



Janet Tsin Yee Leung

- Associate Professor of the Department of Applied Social Sciences at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- MSc from University of Sussex and PhD (Social Work) from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, with the honor of Distinguished Thesis Award.
- Registered social worker.
- Research interests include poverty, adolescent well-being and development, family quality of life and parent education.
- Participated in 18 research projects in the capacity of Principal Investigator (5 projects)
- Co-Principal Investigator (8 projects) and Co-Investigator (5 projects).
- 94 publications, including 57 journal articles, 3 edited journal special issues, 4 edited books and 30 book chapters.
- Her work appears in Applied Research in Quality of Life, British Journal of Social Work, Journal of Youth and Adolescence, Journal of Research on Adolescence, Child Indicators Research, Journal of Family Issues and Journal of Child and Family Studies.
- She is currently the Associate Editor of Applied Research in Quality of Life and China Journal of Social Work

Martijn Burger

- Academic Director at the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO)
- Associate Professor of Industrial and Regional Economics in the Department of Applied Economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- Ph.D. in Economics (cum laude) from the Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Research focuses on happiness economics and urban and regional economics, including geography of happiness, location decisions of multinational corporations, and institutional and social conditions for economic development.

- Published or is forthcoming in several internationally refereed journals including Journal of Happiness Studies, World Bank Economic Review, Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Surveys, and Urban Studies.
- Associate director of the Globalization and World Cities Network (GaWC) Research Network,
- Associate editor of the Journal of Economic and Social Geography
- Member of the board of the Dutch Regional Science Association



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2019 AWARDS

2019 YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

Martijn Hendriks

- Researcher and lecturer at the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO) of the Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- Primarily investigates the relationship between human migration and happiness.
- PhD degree in Applied Economics
- Article “Do international migrants increase their happiness and that of their families by migrating?” was published in the World Happiness Report 2018.
- Teaches and coordinates the 15 ECTS minor “Quality of Life and Happiness Economics” at Erasmus Uni-

- Eight chapters of his dissertation entitled “Migrant happiness: Insights into the broad well-being outcomes of migration and its determinants” have been published in renowned international journals and international books including Journal of Happiness Studies, Social Indicators Research, Social Science Research, Migration Studies, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, Handbook of Community Development, and New Dimensions in Community Well-Being.
- Currently a principal investigator in a project supported by the Templeton World Charity Foundation on how the virtuous or vicious leadership of managers relates to employee well-being.



2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Mariano Rojas



- Professor and researcher at Flacso México and UPAEP, México.
- PhD in economics from The Ohio State University
- Member of the National System of Researchers, with Level III.
- Research topics are: Happiness, Quality of Life, Wellbeing, Progress, Economic Development and Poverty.
- President of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies, 2017-2018
- Coordinator of the initiative Measuring the Progress of Societies: A Perspective from Mexico

- Author of more than one hundred book chapters and articles published in journals such as World Development, Development Policy Review, Oxford Development Studies, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Socio-Economics, Journal of Happiness Studies, Social Indicators Research, Applied Research in Quality of Life, The Economic Quarter, Latin American Research Review, and Pan American Journal of Public Health
- Author of the books “The scientific study of happiness”(Fondo de Cultura Económica) and “Can the economy give happiness?”(RBA Barcelona). He is also editor of the “Handbook of Happiness Research in Latin America” (Springer) and co-editor of the “Global Handbook of Well-Being and Quality of Life” (Springer). He has also coordinated several books within the project Measuring the Progress of Societies.

Richard J. Estes

- Professor and researcher at University of Pennsylvania
- PhD, Doctor of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley
- Research interests include: international and comparative social development, the history for well-being, global poverty, private philanthropy, resource development and fundraising, social indicators, measures to counteract terrorism

- 39 completed research projects
- Elected Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare
- Endowed “Richard J. Estes Lecture in International and Comparative Quality of Life”, established by the International Society for Quality of Life Studies. Initial lecture delivered by Richard Easterlin.
- 37 awards and honors
- 19 listings
- Author of over 24 books



2018 DISTINGUISHED QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESEARCHER AWARD

Carol Graham



- D.Phil Concentration: Economic Development/Political Economy/Latin America from the University of Oxford
- Leo Pasvolsky Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution
- College Park Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- Senior Scientist, The Gallup Organization
- Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn
- Expertise: poverty, inequality, subjective well-being, economics of happiness; development economics

- Published 13 books, including “Happiness for All? Unequal Lives and Hopes in Pursuit of the American Dream” and “The Pursuit of Happiness: An Economy of Well-Being”
- Author of numerous articles in journals including Science, the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, the Journal of Population Economics, and the Journal of Happiness Studies
- Served on a U.S. National Academy of Sciences panel on well-being and policy from 2012-13 and received a Pioneer Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2017

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE NEWS



2019 AWARDS

2019 DISTINGUISHED QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESEARCHER AWARD

Andrew Clark

- MSc (Econ) Degree: Economics (with Mark of Distinction); Ph.D. London School of Economics.
- Full Research Professor, Classe Exceptionnelle (DRCE1), CNRS: Paris School of Economics, France.
- Over 470 Conference and Seminar presentations, of which over 100 invited conference presentations.

- Journal Referee: 1020 reports
- Publisher Referee (20 books; 15 book chapters):
- Research proposal Referee (58 projects)
- 10 defended PhD students; 67 PhD juries; Supervision of 45 Masters Dissertations.
- On the Editorial Board of 9 journals



2018 Best Annual Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) Paper Award



"Economic Poverty and Happiness in Rural Ecuador: the Importance of Buen Vivir (Living Well)"

Authors: Fernando García-Quero and Jorge Guardiola
volume 13(4), 909-926

2019 AWARD FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE HUMAN CONDITION: SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS

On its own account, SWS constantly surveys QOL trends and expectations, economic deprivation, life satisfaction and happiness, joblessness, satisfaction with government officials, institutions and programs, public safety and security, and issues of foreign relations. In collaboration with sponsors, it has done surveys about voter preferences, people power, military coup attempts, rebellions, separatist movements, peace negotiations, natural disasters, impact-evaluation of programs, and many other topics.

The SWS indicators of economic well-being include self-rated poverty (SRP), food-poverty, and hunger, at the household level. The quarterly SRP statistics are 12 times as plentiful as the triennial official poverty statistics; they reveal significant volatility in poverty, year to year, and quarter to quarter. The Philippines is the only country in the world with quarterly poverty statistics based on a national survey series. SRP time-trends are consistent with official poverty trends, when matched contemporaneously. But SRP incidences are invariably much larger than official poverty rates, since the latter use unrealistically low poverty lines compared to self-rated thresholds.

In addition to economic deprivation, the Social Weather Reports include subjective assessments of the people of their past progress in personal QOL, and their optimism about it for the future. The Social Weather Reports amply demonstrate that survey-based subjective indicators are more practical and realistic means of monitoring well-being than orthodox economic indicators stemming from Gross National Product and other national income accounts.

SWS was cited in 2001 by the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) for successfully petitioning the Philippine Supreme Court to nullify a law that banned publication of pre-election polls, for violating the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression. SWS represents the Philippines in the following cross-country networks: International Social Survey Program (ISSP), World Values Survey (WVS), Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), and Asian Barometer. It is the Philippine fieldwork provider for the Gallup World Poll (which is proprietary to Gallup).

SWS maintains a permanent archive of its own surveys, open for public research after expiration of any embargo (always temporary; maximum three years). As of mid-2019, the SWS data archive contained 300 national and 337 subnational datasets, from 992,925 interviews and 116,000 question items. SWS is a contributor to the archives of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research and the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Social Weather Stations served as the site visit for the ISQOLS pre-conference trip in 2018.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT <https://www.sws.org.ph>

SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS *Founded 1985*
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Which factors support student wellbeing at university?

Irma Eloff & Tharina Guse
University of Pretoria, South Africa

We wanted to find out more about student wellbeing at our university. How are they doing? Which factors support their wellbeing? The factors that *they* think support their wellbeing, rather than what *we* think are supporting it ... We therefore embarked on an exploratory, qualitative study which investigates factors that support student wellbeing at a large residential university in South Africa such as our own – the University of Pretoria, also known as Tuks. The aim of the study was, and still is, to gain deeper understandings of the complexities of student wellbeing in the post-colonial era of tertiary institutions.

Data was collected in two phases. In Phase one, undergraduate students (n=2480) were interviewed to assess the factors that support their wellbeing during the first semester of the academic year. Interviews were done by students themselves. We provided fieldworker training to students from the helping professions and then supervised data collection on all the university campuses in multiple 4-hour blocks on all weekdays over a ten-day period in the first semester of the academic year. Fieldworkers simply approached and asked their peers: “What contributes to your wellbeing as a student at the University of Pretoria?” We had a 98.7% response rate. Interviews didn’t take long. It was face-to-face and responses were captured on paper. Paper responses were then captured electronically afterwards and a comprehensive theme analysis was conducted on the full data set.

In Phase two, supplementary data was collected from 10 focus groups with undergraduate students (n=65) in all faculties of the university during the second semester of the academic year, in order to further explore the factors that support student wellbeing. This time, the focus groups were conducted by experienced social sciences researchers and ample time was allowed for discussions to be conducted in-depth. Data was captured by means of audio-recordings and transcribed. Data analysis was also conducted by means of theme analysis.

Findings from phase one of the study indicate that student wellbeing is supported by a wide variety of institutional factors. However, two dominant themes emerged from the study:

1. The quality of the learning environment and,
2. The support of academic and non-academic staff members at the university.

Students gave prominence to the **quality of the learning environment**, by saying, for instance: “*The learning environment such as lecture halls, the library and the labs are well conducive for teaching and learning. There is great student support such as Faculty Student Advisors who assisted me with academic, personal and career goals. There is a wide array of extra-curricular activities such as leadership committees. This builds one’s experience and exposes one to a different kind of support system. Fly@UP workshops and activators also disseminate useful information that help students such as exam preparations and health and wellness*”.

Or another student would mention “*Access to and from campus. Equipment that works such as overhead projectors and computers. These devices ease learning, but if they don't work it can be greatly frustrating. Venues that are large enough and well ventilated especially on days when it's 30 °C+ outside. Funding for paying for studies as well as necessities such as accommodation and food where possible*”. A wide array of specific aspects within the learning environment are mentioned: “*The well maintained campuses and learning environment. The fact that Tuks creates an environment full of students who mostly have the same feeling towards learning. Well organised in the way they convey knowledge . The food is good and serves an array of students with different needs at the cafeteria*”, or “*What contributes to my wellbeing is being free from lack ... such as : living in a healthy and safe res, having facilities to be able to do my school work, having food/ healthy meal everyday, making sure I pass my modules, being able to have transport to go to school and attend lectures*”.

In terms of the **support provided by staff members**, students would, for instance make comments like:

“*People who are friendly and willing to help. Lecturers that are well scheduled. Lecturers who are understanding and willing to help. Availability of resources and study areas.*”

“*Attitudes and enthusiasm of lecturers. Workload and the time for workload. Finances. Relationships and friends. My physical health. Whether I enjoy my subjects*”.

“*Some of my lecturers and tutors care about my wellbeing*”

“*The help/ assistance that we get from our lecturers/ tutors with regards to academics*”

“*Academics, effective lecturers and tutorials, safety, consultation times that are given to us*”.

“*The lecturers are supportive and prioritise every student that reaches out to them. Students are not just a number*”.

These are just some of the extracts from the data, but similar sentiments can be found throughout the data-set. Findings from phase two of the study largely confirmed these findings in terms of the ways in which the university environment contributes to student wellbeing. Findings from phase two, however, also provide a more fine-grained analysis of the relational factors that are important to wellbeing, e.g. close relationships, a sense of community, mentors and relationships with lecturers.

Broadly, the findings from this study emphasize the **importance of investments in high quality learning environments at universities**. Even though investments in a high quality learning environment might not always be considered as an investment in student wellbeing, findings from this study indicate that it is integral to student wellbeing. The study also indicates the fact that **university staff members play an integral role in student wellbeing**, which extends well beyond the academic task.

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ISQOLS MEMBERS: Would you like a summary of your research to be included in our next SINET newsletter? Please email a 1500-2000 word summary (on Word document) to Jill Johnson, Executive Director for ISQOLS at office@isqols.org. Submission deadline for SINET Winter Issue is December 31st, 2019.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES
"exploring well-being and happiness"

isqols.org/Rotterdam2020

18th
ISQOLS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rotterdam, Netherlands
25th-28th august 2020

Towards a People-First Economy:
A World to Win

The 18th Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies August 25th – August 28th / Rotterdam, the Netherlands CALL FOR PAPERS AND PROPOSALS

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) (www.isqols.org) is holding its 18th conference in the thriving city of Rotterdam, home of the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO) (www.ehero.nl). The theme of the conference is "Towards a People-First Economy: A World to Win". Confirmed keynote speakers are Arnold Bakker (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Joanna Coast (Bristol), and Jan-Emmanuel de Neve (Oxford University). In addition, Ruut Veenhoven (Erasmus University Rotterdam) will give a special plenary lecture before the conference dinner.

ISQOLS conferences provide a space for scholars to provide their research findings on quality-of-life, well-being, and happiness, as well as to discuss their relevance for policymaking. ISQOLS gathers scholars from all corners of the world, from different disciplines, with different methodological and theoretical perspectives, and following different approaches, but with one common goal: generating research-based knowledge to contribute to the well-being in societies.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline Submission Proposal for
Workshops and Symposia:
November 15th

Deadline Submission Abstracts for
Presentations and Posters:
January 15th

Notification of Acceptance:
February 28th

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
May 15th

Registration Deadline:
June 30th

Call for Abstracts for Workshops, Symposia, Papers and Posters

Call for Workshops

On August 25th, there is the opportunity to organize a workshop for conference participants. Workshops have an educational character and cater to the PhD and postdoc community at ISQOLS. Please send an e-mail to isqols2020@eur.nl if you would like to organize a workshop before **November 15th**.

Call for Symposia

There is the possibility to organize a symposium (i.e. special sessions) at ISQOLS 2020. Please send an e-mail to isqols2020@eur.nl before **November 15th** if you would like to organize a symposium at the ISQOLS2020 conference. Subsequently, the symposium will be added to the online submission system. Please note that all participants in a symposium have to submit their abstract via this online submission system (<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=isqols2020>) and all abstracts will still be subject to review by the scientific committee.

Call for Abstracts for Papers and Posters

Abstracts for papers and posters dealing with scientific research or best practice examples in all areas in quality-of-life, well-being and happiness are highly welcomed and need to be submitted via EasyChair: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=isqols2020>. Abstracts have to be submitted by the presenting author. Submitting authors should choose one topic or symposium in which they want to submit the abstract. In case authors are not submitting to a specific symposium, they are requested to carefully check the entire list of topics (see below) to ensure they submit to the most appropriate topic.

Deadline for the abstract submission is **January 15th, 2020**. Notification of acceptance will be e-mailed to the presenting author by **February 28th, 2020**.

Early bird submission: **November 15th, 2019**. If you send the abstract before November 15th you can have an answer concerning the committee decision before **December 15th**.

The presenting author of accepted abstracts has to be registered for the conference to be included in the conference program. We are looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Topics ISQOLS Conference

Topic 1: Cultures and the History of Well-being

Tracks: Understandings of well-being. Well-being across cultures. History of well-being. Religion, spirituality and well-being.

Topic 2: Well-Being in the World and in Regions

Tracks: Arctic Circle. Africa. Asia. "Takashi Inoguchi Endowed Track on Quality of Life and Well-being in East Asia". "Mahar Mangahas Endowed Track for the Advancement of Quality of Life and Well-Being in Southeast Asia". Oceania. Middle East. Latin America. Caribbean. North America. Western Europe. Eastern Europe.

Topic 3: Well-Being in Different Populations

Tracks: "The Daniel Shek-Wofoo Foundation Endowed Track for the Advancement of Adolescent Quality of Life Research". "The Kenneth C. Land Endowed Track on the Advancement of Quality of Life and Well-Being of Children". Disabled. Elderly. "The Elizabeth Eckermann Endowed Track on Gender and Quality of Life". Migrants. Refugees. The Poor. The Rich. "The Ronald E. Anderson Endowed Track on the Alleviation of Human Suffering".

Topic 4: Methodological Issues in the Study of Quality-of-life, Happiness and Well-Being

Tracks: Big data. Causality issues. Composite indices. Conceptualizations. Database handling. Measurement of quality-of-life. Modelling. Psychometrics. Qualitative research. Quantitative methods. Surveys.

Topic 5: Applied Research in Well-Being

Tracks: Business and marketing. Education. Environmental. Financial. Health. Housing and neighbourhood. Pharmacology and health care. Recreation and using of leisure time. Traveling and tourism. Urban planning and policies.

Topic 6: Disciplinary Approaches to Well-Being, Happiness and Quality-of-life

Tracks: Anthropology. Biology. Ecology. Economics. Education. Medicine. Neuroscience. Philosophy. Political science. Psychology. Sociology. Social work.

Topic 7: Promoting Well-Being: Public Policy and Development

Tracks: "The Rhonda G. Phillips Endowed Track for the Promotion of Community Development and Community Well-Being". Human development. Poverty alleviation. Sustainable development and sustainability. Social development. "The M. Joseph Sirgy Endowed Track on Well-Being and Policy".

Topic 8: Beyond GDP. New Understandings and Measures of Progress

Tracks: Measuring the performance of societies. New understandings of progress in societies and how to measure it.

Topic 9: Philanthropy. Volunteerism and Well-being

Tracks: Volunteerism. Altruism. Philanthropy.

ISQOLS RESOURCES OVERVIEW

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies is pleased to provide both members and non-members with the following resources, freely available on our website (visit: isqols.org/resource). Sincerest thanks to Richard J. Estes and MIQOLS (Management Institute for Quality-of-life Studies) for their donations and contributions.

Estes Weighted Index of Social Progress

Richard J. Estes, Professor Emeritus of Social Work and Social Policy in the School of Social Policy & Practice of the University of Pennsylvania (USA), has developed a quality of life metric at the country level (called the Weighted Index of Social Progress or WISP) and has reported the quality of life on many countries and world regions since the 1970s (click Show Sources below). Specifically, Professor Estes' WISP is a composite index of quality of life at the country level. That is, the WISP index captures quality of life of the vast majority of the countries (countries that maintains social indicators data). The WISP consists of an overall composite score of each country (shown as an actual score varying from 0 to 100, ranks, and standard deviation from the mean). The overall index is made up of 10 subindices: education, health, women status, defense effort, economic, demography, environmental, social chaos, cultural cohesion, and welfare effort. Click on Brief Description below for a description of the WISP and its constituent indicators.

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Show Brief Description
Show Sources
Show Biographical Sketch of Professor Richard Estes

INDICATOR: Weighted Index of Social Progress
TIME PERIOD: 2018

2018 Weighted Index of Social Progress

Standard Deviations from Mean

Do-It-Yourself Instructions

1. Select one of the three value modes. Rank mode displays country rankings, score mode displays the actual WISP scores, and standard deviations from mean mode displays the number of standard deviations from the mean based on the appropriate year and indicator.
2. Choose the weights to use for each subindex and click the **Choose Your Own Weights** button to apply them to the table. The default weights are the weights used for calculating the weighted index of social progress (WISP).
3. Filter countries based on country groupings below. Selecting and unselecting checkboxes in the show/hide groupings column allows you to quickly show or hide groups of rows. The show/hide rows column allows you to show or hide individual rows, including group averages.
4. Click on countries in the table to form a selection set.
5. Click on the Graph Selection button at the top of the table to provide a detailed comparison view.
6. The dataset can be exported in as an Excel file using the **Export Data**. **Export PDF** will generate a pdf file. The set of charts exported is determined by the current indicator selected in the top left dropdown menu, and whether a selection has been made. Note that a selection is not considered complete until you select graph selection.

CUSTOM SERVICE: We can provide you with a customized report for USD 900
CUSTOM REPORT: For an example of a customized report, click here.

MODE: Rank

SUBINDEX WEIGHTS

Show Explanation

2018

0.333 EDUCATION
0.410 HEALTH
0.410 WOMEN STATUS
0.124 DEFENSE EFFORT

International-level Quality-of-Life Indicators

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES
MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES
MIQOLS INDICATORS' TOOLBOX

Home Quality-of-Life Indicators About Donate

International-level Quality-of-Life Indicators

The International-level Quality-of-Life Indicators allow you to profile a given country along multiple quality-of-life dimensions such as demographics, economic wellbeing, education wellbeing, environmental wellbeing, health wellbeing, safety wellbeing, social wellbeing, and work wellbeing. You can also compare one country with selected others.

Choose a dataset
Select Quality-of-Life Indicator Set

Choose places to compare

Country Country Country
Select Country Select Country Select Country
Disable Disable Disable

Choose a time period
Most Recent

Do-It-Yourself Instructions

1. Choose a dataset of interest from the dropdown menu.
2. Choose up to three places to compare. You can compare countries, geographic regions and country groups, and the world average.
3. Choose whether you want to view a full time series or just the most recent data available. Time series will be displayed as line graphs while most recent values will generally be displayed as bar charts.

CUSTOM SERVICE: We can provide you with a customized report for USD 700
CUSTOM REPORT: For an example of a customized report, click here.

The International-level Quality-of-Life Indicators allow you to profile a given country along multiple quality-of-life dimensions such as demographics, economic wellbeing, education wellbeing, environmental wellbeing, health wellbeing, safety wellbeing, social wellbeing, and work wellbeing. You can also compare one country with selected others.

The MIQOLS QOL Indicators toolbox is an array of online utilities designed to help quality-of-life researchers, real estate professionals, stakeholders, and decision makers get a better look at their communities along various selected dimensions. Currently, only the community comparison tool is completed, but we anticipate many more tools to be added in the years ahead.

United States Quality-of-Life Indicators

The United States Quality-of-Life Indicators tool allows you to extract information about specific quality-of-life dimensions and variables of a specific community (e.g., town or the geopolitical unity of a specific address). You can also compare the selected community with other communities in the U.S. The quality-of-life dimensions include demographics, economic wellbeing, education wellbeing, environmental wellbeing, health wellbeing, housing wellbeing, safety wellbeing, shopping wellbeing, social wellbeing, and work wellbeing.

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Choose a dataset
Select Quality-of-Life Indicator Set

Choose places to compare

Select Geographic Level Select Geographic Level Select Geographic Level
Disable Disable Disable

Choose a time period
Most Recent

Do-It-Yourself Instructions

1. Choose a dataset of interest from the dropdown menu.
2. Choose up to three places to compare. First, choose the geographic level of the place of interest. This can be as low level as an individual census block or as high level as the entire United States. Second, choose the specific location. Depending on the geographic level, you will be able to input the location using a street address or selection from a dropdown menu.
3. Choose whether you want to view a full time series or just the most recent data available. Time series will be displayed as line graphs while most recent values will generally be displayed as bar charts.

CUSTOM SERVICE: We can provide you with a customized report for USD 450
CUSTOM REPORT: For an example of a customized report, click here.

The MIQOLS QOL Indicators toolbox is an array of online utilities designed to help quality-of-life researchers, real estate professionals, stakeholders, and decision makers get a better look at their communities along various selected dimensions. Currently, only the community comparison tool is completed, but we anticipate many more tools to be added in the years ahead.

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QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES
"exploring well-being and happiness"

ISQOLS.ORG

ISQOLS MEMBER BENEFITS:

As a registered member of the ISQOLS community you receive the following benefits:

- Three printed and mailed issues of Social Indicators Network News (SINET) every year
- Four e-copy issues of Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) every year (+ access to back issues online)
- A personal expertise profile in the online ISQOLS membership directory
- Significant subscription discounts for Social Indicators Research (SIR) and the Journal of Happiness Studies (JOHS)
- Significant discount to books in Springer's Social Indicators Research Book Series
- Significant discount to ISQOLS conferences
- Communication and debate with other QOL researchers on the open ISQOLS discussion forum
- Recognition for important work through ISQOLS awards program
- Eligibility for research support through ISQOLS Foundation
- Free access to lectures, slide presentations, and other educational resources from ISQOLS website
- Significant discount to ISQOLS Certification program
- Free ISQOLS webinars registration



ISQOLS has a foundation recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501c3 nonprofit. The foundation allows people and organizations to make tax-deductible contributions. The objectives of ISQOLS foundation are to sponsor research on QOL in an area that is likely to lead to policy formulation and/or positive social change. Please view each fund below. To make a contribution, visit isqols.org/donate

GENERAL FUNDS:

- ISQOLS PRESIDENT'S FUND
- RESEARCH TRAVEL FUND FOR WOMEN FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

ENDOWED FUNDS:

- EDWARD F. DIENER LECTURE FUND
- RICHARD J. ESTES LECTURE FUND
- ALEX C. MICHALOS LECTURE FUND

ENDOWED TRACKS:

- RONALD E. ANDERSON ENDOWED TRACK ON THE ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING
- ELIZABETH ECKERMANN ENDOWED TRACK ON GENDER AND QUALITY OF LIFE
- TAKASHI INOGUCHI ENDOWED TRACK ON QUALITY-OF-LIFE AND WELLBEING IN EAST ASIA
- KENNETH C. LAND ENDOWED TRACK ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN
- MAHAR MANGAHAS ENDOWED TRACK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
- RHONDA G. PHILLIPS ENDOWED TRACK FOR THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
- DANIEL SHEK-WOFOO FOUNDATION TRACK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ADOLESCENT QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH
- JOSEPH SIRGY ENDOWED TRACK ON WELLBEING AND POLICY

SINET: SOCIAL INDICATOR NETWORK NEWS **Subscription Information:**

As a service to the world-wide social indicators community, SINET is issued quarterly (February, May, August, November). Subscribers and network participants are invited to report news of their social indicator activity, research, policy development, etc., to the Editor for publication.

Deadlines are the 20th of the month prior to each issue.

Subscriptions are on a calendar year basis; annual rates:

Libraries/InstitutionsUS\$26.00

Individual: US & CanadaUS\$18.00

All OthersUS\$20.00

ISQOLS Members: FREE

Contact office@isqols.org for questions or details.

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