



SINET

SOCIAL INDICATORS NETWORK NEWS

The official newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

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International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

office@isqols.org
 PO Box 118, Gilbert, AZ USA
 isqols.org



Young, (un)employed and (un)happy

by Piotr Michon

Young people represent one of the most vulnerable groups on labor market. In the political, academic or media debate, the issue of adequate employment for young people has long been important. Particularly intensive were discussions about the consequences of the Great Recession. Through and after the recession young people faced additional challenge: people laid off from their jobs were competing for the same positions that had traditionally soaked up youngsters. The OECD (2018) estimated that during 10 years, between 2008 and 2017, one in ten jobs held by young people (under 30) has disappeared.

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Starting a professional career, we are particularly exposed to being unemployed, in low-quality employment and economic inactive. Youth unemployment rates are generally much higher than for the whole active population. In turn, the difficulties experienced when entering the labor market often translate into lower income throughout life, increased likelihood of risky behaviors, and have detrimental effect on health and subjective wellbeing. Instability or lack of employment results in difficulties in transition to adulthood. Jobless or working poor young people postpone household and family formation. In the recent decades young people's autonomy has been seriously jeopardized as in many countries. They remain family dependent, cannot count on social security system and are not entitled to benefits when unemployed.

Until recently, it was thought that what effectively protects against problems on the labor market is education. Today, even this is not certain. The change of reducing the role of higher education when seeking employment by young people is also worrying. According to OECD (2019) the labor market outcomes of young people without tertiary education have worsened in most countries over the past decade, and labor market conditions have deteriorated for young people with less than tertiary education in many countries, with a rising proportion out of work or, under-employed or low paid if in work. Being jobless itself implies that a person do not accumulate new skills, and the skill she has are likely to deteriorate. Hence, being unemployed for long term, makes people more likely to be encounter serious problems when trying to gain a foothold in the labor market.

In this context happiness researchers rise another question: how do unemployment and finding employment affect the wellbeing of young people? (*cont'd on pg 3.*)

Social Indicators Network News

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Applied Research in Quality of Life (the official journal of ISQOLS) is presents conceptual, methodological and empirical papers dealing with quality-of-life studies in the applied areas of the natural and social sciences. It aims to publish papers that have direct implications for, or impact on practical applications of research on the quality of life. he articles are crafted from interdisciplinary, inter-professional and international perspectives. ARQOL guides decision making in a variety of professions, industries, nonprofit, and government sectors, including healthcare, travel and tourism, marketing, corporate management, community planning, social work, public administration, and human resource management. It helps decision makers apply performance measures and outcome assessment techniques based on such concepts as well-being, human satisfaction, human development, happiness, wellness and quality-of-life. Learn more at <https://www.springer.com/journal/11482/>



Young, (un) employed and (un) happy, cont'd from page 1

A review of the literature on the relationship between employment and well-being does not leave much room for speculation and doubt. Being deprived of a paid job entails a risk of social exclusion and isolation. For a significantly larger proportion of the population, job loss or being unemployed result in lower levels of subjective well-being.

Being unemployed, and especially job loss, have both a pecuniary and non-pecuniary effects on individuals. The first one is income reduction resulting from job loss. Second, it's other than income-related effect on wellbeing. According to Jahoda (1982), in addition to income loss, the unemployed also loses the beneficial work by-products: a structured day, opportunity for creativity and mastery, shared experiences and social status. Thus, unemployment affects many dimensions of individual's life through psychological distress.

Similarly, Warr (2007) in his 'vitamin model' indicates that work brings benefits (physical and mental activity, use of skills, decision latitude, interpersonal contact, social status, and a reason to go on - 'traction') which the unemployed are automatically deprived. Some authors (Wineklmann and Winkelmann, 1998) suggest that loss of income is relatively less severe for an individual than the loss of non-monetary benefits of doing work. The non-pecuniary costs can be related mainly to well-being and health. The unemployed individuals face a serious risks of stress and depression (Reneflot and Evensen, 2014).

Moreover, it is important to stress that the negative effect on mental well-being can adversely influence the probability of re-employment by weakening people's motivation and ability to look for a job. Recent research also suggests that unemployment affects different age groups in different ways, with young unemployed people generally being more sensitive than older unemployed people to self-blame, unemployment shame, flexibility and work ethic (Pultz and Teasdale, 2017).



Unemployment or prolonged labor market inactivity does not cease to affect an individual once it is over. For example, Nilsen and Reiso (2011) indicate that unemployment turns out to have a negative impact on future labor market possibilities itself. In turn, Clark and colleagues (2001) suggest that the experience of unemployment in the past may have a negative impact on wellbeing regardless of current employment status.

The relationship between unemployment and well-being is extremely complex and depends on many variables. Men usually suffer more from unemployment than women. The negative effects of job loss and unemployment can be weakened by strong relationships with other people (marriage, friendship), religiousness and living in the area when a large part of the population is unemployed. In addition, people who did not like their work, are better educated or more committed to their work are more sensitive to the negative effect of unemployment. In this context, it is not surprising that getting a job, especially a good quality job, usually leads to an increase in emotional and cognitive well-being.

Numerous studies indicate that the effect of early job insecurity remains varied across countries. Below are the results of the study of youth employment and unemployment in three European countries: Great Britain, Germany and Poland; which was carried out for the purposes of the Negotiate project (www.negotiate-research.eu) (Buttler et al., 2016).

Great Britain

The study, which used data from the Understanding Society - the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study, indicates that in the UK the transition from unemployment or being a student to employment brought a large increase in the level of subjective well-being (SWB).

(cont'd on pg 4)

Young, (un) employed and (un) happy, cont'd from page 1

Also the transition from unemployment to being a student turned out to have a positive impact on SWB.

In turn, those who went from employment to education or from education to unemployment experienced the greatest decline in subjective well-being. An important observation was also that although the transition from employment to unemployment was associated with a reduction in SWB, those who were unemployed for a long time did not experience, on average, a decrease in SWB. In addition, the positive impact of employment on subjective well-being has been shown to diminish over time, suggesting individual's adaptation.

Germany

The study of young people in Germany uses data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) which is probably one of the datasets most used in the analysis of subjective wellbeing in Europe and has the great advantage of having run for a long time now. The results of the analysis carried out are in line with study in UK. They indicate that the most negative impact on the subjective well-being of young people is the transition from employment to unemployment. While the movement in the opposite direction, from unemployment to employment, results in the highest increase in SWB. Interesting results were obtained by separating students from inactive people. It turns out that leaving the status of student is associated with a decrease in well-being even in cases of transition to employment.

Unlike what was observed in Great Britain: although young Germans experienced a negative impact on the SWB transition to inactivity, this effect was not observed in the case of transitions into education. Thus, the results of the research suggest that for their own good young Germans should not leave universities, and if they do, they should try to come back to them. Moreover, data from SOEP showed that in Germany no wellbeing 'scarring effect' was observed; past unemployment

experiences did not influence the present level of subjective wellbeing.

Poland

As in Germany and the United Kingdom, also in Poland, young people (18-30) experienced the largest negative change in the SWB level when they lost employment and became unemployed. And vice versa: highest leap of wellbeing level was found among individuals who moved from unemployment to employment.

The results of research for Poland based on longitudinal survey 'Social Diagnosis' suggest that the decline in well-being of young people was mainly due to non-pecuniary loss from joblessness. This may be due to the fact that the vast majority of young people in Poland live with their parents - the help of family in supporting them financially proved to be essential. And while their earnings were low, even the loss of income source did not lead to a significant deterioration in the financial situation of their households.

Of the three countries studied, only in Poland could scarring effect be observed: not only the current but also the past experience of unemployment had a detrimental effect on young individual's wellbeing. Although Poland, Germany and Great Britain represent distinct models of market economy, some of the results obtained were common to all three countries (Buttler et al., 2016): (1) the largest (negative) change in the subjective level of wellbeing was associated with transition between employment and unemployment; (2) being unemployed negatively affects the subjective well-being of young people; but only in Poland scarring effect defined as a negative impact of the past unemployment experiences on the current wellbeing regardless of the present employment status was observed; (3) the detrimental effect of unemployment on subjective wellbeing was stronger for young men than young women.

(see sources pg. 11)

25 YEARS OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was established in 1995, making 2020 our 25th year anniversary! Our success and longevity as an organization would not be possible without the generous support, time, and work done by all of our members and community.

In the last 25 years, ISQOLS has had many incredible accomplishments. Our organization has successfully hosted and facilitated eighteen international conferences, with thousands of presentations on topics ranging from gender and quality-of-life, wellbeing around the world, consumption 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. Our official journal, Applied Research in Quality of Life Studies, has produced over 15 volumes and has reached an impact factor of 1.528 (2018). Our membership has spanned the globe, representing many countries and from six continents. Our Society is comprised of researchers, practitioners, professionals, students, retirees, statisticians, faculty, and people of all ages from all parts of the world, with an interest in exploring quality-of-life, happiness, and wellbeing.



Send Us Your ISQOLS Memories & Photos:

We invite EVERYONE (members, non-members, veterans, newcomers, etc.) to write any and all special memories and photos of ISQOLS to be published on our ISQOLS 25th Anniversary Virtual Memory Wall. Please send memories via email to office@isqols.org.



Anniversary T-Shirts Now Available!

ISQOLS Anniversary T-Shirts are now available! Make a donation of \$25 USD or more to our "Education Grants" travel scholarship and you'll be entitled to a special anniversary shirt. The Education Grant Travel Scholarships provide funds to students from developing countries to travel to our ISQOLS Annual Conferences

.To make your contribution, please visit isqols.org/donate and select "Education Travel Grant" as your choice for your donation. A confirmation email and details will be sent to you upon receipt of your donation.





Important message regarding COVID-19 and the International Society for Quality-of- Life Studies (ISQOLS) 18th Annual Conference (August 25 – 28, 2020) Rotterdam, Netherlands

Dear ISQOLS community,

We want to ensure all of you that the 2020 ISQOLS Conference Committee and Leadership Team is carefully monitoring the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The health and wellness of our ISQOLS community is our first priority.

As of now, we are continuing to plan for the 18th Annual Conference to be held in Rotterdam, Netherlands from 25th-28th of August . Please also note that we will make a decision as to whether or not to officially proceed with the conference by **June 15th**.

As a precautionary measure, we have also **extended the Early Bird Registration deadline to June 21st and the final registration deadline will be extended to July 15**. We understand that many will want to wait until this deadline to make a decision on whether or not to travel, and we will be sure to send timely updates and notifications as we near these deadlines.

Additionally, please note that we have updated our refund policy:

- * **100% full refund before June 30**
- * **50% refund, July 1- July 31**
- * **no refunds after August 1**

The decision on whether or not to proceed with our conference will depend entirely on how the situation evolves over the next several weeks and months. We will follow all guidelines and recommendations by local, national, and global authorities.

We thank you for your continued efforts, patience and support over the coming weeks and months as we navigate this unprecedented public health situation. We will do our best to communicate all of our actions and plans as they develop. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to renew your ISQOLS membership or join us for 2020 at isqols.org/join, to ensure you will receive important updates, discounts, and access our many benefits and resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at office@isqols.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
ISQOLS 2020 Conference Committee & Leadership Team



2020 ISQOLS Annual Conference, Rotterdam, 25-28 August

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) is holding its 18th conference in the thriving city of Rotterdam, home of the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO) (www.hero.nl). The theme of the conference is “Towards a People-First Economy: A World to Win”.

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 wellbeing in societies. Conference early bird registration deadline is 15 May 2020. Register online at isqols.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Decision to continue conference:
June 15

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
June 21

Final Registration Deadline:
July 15

Refunds:
* 100% full refund before June 30
* 50% refund, July 1- July 31
* no refunds after August 1

Conference Speakers



Arnold Bakker, Erasmus University , Rotterdam

Arnoldus Bastiaan Bakker is a Dutch industrial and organizational psychologist and Professor of Work and Organizational Psychology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is also a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, the secretary general of the Alliance for Organizational Psychology, and the former president of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology.



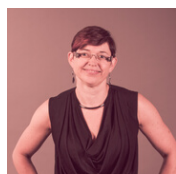
Joanna Coast University of Bristol, Honorary Professor, Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham

Jo's research interests lie in the theory underlying economic evaluation (including capability), developing broader measures of outcome for use in economic evaluation (including measures of capability, particularly the ICECAP suite of measures), health care decision making, the economics of antimicrobial resistance and the organisation of care, particularly end of life care.



Jan-Emmanuel de Neve, Oxford University

Jan-Emmanuel De Neve is Associate Professor of Economics and Strategy at Saïd Business School and a Fellow of Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford. His research interests are in behavioral economics and political economy. The underlying theme throughout his research is the study of human wellbeing. Jan has joined John Helliwell, Richard Layard, and Jeffrey Sachs as co-editor of the next World Happiness Report. He is also Deputy Principal Investigator for the ESRC What Works Centre for Wellbeing.



Karina Nielsen, University of Sheffield

Karina Nielsen is Professor of Work Psychology and Director of the Institute for Work Psychology at the University of Sheffield. She is a research affiliate at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, and adjunct professor of Griffith University Australia. Her research interests lie within the area of new ways of working and job redesign. She is particularly interested in the evaluation of organizational interventions and ways to develop methods to understand how and why such interventions succeed or fail.



Ruut Veenhoven, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Ruut Veenhoven studied sociology and is also accredited in social psychology and social-sexuology. He is emeritus-professor of 'social conditions for human happiness' at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands and extra-ordinary professor at North-West University in South Africa. Veenhoven's current research is on subjective quality of life. Veenhoven also published on abortion, love, marriage and parenthood. Veenhoven is director of the World Database of Happiness and a founding editor of the Journal of Happiness Studies



Quality of life: Validation of an instrument and analysis of relationships between domains

by Talita Greyling and Fiona Tregenna

Summary:

The paper validates an instrument to measure multi-dimensional quality of life[1] (QoL) and investigates the relationships between these dimensions, with application to the Gauteng city-region (GCR) of South Africa. The conventional approach to measuring QoL was centred on the use of income measures such as GDP. There has, however, been growing acceptance of the limitations of this approach and of the need for a more multifaceted measure of QoL. For example, the Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress[2] states that '[t]he emphasis should be shifted from measuring economic production to measuring people's wellbeing' (Stiglitz et al., 2009:12). QoL[3] reaches much wider than income and includes multiple domains, measured objectively and subjectively, such as health, education, housing and social relationships. To find an adequate measure of this multi-dimensional concept is complex. However, it is almost a universal aim of nations, whether explicit or implicit, to enhance the QoL of people (Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS), 2011). It is thus essential to find a reliable, validated measure of QoL.

Instruments that measure subjective well-being have been previously validated, for instance the Personal Wellbeing Index and the National Wellbeing Index developed by the International Wellbeing Group (2006); the seminal Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS) developed by inter alia Diener et al. (1985); and indices developed by Lyubomirsky & Lepper (1999), and Tomyrn & Cummins (2011). However, these studies only consider subjective indicators of QoL, without considering the objective indicators. Only a few studies have validated a multi-

dimensional instrument, which includes objective and subjective indicators of QoL, and in these studies, the validation was limited to testing the internal consistency of scale (Cummins et. al., 1994; Sen et al., 2012).

In addition, there is very limited literature on the relationships between the different domains of QoL, with no previous study, to the authors' knowledge, on the simultaneous relationships between the QoL domains. However, bivariate relationships between the different domains of QoL have been investigated (see for example Dalstra et al., 2006; Groot & Maassen van den Brink, 2007; Häusler et al., 2018).

Our objectives here are to address the abovementioned shortcomings by firstly validating an efficient instrument of QoL for the GCR, which does not include too many indicators, but provide a precise representation of the latent variables. Such a validated instrument will benefit future studies, as it can be used as a standardised tool to measure QoL. This is of particular relevance for measuring QoL in diverse communities in developing countries. Secondly, using the newly validated instrument, we investigate the simultaneous relationships between the domains (latent variables) of QoL using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). A deeper and more evidence-based understanding of how the domains of QoL are related may influence how policies are designed, implemented and assessed.

We use data from a QoL survey that was collected on the GCR specifically (GCRO, 2009). This dataset has the benefit of a large number of observations (more than 6000), it includes subjective well-being indicators for a wide range of QoL domains and the dataset encompasses the diversity of the South African landscape.

(continued on pg 5)



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The GCR extends beyond the boundaries of the province to include urban areas in neighbouring provinces that jointly constitute an important economic hub. The region produces over a third of South Africa's GDP and a tenth of Africa's GDP (Cheruiyot, 2018). The GCR encompasses seventeen municipalities (according to the 2009 demarcation), which include a wide diversity of cultures, standards of living and geographical areas (Gauteng Provincial Government, 2016). The diversity of the region makes it ideal to test the validity of a QoL instrument to be used as a standard measure of QoL in a country such as South Africa.

We use exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to determine the dimensionality of the scales, and CFA to evaluate the scales and establish the interrelationship between the different domains of QoL.

We find that the hypothesised models measuring the different domains of QoL, namely 'housing and infrastructure', 'social relationships', socio-economic status ('SES'), 'health', 'safety' and 'governance' fit the data well and are reliable measures of QoL for the GCR. In addition, we find positive and significant relationships between all the domains of QoL, except for the relationship between 'housing and infrastructure' and 'health'.

Sources:

[1] In this paper the concept "quality of life" is related to a multidimensional measure of wellbeing, as defined in the social sciences, and not as it is defined in the medical/health sciences (see Land, Michalos & Sirgy, 2011). [1] Hereafter referred to as the Stiglitz Report. [1]

Wellbeing and quality of life are used interchangeably.

To request more information, please contact the authors: Talita Greyling, School of Economics, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, email: talitag@uj.ac.za; Fiona Tregenna, South African Research Chair (SARChI Chair) in Industrial Development, School of Economics, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, email: ftregenna@uj.ac.za



Why YOU should consider hosting a future ISQOLS conference:

- ✓ ISQOLS conferences bring global attention and attendees to your university, college, department
- ✓ ISQOLS conferences bring extra revenue and additional funds to your university, college and department
- ✓ ISQOLS conferences help galvanize quality-of-life, happiness, and well-being research at your university, college, and department

The Conference Committee of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) invites interested organizations to submit a proposal for hosting future ISQOLS Conferences. Hosting the conference can provide considerable exposure regarding quality of life in the area. Further, holding the conference can provide an economic stimulus to the area as well as opportunities to gain recognition for the sponsoring organization.

Application Deadline for proposals to host conferences for 2023-2025 is June 30th, 2020. Applications will be reviewed at the August 25-28, 2020 conference by the Board of Directors/Executive Committee. Decisions will be announced by September 30th, 2020.

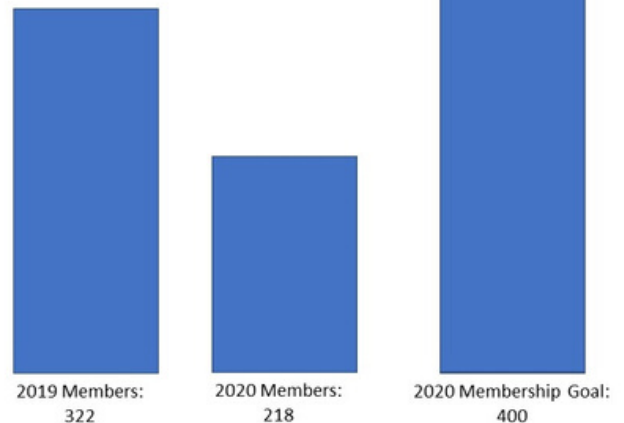
Learn more at: <https://isqols.org/futureconferences>

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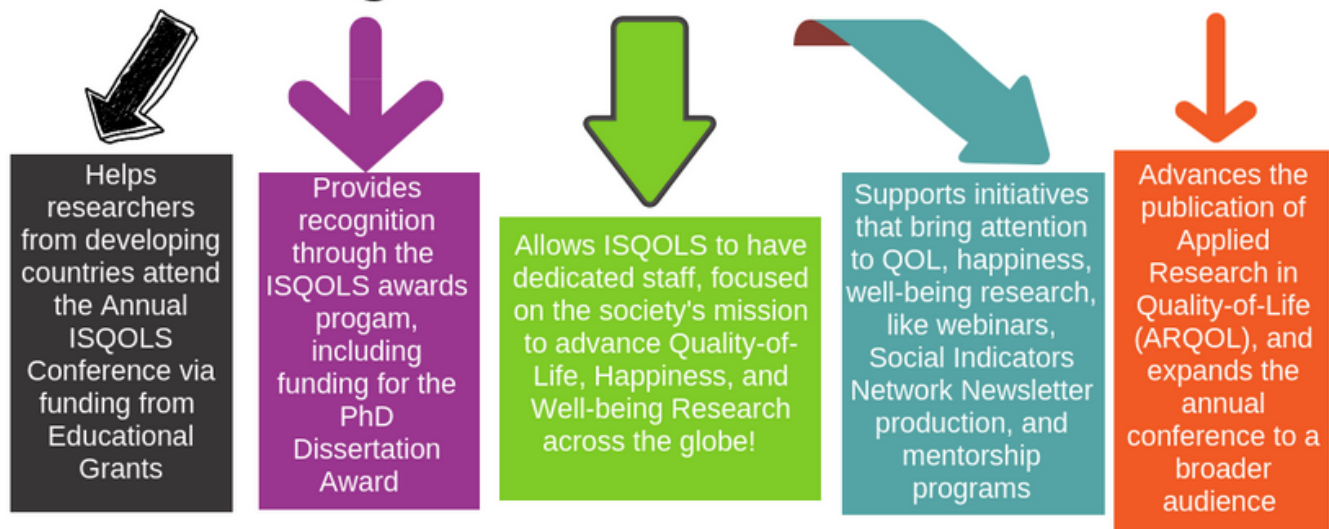
2020 Membership Goals

Membership is vital to the sustainability of our organization. Without active membership dues, our organization cannot effectively carry out our mission to promote QOL, happiness, wellbeing research around the world. Regardless of your plans to attend the conference, we hope that you consider renewing your membership or joining ISQOLS as an active member for 2020. Currently, we have 218 active 2020 members, falling short of our 2020 goal to reach 400.

Please join/renew at isqols.org/join



YOUR ISQOLS MEMBERSHIP DUES



Member Benefits

learn more at isqols.org/benefits

The collage includes:

- SINET (Social Indicators Network News) magazine covers.
- Journal of Happiness Studies cover.
- Community Indicators Research journal cover.
- ISQOLS Webinar announcement: "Let's Link Community Driven Happiness Data and the Happiness Policy in Government".
- ISQOLS Online Research Database interface.
- ISQOLS 2017 Annual Conference poster: "Quality of Life: Towards a Fuller Society".
- ISQOLS 2017 Annual Conference poster: "The International Society for Quality of Life's Studies 30th Annual Conference".
- A world map with red dots indicating global reach.
- A group photo of ISQOLS members.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR RESEARCH!

As an international organization, we especially feel the far reaching effects of this unprecedented health crisis, as many of our members are impacted worldwide. In these uncertain times, it is crucial that our society comes together to support one another. One of the ways we can stay connected, is by sharing our personal experiences via our membership forums (<https://isqols.org/forums>) and sharing our current research with one another.



This is a crucial time for us as professionals, academics, researchers, and students to galvanize our work in the field of quality-of-life, well-being, and happiness. One of the ways you can personally contribute during this time is by considering sharing your research through any of the following ways:

1) Webinar Research Presentation:

Our webinars are posted to youtube, shared on our social media, and sent out to our nearly 8,000 email subscribers. We will make all of our upcoming webinars free and available to the general public. All you have to do is prepare a powerpoint presentation (as you would do for any regular conference session), have a computer with a webcam, and pick a time that works with your schedule. Our webinars can range anywhere from 10-30 minutes--- you pick your topic, create your presentation, pick a time --- and we will take care of the rest. Please send your webinar description to office@isqols.org Looking for examples? Check out our past webinars here: <https://isqols.org/Webinars>

2) Summarize Your Research for our SINET issues:

ISQOLS is seeking long-form essays submissions for SINET. Long-form essays are meant to report news of their social indicator activity, research, policy development, etc. as it relates to quality-of-life, wellbeing, and happiness research. Essays must be no more than 4,000 words in length. Please send essay submissions to office@isqols.org. Examples of past issues can be found at: <https://isqols.org/SINET/>

3) Write a Blog:

We are seeking guest bloggers for the ISQOLS website. Blogs can be on any QOL, happiness, well-being topic; no more than 500 words in length. Blogs will be posted on our website, social media, and E-news and will be useful in helping ISQOLS spread our mission around the globe. Please send your blog submission to office@isqols.org

In the midst of social distancing and isolation, these "quality-of-life, happiness, and wellbeing" webinars are a fantastic opportunity for us as a society to help bolster connectivity and inspire positivity. Thank you for your consideration. Please send all questions to office@isqols.org.

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International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

"exploring wellbeing and happiness"

Established, in 1995, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) is a global organization with a mission to promote and encourage research in the field of quality-of-life (QOL), happiness, and wellbeing studies. In the last 20 years, ISQOLS has become a globally-recognized professional organization, with its own publications, journals, conferences, and identity.

ISQOLS mission focuses on creating a paradigm shift within traditional academic disciplines and to transform "Quality-of-Life" studies into an academic discipline in its own right. Our goal is to establish academic degree programs, departments, and schools within institutions of higher education worldwide, all focused on the science of well-being. The ultimate goal is to help with the creation, dissemination, and utilization of knowledge of the science of wellbeing across all walks of life.

Our Society is comprised of researchers, practitioners, professionals, students, retirees, statisticians, faculty, and people of all ages from all parts of the world, with an interest in exploring quality-of-life, happiness, and wellbeing.

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

<https://isqols.org/>

PO Box 118 Gilbert, AZ, USA 85299

Email: office@isqols.org