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Newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 2003 ISQOLS CONFERENCE

Susanne von Below, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University

Sunday, July 20th

The Conference commenced on an extremely hot day, the sun was burning down and humidity was high. Since it was Sunday, it was quiet on the streets in Frankfurt, except for the sounds of the annual Christopher Street Day parade – which is also held in Frankfurt. Around noon, the first participants began to arrive at the registration desk. This had been set up in the Casino building of the Poelzig Bau – part of the grandiose architecture of the late 1920's; in order to get to this lovely building, one has to walk through the impressive Main Building (I wondered whether anyone tried out the paternoster elevators?) and then along a pond with a fountain and up a few steps.

After a little while, the cafeteria opened and people could quench their thirst after their long trips and in the oppressive heat.

The opening ceremony started at 4p.m. – in the large hall with air-conditioning! – when ISQOLS president Wolfgang Glatzer welcomed everyone and declared the Conference open. University President Rudolf Steinberg gave a welcoming speech (printed in this issue of *SINET*), referring to the roots of Quality of Life research at Frankfurt University, and elaborating on the history of the Poelzig Bau: formerly the IG Farben Combine headquarters, collaborating with the Nazi Regime, then home to the American army for several decades and only back in German use, and given to the university, in the 1990s. In the course of the coming decades, most of the university will be moving to this area and into new buildings, which will be built on the premises.

This was followed by welcoming words by Ursula Fechter, member of the Frank-

furt Magistrate, who emphasized how important it is for the international city of Frankfurt to host events like our Conference, and extended a warm welcome to all the participants from 43 countries.

After a musical interlude by award-winning Cellist Gavriel Lipkind, who had made a wonderful effort to find pieces that had to do with integrating different parts of various populations, and who gave introductory words on all the pieces he had selected – ranging from Bach to modern Israeli compositions, there were three extensive lectures.

Wolfgang Zapf, formerly the director of the Berlin Social Science Research Center, and the author of the first German article on Quality of Life, spoke on “Some Retrospective Notes about the Frankfurt-Mannheim-Contributions to Social Indicators” and the history of this young discipline. A very contemporary topic was the center of Valerie Møller’s paper on “Quality of Life in a Divided Society,” wherein she spoke about the problems and successes of measuring and developing Quality of Life in the Republic of South Africa since the end of Apartheid. The final opening lecture was given by Kenneth C. Land and dealt with “An Evidence-Based Approach to the Construction of Summary Quality of Life Indices,” showing, with the example of a Child Wellbeing Index, how various indicators combine to a joint index for the USA, and how the overall index as well as certain indicators have changed over time.

After all these interesting speeches and music, the evening reception took place on the upstairs terrace of the Casino building, overlooking the area and the scenery, with the Frankfurt skyline in the background. While participants were meeting old friends and making new contacts, holding on to their drinks and munching German style sandwiches, the heat was subsiding, there was lightening in the background and even a few

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SINET

Social Indicators Network News

EDITOR EMERITUS:

Abbott L. Ferriss,
Atlanta, GA

COORDINATING EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Kenneth C. Land,
Duke University, Durham, NC

MANAGING EDITOR:

Rob Marks,
Duke University, Durham, NC

CORRESPONDING EDITORS:

Children, Youth and Education:

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Bureau of the Census,
Washington, DC

Health and Aging:

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drops of rain – a perfect end to a full and interesting afternoon.

Monday, July 21st

The actual Conference started on Monday. As on the other days, there were a few Main Morning Sessions, followed by Early Afternoon and Late Afternoon Sessions after lunch.

The Main Morning Sessions on Monday dealt with Competing Concepts of Quality of Life, The Dynamics of Subjective Well-Being, and Trends in World Social Development. All of these sessions received much attention, especially the “Trends in World Social Development” paper by Richard Estes, which was widely cited in the national and international press.

Parallel to the Afternoon Sessions, there was a Special Session at the Bundesbank on “Money, Wealth and Quality of Life”, chaired by Richard A. Easterlin and Richard Hauser.

Several groups of people walked from the Conference building to the Bundesbank, most of the way across a lovely park (and one group, on the way back, missed a turn, and passed very relaxed Frankfurt sunbathers – so that was a very lively impression of the Frankfurt Quality of Life!).

After the session, there was a formal reception for the Conference participants at the Bundesbank. This was opened by a welcoming speech by Bundesbank President Ernst Welteke, who spoke about Quality of Life and financial aspects and

responsibilities (also printed in this issue of *SINET*). The buffet following his interesting elaborations was wonderful, featuring Italian antipasto as well as regional – Hessian – dishes and other goodies (delicious desserts!).

With a full head and stomach, many participants walked back to the Casino building, to hear the two public lectures: Richard Easterlin reminded us in his “Life Satisfaction – Can We Produce it?” of how important personal ties are for happiness (especially in comparison to financial aspects), and María Angeles Durán gave a very personal and insightful view on “Satisfaction with Death as a Component of Satisfaction With Life”. Full of impressions and thoughts, people walked home or to their hotels, in the cooler evening air.

Tuesday, July 22nd

Tuesday was another very hot day – someone was seen carrying a ventilating fan around with him, to the sessions. Even though some of the rooms were air-conditioned, the level was considerably lower, i.e. the rooms much warmer, than North Americans are normally used to. Again, there were Main Morning sessions, this time on “Measuring the Quality of Societies with Comprehensive Indices”, “The Significance of Family and Social Networks for the Quality of Life”, and “Issues of Quality of Life in Developing and Transition Countries”. As on the previous days, there were many interested listeners, and discussions about the various presentations went on over lunch – the Uni-

(Continued on next page.)

Editor's Note: This issue of SINET is devoted almost exclusively to reports from the Fifth Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, the theme of which was “Challenges for Quality of Life in the Contemporary World.” The Conference was held at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, July 20-24, 2003. Contributions to this issue include the following:

- some notes on the Conference by Susanne von Below
- welcome greetings from ISQOLS President Wolfgang Glatzer, the President of Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, a representative of the Frankfurt Mayor's Office, and the President of the Bundesbank;
- some notes on the past and conjectures about the future of quality-of-life research by Glatzer, Wolfgang Zapf, Heinz-Herbert Noll, Joe Sirgy, and Kenneth Land;
- a list of ISQOLS Awards in Frankfurt and the announcements of the principal awards; and
- several photographs from various sessions of the Conference.

These contributions, each of which I edited, came from many individuals to whom I say thanks. Additional materials on the Conference, including photographs, can be seen at the website: www.qualityoflife-2003.de

K. Land

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versity cafeteria is also located in the Casino building, so that people didn't have to go far for a reasonably priced meal, and could go outside in the sun (or somewhat cooler, inside).

Again, there were many more sessions in the afternoon. Afterwards, a big group of Quality of Life fanatics met downtown, at the Main River, where a group tour boat was waiting. And during four hours, in which the sun set and the temperatures went down with a cool and refreshing breeze, we toured on the Main, observing the Frankfurt skyline of skyscrapers (Frankfurt is the only city in Germany which has so many relatively high buildings) in broad daylight as well as in the dark, and way outside, into the rural outskirts of Frankfurt. During the trip, food and drinks were served (subsidies were given by the Australian Unity, a hearty Thank You to them!), there was chatter and laughter, and a good time was had by all. It was nice to see just how many young people had come to the Conference, and how exchanges took place between them – so the network is being built for our discipline to grow and to go on in the future!

Wednesday, July 23rd

Wednesday was the final Conference day, with the Main Morning Sessions dealing with “The Quality of Local Community Life in Modern Societies”, “Life Events and the Quality of the Individual Life Course”, and “Global Trends of Quality of Life and Future Challenges”. Also on Wednesday afternoon, there were the Late Afternoon Sessions that were held by external groups who had been recruited to participate in the Conference, presenting their fields of interest to the ISQOLS public: these groups included several sections of the German Sociological Association, departments and research units of the Frankfurt University as well as international research groups.

On Wednesday evening, when all papers had been given, when people had listened to many different presentations, had met with friends and colleagues and made new contacts, had enjoyed shopping downtown on one of Europe's busiest shopping miles, or gone to one of the many museums along the Main river, had enjoyed the botanical garden “Palmengarten” close to the Conference site, or some of the many outdoor cafés Frankfurt has to offer, and all those little problems that we of the organization committee had been faced with (Do the projectors work? Are there enough around? Are there spare laptops? Is there a public phone in the building?) were solved, it was time for the final highlight: The Plenary Meeting & Honor Ceremony with Evening Reception.

In the main room of the Casino building the buffet was set with local specialties and wines. And when everyone had their plates and glasses filled, and the atmosphere was talkative, relaxed and happy, it was time for the awards to be given out (for details, please refer to the extensive list in this issue of *SINET*). There should be a special mention of Joe Sirgy who received the “Distinguished QOL Researcher Award” and he took up the occasion to give an enthusiastic lecture on Quality of Life Research as his acceptance speech.

So, after a final glass of wine, it was time to say goodbye all around, and to wish each other well until the next Conference, in Philadelphia in November 2004. It was a wonderful event and we were happy to have so many people here, so we want to thank you for having made the effort! For those interested in the outcome of the Conference, please refer to the Conference Volume “Challenges for Quality of Life in the Contemporary World. Advances in Quality of Life Research 2003”, which is being prepared.

QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESEARCH - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE?

Heinz-Herbert Noll

Social Indicators Department

ZUMA – Centre for Survey Research and Methodology
Mannheim, Germany

Although social indicators and quality-of-life research have undergone various cycles of growing and declining attention and popularity, they are now established fields of empirical social research in almost all parts of the globe. During the last three decades, social indicators research has succeeded in considerably improving the measurement of peoples' quality of life as well as the monitoring of general social conditions and change. Quality-of-life research has, moreover, largely enhanced our knowledge on the components, dynamics and determinants of human well-being by developing theoretical models and advancing empirical analysis on levels, changes and causes of well-being for various populations. Today, social reporting as the major application of social indicators and quality-of-life research is well established within the information systems of numerous national societies as well as international and supranational organizations.

Monitoring and reporting tools as they have been developed in this tradition provide societies – the general public as well as decisions makers – with the kind of information and knowledge needed for continuous self-reflection. Within the fields of policy making, social indicators are increasingly considered to be useful tools for various purposes, as, for example, benchmarking. New models of governance and a trend towards evidence-based policy making may have contributed to the growing popularity of social indicators and quality-of-life research recently observed on the part of policy makers.

Recent trends in social indicators and quality-of-life research include the use of more sophisticated methods and improved data sources, which may facilitate a shift toward efforts to identify the ‘causes behind the symptoms’ measured by indicators. The growing emphasis given to the local as well as the supranational level as compared to the national level, international comparisons, and a special focus on children and senior citizens in social reporting activities are other recent developments in this field. While, at the conceptual level, agency-related notions of quality of life are becoming more and more popular compared to utility related notions, current approaches to quality-of-life measurement increasingly account for societal characteristics as compared to individual conditions as an important component of overall quality of life, which have been largely neglected in previous approaches of empirical measurement and analysis. Although new impetus has been given to the construction of composite indices of overall well-being, the usefulness of this kind of measures is still considered controversial.

Besides the overall impressive outcomes and successes, some shortcomings and deficits may be mentioned as well: As a very broad field, QOL-Research sometimes seems to be too less coherent and cumulative and too much patchwork like, which to some extent may be due to its interdisciplinary nature. In addition to that, some parts of QOL-Research seem to suffer from a lack of methodological rigor, although there are certainly also other parts characterised by methodological excellence. Nevertheless, future QOL-Research may be well-advised to go for more quality rather than quantity instead of further expanding the field.

Welcome to Conference Participants And Comments on the Past, Present, and Future of Quality-of-Life Research

**Wolfgang Glatzer, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
President, ISQOLS
July 20, 2003**

A) Dear guests, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Welcome at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main for our conference:

“Challenges for Quality of Life in the Contemporary World”. I declare the conference open.

You are invited to enjoy the time here at the Campus Westend of Frankfurt university.

Let me start with some remarks:

— First to the program, regarding this session,

— second to say thank you to the sponsors of the conference,

— and third some scientific considerations on the concept of quality of life, which is the main topic of our conference.

I will begin with some explanations about this session. When I have finished my introduction, the president of the Goethe University - Rudolph Steinberg - will speak. Our university, which was founded in 1914, was the only privately funded university in Germany for a long time. The changing history is too complex to tell here. Now, again, key decisions have been reached, concerning the move of the university to the new campus here. University President Rudolf Steinberg, who is a law professor, is mainly responsible for the development of this new university campus. He will tell you a little about the buildings that will be our home for the next four days.

After our university president, a representative of the mayor of Frankfurt - Petra Roth - will speak. For the past seven years, she has been the mayor of the smallest world city; Frankfurt am Main has around 600,000 inhabitants, but the international character of the city is unique. Perhaps, in the future, we might need a conference about the quality of life in the Rhein-Main region, of which Frankfurt is the center.

The first lecture from the social sciences (with a social science background) is then given by Wolfgang Zapf, who, until recently was the director of the Scientific Research Center Wissenschaftszentrum



Berlin; he retired last year. It is not wrong to say that this conference is a long-term result of his scientific work. He brought the first approaches of quality-of-life research from the United States to Germany and Europe. And I learned and worked together with him on these subjects.

I am convinced that the opening session of a quality-of-life conference needs a musical interlude. It is a gut feeling and the intellectual reason is that quality of life always needs to be multidimensional. We found an excellent cello player – Gavriel Lipkind, whose great performance has been documented on our homepage. I am sure (look forward to his guiding us) he will guide us for some minutes out of the world of sciences into the world of classic music.

Two scientific lectures will follow then. Valerie Moeller will talk about “Quality of life in divided societies”. She lives in South Africa and is Professor at and Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. For the past twenty years, she has studied during the last twenty years quality-of-life issues in South Africa. The democratic transformation of South Africa is one of the many backgrounds of her lecture.

Kenneth Land, the next speaker, is my predecessor as President of this society and the John Franklin Crowell Professor of Sociology at Duke University. His research began in the field of social indicators. And today he will discuss the question of how we can build comprehensive measures of the quality of life. His point of reference is the question of child well-being.

B) The second part of my remarks, which I am very happy to give, is directed to our sponsors and supporters.

In the first place, I want to thank our university and its president. We owe this nice conference location to our university and also extensive financial and practical support. Thank you very much, Mr. president.

Second, we received significant support from the city of Frankfurt, especially its mayor. I think this conference is a building stone in the international reputation of Frankfurt. We are happy and grateful to have received this support even though public funds currently are under pressure as never before.

Third, we want to say thank you to the Deutsche Bundesbank, which invited us into its rooms to discuss the relationship between money, wealth, and satisfaction. The Bundesbank president will give an introduction tomorrow at noon in his “house”.

Fourth, I want to express my appreciation and that of all of ISQOLS to the Local Arrangements/Organization Team: Matthias Stoffregen, Susanne von Below, Maya Becker, and Sylke Schemenau.

Fifth, our thanks are going to the Hans Böckler Stiftung, whose support allowed that participants from the East European and the developing countries could join the conference.

There were additional contributions from the Kluwer Publishing company, the Institut für Glücksforschung, and Australian Unity. Also, university institutions like the Social Science Department, the Center for North America Studies and the Schwerpunkt Arbeit, Soziales und Lebenslagen gave us their assistance.

Thank you very much altogether.

C) The past, present and future of quality-of-life research

My remarks consist of some basic theses

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concerning the term and the concept of quality of life (QOL). In fact quality-of-life research is at present not a clearly defined discipline; rather, it is more like an umbrella, which attracts people with similar interests worldwide.

1. Quality of life is a term that doesn't exclusively belong to ISQOLS or to QOL researchers or research groups; it is used in many fields. This means that we have only partial influence on the meaning and the use of this term. Even in the same scientific field, there are many actors besides our association, for example we have a sister society, the "International Society of Quality-of-Life Research" which is rather strictly related to the health sector and the significance of quality of life in fighting illness and disease. But far from being a scientific term, quality of life is used in every day language, I assume in of all our languages and societies. There are multiple organizations and associations that define their tasks to be in the field of quality of life or in sub-fields thereof. Another application is in politics; for example, the German Chancellor, in a recent government declaration, spoke about "Nachhaltigkeit" and "Lebensqualität" in Germany. And there is hardly a day when you do not find in advertisements that a certain product can contribute to your quality of life – if you buy it. The positive connotation of quality of life is applied used in many fields to attract people. With "quality of life", we have a term that is used in different contexts and its popular meaning is especially influenced by different sources. So it is inevitably a shifting concept.

2. Nevertheless, the term quality of life is a scientific term and the quality-of-life network is not so far from constituting a scientific discipline. Let me give you the reasons why I think that quality-of-life research shapes a new scientific discipline:

■ There are networks of social scientists working on quality-of-life issues using a similar recognizable perspective in respect to theoretical, methodological, and empirical questions.

■ There is now a high number of books defining itself as belonging to the QOL-discipline and using its main term.

■ A scientific discipline needs a journal for communication and several journals are available which contain quality of life in their title.

■ We also find bibliographical publications, interim assessments, and QOL has found entrance into reference books and dictionaries.

■ A team of ISQOLS under the leadership of Alex Michalos is now planning a special encyclopaedia.

■ The weak point is perhaps that we lack an introductory textbook that can be used by newcomers to acquire basic knowledge of the field.

3. Quality of life in social sciences is a concept related to different dimensions of a society. It is on the one side related to the goal and value discussion of societies and on the other side to the quality of societies, of its social conditions and social trends. With respect to the goal dimension and the goal discussion, the research questions are concerned with the goals as they are defined from individuals, from associations, from governments and from international authorities. The analytical use of the quality-of-life concept also is prevalent. It is used to guide analyses of living conditions and the perceived quality of life. The new accent in quality-of-life research is a strong emphasis on the subjective perception of life by the people.

4. Quality of life implies a positive view of the world but it should not neglect the negative features of society, like alienation and exclusion, like anxieties and fears, like worries and loneliness. Besides the positive and negative dimensions of life, the future also has to be taken into account. It is the future perspective that constitutes another independent dimension of individual and societal wellbeing: what people hope and fear for their future is an essential part of their quality of life.

5. Quality of life is a multi-level term and this is essential for the questions connected with the concept. It can be defined on the one side for the individual and on the other for the global world. The quality of life of individuals is measured differently by regions, by nations, by continents or in global terms. Most challenging is the aggregation of quality of life of smaller units into larger units. If each individual could realize her/his quality of life, there still would be the question of whether the earth could carry this burden – the question of sustainable development. One central question for quality-of-life research is how the different concepts on different levels fit together.

6. Quality of life is a term used internationally in many languages. Speaking of quality of life seems to be universal. The participants of this conference alone come from 42 countries and they are all conducting quality-of-life research in one way or another. Not only is the term quality of life used internationally, but also the task of creating quality of life is international, respectively global. It is problematic if one country defines its quality of life exclusively for its own. Others can set restrictions and exert severe influence. To produce and to secure quality of life is in the last instance, a worldwide task. Therefore worldwide communication about quality-of-life research - like in this conference - is indispensable.

7. Quality of life, in the full sense of the expression, is an interdisciplinary term: different approaches use it in varying ways. I do not know another area of research where so many scientific fields are engaged: sociology, political science, economics, (social) psychology, medicine, philosophy, marketing and others. Thus, in quality-of-life research, a new discipline is emerging under the influence of very different number of traditional disciplines. We should keep this relationship and hope for synergetic effects.

8. My impression is that the first generation of quality-of-life researchers is on the way to retreating to retirement and beyond. I can only mention a few names of individuals who early on exerted significant influence. Early founders in the United States among others, who impressed me, were Frank Andrews, Angus Campbell, Philipp E. Converse, and Stephen B. Withey. The first generation in Europe ranges from Erik Allardt to Wolfgang Zapf. Some like the social psychologists Frank Andrews and Michael Argyle already are deceased. The second generation is now challenged to routinize and to improve quality-of-life research. Our advantage is that we are standing on the shoulders of the first generation.



GREETINGS FROM THE PROFESSOR RUDOLF STEINBERG

President, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
To the Conference of the Society for Quality-of-Life Studies
July 20, 2003

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you, the members and guests of the International Society of Quality-of-Life Studies here, at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, for your Fifth International Conference. I am pleased to see that so many representatives of various departments of this university – the social and political sciences, law, economics – and participants and presenters with many different scientific backgrounds from almost every part of the world have come together for these days of intensive discussions and exchanges.

The Johann Wolfgang Goethe University seems an ideal location for a conference like this: in line with the high percentage of non-Germans living in Frankfurt, we have very international student and teaching bodies and the university has always strived to integrate differing fields of study and research and to be an active and lively part of life in Frankfurt. In fact when the University was founded 90 years ago as the first and up to now only real private university in Germany by wealthy Frankfurt citizens - many of them Jewish - the founders took care to establish completely new faculties and academic programs which were open for the problems of the society and their in Frankfurt upcoming new industries. Therefore we had the first Science Faculty, a until then in Germany unknown Faculty for economic and social Sciences and the organization of a new curriculum for the study of law.

This old spirit of the Frankfurt University was renewed in our Development-Plan of 2001. Here the highest organ of the University, the Senate, has pledged again as one of the central aims of the University to utilize the scientific knowledge for the improvement of society. And therefore the Frankfurt University is an active partner cooperating with many institutions in the public and private sector of our society.

Thus, Frankfurt University is well known for very diverse aspects – for example the Frankfurt School and the Institute for Social Research, our famous Science Departments as well as the Departments of Law, Economics and Business who are working in close collaboration with the different

institutions in the world of finance. It is a great pleasure to know that, in line with this tradition, the Bundesbank - the German central bank - will host one of the sessions of your conference. By the way I would like to mention that the President of the Bundesbank, Ernst Welteke, chairs our Hochschulrat, an advisory council of the University with members from different sectors of society.

The universities of Frankfurt and Mannheim have furthered Quality-of-life Research as early as the 1970's, when the Special Research Unit 3 was devoted to analyses also in that field. The former university president, Hans Jürgen Krupp, and our former Vice-President Richard Hauser were involved in these research activities, as well as Wolfgang Glatzer, the current president of the International Quality-of-life Studies Society.

It is my great pleasure to welcome these important contributors to your field at this conference. Another person to whom I want to extend my warm welcome is Wolfgang Zapf, from Berlin, who is one of the founders of Quality-of-Life Research. He published an article on measuring the Quality-of-Life as early as 1972 – we are honored to have you here today!

With its rich and long standing history of Quality-of-Life Research at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, the interest in this field will be continued and extended within the Central Research Focus: Work, Social Protection, and Life Circumstances.

Let me say a few words about the building in which this conference is taking place: As you might know, it was built 1928-1930 as the headquarters of the IG Farben – one of the biggest industrial conglomerates in the world. The name of this chemical firms was clouded by its increasing involvement in the machinery of the Nazi regime and - in the last years - by the establishment of its own concentration camp in Buna-Monowitz close to Auschwitz. Near the entrance you can see a tablet memorizing the victims of IG Farben. Inside the main building there is an exhibition that reminds visitors and those working and studying here of the long history of this place beginning with the garden of

Goethe's grandparents, remembering the psychiatric hospital where Alois Alzheimer discovered the mental disease which later got his name until the 50 years General Eisenhower and later the 5th American Army Corps took residence in this house. Then when after German unification and the changes in Eastern Europe the American presence in Europe was reduced we were very happy and proud to acquire the building and the extensive grounds belonging to it for the university. Currently, after the intensive renovations of the existing buildings, the liberal arts departments reside here.

Eventually, within the next decade and with the construction of new buildings (the urban development contest has just been decided, you can see a model of the planned site in the entrance hall), the law, the social sciences and economics departments and some missing liberal art institutes as well as the administration of the university will move to this new Westend Campus; in the same time the natural sciences will expand their settlement at the Campus Riedberg - north in the City, the medical school has always been south of the Main-River so that the old location in Frankfurt Bockenheim will be closed down.

This Westend campus is said to be one of the most beautiful ones in Europe, and we are happy that in the near future we will be able to increase the Quality-of-Life of all those people working and studying at the university, when they can enjoy this new campus. I trust that for your conference, this pleasant location will enhance the fruitfulness of your exchanges!

We are proud to have you all here in Frankfurt at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University and I thank Prof. Glatzer and his assistants for all the hours they spent preparing this conference and I wish you success for your presentations, discussions, encounters, and for the advancement of your field.

Ernst Welteke
President of the Deutsche Bundesbank

“WELCOME TO THE BUNDESBANK”

Welcoming address at the University of Frankfurt's conference
 “Challenges for Quality of Life in Contemporary Societies”
 Session D2 “Money, Wealth and Quality of Life”
 held in the Deutsche Bundesbank's guest house
 on 21 July 2003

Happiness is an elusive subject, it is one of the topics of your conference, and you are the experts in this field! So I am a little reluctant to express the standard cliché of being happy to have you all here tonight. Let me try “glad” instead: I am glad the Bundesbank has the opportunity to host a major session of this high-profile international conference organized by Professor Wolfgang Glatzer of Frankfurt University. The Bundesbank has a tradition of maintaining and fostering close relations with the academic world in general—and with the University of Frankfurt in particular. Welcome to the Bundesbank!

The debate on the “quality of life” covers a field in which everybody feels they can contribute at least something. I see this as an indication of just how important this subject is. Even central bankers feel inclined to offer their wisdom.

(Monetary) Stability matters

The Stoic Seneca observed that “true happiness is to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future”. And, “where fear is, happiness is not”. This kind of peace of mind is best achieved in a fairly stable environment. A certain degree of stability is what most people regard as natural. Steep increases or outright shrinking tend to make us feel uncomfortable, no matter whether we are talking about population or about prices.

Stability is where central banks come into the picture. They take care of price stability. Price stability is basically when you can be sure that one hundred euros will buy about as many goods tomorrow as they buy today.

Price stability takes a lot of worries away. This is obvious for the rich, who in an inflationary environment have to worry about the diminishing real value of their nominal assets. It is less obvious, but all the more true, that the least well-off, those people who struggle daily to make ends meet, suffer most from a lack of price stability. A negative relationship exists be-

tween inflation and the well-being of the poor. Sticky wages at the bottom end of the income scale are an important factor in this respect. Thus, a life “without anxious dependence upon the future”, as Seneca recommends, is much easier to lead in an environment of stable prices.

It is by ensuring monetary stability that central bankers can contribute to the quality of life. Stability of the price level is not to be confused with inflexible prices. A market economy makes use of prices as signals of relative scarcity or plenty. Prices guide resources into their most productive uses. The ensuing efficient allocation of resources is a precondition for maximising output, which, in the world of economics, is tantamount to maximising the standard of living.

Challenges for monetary stability

If monetary stability is beneficial to our well-being, how can central banks ensure the stability of the price level?

At the end of the day, inflation is a monetary phenomenon: too much money chasing too few goods. Therefore, central banks seek to keep the amount of money in circulation in line with the amount of goods produced. This sounds easier than it is. For central banks have neither perfect knowledge nor any levers to control these two entities directly.

Monetary stability is permanently under challenge. On the demand side, overheating economies pose a risk of an unduly rising price level. On the supply side, rising costs due, for example, to higher oil prices or excessive wage agreements can exert upward pressure on prices. It is the task of the central bankers to keep a close eye on the diverse challenges to price stability.

Recently, a debate has developed on the potential danger of deflation. Deflation is a marked and protracted fall in the general price level. In the expectation of further falling prices, consumers postpone consumption, and investors shy away from investing. The economy enters a down-

ward spiral of shrinking output and prices. Like inflation, deflation is the opposite of stability.

Central banks are equally committed to prevent both inflation and deflation. In order to underline this symmetry, the Governing Council of the ECB has recently expanded its definition of price stability. Price stability, defined as an annual increase in the general price level of “below 2 per cent”, has now been specified to “below 2 per cent, but close to 2 per cent”.

The ECB Governing Council regards it as highly unlikely that the euro-area inflation rate will turn negative in the foreseeable future (HICP 2.0 % in June). Rather, the Eurosystem projections lead us to expect price stability to prevail during the next couple of years. This is rather good news for the 300 million people using the euro as their single currency.

Monetary stability is what central bankers can and do contribute to the quality of life.

Concluding remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, Money cannot buy happiness, not even stable money can do that. For the wealthy this may be a pity. From a distributional standpoint, this is a boon. Happiness may easily be distributed more evenly than wealth.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, after whom Frankfurt University is named, wrote that “everything in the world may be endured except continued prosperity”. Your conference will take another three days to explore whether this great German thinker was right with his pessimistic assessment of the quality of life. For the remainder of your conference I wish you further fruitful insights into the diverse aspects of the quality of life.

At receptions like these, the quality of life tends to suffer most from extended welcoming addresses. So I will close mine right now. I wish you a pleasant evening. An evening during which you can “enjoy the present”, first here at the Bundesbank, and also afterwards in the city of Frankfurt.

CONCERNING M. JOSEPH SIRGY

ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2003 ISQOLS DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD

By Don R. Rahtz, College of William & Mary

M. JOSEPH (JOE) SIRGY is a social/industrial psychologist (Ph.D., U/Massachusetts, 1979), Professor of Marketing, and Virginia Real estate Research Fellow at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

I think there are two things in all of Joe's accomplishments in the academic arena that make him the proudest. The first one of these is his commitment to his Ph. D. students. I, for one, owe a great deal of my academic success to Joe and his early tutelage in the ways of the academic world. In every case, Joe has gone out of his way to nurture the idea of the need for social consciousness and ethical business practices in the mind of his students. He has never been reticent to weigh in on a battle for his students when they find themselves at risk in any endeavor. He always responds with insight that draws on years of researching a wide range of academic and practitioner topics and with an ethical/moral foundation that makes one realize the deep commitment this man has to Quality of Life at every level.

I still like to tell the story of sitting with Joe on his back porch and thinking of acronyms for a new interdisciplinary organization that would study all aspects of QOL. It had to be something that both looked alright and sounded ok when you put all the letters together. It is hard for me to believe that occurred nearly a decade ago. Since then Joe's dream of ISQOLS has blossomed into an organization with members coming from every continent on the planet. I think the combination of these two contributions from Joe will serve as

Joe's legacy and continue to enhance the QOL for all of us who study in the field, as well as all of those who ultimately benefit from the outcomes of that research: all the peoples of all those continents.

What follows is excerpted from a biography of Joe Sirgy from the Virginia Tech homepage of Professor Sirgy and clearly shows his long term commitment to the enhancement of QOL through extensive research and publication.

He has published extensively in social/behavioral science, managerial, and systems related journals on quality-of-life related issues. Examples include *Social Indicators Research*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Journal of Social Behavior and Personality*, *Behavioral Science*, *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Systems Research*, *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, *European Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Macromarketing*, *Journal of Advertising*, *Current Issues and Research in Advertising*, *Psychology and Marketing*, *Journal of Public Policy and Marketing*, *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*, *Journal of Consumer Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction and Complaining Behavior*, *Journal of Travel Research*, *Journal of Tourism and Travel Marketing*, *Research in Marketing*, *Journal of Business and Psychology*, *Academy of Marketing Studies Journal*, and *the International Journal of Management*. He is the author/editor of several books including: *NEW DIMENSIONS OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE/MARKETING RESEARCH* (Bridgeport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995), *QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESEARCH: AN ETHICAL MARKETING PERSPECTIVE* (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001), and *THE PSYCHOLOGY OF QUALITY OF LIFE* (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002).

His research focus is on developing and/or refining theoretical models in quality-of-life studies as related to business ethics, strategic marketing, macromarketing, and international marketing. His applied

research focuses on developing and/or refining applied marketing models in quality-of-life studies as related to housing well being and real estate, quality of work life, leisure well being and tourism marketing, community quality of life and economic development, health-related quality of life and healthcare marketing, corporate social performance, and developing codes of ethics for business organizations.

He co-organized at least seven conferences related to quality of life (1985, 1989, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2001). He edited several conference proceedings related to quality of life and authored several monographs including: *QUALITY OF LIFE STUDIES AND SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED WORKS 1984-98* (Blacksburg, VA: ISQOLS, 1998) and *CLASSIC WORKS, LITERATURE REVIEWS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT REFERENCES IN QOL RESEARCH* (Blacksburg, VA: ISQOLS, 1998). He presently serves as an editor of the Quality-of-Life/Marketing section of the *Journal of Macromarketing*. He served as a special issue editor of quality-of-life studies in marketing and management for the *Journal of Business and Psychology* and the *Journal of Business Research*. He founded the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies in 1995 and is currently serving as its Executive Director. He is also the President of the Academy of Marketing Science (2002-03). In a recent survey of scholarly productivity in business ethics, he was ranked as 82nd among 2,371 business ethics scholars world-wide.



Albert D. Biderman, 1923 – 2003

One of the First Citizens of the 1960s Social Indicators Movement, Albert D. Biderman, died June 15, 2003. He was nearing his 80th birthday. He contributed essays, methodological studies, and a wide range of other research to a number of topics, including social indicators, crime, military sociology, interviewing methodology and others. His life work engaged social theory in the service of applied research in numerous applications.

Biderman's 1966 essay, "Social Indicators and Goals," in *Social Indicators*, edited by Raymond A. Bauer, positioned indicators in the agenda for achieving national goals set by study boards and presidential addresses. He charted the shift in emphasis of the President's State of the Union addresses between economic and non-economic indicators. Recent addresses, he found, shifted emphasis from the individual to economic growth. He also reviewed problems of collection and interpretation of crime statistics, a topic he later studied intensively. His essay called for a system of social indicators that show the state of society in areas not covered by economic indicators.

With Albert J. Reiss, Biderman examined crime statistics, reporting in *Data Sources of White-Collar Law Breaking* (1980), and, with James P. Lynch, *Understanding Crime Incidence Statistics: Why the UCR Diverges from the NCS*. These and other studies led to an essay in the volume *Victimology: A New Focus* edited by Isreal Drapkin and Emilio Viano (1975). During 1979-86 he was Director of the Crime Survey Research Consortium. One outcome was the annual National Crime Victimization Survey, which is one of the three important data gathering instruments in the United States that came from the Social Indicators Movement.

Another contribution to social indicator data collection was made in a volume he edited with Thomas F. Drury, *Measuring Work Quality for Social Reporting* (1976).

During Biderman's association with the Air Force's Human Resources Research Institute, 1952-57, he engaged in interviews with prisoners of war. This resulted in two publications, *March to Calumny: The Story of American POW'S in the Korean War* (1963), and, as co-editor, *Mass Behavior in Battle and Captivity: The Communist Soldier in the Korean War* (1958)

Biderman's interest in military sociology resulted in contributions to several vol-

umes, among them: Morris Janowitz (ed.) *The New Military: Changing Paterns of Organization* (1964); Mortimer Appley and Richard Trumbull (eds.) *Psychological Stress* (1966); Sol Tax (ed.) *The Draft: A Handbook of Facts and Alternatives* (1967); and, Roger W. Little (ed.) *A Handbook of Military Institutions* (1971).

With Herbert Zimmer, Biderman published *The Manipulation of Human Behavior* (1961), and an article in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Science*.

Al was born in Paterson, NJ, July 10, 1923, the son of Isaac and Celia Silberstein Biderman. He attended New York University, A. B., 1947, and the University of Chicago, MA., 1952 and Ph.D., 1964. At the University of Chicago he, and others who contributed to social indicators development, including Eleanor B. Sheldon, came under the influence of W. F. Ogburn, the editor and mover behind *Recent Social Trends* (1933), the first important U. S. social report that demonstrated the significance charting trends.

During 1943-45 he served in the U. S. Army.

During 1948-52 he taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. Then he turned to applied research and teaching became a minor interest. He was a research social psychologist with the Human Resources Research Institute at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 1952-57. He joined the Bureau of Social Science Research, Washington, in 1957 and remained there until it was closed. While officially retired in 1986, in semi-retirement he served Research Professor of Justice at American University.

His contributions were recognized by the District of Columbia Sociological Society in 1985 when he received the Stuart A Rice Award. He was president of that organization 1965-66. He was also honored by being appointed a Fellow in the following: the American Statistical Association, The Human Ecology Fund, 1958-59, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In addition to these organizations he belonged to the American Sociological Association, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. He regularly contributed papers at their annual conventions.

On November 9, 1951, he married Sumiko Fujii. She and their three children survive him: David Taro B. and Joselph Shiro B. of

Los Angeles, and Paula Kei B. of Purcellville, Virginia.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

Quality-of-Life Research: Projecting the Next Decade

Kenneth C. Land, Duke University

Over the next decade, I expect the field of quality-of-life research to continue to deepen its understanding of the many meanings of the quality-of-life concept, its correlates, and causes. The field also will see additional development of social indicators and summary indices thereof related to the quality of life. Much of this work will become codified and made available to students and researchers through the writing of textbooks on quality-of-life and social indicators research and through the production of the *Encyclopedia of Quality-of-Life and Social Indicators Research* that Alex Michalos is coordinating. In addition, I expect to see courses on quality of life studies more frequently offered in various departments in the social and behavioral sciences and in schools of public policy, business, and medicine. There is a smaller probability that degree programs and departments organized around the quality-of-life concept will develop.

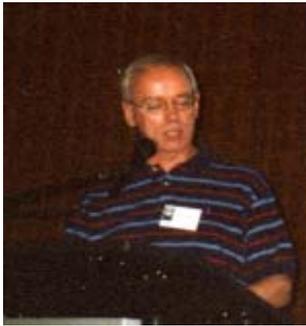
SINET WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE

SINET has a homepage entry on the World Wide Web. It is located on the homepage of the Department of Sociology at Duke University and thus can be accessed by clicking on Department Publications on the address of that page, namely, <http://www.soc.duke.edu> or by typing in the full address <http://www.soc.duke.edu/resources/sinet/index.html>. The homepage for *SINET* contains a description of the Contents of the Current Issue as well as of Previous Issues. In addition, it has Subscription Information, Editorial Information, Issue-Related Links, and a link to the homepage of ISQOLS, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. The Issue-Related Links button has links to World Wide Web locations of data for the construction, study, and analysis of social and quality-of-life indicators that have been identified in previous issues of *SINET*. When you are surfing the Web, surf on in to our homepage.

CONCERNING KENNETH LAND

ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2003 ISQOLS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

By Abbott L. Ferriss, Emory University



Let us now praise a worthy scientist.

In 1969 the U. S. Government's attempt at a social report was released, *Toward a Social Report*. It defined social indicators as "a statistic of direct normative interest which facilitates concise, comprehensive and balanced judgments about the condition of major aspects of a society. It is in all cases a direct measure of welfare and is subject to the interpretation that, if it changes in the 'right' direction, while other things remain equal, things have gotten better..."

At about the same time, Sheldon and Freeman advanced the definition to include statistical time series with the capability of being disaggregated or cross classified by other relevant characteristics (Sheldon and Freeman, 1970)

In 1969, when Kenneth Land left The University of Texas at Austin with his doctorate credentials in hand for New York City, he found that the definition of social indicators needed clarification. He proposed: "...social indicators refer to social statistics that (1) are components in a social system model (including sociopsychological, economic, demographic, and ecological) or of some particular segment or process thereof, (2) can be collected and analyzed at various times and accumulated into a time-series, and (3) can be aggregated or disaggregated to levels appropriate to the specifications of the model."

In short, he defined social indicators as elements of a model of social processes. He proceeded to demonstrate the feasibility of this definition by constructing macro dynamic structural equations from U. S. data that delineated trends in education, crime, aging, morbidity and disability, birth and death rates, and others. To clinch the

matter, he and Seymour Spileman edited a volume *Social Indicator Models* (Land and Spileman, 1975).

Since models enable future forecasting, he extended the discipline with Stephen Schneider with a volume, *Forecasting in the Social and Natural Sciences* (Land and Schneider, 1987).

This and his interest in demography led he and Thomas Juster to prepare a volume that reflects the work of Sir Richard Stone, *Social Accounting Systems: Essays on the State of the Art* (Juster and Land, 1981). The volume provides time use and demographic accounting frameworks that, like quality-of-life studies, are marking time until adequate data can be accumulated.

Ken Land's major forte is mathematics. His work throughout reflects his thorough grounding in mathematics. In fact, when one of his advisers reviewed his University of Texas dissertation, and declared it ready to be wrapped up and shelved, Ken objected that there were several refinements he wanted to add to it before finalizing it. (Adviser: Daniel O. Price)

This is reflected in his book, with Andrei Rogers, on *Multidimensional Mathematical Demography* (Land and Rogers, 1982).

Another of his interests, in criminal statistics, is represented in a recent book on *Criminal Circumstance*, which involves criminal opportunity theory (Wilcox, Land and Hunt, 2003).

Kenneth Land has published or has had a hand with others in the publication of 155 articles in scientific journals.

Nine of his articles have been reprinted in other collections of studies.

To make a long story short, his fertile mind has contributed to the advancement of the sciences of mathematical demography, social statistics, demography, criminology, organizations and markets, and to social indicators, social trends, and social forecasts.

Ken's work has been recognized by being elected president of six organizations, including Working Group 6 of the International Sociological Association, the National Council of State Sociological Associations, the Southern Sociological Soci-

ety, the North Carolina Sociological Society, and the Triangle Area Population Society, and vice-president or member of the board of some ten organizations.

He has been honored, not only by our International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, but also by being elected fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Statistical Association, and has been awarded the Paul F. Lazerfeld Award of the Methodology Section of the American Sociological Association. His contributions to sociology also have been recognized by his colleagues in the North Carolina Sociological Association.

This could go on but my time is limited. Let me conclude by quoting an experience of Eleanor Bernert Sheldon, who is the Grand Dame of the social indicators movement. (Dictionary: "an elderly woman with great prestige and ability"),

Professor Daniel O. Price was a "reader" of Ken's dissertation at the University of Texas. At the 1968 meeting of the American Sociological Association, Price introduced Ken to Sheldon. She recalls, "He had an emergent publication on path analysis, and as a result of my conversation with him, I suggested that he join the RSF (Russell Sage Foundation) staff to work on social indicator projects. He accepted."

With respect to delineating and defining social indicators, she says: "Ken, along with Dudley Duncan, Abbott Ferriss, Robert Park, Angus Campbell and Phil Converse, refined, re-defined and expanded the earlier foundations" on social indicators. Sheldon and Moore in 1965 had addressed the American Statistical Association on the subject, calling for contributions to understanding "large-scale structural change in American Society" and the collection and analysis of better data, an objective that we, QOL researchers, still aim for. In the interest of understanding social change the focus was to monitor indicators of "structural alterations" and to use "such information for entry into the system, to alter the magnitudes, speed, or even direction of change in terms of explicit, normative criteria" (Moore and Sheldon, 1964m p. 144). Need I point out that one "explicit, normative criteria" of

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concern to all of us are measures of the quality of life.

Sheldon continues: "Ken has continued to be a leader in both extending the interests in social indicators and, more importantly, in making major contributions to its theoretical and mathematical underpinnings."

She recalls traveling to Paris and London with Ken. They attended an UNESCO meeting in Paris. She remembers, "Ken sought out La Coupole – an eatery for writers, artists, and other intellectuals. Although today it may be a tourist attraction, 30 years ago Ken was seeking a different ambiance. . . . In London he was interested in fine bone china – Worcester."

She considers Land to be "a man of many and varied pursuits," and sends her congratulations. She also wonders, "How does a boy from Llano, Texas, learn of La Couple and Worcester china?"

In his February 1996 assessment of the condition/status of social indicators and quality-of-life studies, Land set forth an agenda for developing social indicators:

Data now has accumulated sufficiently that replicated surveys may be employed to trace panels longitudinally to enhance understanding of change in social indicators and in the quality of life.

Again because of improved data bases, Land advises that we should pursue the area of social modeling and social accounting, especially in the fields of Health, Education, Crime and Science. This would be an extension of Land's work with Spileman (1975) on modeling and with Juster (1981) on social accounting.

Since one of the initial motives of the social indicators movement was to develop sound social reports that provide insights into causes and consequences, Land also foresees this development as generative of future trends and consequences. This reflects the interdisciplinary orientation of the work of Land and Schneider (1987).

Land also advocates assessment of summary indices of measures of human development and quality of life of various population segments.

He also has advocated the strengthen-

ing of comparative studies, cross – national through improving comparability of national reporting systems (Land, 1996).

Land also has foreseen the utility and application of the subjective and objective social indicator and quality-of-life concepts. In health care applications, marketing studies, and policy development, Land has contributed to and encouraged such progress, especially in his capacity as editor of SINET (Land 1996).

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GREETINGS TO THE ISQOLS CONFERENCE FROM DR. URSULA FECHTER

Representative of the Mayor of Frankfurt am Main,
Petra Roth
July 20, 2003

Dear Chairman Mr. Glatzer, President of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Mr. Steinberg, President-Elect Mr. Estes, Executive Director Mr. Sirgy, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You had invited the Mayor of Frankfurt, Petra Roth, to this occasion to give this welcoming speech. Unfortunately she is unable to attend and she therefore requested me to substitute for her. I must say it is something that I am very glad to do.

I bring with me in my official capacity, greetings to you from the City of Frankfurt and the City Council. I would most like to go round and greet each of you personally but I would – probably – be still standing here this evening, because two hundred and sixty participants from 42 different countries have come together here today. Every continent is represented.

We are here in Frankfurt, an international metropolis. We have citizens from all corners of the world, living here in harmony with each other and so I think I can say, that we, *as a location*, are especially suited to host this important congress.

The subject of the quality of life plays a central role here in Frankfurt too. It is important for us to constantly stay aware of whether the citizens of our city are satisfied with the conditions in which they live; we have therefore conducted, over the last ten years, questionnaires concerning just this topic.

Through this, we, as politicians, have received important information and demands which we are trying in these times of tight budgets - to realise on behalf of our citizens.

A great help in this respect, has been the study, "*Aspects of Living Conditions in Frankfurt/Main in the View of Its Citizens*," from which we have displayed quotes in a poster presentation, which I would be pleased to draw your attention to.

I can well imagine that the main problems that arise there, such as traffic, crime the housing situation, unemployment etc. occur in other cities of the world in a similar way.

I would now like to wish you all a good and informative time at the event. As the congress spans over several days, I hope you will have the chance to get an impression of our beautiful city of Frankfurt and manage to visit our many sites of interest. I know that my German colleagues, who have organised this congress, would be only too happy to assist you.

Once again thank you and I wish you all a warm welcome.

FRANKFURT-MANNHEIM CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL INDICATORS:

SOME RETROSPECTIVE NOTES

Wolfgang Zapf, Berlin Science Center

In these retrospective notes I want to recall how indicators and quality-of-life research began at the Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University around 1970, made an impact on social research and public debate in the Federal Republic and brought it up to the level of the international discussion.

I got my first professorship in sociology here in Frankfurt in 1968 at the high-noon of the Marxist student revolution and the dominance of the “Frankfurt School” whose leaders, Horkheimer and Adorno, were themselves several times attacked by student protests. I was not engaged in the “Institut für Sozialforschung” but in the non-Marxist but also famous Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, where Thomas Luckmann represented quite a different type of sociology and where Hans Achinger had developed the concept of social policy as societal politics. This line was further developed by Hans-Jürgen Krupp who came to Frankfurt also in 1968, and by Richard Hauser who followed him in 1978. I, myself, am a student of Ralf Dahrendorf and had done research on German elites and on theories of social change and modernization at Tübingen and Konstanz universities. And during these efforts I came across the *World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators* by Russett, Karl Deutsch and Lasswell. This was my first encounter with “social indicators”: national aggregate data of political, economic and social resources, developments and exchanges in the broad perspective of comparative politics for as many countries as possible. From this *World Handbook* I got the idea to develop, at least for a small sample of nations, long-term indicators of modernization. This I started at Konstanz and, together with Peter Flora, 1968 here in Frankfurt. Our main publication then was “Some Problems of Time-Series Analysis in Research on Modernization”, published in German in 1971, and in English in 1973 in a book edited by Eisenstadt and Rokkan: *Building States and Nations*. Flora later on developed several big projects on these lines, especially *Historical Indicators of Western Democracies* (HIWED); he is still active at the Mannheim Center for European Social Research and has a relationship with social indicators with his

I came 1968 to Frankfurt via a Kennedy fellowship at Harvard where I worked for Karl Deutsch on time series of international trade flows. I had studied and also translated and published papers by Amitai Etzioni with the concept of an active society, by Gabriel Almond with the idea of civic culture and its individual preconditions, and by Stein Rokkan with his analyses of state- and nation building. But I somehow had missed the works of Bauer, Bideman, Gross, Eleanor Sheldon, Mancur Olson, Campbell and Converse – that is: the pioneers of the social indicators movement. These I discovered only 1969/70 when I prepared, stimulated by Karl-Ulrich Mayer, with him a seminar on social indicators and the prototype of a *German Sociological Almanac*, according to Hans Zetterberg’s *Sociological Almanac of the United States*. (Later on we learned in an article from Bideman that the small Zetterberg volume had more information on the discussed “national goals” than the *Statistical Yearbook*).

In 1968 the German government published its first report on family conditions and started efforts to systematize government reporting and to improve social statistics up to the level of economic statistics. These efforts were stimulated by international developments, especially by the OECD Program of Social Indicators. By studying the OECD work and by collaborating with the German OECD delegates (high civil servants and official statisticians) we eventually learned about the classics of social indicators not only back to Bauer, Bidemann, Gross and the Russell Sage Foundation but back to the *Goals for America* of 1960 and further back to Ogburn’s *Recent Social Trend* studies in the 1930’s. We also learned about the work done in other countries, especially in Sweden, France and Britain.

Two other activities at this time have been equally important for social reporting in Germany. In 1970, the first volume of a series *Materials on the State of the Nation* was prepared (published in January 1971), with comparisons of the most important areas of life in West Germany and East Germany. Although commissioned by the federal government these were professional contributions of social scientists;

the first director of the project being Peter Christian Ludz. At the same time was prepared, here in Frankfurt, not in the university but in the then mighty metal workers trade union, a big congress on “Quality of life” which took place eventually in fall of 1972 and published 10 volumes, which made the concept popular in the German political discourse.

It was high time to also contribute from the part of academic social science. We did it in Frankfurt in two ways. Parallel to our seminar on social indicators, Hans Jürgen Krupp had given a seminar on indicators of social politics. This brought us to a cooperation of sociologists and economists and to the development of a big research project for a “Socio-Political Decision-making and Indicators System” (SPES). For the common goal of an active society (in Etzioni’s sense), we regarded as necessary – I quote Hans-Jürgen Krupp, my translation

”1. the analysis and articulation of an ‘active’ social policy

2. the analysis of impact, side-effects and interrelations of alternative policies

3. development of techniques for immediate simulations and alternate accounts of policies (decision-making system) oriented at operationalized goals (indicators system)

4. access to and further development of an encompassing pool of statistics and adequate statistical techniques” (Krupp 1973).

The German Research Foundation funded that project from 1972 through 1978. When I and my collaborators moved to Mannheim in fall of 1972, the research group’s address became Frankfurt-Mannheim. And the even bigger follow-up project, the Special Research Unit “Microanalytic Foundations of Social Policy” also was based in Frankfurt and Mannheim, going from 1979 until 1990. Mannheim is 80 km south, not a prohibitive distance for social scientists, and with the establishment of ZUMA (Center for Surveys, Methods and Analyses) in 1974, Mannheim got additional resources. In the 1980’s there were several moves to Berlin, and the DIW (German Institute of Economic Research), the Max Planck Institute of Education

(Continued from previous page.)

Research and the WZB (Berlin Science Center) became part of the network. But it still makes sense to speak of the Frankfurt-Mannheim contributions.

The second academic initiative, which was started in the Frankfurt-Mannheim context, was the foundation of the Committee on Social Indicators within the German Sociological Association. I had a travel stipend in 1971 and visited all the leading social indicators people in the US, in Britain and France, most of which until then I had known only from the literature. Some of my friends here I know since then. And I became a member, from 1972 to 1977, of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on Social Indicators in Washington. With this background I started the German Social Indicators Committee in 1972. Later chairmen were Hans-Joachim Hoffmann-Nowotny, Friedhelm Gehrman, Wolfgang Glatzer, and up to now Heinz-Herbert Noll. The committee regularly has held meetings in most years, has participated at all German sociology conventions, and has published more than 20 books. My first English publications on these activities appeared 1972 (in Vol. 11, No. 3/4) of *Social Science Information*, namely the articles "Social Indicators: Prospects for social accounting systems" and "Work on social indicators in the German Federal Republic".

The first big product of the Frankfurt/Mannheim social indicators research was the *Soziologischer Almanach*, edited by Ballerstedt and Glatzer, together with K.U. Mayer and myself in 1975, with two more editions later. It covered 38 areas of life with brief sociological interpretations of the best available data and, where ever possible, two master tables for each section: "Germany 1870-1970" and "International Comparisons". Many years later, beginning in 1985, Glatzer, Noll and Karl Otto Hondrich, another Frankfurt-Mannheim crew, took up that tradition in the international context of the "Charting Social Change Project".

A joint project of the SPES group, next, was a detailed social report, *Living Conditions in Germany*, which included studies of population, social stratification and mobility, employment and working conditions, income and income distribution, private consumption, transportation, housing, health, education, and political participation. Each chapter was based on a parsimonious set of social indicators which represented the major policy goals in the re-

spective areas and which were derived - in a kind of empirical goals research - from laws, regulations, interest group programs and professional standards. It is the SPES Social Indicators System with about 200 indicators. Later on it was continued and extended by H. H. Noll and his group at ZUMA Mannheim and has become part of an international network. What we accomplished with this social report and indicators system in 1977 was to realize parts of the OECD Program of Social Indicators which by itself didn't take off from the planning stage. But we had access to individual data only in the areas of income and of social mobility; all the rest was aggregate data. Therefore, in the 1980's much work was invested in creating our own micro-data bases. That is, we turned from users of statistics to producers of individual survey data, in part rather big survey research.

I organized, together with W. Glatzer, H. H. Noll and later R. Habich 1978 the first German Welfare Survey after the models of Campbell/Converse and Erik Allardt, i.e., combining from the beginning the "objective" and the "subjective" traditions. The Welfare Surveys were repeated 1980, 1984, 1988, started in East Germany in 1990 and were used in 1993 and 1998 for monitoring the welfare development in unified Germany. International extensions have been organized since 1999 in the so-called Euromodule project (reported in *Social Indicators Research*, Vol. 58, 2002). Another joint publication, edited in 1984 by W. Glatzer and myself, *Quality of Life in Germany*, got broad attention and became the basis for cooperation with the Central Statistical Office for a popular handbook *Datenreport* which has been published every two years since 1987.

But there were developed more and much bigger data resources. The most prominent are the Socio-economic Panel first under the direction of Hans-Jürgen Krupp and today of Gert Wagner, and the retrospective life course surveys, developed by Karl Ulrich Mayer in Mannheim and then transferred to Berlin. Walter Müller directed in Mannheim a big Volkswagen Foundation project to open up for the general use official micro-census data, and Richard Hauser used the same approach in Frankfurt to open up the official micro-data on income, wealth and poverty. The best source on migrants and immigration still is the Socio-economic Panel. And all these efforts have been part of big comparative international research programs for many years.

Social indicators and quality-of-life research have had their ups and downs over the last 30 years. Today, they again have great potential and some great topics, including European Integration, Modernization in Eastern Europe and in other parts of the world, Rebuilding of the Welfare State, Demographic and Family Changes, Migration, Integration and Exclusion. And in Frankfurt, the Johann Wolfgang-Goethe-University, is an ideal location to discuss the state of the art, those recent and the coming challenges, and also to look back, if only briefly, to the beginnings some 30 years ago.

Textbooks For Social Indicator Courses

At the ISQOLS Conference in Frankfurt, the need for developing new textbooks on social indicators and quality-of-life studies. Several older texts are available in English for social indicator courses. Many of our readers are familiar with them, but for the record, the following exist:

Robert V. Horn, *Statistical Indicators for Economic and Social Sciences*, Victoria, Australia: Cambridge University Press, 1993

Duncan MacRae, Jr, *Policy Indicators*, Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985

Judith de Neufville, *Social Indicators and Public Policy*, Amsterdam and New York: Elsevier, 1975

Martin Greenberger, Matthew A. Crenson and Brian L. Crissey, *Models in the Policy Process: Public Decision Making in the Computer Era*, New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1976.

Kenneth C. Land and S. Spilerman, eds., *Social Indicators Models*, New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1975.

For additional material on social indicators research, there are chapters in:

Threse L. Baker, *Doing Social Research*, New York: McGraw Hill, 1994

Delbert C. Miller, *Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement*, 5th Edition, Newbury Park, London, New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1991.

There certainly is a need for a textbook that updates these older publications.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

Concerning *Social Indicators Research* On Receiving the 2003 Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition

By Kenneth C. Land, Duke University

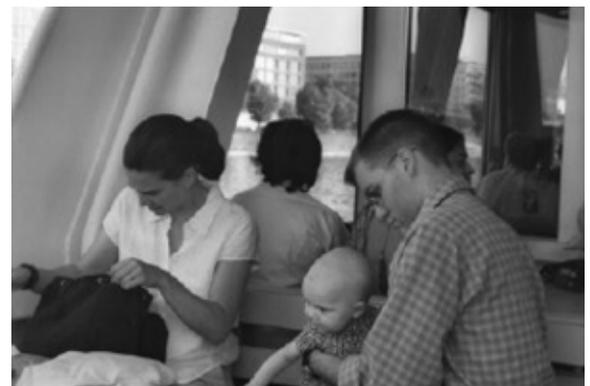
ISQOLS President Wolfgang Glatzer gave me very short notice to prepare a statement for this Award to the journal *Social Indicators Research* and its Editor Alex C. Michalos. In fact, he asked me to perform this task only yesterday. Wolfgang explained that he had asked several other individuals to make this statement, but all were too busy or felt they were not qualified to do so. So, always being at the service of ISQOLS and Wolfgang, I agreed to make a statement.

In fact, I am very happy to do so. You see, I had the good fortune to begin my career at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City, working with Dr. Eleanor Bernert Sheldon on her Indicators of Social Change Project. Since the Russell Sage Foundation was one of the core units in the "social indicators movement" of the late-1960s and early-1970s and located in New York City, it had many visitors in those days who were had one interest or another in social indicators and quality-of-life measurement. One of those visitors to the Foundation, in 1973 I believe, was a young scholar named Alex Michalos, who was a recently minted Ph.D. in philosophy. Alex met with Eleanor and I and a few others to share ideas on social indicators and to tell us that he planned to launch a new journal named *Social Indicators Research: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal for Quality-of-Life Measurement*. He encouraged us to submit papers to be published in the journal and to encourage others in the social indicators research community to do so. We at the Foundation thought it was rather brash of this young philosophy Ph.D. to move into the field of social indicators research and to launch this journal, but we wished him well. Then, in May 1974, Volume 1 No. 1 of the journal appeared, and the rest, as they say, is history. The journal has been published very regularly in the nearly 30 years since. Indeed, by publishing two or three volumes a year for some time, the journal is up to Volume 64 in 2003. I even have accused Alex of trying to serve as Editor for the first 100 volumes before he passes this duty on to someone else.

What has this journal done to win the Betterment of the Human Condition Award? Principally, for the past three decades the journal has provided a forum for researchers and scholars who are studying quality-of-life topics and their measurement to publish their work. Why is this important? Because it tells the scientific, scholarly, and general publics that these are significant topics for concentrated study. And that scholars should continue to improve their conceptualizations of what the quality of life is and how it can be measured. And that scholars should continue to measure these things and try to continue to improve their measurements and publish them in this public forum. If, indeed, one of the principal objectives of democratic forms of government should be, as stated in the American Declaration of Independence, to promote "the pursuit of happiness" and if individuals' levels of happiness and satisfaction with life are among the principal criteria of this pursuit and if this pursuit is related to the human condition, then the publication of articles on these and related topics in *Social Indicators Research* is fundamentally related to the betterment of the human condition.

In addition, the experience humans have had with democratic forms of government over recent centuries makes clear that democracies work best when their operations and those of the societies they govern are made as public and open as possible. One way in which this can happen is through the creation of measures of the quality of life, of social indicators, and their publication in peer-reviewed journals like *Social Indicators Research*. In this sense, the journal has contributed towards a better functioning of the democratic process of government and towards making democracies live up to their promise and potential for the betterment of the human condition.

Images from the conference



PROJECTING THE GROWTH OF FIELD OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE (QOL) STUDIES

M. Joseph Sirgy, Virginia Tech University

As shown in Figure 1, the field of QOL research is growing rapidly. One can assess the growth of this field by capturing the growth in the way the field is creating a coherent body of knowledge, the way this body of knowledge is diffused to students and professional, and the way professionals utilize this knowledge in their work. Judging from the proliferation of QOL-related articles and books published, and all the databases that are now in place to help researchers identify suitable QOL concepts, models, methods, and measures, I suspect that the field of QOL studies is indeed growing rapidly and exponentially. We now have several journals and quarterly publications specialized in QOL studies such as *Social Indicators Research*, *Journal of Quality of Life Research*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, *Indicators-Journal of Social Health*, and *Social Indicators Network News*). We have book series such as Social Indicators Research Book series published by Kluwer devoted to QOL studies. We have a steady stream of annual conferences and specialty conferences organized by societies such as the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and the International Society for Quality-of-Life Research.

gram evaluation, and among others. There are many universities around the globe that have centers devoted to QOL studies (e.g., Virginia Tech, Erasmus University, Deakin University, University of North British Columbia, University of Girona, York University, University of Illinois, University of Milan). I believe that in the near future a number of universities will begin to offer graduate-level courses in QOL studies, and QOL studies graduate programs will be developed granting graduate-level degrees in the subject matter.

In terms of the utilization of this body of knowledge, we have already seen a market need for QOL researchers in a variety of professions related to medical research, economic development, leisure and tourism, gerontology, community planning, marketing research, human resource management, developmental economics, environmental science, and psychotherapy. I believe that these professions will expand significantly in the near future and there will be a growing demand of professionals doing QOL research. Other professions such as food specialists and nutritionists, social work, architecture and landscape design, industrial design, housing and building construction, real estate development, accountants, financial analysts, et cetera will feel the need to recruit new professionals with skills in QOL research. This market pressure is likely to cause academicians to offer more courses directly and indirectly related to QOL studies, which in turn should further motivate academicians to engage in this kind of research, thus adding significantly to the knowledge repertoire of QOL studies.

In sum, I see a promising future for the field of QOL studies. I see more knowledge created, more pedagogical development, and more use of QOL knowledge in the professional world in the next 2-3 decades. This is a bright future for those who call QOL studies their home.

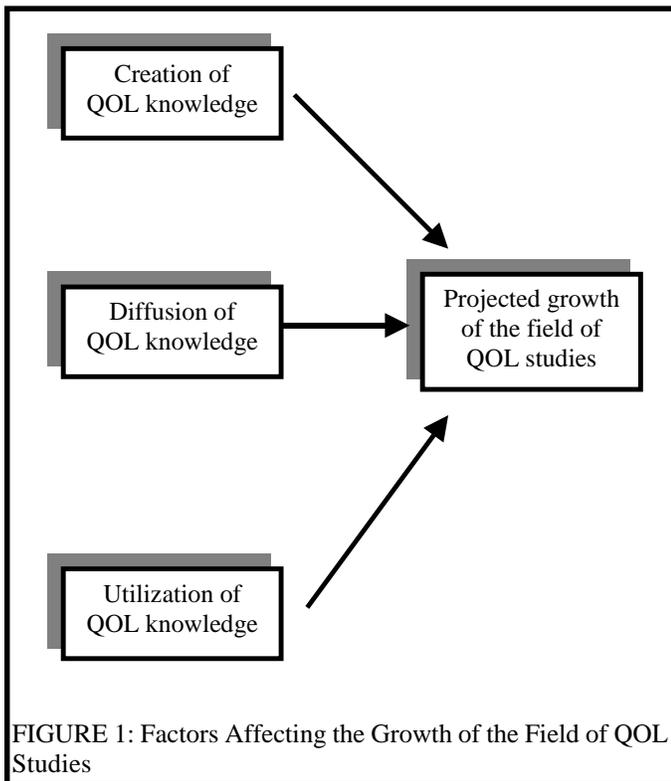


FIGURE 1: Factors Affecting the Growth of the Field of QOL Studies

With respect to the diffusion of QOL knowledge, there are many institutions of higher education in which QOL studies is a topic integrated in course curricula. Examples include courses in gerontology, human development, developmental economics, nursing, outcome assessment in pharmaceutical research, human resource management, marketing research, leisure studies, social indicators and demography; public health, environmental studies, social and personality psychology, health assessment, pro-

ISQOLS Honors Awards 2003	
Distinguished QOL Researcher Award	M. Joseph Sirgy
Distinguished Service Award	Kenneth C. Land
Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition	<i>Social Indicators Research</i>
Fellow Research Award	LizEckermann
	Tim Kasser
	Heinz-Herbert Noll
Best Annual SIR-Paper Award	Ed Diener & Robert Biswas-Diener
Best Dissertation Award	Peggy Schyns
Honorable Mention	Kyungmi Kim

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was formed in the mid-1990s. The objectives of ISQOLS are: 1) to stimulate interdisciplinary research in quality-of-life (QOL) studies within the managerial (policy), behavioral, social, medical, and environmental sciences; 2) to provide an organization which all academic, business, nonprofit, and government researchers who are interested in QOL studies can coordinate their efforts to advance the knowledge base and to create positive social change; and 3) to encourage closer cooperation among scholars engaged in QOL research to develop better theory, methods, measures, and intervention programs. The year 2002 membership fees are US\$35 for regular members and \$25 for students or retired persons. Prof. M. JOSEPH SIRGY (Virginia Tech and State University) is Executive Director of ISQOLS. Anyone interested in knowing more about ISQOLS should contact Prof. Sirgy at the central office: International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, Dept. of Marketing, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0236; tel.: 540-231-5110; fax: 540-231-3076; e-mail: sirgy@vt.edu. The Society's homepage on the Internet also can be accessed at <http://www.cob.vt.edu/market/isqols/>.

SINET

Social Indicators 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.

Address:

SINET, Kenneth C. Land, Editor,
Department of Sociology, Box 90088,
Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0088, USA
E-mail: kland@soc.duke.edu
Telephone: 919-660-5615
Fax: 919-660-5623

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Kenneth C. Land, Editor
Department of Sociology
Box 90088, Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0088 USA
151-1057-6936-22940