

A Quarterly Review of Social Reports and Research on Social Indicators, Social Trends, and the Quality-of-Life.  
News Included of Working Group 6 on Social Indicators and Social Reporting of the International Sociological Association.  
Newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

## 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES (ISQOLS)

**JULY 17-20, 2006**

**Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa**  
**'Prospects for Quality of Life in the New Millennium'**  
[www.ru.ac.za/isqols2006](http://www.ru.ac.za/isqols2006)

South Africa is known as the country of miracles since democracy. Bringing ISQOLS members from the four corners of the globe to Grahamstown for ISQOLS2006 seemed like a latter-day miracle. Nevertheless, close on 150 delegates from over 37 countries braved red tape in universities and embassies, airport screening, long hours in the air and on the ground waiting, and the conference shuttle service. They represented a wide spread of research interests and experience. There was a good mix of old ISQOLS hands and fresh faces, seasoned researchers and students. Most conference participants came from universities and research organisations, but there was also a sprinkling of practitioners, policy makers and community activists. It was particularly exciting to greet colleagues from the far north who chose to report preliminary findings from their QOL study among the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic in Africa.

It was a first for ISQOLS to meet in the southern hemisphere, in Africa and in a developing country. It was certainly not the best time of year for meeting in the South's winter - even delegates from the Arctic felt the cold! Nevertheless, South Africa lived up to its reputation and provided blue skies and sunshine; the official group photograph taken on the first day of ISQOLS2006 proves the point! The timing of this year's ISQOLS meeting was chosen to allow delegates to also take in the International Sociological Association's congress held in Durban the following week,

an option for some one in five ISQOLS2006 participants.

ISQOLS2006 spanned four full days starting on Monday the 17th with registration against the backdrop of colourful African embroidery and the soothing strains of piano music. It ended with a traditional African braai (barbecue) on Thursday evening before delegates packed their bags. Each day started and ended with a plenary. Breakaway paper sessions were held in between. Following a new ISQOLS tradition introduced a few years ago, some of the plenaries were open to the general public so as to create interest and a better understanding of quality of life studies.

A fresh idea was a lunchtime gathering organised by Past-president Wolfgang Glatzer and Anna Lau to receive feedback from ISQOLS members on what they expected from their organisation. Apparently our conferences offer a welcome contrast to specialist meetings in that ISQOLS brings together people from many different disciplines and viewpoints to discuss a theme that cuts across specialist interests.

### Scientific Programme

In the opening session that doubled as the annual meeting of members, President Richard Estes and Don Rahtz welcomed delegates on behalf of ISQOLS. Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor Dr Saleem Badat spoke of the challenges of globalisation

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*Editor's Note: The 7th Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was held July 17-20, 2006 at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa with the theme 'Prospects for Quality of Life in the New Millennium'. See the webpage: [www.ru.ac.za/isqols2006](http://www.ru.ac.za/isqols2006). Working Group 06 of the International Sociological Association also held its sessions at the XVI International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology in Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006. Papers presented in the WG06 sessions are available as pdf files on the SINET webpage: <http://www.soc.duke.edu/resources/sinet/index.html>. The May-August 2006 issue of SINET contained review essays of three papers presented at these conferences and reported on the WG06 Sessions in Durban. The present issue consists primarily of reports from the ISQOLS Conference and from ISQOLS Officers.*

# SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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for quality of life in the new millennium and offered his university's hospitality to delegates for the week. Conference chairs Valerie Møller and Denis Huschka then provided a guide to the week's business.

### Paper sessions

The scientific programme followed the established ISQOLS pattern that divides paper sessions into four overarching themes:

Conceptual and methodological issues and contributions to advances in theory;

Regional and geographical distinctions in quality of life;

Domains of quality of life including family, health, work, leisure, community, the environment, culture, religion and spirituality and many more; and

QOL of special groups and social categories such as youth, women, children, the elderly and people with disability.

In their introduction, Valerie and Denis noted that global concerns provided the backdrop to many of the issues raised in paper sessions. For example, one session specifically addressed issues of biodiversity and the health of our planet. Although participants were free to choose from thirty tracks in which to present their research, sessions dealing with themes associated with the Millennium Goals, poverty and inequality, urbanisation and migration and health were oversubscribed. In view of the fact that an estimated two thirds of the world's population will be living in cities by 2050, it was telling that ISQOLS2006 attracted more contributions on QOL in cities than in rural areas.

### Plenary sessions

On the first day, international delegates were briefed on South African social indicators by John Kane-Berman, Editor-in-Chief of the South African Survey and by political analyst Lawrence Schlemmer who critically reviewed the dilemmas of change and transformation since democracy in his public lecture.

Tuesday's morning plenary reviewed surveys that capture the unique facets of quality of life in different parts of the world. Presenters Heinz-Herbert Noll (Europe), Birger Poppel (Arctic), Mahar Mangahas and Linda Luz Guerrero (Philippines), Carol Graham (Latin America) and Bob Cummins (Australia) reported in record time. An obviously impressed Alex

Michalos in the chair recommended that the presentations be reworked for a special volume in the Springer Social Indicator Research Series.

That evening Distinguished QOL Researcher Ruut Veenhoven gave a state-of-the-art lecture on healthy happiness to an appreciative audience made up of ISQOLS members, Rhodes University faculty and members of the Grahamstown community.

Further plenary sessions addressed select cross-cutting domain issues that have particular relevance for the Millennium Goals and contemporary QOL challenges: Wednesday's plenary was devoted to Africa's biggest health challenge, the HIV/AIDS pandemic. South Africa is the country with the second largest number of HIV positive cases in the world, some 5.2 million in a population of some 48 million. Kevin Kelly at Rhodes University, reported on cutting edge research on the epidemic from the perspective of public policy and the well-being of the infected and the affected.

In Thursday's plenary, Francis Wilson, chairman of the international poverty research agency, CROP, told the story of how poverty research took off in tandem with democracy in South Africa and provided pointers for future QOL research in the field.

### Leisurely Conferencing

Rhodes University's Eden Grove Centre conveniently accommodated venues to hold plenary and breakaway sessions under one roof. The pace at conference was leisurely even though sessions started on 'clock' rather than 'African time'. Plenaries and paper sessions spilled over into generous morning and afternoon tea breaks and lunch. Evening 'Sundowner' lectures were followed by social events. Grahamstown is a small university town and educational centre and Rhodes University is on vacation in July. There were few distractions nearby for most of the delegates who had chosen to stay in university residence and so ISQOLS members made the most of being a captive audience to socialise and network with colleagues. Evening social events had a distinctly African flavour: a demonstration of Zulu, Xhosa and Tsonga dance styles in the Nelson Mandela Hall; African storytelling which is inclusive and calls for audience participation - not a problem for ISQOLS people; and the traditional South African braai.

(Continued on next page.)

## Conference Highlights

### A New Journal

ISQOLS launched its very own journal, Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) at a cocktail party sponsored by Springer on the first evening of the conference. Esther Otten representing Springer and Alex Michalos invited delegates to make the new journal their mouthpiece. Complimentary copies of the first issue were already available to take away.

### And The Winner Is.....

Richard Easterlin received ISQOLS' highest honour and was named Distinguished QOL Researcher during the awards banquet. The ceremony took place in Rhodes University's Canterbury Hall that resembles the refectory in the Harry Potter films. In his pithy acceptance speech, read by Anke Zimmermann who accepted the award on his behalf, Richard Easterlin named four reasons for liking ISQOLS and one reason for disliking the organisation - and all reasons turned out to be positive! In particular he applauded ISQOLS for selecting scholars from different disciplines as award winners.

Richard Estes, also this year's Distinguished Service award winner, and Don Rahtz presided over the ceremony with assistance from Anna Lau, attractively turned out in HongKong's finest gown, in handing out the award certificates. In keeping with African custom, an Imbongi suddenly interrupted the proceedings to shout the praises of this year's winners.

Denis Huscha and Walenty Ostasiewicz (who received his award in absentia), were made ISQOLS Research Fellows. John Kane-Berman accepted the Betterment of the Human Condition award on behalf of the South African Institute of Race Relations that has consistently and courageously reported social indicators that mirror South African quality of life for over 77 years.

First author Sarah Meadows collected her Best SIR Paper award on behalf of co-authors Kenneth C. Land and Vicki L. Lamb. The JHS Best Paper award won by Pei-Shan Lioa, Yang-Chih Fu & Chin-Chun Yi was received by Ming-Chang Tsai who delivered it safely to his colleagues in Taiwan.

Although Michael Steger was not able to travel to South Africa to accept his Best Annual Dissertation award in person, he said that it made a wonderful gift for the

birthday he would be celebrating on that evening. Honourable mentions for their dissertations went to Ralph Kober and Cathy Farnworth who travelled halfway around the world to South Africa to receive their awards in person.

### Happiness is Infectious

Award winners were not the only happy people that week. Delegates sweetened their coffee and tea with Happiness Sugar (sachets supplied by Huletts with happiness aphorisms). Guest speakers received a bottle of Happiness Wine (Le Bonheur) for their efforts and also a week's supply of Happiness Sugar in Ruut Veenhoven's case. ISQOLS Executives on safari could not help but dub their bush WC the Happiness Loo.

Happiness and QOL studies were also the flavour of the week in Grahamstown judging by the interest shown in the public lectures by community and the media. If an editorial in Grahamstown's Grocott's Mail and a cartoon by one of South Africa's leading cartoonists are anything to go by, ISQOLS2006 captured the local imagination. In turn, ISQOLS colleagues reported that they learnt quite a lot about the South African perspective on QOL during their short visit.

### While in Africa....

Many conference participants took the opportunity to explore South Africa with their partners or family before and after the conference. Post-conference excursions included a tour of the living fossil fish, the coelacanth, affectionately named 'Old Four Legs' discovered by Eastern Cape researchers in the 1930s; a visit to the local factory that produces traditional African music instruments and teaches people how to play them; a township heritage tour to meet local people and learn more about their customs and everyday life; and a trip to Addo Elephant park.

Executive and Board members volunteered to stay an extra day in conference to map the way forward for ISQOLS. To sweeten their sacrifice, the board members met in a game reserve and went on safari after lunch to spot elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and giraffe - some with their young - at close quarters.

### Post-conference Evaluations

A number of conference participants wrote to say they had returned home safely and that they appreciated a well run meeting. They particularly enjoyed the opportunity

to network with colleagues in a supportive atmosphere. As one new member of ISQOLS noted, 'particularly pleasant too were the good vibes and friendliness, which on contemplation, reflect the nature of the conference content - optimum quality of life from all perspectives.' The pleasure was mutual. Rhodes University colleagues and local people enjoyed meeting ISQOLS colleagues. In fact, the student volunteers who assisted with organisational tasks remarked on how pleasant and co-operative ISQOLS people were in conference. They hope you will come again!

### A Challenge for San Diego

On the last day of the conference, guest speaker Francis Wilson reminded delegates that they were meeting in Africa, the cradle of humankind. The San who were the first to populate the Eastern Cape had left behind a rich legacy of culture and the distinctive clicks in the Xhosa language. He was surprised to hear us pronouncing ISQOLS without the click in the 'Q'. ISQOLS2006 delegates might like to take up this challenge when next we meet in San Diego in December 2007. One person likely to competently click ISQOLS the 'proper' way is Lia Rodriguez de la Vega, the first person to arrive in Grahamstown for the conference. Lia made good use of her extra time in Africa to learn a few words of isiXhosa!

~ Denis Huschka and Valerie Moller

### Post-conference Tasks

Delegates have been asked to send their best conference photographs to Denis Huschka, dhuschka@diw.de, to be posted on the conference website's gallery. Presenters are invited to send their conference papers to be included in the conference proceedings CD by the end of October (isqols2006@ru.ac.za).

Delegates are free to submit their conference papers for publication in a journal of their choice including ISQOLS-affiliated ones and the new ARQOL. A selection of some the best papers that address the conference theme will be published in a peer-reviewed conference volume. Authors must be prepared to revise their papers. Track chairs are invited to recommend the best paper in their session. A call for papers will be circulated in mid-October 2006.

The conference website offered a prize for the correct answer to a local knowledge question to see how many conference participants worked their way through the site. So far, no one has claimed the prize!

## 2006 ISQOLS AWARDS

### Research Fellow Award:

Denis Huschka was born in 1975 in East Germany, studied Sociology and Political Science at the Berlin University of Technology and, currently, is working on the "German Socio-Economic Panel Study" (GSOEP) at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) Berlin. He also holds a research appointment with the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

Walenty Ostasiewicz is Professor at the Statistical Department of the Wroclaw Economic University in Poland. He gave significant contributions in the statistical field and he was engaged above as a pioneer in the introduction of quality of life research in Poland and Eastern Europe.

### Distinguished QOL Researcher Award:

Richard A. Easterlin is University Professor and Professor of Economics, University of Southern California. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### Distinguished Service Award:

Richard J. Estes is Professor of Social Work in the School of Social Policy & Practice of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Since November, 2004 he has served as President of ISQOLS.

### Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition:

The South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR). For 77 years the Institute has unearthed information on all aspects of South Africa. It has published indicators on the impact of racial laws in the social, economic, and political fields, including family life, health, welfare, education, housing, living conditions, and income levels. Its driving objective is to promote South Africa's success as a free, open, secure, and color-blind society able to ensure rising living standards for all.

### Best Annual Social Indicators Research (SIR) Paper Award:

Sarah O. Meadows, Kenneth C. Land and Vicki L. Lamb, "Assessing Gilligan vs. Sommers: Gender-specific trends in child and youth well-being in the United States, 1985-2001, Social Indicators Research, January 1, 2005, Vol. 70, No. 1, pp. 1-52.

### Best Annual Journal of Happiness Studies (JOHS) Paper Award:

Pei-Shan Lioa, Yang-Chih Fu & Chin-Chun Yi: Perceived Quality of Life in Taiwan and Hong Kong: An Intra-Culture Comparison, Journal of Happiness Studies (6), pp. 43-67.

### Best Annual Dissertation Award:

Michael F. Steger, Development and Validation of the Meaning in Life Questionnaire

Dissertation University: University of Minnesota, Department of Psychology, N218 Elliott Hall, 75 E. River Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dissertation Chair: Prof. Richard M. Lee

Current Affiliation: University of Minnesota

### Honorable Mention Dissertation Awards:

Ralph Kober, The Effectiveness of Different Methods of Employment for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Dissertation University: University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009, Australia

Dissertation Chair: Professor Ian Eggleton

Current Affiliation: University of Auckland Business School

Cathy Rozel Farnworth, Creating Quality Relationships in the Organic Producer to Consumer Chain: from Madagascar to Germany

Dissertation University: Department of Rural Development and Agroecology, University of Uppsala, P.O. Box 7005, SE-750 07, Uppsala, Sweden

Dissertation Chair: Prof Sten Ebbersten

Current Affiliation: Currently working in Syria

~ Denis Huschka



## POLICY ON ISQOLS CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### The Development of a Strategic and Fiscally Viable Business Plan for All Pending and Future ISQOLS' Conferences

(adopted by vote of the Executive Committee via Email August 4, 2006)

I move that the ISQOLS Board supports the concept of ISQOLS sponsored regional/specialty conferences that through a detailed business plan demonstrate both congruency with the overall strategic mission of ISQOLS and clear financial viability.

Specifically:

- 1) In order to be considered for sponsorship, a proposed conference must provide the Executive Committee, by way of the Vice-President of Programs, a detailed business plan that demonstrates both congruency with the overall strategic mission of ISQOLS and clear financial viability.
- 2) The business plan submitted must include:
  - a. Local Individuals who will act as conference chairs and coordinators
  - b. Local institutions or organizations who will provide support (financial or logistical support)
  - c. Means by which local sponsorship will be pursued
  - d. Conference venue that meets conference requirements
  - e. Hotel/housing plan for delegates
  - f. How the conference fits within the strategic mission of ISQOLS
  - g. How the conference helps build brand awareness and membership for ISQOLS.
  - h. How the conference helps serve the ISQOLS membership in the specialty area or geographic region.
- 3) Once the Vice-President has analyzed and screened the proposal, as well as requesting any changes to the proposal to be more in keeping with 1) above, the Vice-President will submit the proposal with a recommendation to the Executive Committee regard-

~ Don Rahtz

## CURRENT AND NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE ISQOLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected Offices	January, 2005 December 31, 2006	January, 2007 December 31, 2008
<b>President:</b>	Richard J. Estes (USA) (from Nov. 04)	Valerie Møller (South Africa)
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Valerie Møller (South Africa)	Robert Cummins (Australia)
<b>Co-Vice Presidents of Publications:</b>	Heinz-Herbert Noll (Germany)	Heinz-Herbert Noll (Germany) Dong-Jin Lee (Korea)
<b>Vice Presidents of Programs:</b>	Don Rahtz (USA) Peggy Schyns (Netherlands)	Don Rahtz (USA) Peggy Schyns (Netherlands)
<b>Vice Presidents of Publicity/Membership's:</b>	Ferran Casas (Spain) Andrew Clark (France)	Ferran Casas (Spain) Andrew Clark (France)
<b>Vice Presidents of Professional Affairs:</b>	Richard Easterlin (USA)	Richard Easterlin (USA) Graciela Tonon (Argentina)
<b>Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs:</b>	Aaron Ahuvia (USA) Filomena Maggino (Italy)	David Webb (Australia) Filomena Maggino (Italy)
<b>Vice Presidents of Development:</b>	Joachim Vogel (Sweden)	C.B. Claiborne (USA) Liz Eckermann (Australia)
<b>Vice Presidents of External Affairs:</b>	Denis Huschka (Germany) Mary Joyce (USA)	Denis Huschka (Germany) Mary Joyce (USA)
<b>Vice Presidents of Finance:</b>	Robert Cummins (Australia) Anna Lau (Hong Kong)	Anna Lau (Hong Kong) Mariano Rojas (Mexico)
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Kenneth C. Land (USA)	Kenneth C. Land (USA)
<b>Executive Director:</b>	M. Joseph Sirgy (1995-2009)	
<b>Past Presidents:</b>	Richard J Estes (USA); Wolfgang Glatzer (Germany); Kenneth C. Land (USA); Alex Michalos (Canada); Ed Diener (USA)	

### MEMBERS OF THE ISQOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members for the Period January 1, 2005-December 31, 2006	Board Members for the Period January 1, 2007-December 31, 2008
<p style="text-align: center;">Aaron Ahuvia (USA) Jeroen Boelhouwer (NE) Ferran Casas Aznar (SPA) Andrew Clark (FRA) Robert Cummins (AUS) Edward Diener (USA) Richard Easterlin (USA) Liz Eckermann (AUS) Richard Estes (USA) Abbott Ferris (USA) Wolfgang Glatzer (GER) Kenneth Land (USA) Anna Lau (HK) Filomena Maggino (ITA) Mahar Mangahas (PHI) Krishna Mazumdar (IND) Alex Michalos (CAN) Valerie Moller (SAF) Heinz-Herbert Noll (GER) Don Rahtz (USA) Peggy Schyns (NE) M. Joseph Sirgy (USA) Graciela Tonon (ARG) Ruut Veenhoven (NE) Joachim Vogel (SWE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ferran Casas Aznar (SPA) Andrew Clark (FRA) Robert Cummins (AUS) Ed Diener (USA) Richard Easterlin, (USA) Liz Eckermann (AUS) Richard Estes (USA) Abbott Ferriss (USA) Wolfgang Glatzer (GER) Denis Huschka (GER) Mary Joyce (USA) Kenneth C. Land (USA) Anna Lau (HK) Filomena Maggino (ITA) Mahar Mangahas (PHIL) Alex Michalos (CAN) Valerie Møller (SO AFR) Heinz-Herbert Noll (GER) Don Rahtz (USA) Rojas, Mariano (MEX) Peggy Schyns (NETH) Joseph M. Sirgy (USA) Graciela Tonon (ARG) Ruut Veenhoven (NETH) David Webb (AUS)</p>

## ISQOLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The period since I assumed the presidency of ISQOLS in November 2004 has been a very active one indeed. We have made considerable progress in strengthening our organization its services to members and, at the same time, have managed to stay financially afloat.

I will summarize of our major accomplishment (and challenges) by bullet point and, as warranted, we can discuss each in greater depth during our Executive Committee and Board of Director meetings in Grahamstown.

### 1. Administrative Consolidations:

- We moved our administrative headquarters to a commercial location also located close to the Executive Director's, Joe Sirgy, place of work at Virginia Tech. The additional cost to us as organization has bought us a lot more pleasant space in which to perform our administrative services while, at the same time, halting the rapidly increasing cost to us of maintaining our offices at Virginia Tech.

- Thanks to Joe's efforts and that of his able staff we have totally redesigned and enriched our website. The new website is both more welcoming and contains lots more of information of use to members, other scholarly organizations, as well as to potential benefactors.

- Joe is maintaining some part-time clerical support to help with the enormous amount of paper work involved in conducting our international affairs.

### 2. Conferences:

- As president I have had the privilege of contributing to the development of two fully sponsored ISQOLS' conferences-Philadelphia and Grahamstown-and authorizing the organization's co-sponsorship of several others: the 2nd Community Indicators Conference, the Delmenhorst (Germany) conference on "US-European QOL Issues" under the leadership of Wolfgang Glatzer, and at least 3-4 others.

- By vote of the Executive Committee we also have set the dates and venues for our next series of major conferences: 2007 (a tri-national conference to be held December 6-9 in the US-Mexico border city of San Diego, California; Co-Chairs: Alex Michalos [Canada]; Mariano Rojas [Mexico]; Joe Sirgy [USA]); 2009 (dates to be decided, but to be held in Florence, Italy; Chair: Filomena Maggino of the

University of Florence); 2010 or 2011 (dates to be decided, but venue is most likely to be in Singapore or in another nearby East Asian country; Co-Chairs: Robert Cummins and Anna Lau).

- ISQOLS also is continuing to explore the possibility of a joint conference, or at least some joint sessions, with ISOQOLS which, as its primary focus, deals almost exclusively with Quality of Life issues affecting persons with acute and chronic illnesses.

- And ISQOLS continues to be open to serving as at least a co-sponsor of other types of conferences related to our work.

### 3. Leadership and Leadership Development:

- Thanks to the remarkable work of Mary Joyce and the members of her Nominations Committee we have in place the next cohort of leaders for ISQOLS (all of whom are identified under various VP reports):

- Valerie Moller assumes of the presidency of ISQOLS on January 1, 2007.

- A new Executive Committee has been duly elected and those persons also will begin their service on January 1, 2007.

- A new Board of Directors, with many more younger members, also has been elected. The new Board also will assume its responsibilities on January 1, 2007.

- Robert Cummins of Australia is our new president-elect and will serving in that capacity on January 1, 2007.

### 4. Awards:

- Many members of Executive Committee and Board of Directors participated activities in identifying nominees and, subsequently, awardees for each of ISQOLS major awards (the names of the recipients and the members of the selection committees are contained both in the various VP reports contained in this document as well as in the Conference Programme):

- Distinguish QOL Research Award
- Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition
- Distinguished Service Award
- ISQOL Research Fellows
- Best Dissertation Award(s)
- Best article in Social Indicators Research

- Best article in the Journal of Happiness Studies

- In future years, we expect to make "Best Paper Awards" for our two other journals: Journal of Macromarketing (JMM) and our new Journal of Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL)

### 5. Publications:

- Publications remains one of the principal activities of ISQOLS and, the past two years, have been active in promoting publication of QOL contact as before. More specifically:

- Social Indicators Research remains the premier journal in the publication of quality of life theory and research;

- The Journal of Happiness Studies (JOHS), though growing more slowly, is gaining momentum and continues to publish highly innovative, cross-national comparative studies of the subjective aspects of quality of life;

- Under Joe Sirgy and Alex Michalos's leadership we now have our very own journal, Journal of Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL). This journal is included in the ISQOLS membership fee and will be distributed at an additional nominal cost to all members are fully paid. Important from my perspective is many copies of what we know will be a highly successful journal will be distributed without charge to major libraries located in low-income countries.

- SINET, under Ken Land's Editorship, has continued to expand and deepen the content of thrice-yearly newsletter. We are fortunate that Ken has agreed to serve in this capacity for an additional two years under Valerie's presidency.

- Ken Land and his team of 40+ contributors are slowly completing work on the three (perhaps 4) volume Handbook of Social Indicators and Quality of Life Research (HSI&QOLR). The Handbook will be unparalleled in the field and will be made available both in print and electronic copies. The Handbook will be continuous updated electronically and, from time to time, new print editions will be released. ISQOLS is grateful to Welmoed Spahr and her team at Springer for their good will in helping to make the Handbook a success.

- ISQOLS Social Indicators Research

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Book Series continues to add new volumes to the collection, including the soon to be released collection of selected papers from the Philadelphia Conference, *Advancing Quality of Life in a Turbulent World*.

#### 6. Other Accomplishments Since November 2004:

- With a lot of work, and under the leadership of our immediate Past President, Wolfgang Glatzer, ISQOLS has a new set of by-laws that better reflect the way we actually do our business. The by-laws, though highly prescriptive in nature (as they should be), also gives us a lot of room to grow and to move into new venture. I am deeply indebted to Wolfgang, Mary Joyce and Joe Sirgy for the many hours of effort they invested in the reversionary process.
- Introduction of first QOL Certification Program.
- Under the leadership of Joe Sirgy and Don Rahtz, in cooperation with Virginia and the Consortium for Indicators (CIC), ISQOLS will introduce the first of several QOL Certification programs next year. The certification process will involve a formal application and, once accepted, applicant participation in a series of lectures to be developed over the internet. Some supervised field work also may be involved, as well as other learning experiences.
- Joe and Don currently are putting the curriculum together and, once in place, will likely serve as the model for additional certification programs in the "subjective aspects of QOL research", "the objective aspects of QOL research", "QOL research in the workplace, and so on.
- In due course, my hope is that ISQOLS will be able to establish an "Academy of Certified QOL Researchers". The academy would award certificates of completion in conjunction with the international universities and other research centers where students of QOL theory, research and practice would carry out both their course and field work.
- Michael Frisch has tried valiantly to sustain an Oral History project of ISQOLS pioneers. Indeed, we have taped interviews of Ed Diener and Alex Michalos, and Joe managed to videotape the special session with former ISQOLS presidents held at the Philadelphia conference. The project, though, is "resource starved" and truly needs a number of people to work with

Michael if it is to be successful. My hope is that Valerie and her team will be able to work with Michael in realizing the very rich potential associated with the project.

#### Challenges Confronting ISQOLS Over the Near-Term:

Despite our many accomplishment, and those that are still forthcoming, as an organization ISQOLS does face a number of changes...some rather serious in nature—all having to do with money. Again, I will simply list them in bullet point for further discussion in Grahamstown.

- Financing of our varied organizational activities. In essence, ISQOLS survives year-to-year on income generated from conference fees and membership dues. Unfortunately, the surpluses that both activities sometime generate are not sufficient to allow us to plan more prospectively. Always we are counting our pennies to be sure that we have enough to stay afloat.
- ISQOLS urgently needs to develop an Endowment Fund, the interest from which can be used to support the organization's development (both administrative and programmatic). We have received our first \$5,000 challenge grant in support of setting up an Endowment Fund and, with the help of our board members, this amount should be doubled over the next several months. In the end, though, we need an Endowment of approximately \$500,000 to generate about \$25,000-\$30,000 annually to support our development work (e.g., in publications; when necessary, to support travel expenses of our major award recipients; to update our office equipment; and, soon, to pay for the time of a part-time Executive Director/Treasurer).
- To date, ISQOLS has not been successful in establishing a Solidarity Fund to subsidize the cost of travel to our meetings for persons from low-income economies. In the main, we have depended on the generosity of individual members and the host institutions where our conferences have been held to provide critical financial support to our members from low-income economies. Thus, and in addition to establishing our Endowment Fund, we need to put some realistic thinking into how to create a solvent Solidarity Fund to be used exclusively for the purposes listed above.
- Joe Sirgy has indicated that he will not seek renomination for another term as our Executive Director when his present tenure ends in 2009. Joe feels strongly, as do

I, that ISQOLS has grown sufficiently large and complex, such that the position of Executive Director/Treasurer should be a compensated rather than volunteer position. As the leadership group we need to figure out how to generate the funds to support a part Executive Director position. Joe's departure from the position also means that the office will be moved to the location of the new Executive Director...yet another expense for us.

~ Richard J. Estes

#### THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES: HEADQUARTERS AND WWW HOMEPAGE

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 2006 membership fees are US\$75 for regular members and \$50 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.

The ISQOLS central office recently moved to new physical and virtual locations. Please note the new addresses:

International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)  
1800 Kraft Drive, Suite 111  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-6370, USA  
Office: (540) 231-5110; fax: (540) 961-4162  
E-mail: isqols@vt.edu  
Website: www.isqols.org



## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

Most of my efforts since our last general meeting in Philadelphia 2004 have been directed towards bringing a globally representative body of members to the 2006 annual meeting at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. I was on sabbatical between November 2004 and September 2005 and used the opportunity to travel around the world to get a better feel for our constituency. Among other, I visited the Social Weather Stations in the Philippines where I presented the first in their seminar series for their 20th birthday year. I traveled over Indonesia and the States back to Europe where I met several research partners and ISQOLS members including my conference co-chair, Denis Huschka.

The major challenge for the first ISQOLS conference to be held in a developing country and Africa was to attract a mix of First and Third World participants. The first group was disinclined to travel the long distance to the south during the northern hemisphere summer and the latter group could not afford to do so. Ironically, the fact that the conference was held in Africa does not offset travel costs for African members as flights within the continent are excessively expensive.

We tried to keep conference fees as low and inclusive as possible so that attendees would have few additional expenses once they had arrived at destination. All meals, teas and coffee, the awards banquet, the conference programme, and the abstract booklet were included in the conference fee of US\$ for members. We offered a reduced fare shuttle service and reasonably priced residence accommodation.

In the end we attracted some 150 delegates from some 37 countries. Participants came from Asia, Europe, the Arctic, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and Australia/New Zealand. There was a mix of new and former members of ISQOLS, a range of academic disciplines, postgraduates and faculty and professionals in research organisations. We were able to welcome a wheelchair bound delegate. Virtually every Third World applicant pleaded poverty and expected a conference fee waiver and travel support. We offered fee waivers and four nights' accommodation to some 13 delegates from low-income countries and award winners, paid for fees for a further 6 African members, and provided

travel support and accommodation to one Latin American delegate.

However, at the last minute we had to increase fees by US\$25 for non-members to include the ARQOL subscription. We decided to charge the conference fee in US dollars to facilitate online conference payments and to avoid possible losses due to the fluctuation of the Rand and increases in petrol prices. During the period that we collected conference fees, the Rand/dollar exchange rate fluctuated by approximately 1 Rand to the dollar. There were many late registrations that were in our favour. However, we foresee that when we actually return start-up funds, the Rand value will have lost.

Rhodes University provided excellent organisational back-up for the conference and assisted in trimming costs where possible. For instance, there were no charges for the conference venues and the dining facilities, a nominal charge for data projectors (US\$3!), and no charges for our website. The university city is accustomed to hosting international festivals and conferences and we benefited from this expertise. Arrangements were simple but we felt in keeping when meeting in a developing country setting. ISQOLS colleagues were enthusiastic and most co-operative in conference which made it a pleasure to act as host. As there were few distractions; ISQOLS members were a captive audience for 4-5 days. This conference situation may have been conducive to networking among ISQOLS members which is one of the aims of the organisation.

Regarding the scientific programme, Denis and I picked up from where we had left off at the members' meeting in Philadelphia in December 2004. We contacted all members who had volunteered to act as track chairs as well as persons who had acted as track chairs in the past. The conference organisation was web-based and communication was exclusively by email which meant that some students and persons based in countries with unreliable internet services may not have been reached.

Denis Huschka assisted as conference co-chair and webmaster. He visited South Africa twice in the run-up to the conference: In October 2004 to set up the website through the Rhodes University system, and again between late April and August to assist in organising and running the conference. I could not have coped with-

out Denis' technical expertise and collegial support.

We found Don Rahtz's conference guidelines most useful (a copy is reproduced below) and followed them regarding timing and the structure of the meeting. Delegates could follow any one of four overarching tracks over four days: Methodology and theory; domains; regional QOL; and QOL among specific groups. Emphasis was given to themes relevant to Africa and low-income country settings that would also interest members from other parts of the world. We complied with Don's guidelines regarding sessions of 1 ½ hours length, some 3-4 papers per session, and four concurrent sessions (which could be accommodated under one roof, freeing up circulation time to augment tea time).

In the interest of simplicity we organizing only paper sessions but members were free to use notice boards at no extra charge to communicate their research during tea time.

We had a plenary at the beginning and end of the day. Some plenaries doubled as public lectures to showcase QOL to the general public. To keep travel and accommodation costs as low as possible, plenary speakers were recruited from members, award winners and colleagues. Most of the awards were received in person. It was gratifying that so many of the younger award winners, also some who had not planned to come to the conference, were able to travel to Africa to receive their honours in person.

With hindsight, preparation for the conference brought me in touch with a wide range of members. I must have sent and received thousands of emails in the course of the last ten months and some of the correspondents I also met in person. I hope that interaction with members will put a more personal face to the challenges that ISQOLS faces when I take over as president next year. And, although it was a pleasure and privilege, I am delighted to know that colleagues will have the responsibility of organizing our next meeting!

~ Valerie Moller



## ISQOLS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This is a summary of activities directly related to the position of ISQOLS Executive Director/Treasurer and the Central Office.

**Move of Central Office:** We made a physical move from my office at Virginia Tech to another office located within another business (ORCA Computer Inc.) at the Corporate Research Center next to Virginia Tech. We had to move because new university regulations dictated that all funds coming to offices at Virginia Tech have to go through the university accounting system. Doing so would necessitate charging ISQOLS overhead expenses plus burdening us with a huge bureaucracy. We now rent office space at \$600 that covers rent of office space (with office furniture), two computers with all of the necessary office software, and a server that hosts ISQOLS website (plus some degree of IT support). We moved our website from Virginia Tech to the new office location and in doing so acquired our new website domain name: www.isqols.org.

**Publications:** Two sets of publication initiatives are related to the financial situation of ISQOLS and the position of the Executive Director/Treasurer. These are: (1) establishing our new journal (Applied Research in Quality of Life-ARQOL) and (2) initiating an Encyclopedia project-both projects are with Springer Publishers. Besides the scholarly benefit of these two projects, we felt eager to develop these projects because they can provide financial support to ISQOLS in the long run. Alex Michalos (with Richard Estes and Joe Sirgy) are leading the ARQOL project, whereas Ken Land is leading the encyclopedia project. In relation to the ARQOL project, we negotiated a contract with Springer to co-own the journal and obtain royalties from its sales. Our obligation to Springer is to pay Springer \$25/subscription (a minimum of 200 subscriptions). The journal would be distributed to all ISQOLS members free of charge. To do this we had to raise our membership dues by \$25. Thus, regular members dues increased from \$50 to \$75, retired/student member dues went from \$25 to \$50, and charter membership went from \$300 to \$300 (first year) and \$25 thereafter.

**Website:** We revamped the website in an attempt to automate much of the information involved in the membership database. The new website is now more versatile than ever. The system allows people to

apply for membership online, register for conferences online, order publications online, and donate money to the foundation online. The expertise database allows people to go into the system, enter their profile directly, and make changes when needed. The website also features additional bibliographic resources and oral history clips (Alex Michalos, Abbott Ferris, Ed Diener, Josh Samli, and Richard Easterlin), plus other resources.

**Bylaws:** Wolfgang (immediate past president) was charged by the current president to chair a committee (with Mary Joyce and Joe Sirgy) to modify the bylaws making them consistent with our *modus operandi*. The new bylaws were approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The outcome reflected two significant structural changes directly impacting the Central Office and ISQOLS future financial situation. One change is related to changing the position of the Executive Director/Treasurer from a 5-year elected position to a 2-year appointed position (appointed by the president and ratified by the Board). I made the motion about this change because I will be stepping down from my position in 2009 and I cannot foresee a new elected Executive Director putting in the kind of time and effort managing the central office without some form of compensation. Like all growing and professionally-run societies, we need to start thinking of hiring a professional manager (possibly starting out in 2010 with a 20-hour/week position with no benefits). Similarly, a growing society needs a professional fund raiser. Our past efforts in fund raising have not been successful. Serious fund raising requires expertise and investment of time and energy. The new bylaws reflect a change in the development position—a change from a 2-year elected position to a 2-year appointed position (appointed by the president). Doing so would allow the president to hire a professional fund raiser. Again, we will need to think of ways to bring this type of professional on board in 2009-10 and ways of compensating this individual. Hiring a professional fund raiser is extremely important to the financial health of ISQOLS.

**Certification Programs:** Another way to contribute to the financial health of ISQOLS is to conduct many workshops to train researchers to become professional QOL researchers and become certified as such. One possible certification program Don Rahtz and I are building is related to com-

munity QOL research. The program targets researchers who work closely with community (city, town, county, and regional) planners to monitor the social health of their locale. We hope to complete the Community QOL Indicators Program by the end of this year—ready for launch early next year. We hope others will follow suit and develop their own certification programs. Again, I believe these programs can improve ISQOLS' financial situation.

**Financial Situation:** Our financial situation remains meager but "under control." We continue to operate with the lowest possible overhead. We have one part-time office assistant who works approximately 5-10 hours/week (paid at \$7.50/hr) and a webmaster averaging 4-5 hours a week (paid at \$15/hr). Our major expense is directly related to online banking—allowing people to use their credit card to make payments online. Such a system is necessary in light of the fact that ISQOLS is an international society and many of the international members are faced with currency and money transfer problems. My vision and hope for ISQOLS is to be financially sound and secure to help serve many of our QOL researchers worldwide. To do so, we have to aim to have a minimum positive cash flow of \$100,000/year in addition to healthy endowments related to specific awards, scholarships, dissertation research grants, etc. We are not anywhere close to this goal but my hope is that we (collectively) can make significant progress towards that goal in the next five years.

**Cash Flow Statement:** ISQOLS has a positive cash flow (more income than expenses). Over the last 10-11 years, we have generated \$407,099.14 in income and had \$349,627.40 in expenses. We have a positive cash flow of \$57,471.74. The vast majority of our income comes from conference registrations, followed by conference co-sponsorships, and membership dues. Large expenses are mostly related to conferences, affiliation with the CIC (giving back money to the Community Indicators Consortium that was raised on their behalf), printing and mailing, paying journal subscriptions (those that come through ISQOLS), banking charges (online transactions related to conference registration, membership application, and ordering publications), website development and maintenance, and office-related costs, in that order.

~ Joe Sirgy

## SHARING THE ISQOLS VISION

I write to share with members of ISQOLS the vision of having several regional/specialty conferences to maintain the viability of the organization. ISQOLS is here to serve QOL researchers worldwide, and we hope to help many, many QOL researchers in a variety of ways for many years to come. Our focus is always on expanding our network and enhancing our financial position to reach out and help as many as possible over the long run.

Allow me to share my vision of ISQOLS into the future. I believe this vision is shared by many people in ISQOLS leadership position including Richard Estes, Alex Michalos, Ed Diener, Wolfgang Glatzer, Ken Land, Josh Samli, Don Rahtz, and others, and hopefully you. This reminds me of today's teleconference with the board of the Community Indicators Consortium (CIC for short--the organization that ISQOLS helped spawn focusing on community QOL indicators). As you know, the CIC is in its infancy, and we are trying hard to breath life into it. Its survival is still in jeopardy. One board member was very frustrated today and kept asking "what is our economic model?" (i.e., what is the business foundation which would allow the CIC to draw resources and serve the membership in the best way possible). So let me begin by borrowing our colleague's question: "What is ISQOLS economic model?" This is very important because our ability to serve many QOL researchers is very much dependent on whether our economic model is sustainable in the long run. My vision of the economic model is borrowed from another international society that I have served over the many years, namely the Academy of Marketing Science (AMS). I served AMS in a variety of VP positions culminating several years ago into the presidency. I am now the immediate past president of AMS. AMS is an international society of marketing professors worldwide. We have around 1,500 members and we may grow in size but not significantly so. AMS has been around since the early 70's (it is around 30 years old). ISQOLS is around 10 years old, and I hope that ISQOLS would be in a position to serve QOL researchers in the same way that AMS has served (and will continue to serve) the marketing professoriate worldwide. What is AMS economic model? Currently, AMS' annual income amounts to around \$320,000 and \$290,000 in expenses. The society always had a positive cash flow from which the surplus is deposited into its foundation account. Over the years the foundation account grew to about a 1.5 million dollars. Through the foundation we fund many projects, dissertation grants, awards of all kinds, and we reach out to third-world marketing professors and institutions and provide them with needed resources. But we do this by spending the interest accrued from "most" of the money in foundation account. Our revenue stream does not come from membership fees only but also from conferences (we have one annual conference mostly held in North America, one international conference held in a variety of countries--we try to rotate locations, and about four specialty conferences), publications (our flagship journal--the Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science--makes around \$100,000/year in royalties alone, not counting the sale of our other publications). Additional revenue is generated through fund raising activity (mostly from old marketing professors who want to help AMS help others) and other foundations. In sum, I believe that AMS has a sustainable economic model.

Now the question is how did AMS get to this "nice" position? The AMS executive committee makes all kinds of financial decisions and most of these decisions are "conservative." What does this mean? For example, for every conference (national, international, and specialty conferences) we require the chairperson to work closely with our VP-Programs to develop a budget and submit that budget for approval to the executive committee. We do lend advance money to the chairs to plan and run the conference, but we also expect a "surplus" to come back to AMS coffers. Fortunately we had only a few instances in which we lost money on conferences. As I said,

we make financial decisions conservatively.

Now let me be very specific about ISQOLS financial situation. We worked very hard to build a "little cushion" (i.e., our cash flow situation is positive). But our foundation coffers are "empty." To be able to maintain our viability to serve QOL researchers in the long run, we need to build our foundation coffers. Richard Estes has been working hard to do this. Among the many things he did in relation to fund raising, he made a sizable contribution, followed by Alex Michalos. We hope that this is the beginning of a good fund raising campaign. In the next few months, I'll work hard to try to get other ISQOLS members to make their own contributions (working closely with our VP-Development). We now have a new VP-Development (C.B. Claiborne) who pledged to me that he will try his best to do better (than his predecessors) in fund raising for the society.

With respect to conferences, yes we need many more conferences to reach out to many QOL researchers worldwide. But also we need to be conservative in the way we conduct those conferences to ensure their success (including financial success). We cannot afford to lose money on conferences. Our financial position can dwindle rapidly and significantly by conference losses.

Part of the economic model is publications and revenue generated from publications. Over the last several years I begged and pleaded to have our own journal. Of course we want to serve QOL researchers through disseminating knowledge, but also that journal will be an important source of revenue in the long run (once its reputation becomes established). The launch of the encyclopedia project is also motivated by financial concerns. The best papers published by Kluwer/Springer as volumes in the Social Indicators Research Book Series also generate royalties for ISQOLS. Part of my vision for ISQOLS is to expand our publication efforts to publish our own books. For example, Don Rahtz and I have made the decision not to publish volume 3 (Community QOL Indicators: Best Cases) through Springer. We received \$1,500 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and we will use this money to print volume 3 as an ISQOLS publication. We will use this as stepping stone to encourage others to do the same. We can serve many QOL researchers (and also generate a stream of revenue) if we publish books related to best practices, annotated bibliographies, handbooks, and other "bibliographic" material. We need our VP-Publications to help us with this vision.

Another potential source of revenue (and also a great service to QOL researchers) is certification programs. Many QOL researchers (e.g., community indicators researchers) seek professional training and want that training be certified. We can serve many QOL specialists by offering training workshops at conferences and through the web. We are now exploring the idea of doing webinars. We need to do much in this department too.

In sum, I thought it would be a good idea to share with you my vision of ISQOLS (that I believe is shared by our current and past presidents) and ask you to share with us your vision of ISQOLS and your ideas of the "economic model." This is a good way to have a meeting of the minds. Right? I am cc: this message to Estes, Michalos, Moller, and Rahtz to encourage them to get involved in this conversation.

~ Joe Sirgy

# The 1st International Society for Child Indicators Conference

Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal

June 26-28, 2007  
Chicago, Illinois

Organized by International Society for Child Indicators and hosted by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago

## About ISCI

The ultimate purpose of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) is to contribute to improving the well-being of the world's children. A specific goal of ISCI is, first, to develop a network dedicated to improving measures and data resources, rigorous analysis of the data, exploration of theoretical issues, presentation of information, and the dissemination of information about the status of children. A second goal is to enhance the capacity of the field, especially for countries that are in the initial stages of producing child well-being indicators. Third, we seek to identify and develop ways to facilitate the dissemination and application of indicators to policy and practice. For a full description, information and for joining ISCI please see [www.childindicators.org](http://www.childindicators.org)

## Theme of the Conference

The conference theme seeks to explore how child indicators can be used to improve the development and well-being of the world's children. The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for all participants to discuss relevant issues, make networks, share resources and collaborate in an effort to promote the well-being of all children using child indicators.

## The conference is focused on the following sub-themes:

- Theory and conceptual frameworks of child indicators
- Measurement, data, and methods issues
- Child indicators as measures of present or future child well-being
- Dissemination of child indicators
- Advocacy using child indicators
- Policy development using child indicators
- Children's participation in the development and implementation of indicators
- Child indicators with cultural variations
- Child indicators across borders
- Information technology and child indicators



# Call For Papers Applied Research in Quality of Life

The Official Journal of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

The aim of this journal is to publish conceptual, methodological and empirical papers dealing with quality-of-life studies in the applied areas of the natural and social sciences. As the official journal of ISQOLS, it is designed to attract papers that have some direct implications for or impact on practical applications of research on the quality-of-life. We welcome papers crafted from inter-disciplinary, inter-professional and international perspectives. This research should guide decision making in a variety of professions, industries, non-profit, and government sectors such as healthcare, travel and tourism, marketing, corporate management, community planning, social work, public administration, human resource management, among others. The goal is to help decision makers apply performance measures and outcome assessment techniques based on concepts such as well-being, human satisfaction, human development, happiness, wellness and quality of life. The Editorial Review Board is divided into specific sections indicating the broad scope of practice covered by the journal, and the section editors are distinguished scholars from many countries across the globe.

Authors interested in submitting manuscripts for publication should consult the website <http://ariq.edmgr.com>. Manuscripts should be directed to the relevant Section Editor of the Editorial Review Board. If an appropriate Section Editor can not be identified, direct the manuscript to the current Editor in Chief, Michalos.



# REPORT ON ISQOLS STRATEGIC PLAN

## AND

### CONFERENCE VENUES

This report is divided into six sections. The first five of these relate to the strategic plan. These sections are:

- I) Conference cycles,
- II) Conference program guidelines,
- III) Expansion of conference formats,
- IV) Conference payment policies,
- V) Conference contract guidelines and,
- VI) Suggested conference venues for years 2006 to 2010.

#### ***I) Conference Cycles and Timing***

1) ISQOLS is committed to run its conferences on an approximately 18 month cycle.

-The 18 month cycle is used to allow sufficient planning windows for each following conference. This cycle is the optimal desired cycle. If, however, the board wishes to endorse the proposal in Part III below the main conference cycle may wish to move to a two year cycle. This two year cycle would allow us to pick a month of the year to target as the usual conference month for the group.

2) Given the International nature of ISQOLS, the ISQOLS conference shall rotate each conference between North America and a non-North American site.

-The North American conference will be held in November or December.

-The non-North American conference will be held in May, June, or July.

3) To allow for optimal planning and promotion, ISQOLS will always have 3 sequential conference sites and dates selected and approved by the board.

-For example: Washington DC, USA, November/December 2001;

Frankfurt Germany, Summer 2003, Philadelphia Winter 2004

4) Any ISQOLS member is allowed to suggest sites for the conferences and present suggestions to the board in an open meeting.

5) The Call for Papers (as approved by the Program Committee) for the conference must be ready for mailing no later than 10

months prior to the conference in question. A second mailing will be mailed 6 months before the conference takes place.

6) The Final Conference Program Schedule and Registration information shall be mailed no later than 90 days prior to the conference.

7) The Program Committee, in consultation with the executive director, will establish a conference web-site to coincide with the Call for Papers.

8) The ISQOLS board by majority vote may choose to change conference venues up until 12 months before the conference for what are deemed by the board "appropriate reasons."

#### ***II) Conference Program Guidelines***

1) Given the interdisciplinary nature of ISQOLS, it is the intent of ISQOLS to try and merge as many of the individual disciplines' requirements into the conference format as make logistical and financial sense. (for example: Some disciplines will fund trips only with tangible evidence of participation through a proceedings.

2) Each conference shall have a program committee made up of the Vice-President for Programs and two (or three if necessary) other ISQOLS members as specified by the ISQOLS board. This program committee is to be formed to begin work on the conference as soon as the venue for the particular conference is established by the full ISQOLS board. This program committee shall work closely with the President and Executive Director of ISQOLS to maintain the level of professionalism and academic excellence required for the organization.

3) Track Chairs shall be recruited by the conference program committee to act as advocates for the conference and editorial staff for submitted papers. The specifics of the track chair composition is at the discretion of the Program Chairs in consultation with the Executive Director and President of ISQOLS. A full page abstract must be submitted for potential papers, or special session to the track chairs for assessment. Each track chair is expected to put together at least one special session of a minimum

of 3 papers for the conference.

4) ISQOLS is committed to the idea of Plenary Sessions and will attempt to provide the optimal number of plenary sessions for each conference. A minimum of one a day is proposed.

5) Presenters in Plenary sessions are to be limited to appearance in no more than two of the Plenary sessions.

6) ISQOLS is committed to each conference having "special track themes" for sessions during the day. For example: A "Social Indicators Measurement" track for the day. Sessions will be aligned in such a way as to allow someone interested in measurement to attend a series of sessions during the day that all focused on the measurement issue. Scheduling of "like sessions" at competing times will be avoided, if at all possible.

7) A hard copy of conference abstracts will be published and made available to conference attendees at conference check-in. Program committee members will act as editors. Abstracts included in this publication must meet the minimum specified requirements for abstract submission.

8) An edited volume of the best papers from the conference will be published from each conference. As with the conference abstracts, Program Chairs will act as editors for the volume.

9) Workshops should be planned for either prior or post conference to help defray costs of the conference. Workshops will be aimed at practitioners and utilize ISQOLS members. Revenue between the presenters and ISQOLS will be divided on some agreed upon percentage.

10) Conference size will be targeted at 125 to 175 presenter participants. This size is felt to be optimal for both scheduling and intimacy. Full conference attendance is to be targeted at between 200 and 300 individuals.

11) Session lengths will be targeted to 1 1/2 hours. Three papers per session are the preferred amount. Paper presentation length is 20 minutes unless otherwise

*(Continued on next page.)*

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agreed upon.

12) The number of concurrent sessions should be limited to a maximum of 5 competing sessions. ISQOLS will seek to minimize this number whenever possible.

13) Participants in concurrent sessions are limited to no more than 3 appearances on sole author presentations.

14) Sessions chairs will be assigned for each of the sessions. No discussants shall be used. It is felt the non-use of discussants will aid in audience participation.

**III) Expansion of Conference Formats**

1) Explore other conference avenues to increase membership and participation by practitioners and public policy people. A current proposal is to offer yearly or every two years a conference in each part of the world that would not conflict with our central conference, but build brand awareness and provide an outlet to keep ISQOLS members active from all the continents.

Proposed Regional One/Two Year Cycle Conferences

A) SEA and ASIA: Seoul, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Tokyo

B) Europe: Amsterdam, Geneva, Florence, Budapest, Frankfurt, etc

C) The Americas: Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Rio, Caribbean, USA, Canada

D) Africa and the Middle East: Grahamstown, Cairo

2) Focus on specialty and regional conferences which contain one or two day workshops. These specialty workshops will allow prominent ISQOLS members to interact with practitioners and public policy people and teach them (raise their awareness concerning ) about QOL related issues.(Done with Williamsburg conference for City Planners; Conference was very successful in both participation and profit.) Conference budget final accounting report submitted by the Executive Director.

3) Bob Cummins has noted that the Singapore based "QOL in Cities" conferences were always well attended. Maybe we can think about heading into Singapore within the next 2 years resurrecting the QOL in Cities as a broader QOL conference sponsored by ISQOLS.

4) If ISQOLS becomes more of a sponsoring organization who works with a local

university it becomes a potentially appealing way to highlight QOL and ISQOLS. The regional conferences noted in 3) above can be "home based" where we pick a university and build a permanent home, or traveling where we "go out and about" at rotating institutions. At the local conference, ISQOLS experts also run the workshops for QOL certification for local public policy types. If we run something like QOL in Cities every two years in the same area it brings stability and some cash flow. Our experts can sort of do a "road show" on QOL for the locals. At the same time there is an academic element for the presentation of papers by academic. This is almost the type of model we had planned for Geneva before that conference got hijacked from us. The CIC in the USA has the model for here in the USA. Bob's conferences in Australia fit the model for there.

5) Conferences from #2 above can be stand-alone programs or be built onto the front or backend of the ISQOLS regular conferences. It is recommended that they involve both. It is suggested that AT A MINIMUM one of these workshops/conferences be conducted once a year.

6) From the database of members, it is suggested that experts be drawn to develop a menu of available programs.

7) ISQOLS members should be encouraged to develop these workshops and contact the Executive Director and VP of Programs to see about ISQOLS sponsorship.

8) VP of Programs should pursue Grant opportunities for the expansion of Quality of Life measurement workshops in developing economies. This is recommended to increase the exposure of QOL to emergent economy decision makers.

**IV) Conference Payment Guidelines**

All payments for Conference Registration shall be handled in USD denominations paid through the ISQOLS office. Included in the conference registration fee payment should be an amount equal to an 18 month membership in ISQOLS. This amount is currently \$50.00. For any local registrations handled by the local conference organizers, this \$50.00 USD fee should also be included and ultimately forwarded to the ISQOLS main office in a timely manner following the conference completion.

All local accommodations shall be paid in local currency through the local chair or directly to the property hosting the conference whichever is appropriate.

The use of credit cards for conference registration payment should be used through the main office to aid in attracting a more global participation.

Credit cards are to be used through ISQOLS, thus the cost of maintaining and operating the credit card (VISA or Mastercard) will be passed on to the membership.

A refund procedure needs to be worked out that will be in place for all ISQOLS events. Full refunds are available up to 60 days prior to the conference. A 50% refund is available up until 30 days prior to the conference. Within 30 days prior to the conference there is no refund available.

**V) Conference Contract Guidelines**

1) All contracts for hotel and conference facilities must be signed off by the Executive Director for ISQOLS.

**VI) Proposed Main Conference Venues 2006-2010**

1) Africa. July 2006 Rhodes University South Africa

2) North America San Diego, in November/December 2007.

3) Europe in June / July 2009. Florence, Italy

4) Back to North America (or other continent) in November/December 2010 (Proposals are requested)

~ Don Rahtz and Peggy Schyns, Vice Presidents of Programs





## PUBLICITY AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES FOR ISQOLS

Can we attract more members? Historically, apart from a core group of ISQOLS people, we bring in new members through the conference, because it is either cheaper or just as cheap to join ISQOLS and go to the conference as a member, as to go to the conference as a non-member. This strategy has worked to a certain extent, although it's not the way to build members who will stay with us.

Question. What percentage of members who join to go to the conference actually renew their membership?

Apart from cheaper conference registration, members enjoy the following benefits (this list is taken from the ISQOLS website).

- Three issues of Social Indicators Network News (SINET) every year
- Free access to back issues of SINET
- Four issues of Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) every year
- ISQOLS membership directory
- Significant subscription discounts for Social Indicators Research (SIR) and the Journal of Happiness Studies (JHS)
- Significant discount to books in Springer's Social Indicators Research Book Series
- Significant discount to ISQOLS conferences and publications
- Communications with other QOL researchers through a listserv
- Putting up one's personal (or one's institute) expertise profile on ISQOLS homepage
- Getting recognized for important work through ISQOLS awards program
- Apply for research support through ISQOLS Foundation
- Free access to lectures, slide presentations, and other educational resources from ISQOLS website
- Free access to oral histories of guru QOL researchers from ISQOLS website

SINET, although we all love it dearly, is not going to convince a waiver to cough up the 50 dollars a year. Nor are the reductions to SIR and JoHS significant enough to attract membership (this is a guess, but it feels right).

In terms of the non-journal and non-conference benefits, we think that these are good, but again not enough to attract people per se in large numbers. In terms of the experience of one of us (Clark), I have never had anyone contact me via my expertise page, and the listserv announcements are sporadic, and often to do with publications. We would like to know more about frequency of access to lectures, slide presentations and oral histories. Do we have separate hit or download numbers for these resources.

A related point: do you really need to be a member to post an announcement on the listserv? There have been a number of job announcements over the past six months (which is actually a very good use of the listserv): did these all emanate from institutional members?

Of course, one thing has changed, and in a positive way, over the past year: that is the establishment of ARQOL. The joint offer of society membership and journal subscription, at a price that makes it sensible to be an ISQOLS member to subscribe to ARQOL, is likely a big step forward in attracting (and keeping) members. The combination of Society and Journal is not at all unusual in Economics:

Society of Labor Economists	Journal of Labor Economics
European Association of Labour Economists	Labour Economics
European Economic Association	Journal of the European Economic Association (catchy name!)
Royal Economic Society	Economic Journal

It is a fair bet to say that the majority of these societies would find it difficult to carry on without publishing a professional journal.

One question is whether we could have reduced rates for members from developing countries. Some societies/journals do this. The membership fee for the American Economic Association is explicitly related to individual salary.

A last point is that ISQOLS feels somewhat US-based. In particular, conference timing and location means that we only meet in Europe once every three years, and this time around (although it's a one-off) we won't meet in Europe for almost five years.

Would there be any use in running an ISQOLS Europe workshop? There is a lot of interest in subjective well-being in Europe at the moment. Would Denis Huschka be interested in this?

On the publicity front, apart from personal initiatives extolling the virtues of ISQOLS, it would be useful to have flyers put in the conference packs at some of the major conferences where people might be interested in our work. This may happen at the ISA. But at the meetings of the Income and Wealth people, or Positive Psychology?

~ Andrew Clark and Ferran Casas, Vice Presidents of Publicity/Membership

## ISQOLS' ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Throughout the biennium "2004-2006" the activity of the Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs was focused on the planning and accomplishment of Best Dissertation Awards competition that was scheduled and carried out as follow:

- September 3, 2005: official launch of the Call for Dissertation (appendix A) by ISQOLS. Both Vice-Presidents (VPs) proceed with promoting the Call of Dissertation also through other academic channels.
- March 13, 2006: the list of the dissertations submitted at the due date is in Appendix B. In the mean time, Aaron Ahuvia announced his resignations from this commitment because of his increased work in developing countries.
- With the agreement of Joe Sirgy - concerning the procedure - and Valerie Moller - concerning the timing - it was decided to individuate and to nominate five reviewers among the components of the Executive Committee (E.C.), and to plan the end of the evaluation procedure within the beginning of May. Afterwards, the V.P. proceeded (on the 13th of March) in contacting the possible components. This commitment turned out to be much more exacting than expected because of many refusals, even if almost always justified. This caused a postponement of the end of the evaluation committee's work (the 20th of May).
- March 24, 2006: the nominated evaluation committee - composed by Don Rahtz, Joe Sirgy and the V.P. - began the evaluation procedure. The members could express their evaluations through a particular form (Appendix C).
- In the mean time, three further submissions arrived out of the deadline. They were invited to submit next year.
- May 18, 2006: conclusion of the work of the evaluation committee, as scheduled.
- May 19, 2006: transmission of the results to the ISQOLS President. The final decision of the committee is reported in Appendix D.

The Committee had some difficulty in taking the final decision since each submitted dissertations, even if interesting and deserving a special mention, were not completely comparable (from the methodological and substantial point of view). Besides, the length of the abstract (at least twenty pages) of each dissertation did not allow the involvement of the other components of the E.C. in the evaluation process.

- May 30, 2006: notification of the results to the authors of the awarded dissertations.
- June 3, 2006: the great majority of the components of E.C. confirmed - through a voting procedure - the evaluation committee decision concerning the first choice and the honorable mentions.

### Comments, remarks and proposals

The V.P. of Academic Affairs would like to enlarge the circulation list for the Call of Dissertations in order to promote a greater diffusion in the future. On this issue, the V.P. would like to receive some suggestions from the members of the E.C.

The V.P. would like to fix some specification regarding the evaluation-procedure matter.

From the formal point of view, it is much more correct to involve

directly all the components of the E.C. in the examination of the submitted dissertations, aside from their number. From the practical point of view, it is realistic to consider impossible that all the components of the E.C. could be involved in this.

As it happens in almost all the representative institutions, in these cases it is usual to nominate a committee that in this way receives a formal and substantial credit from the components of the E.C. The responsibility of this kind of nomination is (can be generally) delegated to the institutional figure that formally is involved in the process (in this case, the V.P. of Academic Affairs).

As a result, the evaluation committee can work autonomously and the E.C. is expected to express (or not) the approval regarding the final decision.

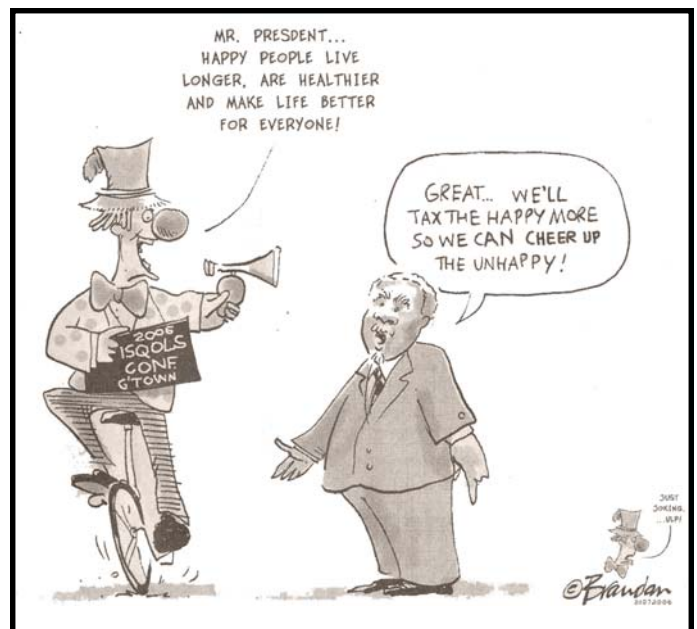
In other words, the meaning of the votes of the members of the E.C. on the final decision of the evaluation committee can be considered - in some sense - as an approval of the evaluation committee work and, consequently, of the responsibility of the V.P.

In our last occasion, we have to notice that many difficulties were met by the V.P. in order to form the evaluation committee (i.e., many refusals received from the components of the E.C.), the evaluation committee did not receive a formal credit, even if the V.P. relied on the substantial agreement of the E.C. in proceeding in this.

In order to avoid any future observation that could sound - even if vaguely - as a dubious remark on the work of the evaluation committee, the V.P. would like to receive some suggestion and agreement about the nomination criteria and the nature of the commitment regarding the evaluation committee.

At the same time, in order to put the members of the E.C. in an easier position during the voting procedure, the V.P. will invite the applicants to prepare two different abstract versions (long and short); the short versions of all submitted abstracts will be mailed to each component of the E.C.

~ Filomena Maggino and Aaron Ahuvia, Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs





## 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>. 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.

# SINET

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