

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

## MARK PETERSON ON WEIGHTS FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE PRIORITIES

In an article recently published in the *Journal of Macromarketing*, Mark Peterson begins with the proposition that national and international policy makers have long needed a better understanding of the relative importance of quality-of-life (QOL) dimensions in a society. He then applies conjoint analysis, a psychometric method widely used in marketing research to primary data from respondents in three countries (the United States, France, and Turkey) to explore how individuals assign importance weights across seven dimensions of QOL. The mean values for the importance weights of these QOL dimensions in each country of this study then are compared with those of an equal-weighting scheme and are found to be different in most instances. In addition, the same pattern of heterogeneity among the weights of the key QOL dimensions was observed across the three countries of this study. Since this problem is of central importance to the Social Indicators/Quality-of-Life/ISQOLS communities, Mark's article is summarized and reviewed here.

Peterson, Mark 2006 "Identifying Quality-of-Life Priorities for Societal Development: Using a Market Orientation to Benefit Citizens." *Journal of Macromarketing*, 26 (No. 1): 45-58.

### The Problem and the Aggregate Marketing System Concept

Peterson begins by stating that purpose of his research is to advance the representation of people's judgments in weighting key dimensions of QOL for a society. His intent is to demonstrate that most people assign heterogeneous weights to key dimensions of QOL and that such heterogeneous importance weights for key QOL dimensions will be observed in different countries of the world. He uses a common

technique from consumer research—an experimental design featuring conjoint analysis—to estimate the derived importances (weights) of a core set of societal QOL dimensions. Key questions pursued in this research follow:

1. Are the mean weights for the respective QOL dimensions heterogeneous?
2. What similarity would be observed in the mean weights for the respective QOL dimensions across sample groups from different countries?

The objective of this research is to study a society's aggregate marketing system (AGMS)—defined by the interactions of marketers, government, and consumers. Such an aggregate marketing system would include all relevant aspects of business operations (both profit and not-for-profit), related centers of government operations, and all consuming units of a society. In encouraging researchers to focus on other levels of aggregation than the individual level, the AGMS can help societies go beyond the study of technology, economics, and the material side of a society's existence to include vibrant issues concerned with softer quality-of-life dimensions for a society.

Figure 1, on next page, depicts some of these important intangible flows in the AGMS for societal development between marketers (including both for-profit and not-for-profit marketers), consumers, and public policy makers (as representative of society's interests). Beginning on the right side, marketers send information to consumers through promotional communication, while consumers provide information to marketers through their participation in marketing research projects. In addition, "consumer voting" through patronage and

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*Editor's Note:* Most of this issue of *SINET* is devoted to reports on the Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies held December 6-9, 2007 at the Mission Valley Hotel in San Diego, California. Leading off next is the Report of the ISQOLS Executive Director, M. Joe Sirgy. This is followed by a report on the Conference Awards Dinner and Evening Session by ISQOLS President Valerie Moller, a report on the Conference Plenary Sessions by ISQOLS Past-President Alex Michalos, and a Bio-Sketch and Announcement of a new ISQOLS Award in the name of Mary Joyce. Photographs from the Conference Awards Dinner taken by Mariano Rojas are interspersed with the reports. Special thanks go from all ISQOLS members to Executive Director Joe Sirgy and Local Arrangements Chair Don Rahtz whose tireless efforts on behalf of the Society make such conferences possible.

# SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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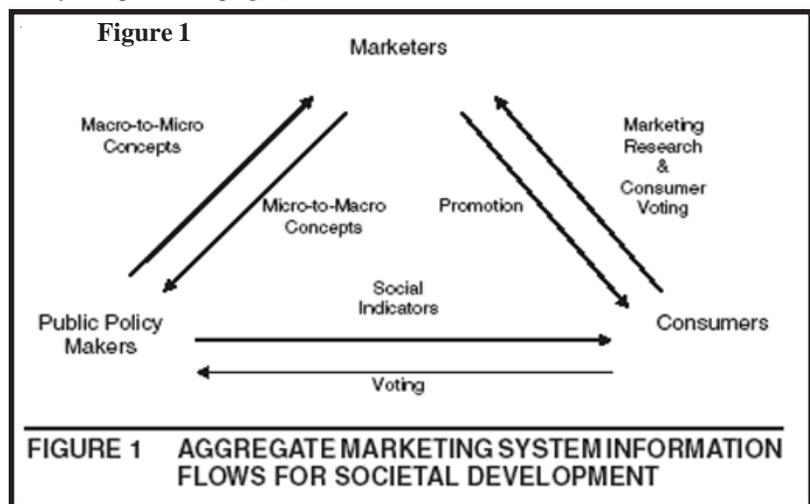
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purchasing sends important behavioral signals to marketers. At the bottom of Figure 1, the flows of information between consumers and public policy makers are depicted. Public policy makers can provide social indicators related to standards of living and QOL, which they can use in goal setting and evaluation of publicly initiated programs. Peterson cites as examples the Swedish Level of Living Survey conducted annually by Statistics Sweden for these purposes, the program the government of the United Kingdom has adopted for sustainable development that includes twenty “framework” indicators and forty-eight other supplementary social indicators that are used to guide strategy in sustainable development, and efforts in the United States to develop a set of key national indicators. Finally, the left side of Figure 1 depicts the flow of information between public policy makers and marketers. Peterson notes that, historically, this linkage has been characterized by tension between marketers and public policy makers, likely reflecting the unfortunate adversarial posture these two participants have traditionally taken in the AGMS. Efforts need to be expended to overcome this divide.

**Findings**

Peterson next reviews the objective and subjective traditions of research in QOL studies. To frame his research, Peterson indicates that his study focuses on a set of seven objective dimensions that have been identified in previous studies of subjective and objective measures of QOL. The set of seven dimensions includes (1) cost of living, (2) health, (3) economy, (4) infrastructure, (5) freedom, (6) culture and recreation, and (7) environment. The specific research protocol used in the study is given in Table 3 on the opposite page, which identifies the specific indicators and levels therein used to operationalize each of the seven dimensions.

Following these conjoint scaling protocols, individual respondents were asked to rate the relative importance of these seven dimensions to the QOL. Samples of respondents were obtained from France, Turkey, and the United States. The French and American samples are of university student and thus have model ages in the 20s, whereas the Turkey respondents more generally representative of the country. Table 6 reproduced from the article gives descriptive statistics for the samples.

**TABLE 6**  
**DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR FINAL SAMPLES FROM EACH COUNTRY**

	United States	France	Turkey
Sample size	187	81	149
% male	47.6	52.5	54.4
% in 21-30 modal age-group	79.9	94.9	34.2
% married	26.6	5.0	39.6
% with some college	100	100	49.7
% with $F^2 > .70$	86.6	93.1	74.5
Three-item average (with SD) for perceived importance to emerging nation policy makers (on 8-point scale)	5.84 (1.38)	5.47 (0.82)	6.05 (2.02)

The key empirical results of the article are presented in Table 7. These show an evident pattern of similarity of mean values across the three country sample groups with respect to relative importance values. The QOL dimension receiving the least weight in each group was infrastructure (United States = .049, France = .052, and Turkey = .071). But a strong effect in preference for

(Continued on next page.)

**TABLE 3  
PROTOCOL FOR THE CONJOINT ANALYSIS TASK**

In this task, you must help an emerging nation decide its public policy goals for the future. The leadership of this country is focused on seven dimensions of life quality (in alphabetical order): cost of living, culture, economy, environment, freedom, health, and infrastructure. The leadership must now set priorities for the next twenty years in the development of this emerging nation.

Knowing persons' views about the relative importances among these seven dimensions of life quality would be extremely useful. Persons from a wide variety of countries will eventually participate in this study to share their views. The following ranking task will allow researchers to derive the relative importance among these life quality dimensions for persons like you. Each card represents one scenario for how the emerging nation would fare on the seven dimensions of life quality in the future. The two possible levels for the seven dimensions in the scenarios are listed below.

- Cost of living
  - 33% more expensive than average U.S. city
  - 33% less expensive than average U.S. city
- Health
  - Life expectancy of 5-year-olds is 90 years
  - Life expectancy of 5-year-olds is 60 years
- Economy
  - Annual GDP (earnings) per person is \$25,000
  - Annual GDP (earnings) per person is \$5,000
- Infrastructure
  - Ample transportation and communication for all
  - Only half of transportation and communication needs met
- Freedom
  - Freedom of speech, assembly, and religion
  - No freedom of speech, assembly, and religion
- Culture
  - 98% literacy and wide cultural offerings
  - 48% literacy and wide cultural offerings
- Environment
  - Protection for land, water, and air resources
  - No protection for land, water, and air resources

Sort the accompanying sixteen life quality scenarios from most preferred to least preferred by putting the card with the most preferred scenario to you on the top of your deck, the second most preferred card underneath this one, and so on until the least preferred card is put on the bottom of the deck. Put a rubber band around your sorted cards and then complete the last questions on the next page of the survey form.

Land also show mathematically that there is a unique weighting for any composite QOL index that maximizes agreement with the index over all individuals in the population. This unique weighting for the QOL index is given by the *average weights* calculated over all individuals in the population or a representative sample thereof.

Based on these results from the analyses of Hagerty and Land, it follows that the social indicators/QOL research community needs to devote research efforts to the development of empirical studies of importances and the estimation of average weights therefrom. Mark Peterson's article represents a nice contribution to this line of research. Many more such studies are needed. They likely will show, as Peterson found, that the relative importance

(Continued from previous page.)

the freedom dimension is evident. Freedom was the most important dimension of QOL. In fact, freedom received more than twice the value of any other dimension (United States = .330, France = .349, and Turkey = .273). As can be seen, the respondents in each sample group placed a relatively high value on the freedom dimension of QOL. Peterson notes that respondents were making extreme trade-off decisions on this dimension, with freedom being operationalized by either "freedom of speech, assembly, and religion" or "no freedom of speech, assembly, and religion." In additional statistical tests, Peterson shows that these importance weights generally differ from those that would be assigned by an equal weighting procedure.

**Comment**

Mark Peterson's article provides a nice complement to the article by Michael Hagerty and Kenneth Land that was reviewed in the May-August 2007 issue of *SINET* ("Constructing Summary Indices of Quality of Life: A Model for the Effect of Heterogeneous Importance Weights," *Sociological Methods and Research* 35, May 2007:455-496). As noted in that review, Hagerty and Land constructed a statistical model to represent the impact of differences among individuals in a popu-

lation with respect to the "importances" or weights to assign to the components indicators of a composite QOL index. Analyzing the properties of this model, Hagerty and Land showed mathematically and by use of simulation studies that the equal weights method—which often is used by researchers in the absence of any other sound basis for unequal weights—is what statisticians call a *minimax estimator* in the sense that it minimizes extreme disagreements on the importances. But, if additional, reliable empirical information on the importances is available, it may be possible to improve on the equal weights estimator. The reason is that Hagerty and

weights have great similarities across social and national contexts, but with interesting variations due to cultural and other differences. These commonalities and differences need to be systematically identified and mapped.

~ Kenneth C. Land

**TABLE 7  
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE VALUES FOR THE QOL DIMENSIONS FOR EACH COUNTRY**

	United States (n = 187)	France (n = 81)	Turkey (n = 149)
Cost of living	.155	.138	.159
Health	.095	.099	.117
Economy	.134	.114	.114
Infrastructure	.049	.052	.071
Freedom	.330	.349	.273
Culture	.088	.091	.117
Environment	.150	.157	.150

## 2007 ISQOLS Conference San Diego, California Executive Director's Report

The 2007 ISQOLS Conference was held in December 6-9, 2007 at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel in San Diego, California, USA. The conference was co-sponsored by Springer Publishers, German Socio-Economic Panel Study, the Quality of Life Special Interest Group of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Centro de Estudios sobre el Bienestar at Universidad de Monterey, the Community Indicators Consortium, the Australian Centre on Quality of Life, the Center for the Study of Quality of Life and Social Development at University of the Americas, Institute for Social Research and Evaluation at the University of Northern British Columbia, the Management Institute for Quality-of-Life Studies, and the office of Quality-of-Life Measurement at Virginia Tech.

The conference attracted 200+ participants from every corner of the globe. The conference theme was "From QOL Concepts to QOL Performance Measures." It included 64 sessions, 4 plenary session, and 2 workshops. Topics included focus on QOL of world regions (e.g., QOL in Latin America, Arctic Circle, Asia, Middle East, North America, Europe, and Russia), QOL of population segments (e.g., QOL of the poor, migrants, refugees, children, elderly, women, and the disabled), life domains issues (e.g., spiritual well-being, family well-being, social well-being, community well-being, consumption well-being, health well-being, work well-being, culture well-being, environmental well-being, and financial well-being), applied discipline issues (e.g., QOL issues in political science, urban planning and public policy, rural sociology, marketing, business ethics, education, travel and tourism, social work, pharmacology, psychology and

healthcare, and recreation and land use), basic discipline issues (e.g., QOL research in personality and social psychology, economics), and methodological issues (e.g., issues in qualitative QOL research, composite QOL indices, psychometrics and quantitative methods). Additionally, there were several sessions involved with the International Wellbeing Index.

~ M. Joe Sirgy



## THE ISQOLS HONOURS LIST FOR 2007

### Research Fellow Award

Mary Joyce  
Filomena Maggino

### Distinguished Service Award

Valerie Møller

### Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition

Nef - the new economics foundation

### Distinguished QOL Researcher Award

Robert (Bob) Cummins

### Awards for Best Papers in 2006:

#### Best Paper in Social Indicators Research (SIR)

Max Haller and Markus Hadler

**How social relations and structures can produce happiness and unhappiness: an international comparative analysis, *Social Indicators Research* 2006, 75(1), pp.169-216.**

#### Best Paper in the Journal of Happiness Studies (JOHS)

Kennon M. Sheldon and Sonja Lyubomirsky

**Achieving sustainable gains in happiness: Change your actions, not your circumstances?**

*Journal of Happiness Studies* 2006, 7, pp. 55-86

#### Best Paper in Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL)

Rod McCrea, Tung-Kai Shyy, Robert Stimson

**What is the strength of the link between objective and subjective indicators of urban quality of life? *Applied Research in Quality of Life* 2006, 1(1), pp.79-96.**

#### Best Paper in the Journal of Macromarketing (JMM) / Quality of Life Section 2007

Ronald Paul Hill, William F. Felice, and Thomas Ainscough

**International human rights and consumer quality of life: an ethical perspective, *Journal of Macromarketing* 2007, 27(4), 370-379.**

#### Best Dissertation Award

Anke C. ZIMMERMAN

**Adaptation, Assets, and Aspirations. Three Essays on the Economics of Subjective Well-Being.**

**University of Southern California, Department of Economics, Los Angeles, USA, Promoter is Richard A. Easterlin.**

#### Best Dissertation Honourable Mention

Mònica GONZALES

**Psychological well-being in adolescence: the perspective of complexity sciences University of Girona, Spain, Promoter is Frederic Munné at the Univ. of Barcelona**

# PICTURES FROM 2007 ISQOLS CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO

## Report on 2007 ISQOLS San Diego Conference Awards Evening



The awards evening is always the highlight of any ISQOLS conference. This year we celebrated the event with a banquet in a hall decked out with Christmas decorations. Over dessert, we were treated to a film giving us a glimpse of the rich architectural and cultural heritage that awaits us in Florence where we will meet in 2009.

ISQOLS President Valerie Møller assisted by Don Rahtz and journal editors, Alex Michalos and Bob Cummins, presented the on behalf of ISQOLS. Springer offered cheques to the recipients of the best paper awards. In his acceptance speech, Distinguished QOL Researcher, ISQOLS' highest accolade, Bob Cummins regaled us with a brilliant account of how his career had just happened rather than been planned. Nic Marks, who accepted the Betterment of the Human Condition award on behalf of nef, the New Economics Foundation, told us that his organisation's Happy Planet Index had been inspired by the debate at an earlier ISQOLS meeting on the makings of the ideal QOL index. Alex Michalos urged members of ISQOLS to submit their work to our new journal ARQOL.

To close, Valerie thanked the members of the various committees for their work in overseeing the nominations and selection of winners. Thanks go to Mary Joyce and Denis Huschka with assistance from Richard Estes, Andrew Clark, Graciela Tonon and Dave Webb; Filomena Maggino and Dave Webb with assistance from Kenneth Land and Joar Vittersø; Alex Michalos with assistance from Joar Vittersø, Kenneth Land, Filomena Maggino, Don Rahtz, Heinz-Herbert Noll and Ding-Jin Lee; and Bob Cummins with assistance from the editorial board of the *Journal of Happiness Studies*. Celebrations continued into the night under the San Diego stars.

~ Valerie Moller

## Dr. Mary Joyce Bio-Sketch and Announcement of ISQOLS Award

Mary Joyce died at her home early Wednesday morning December 12, 2007 after a seven-year battle with cancer. Mary lived her life with passion and with a commitment to helping others. Mary was a long time advocate for the empowerment of women and a variety of at-risk populations. She was also a dedicated teacher who sought to inspire students to realize their full potential. She is survived by her husband Dr. David Lambert, her sister Linda, two brothers Tom and John, and a niece and two nephews. She also leaves behind a number of loyal friends and colleagues who will miss her greatly.

Mary received her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1981. She was most recently Gianneschi Professor of Nonprofit Marketing in the College of Business & Economics at California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Joyce's research interests included social entrepreneurship, social marketing, and the effects of gender and aging on quality-of-life. In addition to her professorship and teaching duties, Dr. Joyce served as the Vice President of External Affairs for the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) and was recently honored by ISQOLS as a Distinguished Research Fellow. Mary also served on the boards of the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness ([www.npach.org](http://www.npach.org)), the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary. She also served on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries of Orange County and the Council on Aging of Orange County.

**The Mary Joyce Scholarship Award:** To honor the memory and life's work of Dr. Joyce, at an ISQOLS Board Meeting held in San Diego on December 10, 2007, the Board voted unanimously to establish the Mary Joyce Scholarship Award. This competitive scholarship will be a bi-annual award recognizing a young, female scholar from a developing country for work in the quality of life area. The recipient will receive a cash stipend covering the cost of travel to and attendance at the ISQOLS

international conference, as well as award recognition at the conference banquet. Donations to the Mary Joyce Scholarship Award may be sent to:

The Mary Joyce Scholarship Award  
The International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) 1800 Kraft Drive, Suite 111 Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-6351, USA 540.231.5110 (office); 540.961.4162 (fax) [isqols@vt.edu](mailto:isqols@vt.edu) (e-mail); <http://www.isqols.org> (website)

## Legislation for a New State-Level Survey of Child Well-Being Is Introduced in the U.S.

Legislation has been introduced in United States Congress calling for a state-level survey, to be carried out by the Federal government, which would provide each state with reliable, accurate data about how their children are doing, across a wide range of indicators—education, social and emotional development, health and safety, attitudes, and family well-being. The new survey would build on the existing National Survey of Child Health.

Senators John D. Rockefeller (D-WV) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced legislation (S-1482) in the Senate on May 24, 2007, while Representative Chaka Fattah (D-PA) and Dave Camp (R-MI) introduced similar legislation (HR 2477) in the House of Representatives.

The legislation was spurred by the fact that over the past decade the federal government has shifted greater responsibility to the states for programs that benefit children and families. Unfortunately, most states today lack reliable data on the well-being of children in their jurisdiction.

Most national surveys do not include adequate sample sizes to provide an accurate picture of state-level conditions, especially for smaller states. This information would help states target their scarce resources and track whether child well-being improved when new programs were instituted.

The new survey would cost about \$10 million a year, but The Annie E. Casey Foundation and other private funders have pledged to expand that funding by providing at least \$1 million annually to give states, researchers, policy analysts and community groups technical assistance in understanding and using the data

Sponsors believe a state-level survey on the well-being of children is a valuable and cost-effective investment for many reasons including:

- States will be able to determine how to get the maximum impact of federal dollars invested in children.
- States will be able to make informed decisions on a number of programs.
- Federal policymakers will have better data to guide them in allocating increasingly scarce federal resources for child well-being.
- States and federal policymakers will be better able to compare state-specific policies across state lines.

More information about the legislation is available at [www.childindicators.com](http://www.childindicators.com)

## 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.

## **Report on 2007 ISQOLS San Diego Conference Plenaries**

What a delight it was to leave the snow of Northern British Columbia for the rain of Southern California, and what an even bigger delight to meet old friends and make new ones. To all those who labored so hard to make the event happen, I say thanks again and again.

My recollection is that Joe Sirgy produced six updates of the program and I am absolutely sure that I saw Don Rahtz in two places at once. Not since Pythagoras has such a feat been accomplished.

For me, the Conference began with a daylong roundtable on the qol of disabled people. There seemed to be 25 to 30 people engaged in qol research concerning mentally challenged people, and we were treated to a variety of wide-ranging and particular theoretical and empirical studies. Besides good research, we heard engaging stories of individuals' personal struggles to reach sometimes very modest levels of a good quality of life. Thanks to Ralph Kober, Roy Brown, Bob Schalock, Ann Turnbull and Ivan Brown for all of this. The plenary session of Friday allowed this team to share its research and enthusiasm with all the ISQOLS participants. I think the session introduced dimensions of our field of study which have not received as much attention as they deserve. So this was a very welcome addition and it promises to bring more interesting and important issues to our general meetings. As they say in the US south, y'all come back agin.

Enrico Giovannini, Chief Statistician for the OECD, was the speaker for our Saturday plenary session, and was introduced as one of the best friends quality of life research ever had. In the 1960s and early 70s, the OECD was doing pioneering work in social indicators and then there was a downturn. As I recall it, there was a point when only one person or one and a half were pursuing quality of life studies in the organization. I never met the half, if there was one. Now there are many more, unless Giovannini has surpassed

both Pythagoras and Rahtz in reproducing himself in many places at the same time. For qol scholars who could not make the international meeting on societal progress at Istanbul last June, it must have been wonderful to hear about the 1200 participants at that meeting from all over the globe. If any readers have not read the Istanbul Declaration, I urge you to check the OECD website and have a look. It is a splendid statement of our ambition and aims, and it is endorsed by enough people to make anyone believe we will achieve the goals set out in it. Like Marley and Scrooge at Christmas, together we will make a better world.

I had to leave the conference earlier than originally planned and could not make the final plenary, but I was there for the first one on Thursday night. Such a performance! Such a class act and such savoir faire! A combination of the body of Brad Pitt and the mind of Aristotle. Liz Eckerman reminded the old fart that he seemed to be going deaf, but fortunately Valerie Moller, Bruno Zumbo and Anita Hubley were in the front row repeating the questions for him. If they had actually answered the questions, the results probably would have been better. A couple meetings ago, Ed Diener told me he hated the 15 to 20 minute slots but loved the one hour slots. (Or was it sluts?) I feel the same. One of my first profs said he thought they should put all new PhDs on an island for one year and let them talk to their hearts' content. The truth is that one year would not do it for many of us, including that guy in the first plenary. Anyhow, his bottom line message was clear, do some research on the arts and qol.

I hope to see you all at the next ISQOLS Conference in Florence. Even if you can't make it, I hope I can. It's a beautiful city and Filomena Maggino, Giampaolo Nuvolati and the usual ISQOLS suspects are designing a spectacular show.

~Alex C. Michalos

## **Call For Papers Applied Research in Quality of Life The Official Journal of the International Soci- ety 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.

**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)  
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Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-6370, USA  
Office tel: (540) 231-5110; fax: (540) 961-4162  
E-mail: [isqols@vt.edu](mailto:isqols@vt.edu)  
Website: [www.isqols.org](http://www.isqols.org)

**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.

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