RC55 NEWSLETTER

Social Indicator Matters
International Sociological Association (ISA)

Winter, December 2018 • Number 5

In this Issue…

1. President Christian Suter's Letter to RC55 members

Dear RC55 section members,

I am pleased and honored to serve the Research Committee for the next four years as president. The Research Committee had a busy agenda during the ISA World Congress in Toronto in July, including 14 section-sponsored sessions and roundtables, two joint sessions with the RC13 (Sociology of Leisure), and the RC31 (Sociology of Migration), the business meeting, and the traditional RC55 dinner.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
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The Research Committee 55-Social Indicators of International Sociological Association

I'd like to thank the previous office bearers for their service to the Research Committee. Thank you to Ming-Chang Tsai for being the RC55 president for the past four years, and to the outgoing RC55 board members Robert Bijl, Kenneth Land, Filomena Maggino, Krishna Mazumdar, Heinz-Herbert Noll, and Mariano Rojas. Ming-Chang Tsai will carry on producing the bi-annual RC55 Newsletter that keeps us informed and connected throughout the year. We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of scholars involved in the Research Committee for the next four years. Our Vice-President is Joonmo Son, our secretary-treasurer is Dolgion Alder, and our board members are Jeroen Boelhouwer, Enrico di Bella, Sandra Fachelli, Masayuki Kanai, Ming-Chang Tsai, and Ruut Veenhoven.

Our Research Committee currently has about 80 members. The mission of the new board is to mobilize our members and attract new members, in particular young researchers. This will ensure our Research Committee remains vibrant and will expand our activities during the next four years. Specifically, we aim to increase our membership to over 100 members which would allow us to get four additional session slots at the next ISA World Congress in Melbourne in 2022.

Let me remind you that the ISA Forum of Sociology will be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2020 (July 14-18). RC55 session proposals may be submitted from February 4 to March 15, 2019; submission for paper abstracts will be open between April 25, 2019 and September 30, 2019 (more information can be found on the ISA website).

In between the ISA world congresses and forums, our Research Committee has to organize mid-term conferences. We decided at our Toronto business meeting, that the 2019 mid-term conference will take place in Valencia, Spain, July 3-6, 2019, during the 13th Spanish Congress of Sociology. This will provide en excellent opportunity for our members to meet their colleagues, particularly from Spain, Southern Europe, and Latin America. I would like to thank the local organizers, Sandra Fachelli and Pedro López Roldán, for preparing the 2019 mid-term conference. The call for papers is included in this Newsletter. The deadline to submit abstract proposals is March 15, 2019, and we are hoping to see you all in Valencia next July.

With best wishes for the year ahead,

Christian Suter

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2. New Board Members (2018-2022)

➢ **President:** Christian Suter (Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
http://www.unine.ch/cms/render/live/fr/sites/socio/home/collaborateurs/suter-christian.html

➢ **Vice-President:** Joonmo Son (Sociology Department, University of Singapore)
http://profile.nus.edu.sg/fass/socsjm

➢ **Secretary:** Dolgion Aldar (Independent Research Institute of Mongolia, Mongolia)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/dolgion-aldar-ba949366/

➢ **Newsletter editor: Ming-Chang Tsai (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)**
http://www.rchss.sinica.edu.tw/people/bio.php?PID=199

➢ **Board Members:**

a). Masayuki Kanai (Senshu University, Japan)
http://www.isc.senshu-u.ac.jp/~thh0808/english.html

b). Ruut Veenhoven (Erasmus University, Netherlands)
https://personal.eur.nl/veenhoven

c). Sandra Fachelli (University of Barcelona, Spain)
https://ddd.uab.cat/search?c=Dip%C3%B2sit+Digital+de+Documents+de+la+UAB&ln=en&of=hb&p=fachelli&rg=250&so=d&sc=1&action_search=Cerca#78

d). Enrico di Bella (University of Genoa (Italy)
https://cpc-prod.csita.unige.it/output_cv/UEVCX1o%253D/cv_it.pdf

e). Jeroen Boelhouwer (The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, Netherlands)
https://www.scp.nl/Organisatie/Alle_medewerkers/Boelhouwer_Jeroen

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3. A Report of the 12th Partial Order Conference

12th Partial Order Conference

International Conference on Partial Orders in Applied Sciences

Towards an Understanding of Complex Phenomenon: Applying Partial Order Theory to Multi-Indicator Systems

University of Neuchâtel, Department of Sociology, 26-27 October 2018

Briefing Report

The description of complex phenomena in different scientific fields (such as poverty, well-being, sustainable development, social progress, quality of life, social cohesion, vulnerability, environment risk assessment) by a set of indicators has become increasingly important. When a decision is to be based on this set of indicators then ranking is one of the possible applications. Although indicator systems are widely applied and statistically investigated, there are still many questions open, when partial order is to be applied:

- How could we find latent indicators?
- Can indicator systems be partitioned into a main part and parts considered as "fine tuning"? More generally: Can we define a hierarchy of indicator systems, when a certain complex phenomenon is to be studied?
- Can we explore the indicators, for example can we state that one set of indicators implies another set of indicators?
- Sometimes indicators are built of real data, what then is the advantage of partial order and how could we find a set of implications?
- If indicators are measured ones, then how to deal with data uncertainties?
- How can we include the qualitative knowledge, which cannot be expressed by indicators-for example with respect to simple aggregation schemes: how to include weights within the framework of partial orders?

In this framework, the 12th International Partial Order Conference on Partial Orders in

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Applied Sciences hosted by the Department of Sociology of University of Neuchâtel on October 26-27, 2018, has addressed various multi-indicator systems questions both at methodological and application levels. More specifically, twenty-three papers from different disciplines are presented through seven workshop sessions which have focused on the general role of multi-indicator systems, indicator systems and their analysis, methodological issues in posets (*partial order sets*), application of posets in different areas such as social sciences, environmental systems, biology and technical systems.

In general role of multi-indicator systems session, Jochen Wittmann (University of Applied Sciences HTW Berlin) has explained the demands on and specification of indicators for modelling and simulation environmental systems, Filomena Maggino (Sapienza University of Rome) has emphasized the role of indicators in the framework of partial order, and   Fabio Sartori and Gemma Asero (European Commission-Eurostat) have addressed complex information system in the area of contemporary statistics with a specific focus on conceptualization and evaluation of dominance in sports. The indicator systems and the analysis session has included presentations on building rankings from hierarchical systems of ordinal indicators by Marco Fattore and Alberto Arcagni (University of Milano-Bicocca), assessing inhomogeneous indicator-based typologies through the reverse clustering approach by Jan W. Owsinski (Polish Academy of Sciences), a partial ordering approach in aggregating dimensions of subjective well-being by Paola Conigliaro (Sapienza University of Rome). In two posets methodological sessions, performance of Hasse Diagrams, sampling and weighting process are discussed by six different papers: Tournaments tables, power-weakness ratio and Hasse diagrams (an informative combination for multi-criteria decision-making) by Roberto Todeschini (University of Milano-Bicocca), evaluations as sets over lattices (mathematical basis) by Adalbert Kerber (University of Bayreuth), evaluations as sets over lattices (application point of view) by Rainer Bruggemann (Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries), some efficient sampling designs based on partial order sets by Bardia Panahbehagh (Kharazmi University), introduction of weights in poset-based synthetic indicators by Giulio Caperna (Joint Research Center of the European Commission), towards an understanding of weightings by partial order theory by Rainer Bruggemann (Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries). Moreover, various papers focusing on application of posets have brought both methodological and application process debates on measuring and understanding complex phenomena in different areas. Lars Carlsen (Awareness Center Denmark) has presented the role of posets

in happiness analysis, Tugce Beycan (University of Neuchâtel) has underlined how the posets analysis can be useful for testing the robustness of Multidimensional Poverty Index ranking with a case study in Karnataka, Enrico di Bella (Università degli Studi di Genova) has showed a comparison of different techniques to build synthetic indicators for measuring gender equality, Stefan Markus Giebel (Criminological department of Thuringia) has presented the application of posets within a fear and punitivity study in the prison population of Thuringia. Concerning environmental systems, the studies of dependent indicators for environmental evaluation of desalination plants in Kuwait by Ghanima Al-Sharrah (College of Engineering and Petroleum Kuwait), alternatives assessment frameworks (split-shots as an exemplary) by Lars Carlsen (Awareness Center Denmark), implementation of Hasse Diagram technique in environmental risk assessment by Stefan Tsakovski (University of Sofia), identifying drivers of land degradation in Xilingol in China (from 1975-2015) by Batunacun and Ralf Wieland (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research-ZALF) are presented. In addition, Nora Pankow (Technische Universität Berlin) has showed the role of indicators for sustainability assessment in the procurement of civil engineering services, and Ulfia Lenfers (Hamburg University of Applied Sciences) has explained the exploration of survival strategies of African trees and bushes in two different landscape by posets. All conference information including presentations are available on the link below:

https://www.unine.ch/socio/home/conferences/12th-international-partial-order.html

With this occasion, all conference participants and the scientific committee would like to wish Rainer Bruggemann abundant happiness and success in his life, HAPPY BIRTHDAY RAINER! and congratulate him for his marvelous and valuable works in posets (www.pyHasse.org).

Tugce Beycan and Christian Suter,
Local organizers of the Conference, Department of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel

4. A Report of the 13th Conference "Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe"

October 15-17, 2018, Villa Vigoni, Loveno di Menaggio, Italy

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The 2018 conference on „Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe", which addressed the theme „Inequalities, Fairness and Solidarity Across Generations – Measurement and Analysis", was the 13th in a series of annual meetings of the European Social Reporting Network, organized by Heinz-Herbert Noll, who is supported by a conference committee. The series that started in 2006 with an Italian-German dialogue about similarities and particularities in social reporting within the two countries compared, developed progressively into a pan-European event. Each conference addresses a special theme as for example "Resilience: An Asset in Difficult Times?" or "Measuring and Monitoring Social Progress in European Societies", but also informs about recent developments in social monitoring and reporting. Since the beginning, all the conferences were hosted and supported by the Villa Vigoni (www.villavigoni.eu), a German-Italian centre for European excellence. Financial support is also provided by Eurofound and the University of Neuchatel. The programme and presentations of the 2018 conference as well as of all the previous conferences since 2007 are

available at the following website: http://www.tarki.hu/villa-vigoni-conferences.

Heinz-Herbert Noll

(hh.noll@t-online.de)

5. Call for papers for The Social Structure of Subjective Well-Being: Education, Status and Social Mobility 2019

The Social Structure of Subjective Well-Being: Education, Status and Social Mobility

3rd to 4th of October 2019

An international conference hosted by the University of Luxembourg
Institute of Education and Society & Institute for Research on Generations and Family
University of Luxembourg (Campus Belval), Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

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Theme

Subjective well-being (SWB) is a major goal of human actions. For a long time, SWB has been mainly studied by psychologists. Fuelled by an interest in how social structures and (material) conditions shape subjective perceptions, attitudes, and values, sociologists have successfully entered the field of SWB research in the last two decades. A main objective has been to show how socio-economic characteristics such as class, status, prestige, education as well as gender or migration background, cultural variables such as ethnicity and religion and critical life events shape SWB. Furthermore, the association of GDP, unemployment rates, welfare policies, migration policies, and value climates with SWB have been high on the research agenda. While the state-of-research has provided many valuable insights and helped advance sociological research, it also generated mixed findings and mixed interpretations.

Against this backdrop, this international conference aims to shed light on how socio-economic characteristics such as class, status, and education as well as other ascriptive factors such as gender and migration background structure SWB. We hope to induce debates on past and current research regarding several questions from a social science perspective: Which conceptual and empirical mechanisms explain the link between structural indicators and subjective well-being? What is the impact of absolute and relative social positions on subjective well-being? How does the distinction between hedonic and eudemonic add to the current measurement practices in the social sciences? How do new ways of social interaction affect SWB, e.g., through social comparison via social networks? What makes a liveable society?

Keynote Speakers

Martijn Burger, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Yaojun Li, University of Manchester

Siegwart M. Lindenberg, University of Groningen

Filomena Maggino, Sapienza University Rome

Shigehiro Oishi, University of Virginia

Claudia Senik, University Paris-Sorbonne

Scientific Committee

Monika Budowski, Université de Fribourg; Fabian Kratz, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München;

Christian Suter, Université de Neuchâtel; Andreas Hadjar & Robin Samuel, University of

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Luxembourg.

Contributions

We invite social scientists to submit proposals for

- paper presentations (20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion);
- posters; or
- round-table talks (15 minute presentation plus discussion).

The conference language is English.

Papers and posters should focus on the following topics:

a) Theorising subjective well-being and social inequalities
b) Methodological challenges in the measurement of subjective well-being
c) Education and subjective well-being
d) Class, status, social mobility, and subjective well-being
e) Inequalities beyond social inequalities (migration background, gender, etc.)
f) Sustainability, society, and subjective well-being

Your a**bstract of about 500-1000 words** should cover key questions, theoretical issues, methods, and (preliminary) results.

Include the following information for all author(s):

- family name, first name(s);
- email address;
- telephone number (including country and area dialling codes);
- postal address (including postcode and country); and
- academic title/post/appointment.

Please indicate if you prefer to give a presentation, to present a poster, or to discuss your paper at a round-table talk.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is the 31st of January 2019. Please send your abstracts by email to SWB2019@uni.lu.

You will be notified whether your proposal has been accepted by the 1st of April 2019.

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6. Call for papers for Comparative Perspectives on Social Indicators

In the context of 13th Spanish Congress of Sociology (Valencia, Spain, 3–6 July 2019)

RC55 Research Committee on Social Indicators

invite to participate in the 2019 Mid-term Conference

"Comparative Perspectives on Social Indicators"

Call for abstracts

GT 43 ISA Research Committee 55: Social Indicators

From 3 to 6 July 2019 the 13th Spanish Sociology Conference, with the theme: **Societies at the crossroads, the commitments of sociology**, will be held in Valencia, Spain. The Spanish Federation of Sociology will organise the conference with the assistance of the Universidad de Valencia and the Asociación Valenciana de Sociología.

A publishing opportunity for participants at Special Issue on Social Indicators Research

We propose to receive contributions that address comparative research in the study of social reality, focusing on the construction and use of social indicators in comparative research among countries. Contributions can be of a theoretical nature, applied studies or methodological reflections (either in a quantitative, qualitative or mixed perspective), but which main object of study of the same phenomenon in different countries.

Practical information

New conference website http://www.congresofes.com/

Accommodation coming soon in:

http://www.congresofes.com/alojamiento_798741576_67893.html

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Abstract submissions

Deadline: November 15th, 2018. **Extended to March 15th, 2019 for GT 43 group.**

Confirmation of acceptance: **April 11th, 2019**

Registration:

Opening: 08 March 2019

Early registration period: 26 April 2019

Deadline for registration to appear in the programme: **07 May 2019** Publication: **22 May 2019**

Coordinator Task Group:

Sandra Fachelli (Pablo de Olavide University - Autonomous University of Barcelona).

Task Goup Members:

Christian Suter (Université de Neuchâtel), Joonmo Son (National University of Singapore), Jeroen Boelhouwer (The Netherlands Institute for Social Research), Enrico Di Bella (University of Genoa), Pedro Lopez-Roldán (University Autonomous of Barcelona) and Eduardo Bericat (Universidad de Sevilla).

Send abstract to: sandra.fachelli@gmail.com

7. News and new publications of members

a). News about members:

Ming-Chang Tsai serves as president of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies during 2019-2020.

b). New Publications:

Ming-Chang Tsai and Tsui-o Tai. 2018. "How are mothers faring across the globe? Constructing a new Mothers' Well-being Index and assessing its validity. Applied Research In Quality of Life 13:647-670.