



Social Indicators Matters No. 19 December 2025



Social  
Indicators

## NEWSLETTER

Number 19 December 2025

1. Message from RC55 President.....page 2
2. Call for papers.....page 3
3. Recent publications.....page 4
4. Reminders.....page 8

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Jenny Chesters Associate Professor Faculty of Education, The University of Melbourne

E-mail: [jenny.chesters@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jenny.chesters@unimelb.edu.au)

Address: Level 2, 100 Leicester St, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia

## 1. Message from Joonmo Son, RC55 President

### **The Road to Gwangju Starts in Seoul: Announcing the RC55 Pre-conference (2027)**

As we look ahead to the XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology in Gwangju, Korea (4–10 July 2027), the Board of RC55 (Social Indicators) is delighted to share an exciting update regarding our gathering.

We are pleased to announce that RC55, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology at Korea University, is organizing a Joint Pre-conference to be held in Seoul immediately prior to the World Congress.

Dates: 2–3 July 2027 (Tentative)

Venue: Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

*Why Seoul?* We envision this pre-conference as the natural gateway to the World Congress. As Seoul serves as the primary international entry point for most travellers, convening here first offers members a convenient forum for focused scholarly exchange before we travel onward to Gwangju.

*Scholarly Focus & Publications* We are designing a 1.5-day program focused on cutting-edge developments in social indicators and their measurement. Beyond intellectual exchange, we are prioritizing concrete publication outcomes. We are currently developing proposals for a journal special issue and a new volume in the *Social Indicators Research Series* for presented papers. Additionally, we have already secured an agreement with Edward Elgar Publishing to produce an edited volume comprising selected papers from this event.

*Networking & Inclusivity* The pre-conference is designed to foster meaningful networks, particularly bridging international scholars with colleagues in East Asia. The program will feature dedicated sessions to stimulate dialogue between early-career researchers and senior scholars. To enhance inclusivity, we are actively applying for grant funding to subsidize travel and accommodation costs for early-career researchers and scholars from the Global South.

*Venue & Logistics* Korea University will host the event on its beautiful campus. The university is directly served by its own subway station, ensuring seamless connectivity to the KTX high-speed rail network. This makes the subsequent journey to Gwangju, where the ISA Congress will be held, both easy and expedient.

We will circulate a formal Call for Papers in early 2027. In the meantime, please save the date and plan your Korean itinerary to start in Seoul, joining RC55 for this exciting prelude to the World Congress.

We look forward to seeing you in Seoul and Gwangju

## 2. Call for papers

The [LIVES Centre](https://www.centre-lives.ch/) is launching the 'Good Life' Data Challenge, a large-scale collaboration using the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) to address a key question: What predicts the feeling of having lived a happy, meaningful, and interesting (psychologically rich) life thus far? The call can be found here:

<https://www.centre-lives.ch/fr/appel/call-participation-good-life-data-challenge>

We invite researchers from across the social sciences to submit a theory-driven proposal (600-800 words) by February 15, 2026, using the online form provided in the call. Proposals may use any variables from the 1999-2025 waves of the SHP to predict responses to three new items that are currently fielded in the 2025 wave (data will only become available in 2026), in which respondents provide retrospective assessments of happiness, meaning, and psychological richness.

Selected teams will:

- Be invited in spring 2026 to preregister their hypotheses and analysis plans, and subsequently conduct their analyses once the 2025 SHP data are released (summer 2026).
- Co-author a collective publication coordinated by the LIVES Centre, to be submitted to a leading international journal.
- Receive CHF 1,000 (currently ~ EUR 1,070) per team upon submission of the final report.

Please consult the call for the timeline, selection criteria, and links to SHP documentation.

We look forward to receiving your proposal!

On behalf of the LIVES Centre,

Contact: Nicolas Sommet, Coordinator of the 'Good Life' Data Challenge, LIVES Centre, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, <https://www.centre-lives.ch/>

### 3. Recent publications

#### Journal articles:

**Bartl, W., & Lutz, P. (2025).** Comparing Refugee Dispersal Policies. Varieties of Responsibility-Sharing in Europe. *Governance*, e70072. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.70072>

Abstract: Many European countries are concerned about the asymmetric distribution of refugees within their territory. In response, they have developed policies to spatially disperse asylum seekers. Yet, we lack a comprehensive understanding of such refugee dispersal policies (RDPs). This article fills that gap with two contributions. First, we conceptualize RDPs as systems of subnational responsibility-sharing in asylum governance, defined along five policy attributes and three ideal types. Second, we introduce a novel dataset covering the dispersal policies of 32 European countries and develop an index of policy restrictiveness. We show that dispersal is widespread but varies in formality and design. Most countries adopt a negotiated model combining binding spatial allocation, material incentives, and discretionary dispersal criteria. Restrictiveness is higher in states with high past arrivals and strong local autonomy. Our findings offer new insights into the spatial governance of asylum and the institutional design of responsibility-sharing mechanisms.

**Bartl, W., & Lutz, P. (2025).** *Refugee Dispersal Policy (RDP) Data Set: Technical Report* (Sachsen-Anhalt Datenarchiv und Repositorium SADAR). Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt. <https://doi.org/10.25673/1914118-10.2>

**Cuadra, J.M., Mandras, Y. S., Raya, M. R., Belardo, H. A. B., Lopez, R. P., & Rodriguez, J. G. E. (2025).** Experiencing investment scams in the Philippines: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of victims' financial decision-making. *Review of Behavioral Finance*, 17(5), 769–784. <https://doi.org/10.1108/RBF-03-2025-0116>

Patzina, Alexander, **Hans Dietrich**, Michael Ruland & Rasmus Hoffmann (2025): Populist Party Support and COVID-19 Vaccination: Explaining the AfD Vaccination Gap. In: *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*, S. 1-24. DOI:10.1007/s11577-025-01015-y

Toussaint, C., Patzina, A., **Dietrich, H.**, & Wolbring, T. (2025). Study Programs, Public Rankings, and College Enrollment Intentions: Results from a Survey Experiment on Study Program Content, Flexibility, and Support. *Sociology of Education*, 00380407251356274.

Woelert, P., **Chesters, J.**, Gannaway, J. and Martinussen, M. (2025) Administrative burden in Australian universities: Insights into dimensions and drivers from a nation-wide survey. *Science and Public Policy*. <https://academic.oup.com/spp/advance-article/doi/10.1093/scipol/scaf029/8222541>

#### Conference presentations:

**Cuadra, J.M.** (2025) *Faculty Burnout and Gender Inequality in the Wake of Multiple Crisis: A Local Ethnography*, at the 98th Annual Meeting of the Japan Sociological Society (November 15–16, 2025). Recipient of the JSS Travel Grant Award.

Maire, Q & **Chesters, J.** (2025) *A successful system? An examination of Australian education preparing young people to achieve their aspirations*. AARE, University of Newcastle, 30 November – 4 December

**Chesters, J.** & Gomensoro, A. (2025) *Age and period effects on levels of subjective wellbeing: Evidence from the TREE project in Switzerland*, 19th Conference, Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe Demographic Challenges and Opportunities and their Impact on Individual and Societal Well-being

#### Books:

**Chesters, J. Suter, C. & Fachelli, S.** (eds.). 2025. *Economics, Politics and Governance During COVID-19: Experiences of the Global South*. World Society Studies Vol. 2025. Wien/Zürich: Lit. ISBN 978-3-643-85425-4 (Open Access) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52038/9783643804242>

#### Abstract

When the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2020, governments around the world took immediate action to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus by closing their national borders, implementing restrictions on travel within their borders, shutting down all but essential services and requiring large sections of their populations to remain at home. Although there is general agreement that these restrictions saved millions of lives, they also impacted on other aspects of health and on the economic, social and political conditions experienced by people around the world. Restricting movement between, and within, countries, shutting down “non-essential” businesses and closing schools isolated people from their extended families, friends and peers. Although governments implemented policies to alleviate some of the economic impact of the pandemic-related restrictions, little attention was paid to the impact that isolation would have on social relationships and the mental health of their populations. This volume includes a selection of contributions assessing the impact of COVID-19 on economics, politics and government, focusing on countries from the Global South presented and discussed at either the RC55 pre-conference or the RC55 sessions of the ISA World Congress in June-July 2023.

## Table of Contents

### 1. Introduction

Jenny Chesters, Christian Suter,  
Sandra Fachelli

### 2. Comparative Perspectives on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sandra Fachelli, Jenny Chesters and  
Christian Suter

### 3..Managing Crisis After Financialization: Reflecting on 'Novel' Responses to COVID-19 and the 2008 Financial Crisis

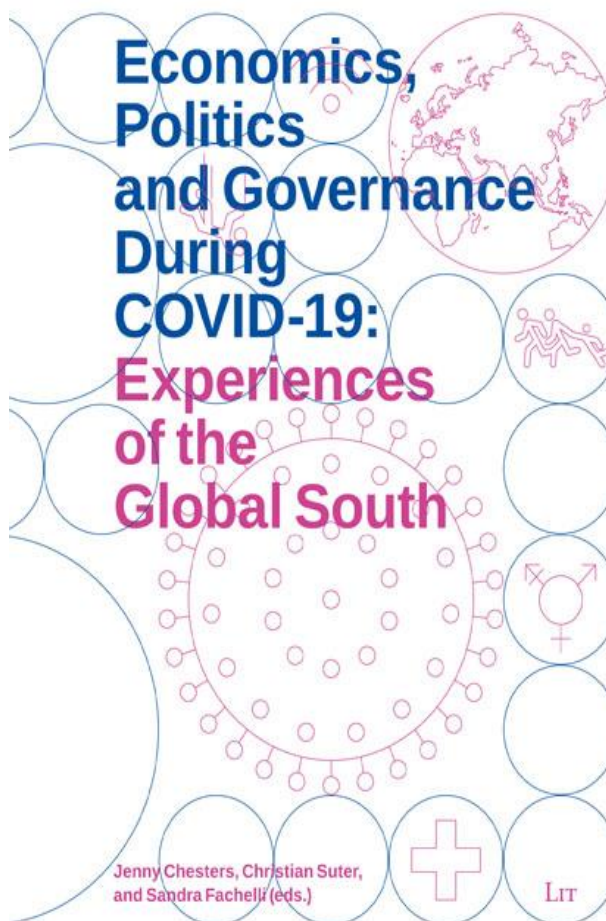
Ben Spies-Butcher

### 4..Political Control, Authority and the Pandemic

Ilán Bizberg

### 5..Widening the Gaps in Times of Pandemic. Confinement, Public Space and Experiences of Inequality in Mexico City

María Cristina Bayón



### 6..2019 Earthquakes in Cotabato, Philippines and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Consequences of Compounding Traumatic Events on Survivor-Evacuees' Mental Health

Maria Angelika Tolentino Balungay and Melissa Lopez Reyes

### 7..How Do You Feel About Your Life These Days? The Effects of COVID-19 Lockdown on Subjective Well-Being in Nigeria

Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima

### 8..Socioeconomic Stressors Experienced by Students in the Online Learning Process During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Titik Harsanti

### 9..Comparative assessment of the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Policy Measures on Small Businesses in Mongolia and Timor-Leste

Manlaibaatar Zagdbazar and Dolgion Aldar

**Nicolae Bulz 2025** 'Anthropocene Cradle of Wisdom' - towards eliciting the 'Contemporary Types of Societal Analysts' -- In Search for the 4th Dimension --: The Relations "NEANDERTHALS <--> CRO MAGNIONS" - Kindle Edition

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FHQRWCDL/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.Usrut8Q5Jf0NZ-ikUDZdid65dJramXLCeBnh1EsuYCrGjHj071QN20LucGBJIeps.efdxTGiu8-Ud\\_QwW3eI4I0MmSWNnIJ1mcQz5SMX1Xw&dib\\_tag=se&qid=1752700556&refinements=p\\_27%3ANicolae+Bulz&s=digital-text&sr=1-1&text=Nicolae+Bulz](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FHQRWCDL/ref=sr_1_1?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.Usrut8Q5Jf0NZ-ikUDZdid65dJramXLCeBnh1EsuYCrGjHj071QN20LucGBJIeps.efdxTGiu8-Ud_QwW3eI4I0MmSWNnIJ1mcQz5SMX1Xw&dib_tag=se&qid=1752700556&refinements=p_27%3ANicolae+Bulz&s=digital-text&sr=1-1&text=Nicolae+Bulz)

**Dedication IN MEMORIAM – four personalities:**

– The 1st personality: **Saint Apostle ANDREW** [*the forever learner from 'masters'; no-scripts; but resulting-**full-of-courage's acts*** – consequently followed by **two peoples: Romanian and Scottish**].

– The 2nd personality: **[Honorary] Academician [Ethnologist] Romulus VULCĂNESCU** [*the forever learner from the **traditional-popular images** and **folklore words**: resulting new-synthetic-constructs: '**Sky's Column**'; '**Horol Phenomenon**'; '**Church from the-Fir-Trees**'; '**JURIDICAL ETHNOLOGY**'*].

– The 3rd personality: **Socio-Cybernetician Professor Felix GEYER** [see 2.1\_below].

– the 4th personality: **Academician [Structural-Phenomenologist] Mihai DRĂGĂNESCU** [*the forever learner from the '**results**' of high-elicited '**philosophic experiment**': resulting new-analytic-synthetic-constructs: .*

**\*\*2\_SORT:** About a finite (?) set of "**societal analysts-types**" within our contemporary societies:

-2.1 **Professor Felix GEYER's** experience, wisdom and knowledge were elicited/exposed a set of **three analysts-types: ROMANTICS, CYNICS, and REALISTS**. He is, also, **SOCIOCYBERNETICS** - INITIATOR. **SOCIOCYBERNETICS** as an explicit interdisciplinary domain has a long-term searched best host place; now it is within ISA structure, as a Research Committee.

-2.2 Case-studies 'known' by the Session proposer: **four types of high-level analysts:**

-2.2.1: i.e. A type of personality within a best acknowledged-to-**realities' REPRESENTATION**, but presenting these [toward a **SOLVING**-problems state] only-and-only **versus the current political interests (not anchored at all into the societal needs and the current socio-drama)**;

-2.2.2: i.e. A type of personality acknowledged-to-the-largest-**realities**, but acting only for the **tracking-mainly-ideas of-political progress 'per se'** [mostly through/by-chief's-

approval: “*IF..., THEN...*”];

-2.2.3: i.e. A type of personality ‘acknowledged/related’-to-largest-*idealities*, but acting only through ‘*personal- imperative-statements(-without-any-societal-recourse)*’;

-2.2.4: i.e. A type of personality ‘acknowledged’-to-largest-*idealities-and-realities*, but acting mostly by/for a ‘*societal silence*’... even during a *chaotically societal turbulence*.

\*\*\*3\_SORT: About two ‘new’ professions: ‘**PEACE ENTREPRENEUR**’ and ‘**PROGRESS ENTREPRENEUR**’ - inquiring and eliciting ‘more’ on the ‘**Contemporary Types of Societal Analysts**’ - inspired by an ‘**Anthropocene Cradle of Wisdom**’”:

These ‘new’ professions are necessary within the **contemporary quasi-turbulent worldwide COMPLEXITY**:

---Two long-termed pseudo-local wars: in Ukraine, and in Middle East – the war in Middle East is ‘observable’ mostly at the borderland of Israel/Gaza strip, and Israel/South Liban – but each of these two wars is worldwide linked.

---A continue ‘worldwide-meta-economic paradox’: the technological advance has an exponential trend, but-meantime the ‘worldwide economic stability’ is dynamically related to a higher-and-higher level of RISKS and UNCERTAINTY.


## 4. Reminders

As researchers dedicated to the study of social indicators within the ISA, we are committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and informative online community, and we hope you will join us on Bluesky.

 **Follow RC55 on Bluesky:** @isa-rc55.bsky.social

[RC55-Social Indicators \(@isa-rc55.bsky.social\) — Bluesky](https://bsky.app/profile/isa-rc55.bsky.social)

We also encourage you to follow the main ISA account on Bluesky:

 **ISA on Bluesky:** @isa-sociology.bsky.social

## June 2026 Newsletter

Please consider sending your updates to the Newsletter Editor at any time for inclusion in the next newsletter. For example, when you have a new publication, promotion, call for papers etc.