

CALL FOR PAPERS

Mid-term Conference of the ISA-RC55 Research Committee on
Social Indicators

Indicators of Social Sustainability and Wellbeing

Fiesole (Florence, Italy) 22-24 April 2021

The measurement of human wellbeing is a challenging endeavour that has kept generations of scholars and scientists busy for the better part of the last two hundred years. For most of that timespan, the prevailing intuition was that the measurement of welfare generated by the ability of income to provide for human wants and needs was reasonable enough as an approximation of wellbeing. By the 1930s, the emergence of the first modern models of national accounting had essentially provided the framework for what is today the state of the art in the measurement of income, and national accountants and economists had started to formalize its complicated relationship with the notion of “economic welfare”. Since then, however, it has become more and more apparent to social scientists that narrow definitions of welfare are insufficient to provide a meaningful picture of human wellbeing. First, the idea that a proper measurement of income should measure how much we can consume in a time period without compromising the possibility of future consumption introduced the notion of economic sustainability. Then, in the 1970s, a number of approaches convergently called into question the existing measures of income, for failing to take into account important aspects of human welfare; the project to aggregate the measurement of all that is meaningful for wellbeing into a single measure, for enforcing the reduction of all welfare aspects to a monetary measure; the notion that economic sustainability can stand in isolation from social and environmental concerns and, finally, the individualistic frame of observation, for failing to capture the social and relational aspects of wellbeing. The 1960s social indicators movement was part of such a process and, with its attempt to identify and aggregate key social measures in a small number of powerful social indicators to complement income, it now represents one of the most active areas of research on the sustainability of the various aspects of social environments.

The conference is intended to present methodological and applied works that address the issue of indicators of social sustainability and wellbeing also, even not necessarily, dealing with the issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mid-term Conference of the ISA-RC55 Research Committee on Social Indicators will be organised in cooperation with the AIQUAV 2020/21 Conference of the Italian Association for the Studies on Quality of Life (AIQUAV – www.aiquav.it).

Organising Committee

- Christian Suter (University of Neuchatel)
- Filomena Maggino (University of Rome “La Sapienza”)
- Enrico di Bella (University of Genoa)
- Sandra Fachelli (Pablo de Olavide University/Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Leonardo Salvatore Alaimo (Italian Institute of Statistics)
- Marco Fattore (University of Milan “Bicocca”)

Congress Organisation

The congress will be held in mixed mode (online and in presence) with the possibility of a full online congress if required for health reasons.

Venue

Centro Studi CISL

Via della Piazzuola, 71 - 50133 Firenze, Italy

<https://www.centrostudi.cisl.it/>

Submission of proposals

Proposals can be sent in the form of abstracts to Enrico di Bella (enrico.dibella@unige.it) by Feb. 28th 2021 according to the following schema:

- Title
- Authors and Affiliations (including all the e-mail addresses)
- Abstract (max 300 words)
- 1-5 Keywords
- 1-5 Key references

Deadline for abstract submission: Feb. 28th 2021.

Special issue of full papers

The congress is linked to the “Sustainability” journal special issue on Indicators of Social Sustainability and Wellbeing:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/Indicators_of_Social_Sustainability_and_Wellbeing

Sustainability is an Open Access Journal edited by MDPI with 2.576 as an Impact Factor score. The cost of publishing a paper on the journal – once accepted – is 1700 CHF but a number of vouchers are available for 50% (to be checked) discounts for invited authors. Any author of the RC-55 willing to submit a full paper to the special issue may contact Enrico di Bella (enrico.dibella@unige.it) for the invitation to the special issue.

Deadline for paper submission: June 30th 2021.