

**International Society for Quality-of-life Studies**  
**Exploring Happiness and Well-Being**

**ISQOLS 2017 Conference**

**QUALITY-OF-LIFE: TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY**

**Innsbruck, Austria. September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The International Society for Quality-of-life Studies (ISQOLS) is holding its 15th Conference from September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the beautiful city of Innsbruck, Austria. The conference's theme is "Quality-of-life: Towards a Better Society". ISQOLS conferences provide a space for scholars to present their research findings on quality-of-life, well-being, and happiness, as well as to discuss their relevance for policy making. ISQOLS gathers scholars from all corners of the world, from many disciplines, with different methodological and theoretical perspectives, and following different approaches, but with one common goal: generating research-based knowledge to contribute to the well-being in societies.

**Call for Abstracts, Posters and Symposia Organization**

Abstracts dealing with scientific research or best practice examples in all areas in quality-of-life, well-being and happiness are highly welcomed. The following tracks are provided as an illustration:

**Track 1: The History of Well-being**

Description: Understandings of well-being, happiness and quality of life across cultures and throughout time. Understandings of suffering and ill-being.

*Track chairs: Richard Estes, Joe Sirgy, Ron Anderson*

**Track 2: Well-Being in the World**

Description: Regional studies. Arctic Circle; Asia; Africa; Oceania; Middle East; Latin America; Caribbean; North America; Western Europe; Eastern Europe.

*Track chairs: Graciela Tonon, Habib Tiliouine, Mahar Mangahas*

**Track 3: Well-Being in Different Populations**

Description: Children; Adolescents; Elderly; Women; Men; Disabled; the Poor; the Rich; Migrants, Refugees.

*Track chairs: Liz Eckermann, Stepanié Rossouw, Sunkyo Kwon, Silvia Exenberger-Vanham*

#### **Track 4: Methodological Issues in the Study of Quality of Life, Happiness and Well-Being**

Description: Qualitative Research; Composite Indices; Psychometrics; Quantitative Methods; Measurement of Quality of Life, Well-Being and Happiness; Surveys; Database Handling; Big Data; Causality Issues; Modelling.

*Track chairs: Ming-Chang Tsai, Francesco Sarracino, Giampaolo Nuvolati,*

#### **Track 5: Applied Research in Well-Being**

Description: Health; Political Science; Medicine; Pharmacology and Health Care; Urban Planning and Policies; Rural Sociology; Business and Marketing; Economic Development; Public Administration; Education; Traveling and Tourism; Social Work; Psychology; Recreation and Using of Leisure Time; Aging; Community.

*Track chairs: Rhonda Phillips, Peter Krause, Youngwha Kee, Jorge Guardiola,*

#### **Track 6: Theory of Well-Being, Happiness and Quality of Life**

Description: Family; Social; Spiritual/Meaning; Consumption; Interpersonal Relations; Health; Work and Organisations; Arts and Culture; Environmental; Financial; Recreation and Use of Leisure Time; Housing and Neighbourhood.

*Track chairs: Daniel Shek, Ruut Veenhoven, Andrew Clark, Tatjana Schnell*

#### **Track 7: Disciplinary Approaches to Well-Being, Happiness and Quality of Life**

Psychology; Economics; Sociology; Anthropology; Political Science; Neuroscience; Philosophy; Biology; Medicine; Pharmacology and Health Care; Business and Marketing; Education; Social Work; Geography and Planning.

*Track chairs: Jan Delhey, Andrew Clark, Christian Suter, Javier Martínez*

#### **Track 8: Promoting Well-Being: The Role of Public and Private Sectors**

Description: How can governments promote well-being? Illustrations of public policies and initiatives aiming to increase the well-being in societies. Implementation considerations. The role of the private sectors in enhancing well-being: How can the private sector incorporate findings from well-being research into their daily practice? What actions can be implemented by the private sector in order to enhance the well-being at different levels (customers, employees, societies in general)?

*Track chairs: Mariano Rojas, Scott Cloutier, Martijn Burger*

#### **Track 9: Beyond GDP. New Understandings and Measures of Progress**

Description: New concepts and ideas about what constitutes progress in societies and how to measure it. Measuring the performance of societies.

*Track chairs: Kai Ludwigs, Mariano Rojas, Melanie Davern*

## **Track 10: Philanthropy; Volunteerism and Well-being**

Description: Well-being and doing good in society. How happiness, quality of life and well-being research contribute to the design and implementation of philanthropic programs?

*Track chairs: Ronald Anderson, Patsy Kraeger, Jeroen Boelhouwer*

### **Submission instructions**

Abstracts will be submitted to the different tracks of the conference. Abstracts **must** be submitted by the presenting author. The presenting author of **accepted** abstracts **must** be registered for the conference to be included in the conference program. Submitting authors are requested to carefully check the entire list of tracks to ensure they submit to the most appropriate track.

Each track will be chaired by two or more track chairs appointed by the Scientific Committee. The track chairs will assess the submissions within their tracks. The Scientific Committee has the final decision on the inclusion of abstracts and on the final presentation format and time.

Deadline for the abstract submission is ~~February 14th, 2017~~ **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

Notification of acceptance will be e-mailed to the presenting author by March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017, together with detailed information and guidelines.

We are looking forward to receiving your contributions.

### **1. Oral presentation:**

Oral presentations typically describe original empirical research (including „important replications“; „lessons learned“; “best practice”) or meta-analyses and reviews.

The maximum number of presentations for presenting authors is **two** oral presentation.

Oral presentations will be allocated by the track chairs to a 25-minute slot; divided as follows: 20 minute talk; 4 minute discussion; 1 minute change of presenters.

Abstracts should include:

**Title:** 15 words or less

**Author(s) details** (name and affiliation): First name(s) followed by surname(s); Institution of affiliation; country. Authors should be no more than 10. **The first author is the presenting author.**

The **body of the text** should be **no longer than 250 words** and include:

**Background:** State the primary objectives of the study; including the main research questions; aims or theory.

**Methods:** **Quantitative studies** should include design; participants (including number of participants); measures; **qualitative studies** should include design; participants; methods of data collection and analysis.

**Findings:** Quantitative studies should include a summary of the results; qualitative studies should

include a description of the main findings such as the themes or categories generated.

**Discussion:** Conclusions and/or some discussion of the possible contribution to; or implications for the field. Note: it is not acceptable to state “results will be discussed”.

Please do not include a list of references at the end of your abstract.

## **2. Poster presentation:**

There is no limit for poster presentation per presenting author.

The abstracts follow the same format as those for oral presentations; see above.

## **3. Symposia**

Symposia provide an opportunity for focused presentations of a particular topic. A symposium consists of 4 oral presentations and a discussant **or** five oral presentations; each 20 minutes long; from different authors on a related theme (totalling 100 minutes). The authors should be from at least two different countries; preferably more. *Presentations in a symposium do not count towards the overall limit of two oral presentations.*

The convenor must submit the symposium details (see below); symposium overview abstract and the timetable indicating the running order of the sections. Each of the symposium participants must then submit the abstract of their own presentation with its respective details (linked to the symposium by its code; see below).

Symposium details:

**Title:** 15 words or less.

**Convenor details** (name and affiliation): First name(s) followed by surname(s); institution of affiliation; country.

There can be one or maximum two convenors; but only one has the responsibility of the symposium.

**Chair details** (name and affiliation): First name(s) followed by surname(s); institution of affiliation; country. There can be up to two chairs. The chair may be the same person as the convenor.

**Discussant details:** First name followed by surname; institution of affiliation; country.

After the presentations; the discussant provides an overview of the main issues (about 10 minutes) and facilitates a general discussion of the topic by the audience and the authors.

**Symposium overview abstract** (maximum 250 words) including:

**Aims:** four or five points that summarise what you expect the symposium to achieve.

**Rationale:** explaining why it is important to discuss this issue at this year’s conference.

**Summary:** outlining the symposium as a whole and integrating the individual contributions.

**Timetable** indicating the running order of the sections (prepare as a separate file; to be uploaded in the submission process).

**Submission:** All items listed up to this point will be submitted by the symposium convenor. Following this submission; the convenor will receive a code for the symposium and send it to the presenting

authors. Then each author will submit her/his individual abstract; using the code to link it to the symposium. Please note that the overview and all abstracts of the symposium must be submitted to the same track.

**Abstracts for individual symposium presentations:** Please follow the submission guidelines for an oral presentation for the format of the abstract.

Please do not include a list of references at the end of your abstract.

#### **4. Pre-conference Workshops**

This category refers to workshops provided before the official opening of the conference.

A workshop provides an opportunity for a group of participants to achieve a specific goal or address a particular problem. It may be designed to train or educate participants in a particular research methodology or theoretical approach; or to address a specific problem; such as how to use particular research findings in policy making. A workshop can also be a useful way to develop a consensus on a particular issue. For example; the goal of the workshop may be to produce a position statement or policy on a particular topic; to identify priorities in a specific area or to develop theoretical perspectives or methodologies. It should have a clear structure and require active participation by everyone involved.

Contributors should state whether they prefer two or four hour conference workshop. The proposal must be submitted by the workshop convenor and must include:

**Title:** a title of 15 words or less.

**Facilitator(s) details** (name and affiliation): First name(s) followed by surname(s); Institution of affiliation; country.

There can be one or maximum two facilitator(s); but only one has the responsibility of the workshop. Facilitators should be experts in the topic.

Workshop overview abstract (maximum 250 words) including:

**Objectives:** up to four objectives; summarising what you expect the workshop to achieve and issues to be addressed.

**Activities:** an indication of the activities that will be undertaken during the workshop.

Description of the intended participants.

The maximum number of participants for the workshop.

**Conflict of interest:** Facilitator(s) are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest they may have in relation to the content of the proposed workshop (this disclosure is not included in the word limit).

Please also note that:

Conference workshops should focus on topics of the conference tracks and be of broad relevance to the field such as methods; scientific writing; intervention techniques and development strategies; evaluation strategies; theories; implementing research into policy or practice; critical reading; etc.