ISQOLS 2024 Best Dissertation Awards
1st prize: Fabio Battaglia, *To GDP or not to GDP: Identifying the factors promoting and inhibiting the use and impact of well-being metrics in Scotland and Italy*

2nd prize: Catherine Tullock, *Collateral Damage: Assessing the Impact of Gambling Problems on the Health and Wellbeing of Concerned Significant Others*

3rd prize (jointly):
- Giulia Slater, *Essays on Social Capital and Wellbeing*
- George Ward, *Happiness at Work: Essays on Subjective Wellbeing in the Workplace and Labor Market*

ISQOLS 2024 Best Poster Awards
1st Place: *Financial Well-being of Filipino Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Carlo Kristopher Trinidad and Consuelo Chua)

2nd Place: *Nurturing Well-being: Unraveling Perspectives of Children from Diverse Backgrounds in Taiwan* (Yu-Wen Chen and Shin-Yin Liu)

3rd Place: *Sample Size Determination for the Mean of the Exponential Distribution: Considering Hypothesis Testing, Confidence Intervals, Prediction Intervals, and Cost Constraints* (Wei-Ming Luh and Jiin-Huarg Guo)


ACCESS ISQOLS AWARDS CEREMONY PRESENTATION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS
Best Dissertation Awards

1st prize: Fabio Battaglia, To GDP or not to GDP: Identifying the factors promoting and inhibiting the use and impact of well-being metrics in Scotland and Italy

2nd prize: Catherine Tullock, Collateral Damage: Assessing the Impact of Gambling Problems on the Health and Wellbeing of Concerned Significant Others

3rd prize (jointly): 
Giulia Slater, Essays on Social Capital and Wellbeing

George Ward, Happiness at Work: Essays on subjective wellbeing in the workplace and labor market

2024 ISQOLS Best Poster Awards

1st Place Award: Choice of Free 2025 Winter Virtual Conference (Jan/Feb) registration or Free 2025 In-Person Conference registration (Luxembourg 2025); and free ISQOLS Annual membership

• Financial Well-being of Filipino Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Carlo Kristopher Trinidad and Consuelo Chua)

2nd Place Award: Free 2025 Winter Virtual Conference registration

• Nurturing Well-being: Unraveling Perspectives of Children from Diverse Backgrounds in Taiwan (Yu-Wen Chen and Shin-Yin Liu)

3rd Place Award: Free ISQOLS Annual membership

• Sample Size Determination for the Mean of the Exponential Distribution: Considering Hypothesis Testing, Confidence Intervals, Prediction Intervals, and Cost Constraints (Wei-Ming Luh and Jiin-Chang Hsu)
Ruut Veenhoven Award

The award was created in 2014 in honor of Emeritus Professor Ruut Veenhoven (1942), a prominent researcher and one of the founders of the field of Happiness Studies. The prize carries an award of the equivalent of $500 plus a certificate of appreciation and 1-year ISQOLS membership. It is intended to award outstanding research in the field of Happiness Studies by a promising researcher; a researcher who has performed exceptional research and is just embarking on a research career (having obtained a doctorate within the last five to eight years).

2024 Ruut Veenhoven Award
Anthony Lepinteur
2024 Ruut Veenhoven Award: Anthony Lepinteur

Position:
- Research Scientist, Department of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, University of Luxembourg

Education:
- Ph.D. in Economics (Paris School of Economics)

Research Interests:
- Measurement of SWB
- Effect of labour market reform on SWB and health
- Job insecurity: causes, consequences and measurement

Publications:
- 24 peer-reviewed journal articles
- 3 book chapters

Citations:
- >800 citations
- h-index: 13

Editorial responsibilities:
- Journal of Population Economics (Associate Editor)
- Review of Income and Wealth (Editorial Board)

ISQOLS VP of Online Events

2024 Young Scholar Award
Anthony Lepinteur
2024 Young Scholar Award
Emma Pleeging

- Senior researcher and project coordinator at the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organisation (EHERO) at Erasmus University Rotterdam

- Her work focuses on the role of positive experiences such as happiness and hope in society, organisations and for individuals. She has written extensively on the meaning, relevance and measurement of hope from an interdisciplinary perspective.

- Published six papers on hope in international journals since 2020, one received a best paper award, and her dissertation on hope also received a best dissertation award in 2022. Also, she coordinates projects aimed at increasing worker-wellbeing in Dutch organisations.

- In her dissertation, she focused specifically on the definition, role and measurement of hope.

- She has been a member of ISQOLS since the first year she visited its conference in 2016. The community surrounding ISQOLS has been incredibly uplifting and supportive in the development of her career. She has greatly enjoyed both the informal talks with a greatly diverse and positive-minded group of people, as well as the formal opportunities to present her work and receive recognition from academics she greatly admires.

- ISQOLS 2023 Post Doctoral Fellow
Research Fellow Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be designated a Research Fellow shall be evidence of a substantial contribution to QOL, wellbeing, happiness research.

2024 Research Fellow Award

Talita Greyling & Stephanié Rossouw
2024 Research Fellow Award: Stephanié Rossouw & Talita Greyling

Significance of their work:

In recent years, this dynamic team established the Gross National Happiness (GNH) project and made groundbreaking advancements in the field of Well-being Economics. By harnessing the power of Big Data and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) methodologies, they launched the first near real-time measure of happiness in 2019. Their innovative work using Twitter, which has garnered numerous awards and nominations, focuses on investigating the impact of various economic, social and political events on real-time well-being and happiness.

The GNH was adopted by Statistics New Zealand in 2021 as an experimental measure of subjective well-being and also formed part of the OECD's 2023 working paper on "Subjective well-being measurement: current practice and new frontiers" as a paradigm for using social media data to create new subjective well-being outputs.

The significance of their innovative approach to well-being research can also be seen in their extensive contributions to the discourse on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. Utilising their real-time data, they developed a Vaccine Positive Attitude Index for ten countries spanning the Northern and Southern hemispheres, in which the way hesitancy increased in 2021 could be seen. Subsequently, their research directly informed policymakers, health workers, and stakeholders who communicate with the public during infectious disease outbreaks.

2024 Research Fellow Award: Stephanié Rossouw & Talita Greyling

Distinctions and Awards:

- Statistics NZ adopted the GNH as an experimental measure of subjective well-being.
- Received the University of Johannesburg's Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Innovation.
- Nominated for AUT's Vice-Chancellor's Matariki Research Excellence Award.
- Top Cited Article 2021-2022 award from Wiley for the paper on the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on happiness.
- "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Lockdowns during COVID-19", is in the 91st percentile and the top 10% of all research outputs tracked, according to Altmetric.
- "Happiness-lost: Did Governments Make the Right Decisions to Combat COVID-19?" was chosen as one of three highlighted Economics of Happiness papers in July 2020 by Econpapers.
- TED Talk on subjective well-being.
- > 145 news articles, podcasts and interviews (TV and radio).
- GNH is known as the "Voice of Happiness" in South Africa.
2024 Research Fellow Award: Stephanié Rossouw & Talita Greyling

Looking forward:

Building on the success of the GNH, they have developed an innovative method to construct a comprehensive, near real-time happiness index using information-seeking query data based on emotion words extracted continuously from Google Trends™ as a constant measure of happiness. Their Google Trends™ happiness index has been successfully validated against out-of-sample data for the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and South Africa.

They are excited to announce that the official launch of this index will take place in early 2025 at the opening of the new Centre for Well-being, AI and Social Science (C.WaIS) at the University of Johannesburg.

And remind you of the 1st Regional ISQOLS conference in Africa!
Distinguished Service Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be given a Distinguished Service Award is outstanding service to the Society in a leadership position.

2024 Distinguished Service Award
Mahar Mangahas
2024 Distinguished Service Award:
Mahar Mangahas

- In 2019, SWS received the ISQOLS Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition at its annual conference in Granada, Spain.
- Dr. Mangahas has presented his research not only in academic meetings and publications, but also in a weekly newspaper column, entitled Social Climate, in the Manila Chronicle (1986-94), the Manila Standard (1996-2001), and the Philippine Daily Inquirer (2007-present). A selection from the first decade of these pieces became the book The Philippine Social Climate: from the SWS surveys (Anvil Publishing, 1994).
- Dr. Mangahas’ paper on Self-Rated Poverty won the 1993 Elizabeth Nelson Award at the annual conference of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) in Copenhagen. Based on national surveys done semi-annually in 1986-9, and then quarterly ever since 1992, the SWS Self-Rated Poverty time-series is the most rapid system of tracking poverty in the world.
- SWS’ success in predicting election outcomes has been a bane for politicians. In 2001 it battled a freshly-signed law aimed at suppressing pre-election surveys, and won decisively when the Philippine Supreme Court, within weeks, ruled favorably on its petition to declare the law unconstitutional; the Court acted so quickly that the law was never applied to an election. This led to Dr. Mangahas’ Helen Dinerman Award at the 2001 WAPOR conference in Rome.

2024 Distinguished Service Award:
Mahar Mangahas

- Service to ISQOLS includes long-term Board member and current Emeritus Board member
- 2014 ISQOLS Distinguished Research Fellow Award, for career contributions to QOL research
- Educated in economics at the University of the Philippines (AB 1962, MA 1965) and the University of Chicago (PhD 1970).
- In 1970-81, Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE), handling agricultural economics, econometrics, land reform, income distribution, and poverty. Received the UPSE Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2015.
- In 1981-84, as DAP vice-president and head of its Research for Development Department, he directed its pioneering “Social Weather Stations” project, which moved the research from theoretical principles to practical implementation by means of scientific surveys.
- In 1985, he co-founded Social Weather Stations (www.sws.org.ph), a private non-profit institute dedicated to quality-of-life monitoring, opinion polling, and survey archiving. He was SWS President/CEO from 1985 to 2021, and since then has been Chair Emeritus.
- The SWS surveys were prominent in recording the Philippine transition from authoritarianism under Ferdinand Marcos Sr. (president, 1965-87) to democracy under Corazon Aquino (president, 1987-92). For four decades, they have regularly covered many aspects of the people’s well-being, including poverty, hunger, joblessness, perceived trends in QOL from the past and into the future, satisfaction with public officials and agencies, life-satisfaction, happiness, and general opinions about public issues.
- Dr. Mangahas’ paper on Self-Rated Poverty won the 1993 Elizabeth Nelson Award at the annual conference of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) in Copenhagen. Based on national surveys done semi-annually in 1986-9, and then quarterly ever since 1992, the SWS Self-Rated Poverty time-series is the most rapid system of tracking poverty in the world.
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The What Works Centre for Wellbeing

- Set up in 2014 as an independent collaborating centre to improve wellbeing and reduce misery in the UK.
- Founding belief that improved wellbeing and reduced misery is the ultimate goal of effective policy and community action.

What is wellbeing?

Wellbeing is how we’re doing as individuals, communities and as a nation; and how sustainable it is for the future. It’s about feeling good and functioning well as individuals, and together.

Wellbeing is sometimes referred to as social welfare or social value. It can be thought of as quality of life, and used as a measure of societal progress beyond metrics like GDP alone in Wellbeing Frameworks.
In the past 10 years they worked towards a future where...

- Wellbeing is recognised as a meaningful and measurable goal for decision makers.
- Knowledge of what works and how to implement it reaches people who can and want to use it.
- More evidence-informed action is taken to improve people's lives.
- More trials and studies are done which continue to build the evidence base.

whatworkswellbeing.org
2017
- New Local Area Wellbeing Indicator Set published
- Methods series launched: drawing together views from leading experts alongside a real-world insights from across different sectors using evidence in practice
- 23 reports published, including Measuring wellbeing inequalities, the first report of its type in the UK
- Audience increased 75%
- Assumed Secretariat to the Social Impact Taskforce

2019
- The Origins of Happiness published, informed by Centre review exploring the drivers of life satisfaction over the course of people’s lives
- Knowledge Bank published, collating all the Wellbeing evidence produced by the Centre’s lead systematic reviews
- 12,000 people a month using our website
- Number of core staff doubles
- First dedicated implementation role with local government and health sector and maximise local wellbeing three-year programme launched
- Three new secondary data analysis initiatives announced on community, loneliness and social isolation
- Conceptual review of loneliness and guidance on measurement published

2022
- Wellbeing established as the overall outcome of the UK governments’ Leveling Up framework
- Amendment to the Health and Social Care Bill (now Health and Care Act 2022) for England requiring every part of England to provide specialist palliative care as a legal requirement.
- Evaluations including What works for place-based arts and culture? What works to build social capital? and What works to improve wellbeing within communities?
- E-learning ‘Introduction to wellbeing’ developed
- Six hallmarks of coherent wellbeing policy making published
- Board Level and Governance wellbeing roles research in partnership with NHS England

2023
- Evaluations included: What works for community agency and control?
- Contributed our expertise to the first ever review of the UK Measures of National Wellbeing Dashboard;
- Wellbeing incorporated as a topic in the Mental Health & Wellbeing JSNA OHID public health profile;
- Wellbeing evaluation top-up fund created: enabling existing evaluations to add wellbeing measures alongside their other outcomes to make best use of evaluation resources and learn more about how wellbeing interacts with other outcomes of interest to public policy.
- Collaboration with Campaign to End Loneliness to map and grow the loneliness evidence base
- Guidance created for Improving wellbeing of staff in schools and colleges and for supporting employees with terminal illnesses
- In-house data analysis function expanded, producing exploratory analysis of English Housing Survey wellbeing data, Time Use data and the Health Index
2020

- Wellbeing at the Heart of Policy: landmark report published
- Wellbeing was a word of the year
- Centre well-placed to operationally respond to Covid-19 and delivered weekly evidence bulletins on work and place, data analysis and understanding of fortnightly subjective wellbeing data and how to apply it.

2021

- Wellbeing Guidance for Appraisal: informing the UK Treasury’s Green Book guidance so that wellbeing is, for the first time, fully included in official guidance on business cases, spending and evaluations
- Covid:WIRED: a major project to understand the pandemic’s early impact and map wellbeing inequalities, applying the UK wellbeing framework to create an interactive database
- Three major analysis projects with UCL to better understand the pandemic’s impact on loneliness, wellbeing and mental health and what helped people cope.
- Campaign to End Loneliness formally hosted by Centre and Tackling Loneliness Hub launched
- First loneliness conference
- Evaluations included: What works to improve mental wellbeing? What matters for our sense of purpose? (UK’s first) and What works for communities to thrive?
- Measuring wellbeing measures bank launched

2024

- Learning partner for Spirit of 2020’s Legacy
- Developed and launched Understanding Society wellbeing data dashboard in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex
- Launched practical guidance for maximising wellbeing in kidney care
- In-house analysis published including Annual Population Survey wellbeing data insights
- Centre closed
- Learning partner for Spirit of 2022's legacy
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- Launched practical guidance for maximising wellbeing in kidney care
- In-house analysis published including Annual Population Survey wellbeing data insights
- Centre closed

In numbers
Over the last 10 years we...
- Delivered over 90 projects
- Wrote 567 blogs
- Grew our weekly newsletter audience to 5K
- Collaborated with 110 partners
- Created 68 briefings
- Welcomed over 1M visitors to our main website
- Commissioned 13 discussion papers
- Published 81 technical reports
- Welcomed over 100K visitors to our microsite
- Provided tailored support to over 100 local authorities on using wellbeing evidence to inform policies and practice
- Sent 498 weekly newsletters
- Clocked up 90K downloads of our digital resources
- Trained over 5K people through online and in-person sessions and workshops
- Held over 75 evidence advice surgeries for charities and community groups
- Held over 50 advisory roles
- Built an online community of 18K X (Twitter) followers
- Grew our LinkedIn network to 7K LinkedIn followers
Thank you

Nancy Hey
Ingrid Abreu Scherer
Joanne Smithson

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