

## **A Database of Abstracts of scientific papers – Quality of life**

### **Quality of life – Concepts, policy and practice (book)**

***David Phillips***

Over a long period three people in particular have had an enormous influence on the development of my academic interest in quality of life. In the early 1970s, Kathleen Jones, then Professor of Social Administration at the University of York where I was a postgraduate student, continually advocated the normative role of social policy in creating the ‘good society’ which nurtures the welfare and well-being of all its members. Eric Sainsbury, Professor of Social Administration at Sheffield, and my mentor as a newly appointed lecturer in the mid-1970s and guide thereafter, always emphasised the importance of the quality of life of each person with their individual and uniquely personal needs. John Westergaard, Professor of Sociology during my early years at Sheffield, and tireless protagonist for a fair, just and equal society, constantly stressed the social structural determinants of divisions and inequalities in society. Their combined influence has ensured that this book is interdisciplinary and addresses both individual and collective aspects of quality of life.

### **Urban environmental quality and human well-being Towards a conceptual framework and demarcation of concepts; a literature study (paper, Landscape and Urban Planning 65 (2003) 5–18)**

***Irene van Kamp, et. al.***

Construction of a multidisciplinary conceptual framework of environmental quality and quality of life is required to advance the field of urban development, environmental quality and human well-being. Such a framework would allow for a more theory-based choice of indicators and for the development of tools to evaluate multidimensional

aspects of urban environmental quality. These tools are required to assess the current and future quality of the urban environment and to have, eventually, the ability to assess the implications of spatial and urban planning policies with respect to these dimensions. Against this background, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands (RIVM) performed a major literature review [Leidelmeijer, van Kamp, 2002, in press] to identify various concepts in the literature concerning environmental quality, the relationships between these various concepts, as well as their respective theoretical bases. This paper summarises the outcomes of this survey. It reviews the main (types of) concepts of livability, environmental quality, quality of life and sustainability, and presents examples of underlying conceptual models. Different notions and concepts are compared along the dimensions of domain, indicator, scale, time-frame and context as described by [Urban Environmental Quality—a social geographical perspective, this issue]. It is concluded that a multidisciplinary conceptual framework of environmental quality and quality of life that will go beyond the disciplinary differences found in the current literature is needed if the field is to advance.

## **Can quality or quality-of-life be defined? (paper, Qual Life Res (2012) 21:625–631)**

**Ivan Barofsky**

The aim of this paper is to examine the oft-heard concern that quality or quality-of-life cannot be defined. This concern persists today, even in the presence of countless studies that claim to be assessing quality or quality-of-life. There is obviously a disconnect here that warrants some attention, if not explanation. In this study, I summarize the extent of this disconnect and offer a number of potential explanations of why this situation exists. I review the role that operational definitions, statistical and empirical models, and content-specific definitions play in defining quality and/or quality-of-life. I conclude that none of these approaches provide a comprehensive definition of quality or quality-of-life. In its stead, I will argue that quality or quality-of-life represents a distinctive pattern of thinking. I establish this pattern by examining the cognitive–linguistic basis of these

definitions and argue that when this is done it will be possible to identify an universal cognitive (hybrid) construct that describes how a person thinks about all types of qualitative assessments. The implication of this is that for a study to claim that it is defining or assessing quality or quality-of-life, it will first have to demonstrate the presence of the elements of this hybrid construct.

## **BY DESIGN: THE DISASTER RESISTANT AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE COMMUNITY**

**By Donald E. Geis**

We require no less than a whole new way of thinking about how we design and build our communities in natural hazard areas—seismic, coastal, and watersheds—if we are to ensure our societies' safety, health, and overall quality of life. Our present approach is inadequate and is inflicting great and growing harm—physically, environmentally, socially, economically, and emotionally—that we can no longer tolerate. The disaster resistant community (DRC) concept, the first and foremost step toward creating quality-of-life communities, was created specifically to provide this new way of thinking. While a great deal has been heard about this term and its accompanying concept, it is, for the most part, not being used effectively. A number of basic questions need to be addressed: What are DRCs? Why are they important? What are the benefits? What is the origin and history of the concept? What is the relationship between a DRC and a sustainable quality-of-life community? And, most importantly, how do we go about creating them? The purpose of this article is to provide the answers to these questions so that the concept can be better understood and used to its fullest potential.

## **THE ROLE AND STATUS OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH (paper)**

**Ivan ANDRÁŠKO**

One of the basic attributes of the quality of life concept can be considered its interdisciplinary character. Thereby in the past decades quality of life studies have arisen in a wide range of scientific disciplines. From the geographical point of view, specification of the status of geographical research and its tasks within the framework of quality of life examination is of great importance. In this paper an attempt is made to outline some basic answers to two interrelated questions. The first one of them deals with the role the geography plays in the field of quality of life research. From a bit different point of view, the latter one focuses on the importance of this research for the geography itself. Besides these two problems, the aspect of geographical scale and the usefulness of information obtained via the geographical quality of life research are also discussed.

## Rezidenční segregace (book)

### Luděk Sýkora (editor)

Jedním z negativních jevů, se kterým se potýkají všechny rozvinuté společnosti, jsou důsledky rezidenční segregace. Ne ve všech zemích a městech je však tento jev stejně vyhrcočený a dopad na soužití společnosti stejně intenzivní. Tyto negativní důsledky mohou dobře cílená opatření zmírnit nebo je dokonce i eliminovat. Z odborné literatury jsou známy příklady, kdy nejen nečinnost, ale někdy i snahy o odstranění rezidenční segregace nastolily zdánlivě racionální řešení, která však nejen neumožnila trvalé vyřešení segregace, ale vedla po několika letech i k vážnému prohloubení sociálních konfliktů v dosud stabilních městských částech. Z tohoto důvodu je potřebné znát možná rizika, i možné cesty vedoucí k řešení. Nalézání východisek nepříznivých jevů, které dynamický vývoj společnosti přináší, je nutné hledat ve spolupráci se všemi příslušnými aktéry. Proto bylo zadáno zpracování této publikace, jejímž cílem je představit klíčové otázky spojené se segregací, umožňující těmto problémům věnovat zvýšenou pozornost. Pro širší diskuzi je také účelné sjednotit terminologii a umožnit tak veřejnosti i zástupcům veřejné správy a nevládních neziskových organizací se v této problematice dobře zorientovat a tam, kde to je možné, včas volit vhodné varianty z nabízejících se

možností. Vznik této publikace byl umožněn i díky finančním příspěvkům Ministerstva pro místní rozvoj a Ministerstva vnitra.

## **KVALITA ŽIVOTA JAKO ÚČAST PROFILU KONKURENCESCHOPNÉHO REGIÓNU? (paper)**

**Mgr. I. Andráško, PhD.**

The article deals with some aspects of the relationship between the competitiveness, convergence and quality of life, which can be considered very popular terms in the context of the recent regional policy and development. The aim is especially to support the discussion regarding the interpretation of the quality of life as a part of the competitive regions profile.

### **Quality of Life in the Planning Literature**

**J.-C. Dissart, Steven C. Deller**

This bibliography reviews the literature on the notion of quality of life and how it affects several planning issues. The concept of quality of life is examined in general terms through definitions, concepts, models, and methods. Following this are discussions on quality of life as it relates to places or geographic areas, primarily urban ones, but also rural areas and neighborhoods; the role of quality of life in human migration; the impact of quality of life on firm location; and the relationship between quality of life and regional economic growth. The authors conclude that quality of life will increasingly play a significant role in various planning dimensions, but that role is likely to be a complex one.

## **Quality of Life: Its Definition and Measurement (paper, Research in Developmental Disabilities, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 51-74, 1995)**

**David Felce and Jonathan Perry**

A model of quality of life is proposed that integrates objective and subjective indicators, a broad range of life domains, and individual values. It takes account of concerns that externally derived norms should not be applied without reference to individual differences. It also allows for objective comparisons to be made between the situations of particular groups and what is normative. Considerable agreement exists that quality of life is multidimensional. Coverage may be categorised within five dimensions: physical wellbeing, material wellbeing, social wellbeing, emotional wellbeing, and development and activity. A research agenda is discussed as are the particular problems caused by difficulties in understanding and communicating.

## **Quality of Life: Meaning, Measurement, and Models**

**Elyse W. Kerce**

This report reviews the history of quality of life research, identifies reasons for focusing on quality of life as a desired outcome, and discusses objective and subjective approaches to its assessment. The distinction between cognition and affect in perceptions of well-being is explored to facilitate a more thorough understanding of the components of subjective quality of life. Several models specifying the relationship between components of quality of life are presented, and the advantages of applying a life domains model are discussed. Research findings on the demographic correlates of quality of life are summarized. The properties of a number of popular measurement scales are compared, and recommendations are made for conducting quality of life assessment within the military community.

## **The Process of Formulating Quality of Life Indicators Using a Gender Perspective. The Need for “Gendered” Indicators in Urban Policy, Programme and Project Analysis” (paper)**

**Paola Jirón and Giulietta Fadda**

The word “indicator” suggests a warning, an announcement, a guide, a representation, a signal, or a trace. An indicator is something that provides a key to understanding more complex or important issues, it can make perceptible a tendency or phenomena which is not immediately detectable. (Hammond, 1995 in De Wel, 1995). Defining, measuring, comparing and analysing urban indicators for sustainability and quality of life have become crucial to understanding the urban planning and management process. Such indicators are important tools to face the challenge of improving our cities, mainly by knowing how well or bad we are living. Information regarding the current situation can guide us towards better proposals to ameliorate the living conditions of the future.

## **An Integrative Approach to Quality of Life Measurement, Research, and Policy (paper)**

**Robert Costanza, et al.**

While Quality of Life (QOL) has long been an explicit or implicit policy goal, adequate definition and measurement have been elusive. Diverse “objective” and “subjective” indicators across a range of disciplines and scales, and recent work on subjective well-being (SWB) surveys and the psychology of happiness have spurred renewed interest. Drawing from multiple disciplines, we present an integrative definition of QOL that combines measures of human needs with subjective well-being or happiness. QOL is proposed as a multiscale, multi-dimensional concept that contains interacting objective and subjective elements. We relate QOL to the opportunities that are provided to meet human needs in the forms of built, human, social and natural capital (in addition to time) and the policy options that are available to enhance these opportunities. Issues

related to defining, measuring, and scaling these concepts are discussed, and a research agenda is elaborated. Policy implications include strategies for investing in opportunities to maximize QOL enhancement at the individual, community, and national scales.

### **Urban environmental quality and human wellbeing—a social geographical perspective (paper, *Landscape and Urban Planning* 65 (2003) 19–30)**

**Michael Pacione**

Concern over the quality of modern life is a characteristic of contemporary society. This paper explains the social geographical approach to research into quality of life and urban environmental quality. A five-dimensional model for quality of life research is presented, and a number of key conceptual and methodological issues examined. Two exemplar case studies are employed to illustrate the application of the five-dimensional social geographical perspective in a real world context. Finally, the potential usefulness of quality of life research is assessed, and several conclusions advanced for future research.