



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Indicators: Construction and Application

2122-1-F8802N044

Learning objectives

The course aims to examine the development of social indicators determined by - among others - the weakening of the dominance of the economy in terms of welfare by focusing on methods of statistical aggregation.

Contents

- Origin and evolution of social and demographic indicators.
- Data production Agencies and quality of sources
- Database connections and overlaps
- Limits and opportunities of the databases of the main national and international agencies
- Validity and representativeness of the indicators.
- Techniques for the construction of composite indicators
- Measures to measure well-being and quality of life

Detailed program

The course is divided into two parts. In the first part, it aims to examine the development of social indicators determined - among other things - by the weakening of the dominance of the economy in terms of wealth. As

measures of quality of life, social indicators must meet specific characteristics that will be taken into account in discussing the design of the surveys and in the processing of the databases of the main international agencies. The second part of the course focuses on the methods of statistical aggregation aimed at generating synthetic measures of well-being potentially comparable between different countries or regions of the world.

Prerequisites

Statistical competence and knowledge of economic and social processes.

Teaching methods

The course is a combination of theoretical and practical lessons and will be given in workshops.

Assessment methods

Exercises and a report on an individual project.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The teacher will provide teaching material to the students during the course. Non-students are kindly requested to contact the teacher.

Reading List

Ben-chieh Liu (1975) *Quality of Life: Concept, Measure and Results* The American Journal of Economics and Sociology, Vol. 34, No. 1

[Hideyuki M](#) (2014) . Measuring World Better Life Frontier: A Composite Indicator for OECD Better Life Index [Social Indicators Research](#); Vol.118,Iss.3

Massoli P. Mazziotta M., Pareto A., Rinaldelli C. (2014) *Indici compositi per il BES* Giornate della ricerca in Istat 10-11 novembre 2014

Lepenies P. (2019) *Transforming by Metrics that Matter – Progress, Participation, and the National Initiatives of Fixing Well-Being Indicators*, Historical Social Research Vol. 44, N 2

Giovannini E. (2018) *L'utopia sostenibile* Bari: Laterza

O'Neil C. (2017) *Armi di distruzione matematica*. Milano: Giunti
