UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Indicators: Construction and Application

2223-1-F8802N044

Learning objectives

The course aims to examine the emergence and development of social indicators that emerged to challenge the dominance of economics in measuring well-being. In addition to the focus on statistical aggregation methods, the course will familiarise students with the leading social, environmental, and demographic indicators, their value, and their limitations in the sustainability dimensions.

Contents

- Origin and evolution of social and demographic indicators.

- Data production Agencies and quality of sources

- Database connections

- 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 of well-being and quality of life

Detailed program

The course is divided into two strands. The first examines the emergence and development of social indicators determined - among other things - by the decline of the dominance of economics in the measurement of well-being.A substantial part of the course focuses on the different declinations of statistical variables on quality of life, distinguishing statistical production and availability in countries of the North and South. In this perspective, the process of survey design and the treatment of the databases of the leading international and national agencies will be examined. The second part of the course focuses on statistical aggregation methods to generate aggregate well-being measures that are potentially comparable across 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 delivered in laboratories

Assessment methods

Exercises and a final report on an individual project.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

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

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

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | CLIMATE ACTION