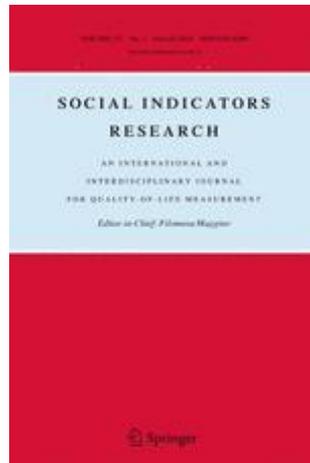


Call for Papers:

Sustainable development: Actual trends on synthetic indicators, non-aggregative and configurational approaches

Social Indicators Research (Springer journal) Special Issue



Guest Editors:

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The Brundtland Report (1987) (World Commission on Environment and Development - WCED) defines sustainable development as development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”.

Assessing wellness and development requires a common conceptual framework about its determinants and the society and the identification of the most consistent and effective methodologies to build indicators that can be easily understood by society (Fattore, Maggino, & Colombo, 2012). In the last years, qualitative comparative analysis and partially ordered sets have been applied to different fields of research such as business, education, management, international relations, inequality, politics, and sociology (Roig-Tierno, Gonzalez-Cruz, & Llopis-Martinez, 2017; Fattore, 2016). Sustainable development is an increasingly interesting topic that can help advance research on environmental and socio-economic concerns (Bende-Nabende, 2017).

Sustainable development is key to face the fundamental challenges of humanity. The use of non-aggregative approaches can be useful when trying to understand the relationships between nature and society.

This special issue has the following goals:

1. On the one hand, it aims at analyzing the new trends regarding synthetic indicators related to sustainable development. Synthetic indicators are synthetic indexes of individual indicators and their greatest advantage is the possibility of grouping large amounts of information in simple and easily comprehensible formats. Therefore, they are a highly valued tool for communication with society and for policymakers (Freudenberg, 2003). Thus, the synthetic indicator usually measures multi-dimensional concepts that cannot be integrated or understood using a single indicator, as in cases of competitiveness, industrialization, sustainability, etc. (Nardo et al., 2005).
2. On the other hand, it tries to compensate the current trend of research on non-aggregative approaches that limits the appearance of new specific methodology proposals such as partially ordered set (poset) theory. Poset is a mathematics branch that provides the tools that allow the management of multidimensional systems of ordinal data (Fattore, Maggino, & Colombo, 2012). In fact, through poset tools, the sequences can be assessed without any type of aggregation of the underlying variables because the assessment takes place through the exploitation of the relational structure, thus involving only a partial order. The effectiveness of the partially ordered set is especially evident in the way the ponderation problem is approached and solved. Synthetic indicators represent the main focus of socioeconomic assessment; however, various critical problems affect their calculation. Therefore, the use of partially ordered set theory may prevent the inconsistency with the phenomena's nature, preventing in turn random results with low significance and a difficult interpretation.
3. Lastly, the configurational methods such as Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) allow identifying the paths that lead to a particular outcome. QCA is a method that merges the advantages of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and identifies patterns of conditions that are necessary or sufficient for explaining an outcome. QCA draws on case information and is usually applied to small and medium samples (Woodside, 2016). It was

developed by Charles Ragin (Ragin, 2008) and, after two variations (crisp-set QCA and multi-variate QCA); fuzzy-sets QCA has provided a change-turning perspective. FsQCA is increasingly popular as a research tool (Fiss, 2011, Radaelli & Wagemann, 2018; Roig-Tierno, Huarng, & Ribeiro-Soriano, 2017). QCA allows exploring the structure of the data through the creation of recipes while avoiding the aggregation of variables. The use of a QCA methodology, with its union of qualitative and quantitative approach, can attract the interest when trying to study sustainable development.

Submitted papers may deal with non-aggregative approaches to synthetic indicators, partially ordered sets for synthetic indicators (methods and software), sufficient and necessary analyses (QCA) and any of the following questions using those methodologies:

- What types of entrepreneurship lead to sustainable development?
- Are there connections between environmental degradation and human exploitation?
- Is a high level of innovation a necessary condition for sustainable development?
- What are the future environmental and social justice movements for a sustainable development?
- Etc.

This special issue will present a collection of articles that articulate and explore questions related to sustainable development and its measurement. This list is not exhaustive and merely illustrates the type of research that will fit well in the *Social Indicators Research* Special Issue.

All submitted manuscripts must fully adhere to the *Social Indicators Research* general author guidelines (<https://goo.gl/Lgajx5>). Submitted manuscripts must not be already published or be under consideration by other journals.

Please submit your paper electronically using Editorial Manager <http://www.editorialmanager.com/soci/default.aspx> (authors have to specify in a note that they are submitting their paper specifically to the *Social Indicators Research* Special Issue).

Deadline:

- Deadline for submission of full papers: 31st July 2019

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