

# THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN LIFE

Perceptions, Evaluations, and Satisfaction

Angus Campbell  
Philip E. Converse  
Willard L. Rodgers

TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE DARMSTADT	
Fachbereich 1	
<u>Gesamtbibliothek</u>	
<u>Betriebswirtschaftslehre</u>	
Inventar-Nr. :	17.607
Abstell-Nr. :	A28/ 764
Sachgebiete:	55
	00245623

Russell Sage Foundation  
New York

# Contents

---

Preface	ix
<i>Chapter 1 Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
Background	5
The Present Study	7
Plan of the Book	17
<b>PART I</b>	<b>19</b>
Introduction	21
<i>Chapter 2 The General Sense of Well-Being</i>	<i>23</i>
"Happiness" as a Social Indicator	24
Cantril's Self-Anchoring Scale	31
Our Measure of Overall Life Satisfaction	32
Ways of Characterizing "Life in General"	38
Our Composite Index of Well-Being	49
Other Measures of the Sense of Well-Being	56
Conclusions	59
<i>Chapter 3 Domains of Life Experience</i>	<i>61</i>
The Domain Satisfactions	62
Predicting the Global Sense of Well-Being	75
Direct Ratings of Domain Importance	82
The Question of Affect Balance	93
Conclusions	95
<i>Chapter 4 Bias in Measurement</i>	<i>97</i>
The Positive Aura of Well-Being	99
The Perils of Isolated and Unrefined Relationships	114
A Case Study of an Unexpected Result	115
Broadening the Perspective	123
Conclusions	132
<i>Chapter 5 Some General Influences on Reports of Satisfaction</i>	<i>135</i>
Educational Differences and Satisfaction Reports	136
Age and the Experience of Satisfaction	150
Conclusions	169
<i>Chapter 6 Satisfaction, Aspirations and Expectations</i>	<i>171</i>
The Nature and Bases of Aspirations	172
Changes in Domain Satisfactions	199
Conclusions	208

<b>PART II</b>	<b>211</b>
Introduction	213
<i>Chapter 7 The Residential Environment</i>	217
Introduction	217
A Conceptual Model of Residential Satisfaction	219
Community Satisfaction	222
Neighborhood Satisfaction	238
Housing Satisfaction	249
The Residential Environment as a Complex Whole	256
Conclusions	261
<i>Chapter 8 The Country as a Domain of Experience</i>	267
How Is Life in the United States Changing?	268
Assessment of Fairness and Freedom	276
Satisfaction with Life in the United States	278
Willingness to Leave the United States	280
Discussion	283
Conclusions	285
<i>Chapter 9 The Experience of Work</i>	287
Labor Force Participation	288
How Well Can Job Satisfaction Be Explained?	296
Work in the Home	306
The Relation of Job Status to Quality of Life	312
Job Satisfaction and the Quality of Life	317
Conclusions	318
<i>Chapter 10 Marriage and Family Life</i>	321
Satisfaction with Marriage	322
Satisfaction with Family Life	336
Discussion	344
Conclusions	345
<i>Chapter 11 Personal Resources and Personal Competence</i>	347
Measures of Personal Resources	350
The Aggregation of Resources	359
The Prediction of Personal Competence	363
Personal Resources and Feelings of Well-Being	368
Satisfaction with Resources and the Sense of Well-Being	373
Conclusions	387
<b>PART III</b>	<b>389</b>
Introduction	391
<i>Chapter 12 The Situation of Women</i>	395
Women Through the Life Cycle	397
Women at Work Outside the Home	421
Discussion	433
Conclusions	441

<i>Chapter 13 The Quality of Life Experience of Black People</i>	443
Dangers and Possible Problems in Social Indicator Research	444
Social Indicator Research on Blacks: Why Quality of Life?	445
General Measures of Well-Being	447
Satisfaction with the Domains of Life	458
Meaning of Life for Black People: A Summary	464
<i>Chapter 14 The Perceived Quality of Life and Its Implications</i>	471
Subjective Reflections of Objective Conditions	474
Some Measurement Lessons	488
Policy Implications and Their Limits	496
Conclusions	507
Appendices	509
Appendix A Sample Design and Characteristics	511
Sampling Variability	512
Reinterview Sample	517
Appendix B The Questionnaire	519
References	565
Index	573