

Preface

The general aim of this book is to rethink the concept of community in Latin countries and their quality of life and well-being, presenting unique experiences written by authors from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Portugal and Spain.

It is organized in two parts and contains 14 chapters.

Part I is organized in seven chapters and dedicated to the study of theory and practice of community quality of life.

The aim of Chap. 1, written by me, is to rethink the concepts of community and community quality of life in Latin American countries, reflected by the voices of actual persons; considering the importance of conversation in the inter-subjective relations among people in the community and the construction of a collective scenario for the building of a common ground. Recognizing that the advent of the digital era makes the construction of virtual communities; thus, we should nowadays make reference to *communities* rather than *community*.

In Chap. 2, Helena Marujo and Luis Neto explore a collaborative action-research project whose aim was to generate new knowledge about well-being and happiness in higher education, which might result in improved outcomes for the school communities. The discussion draws upon data from a study conducted across ten schools of Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal, using focus group interviews, and the World Café methodology to engage and connect participants in conversation, and appreciative inquiry to construct meaningful and transformative questions.

Denise Benatuil and Walter Toscano present, in Chap. 3, the relationship between sports and community well-being, taking into account factors such as social bonds, social and cultural integration, health, improved quality of life, and the enhancement of personal and community well-being, providing a theoretical assessment based on the concepts of well-being, community well-being, and sports, distinguishing the latter from mere physical activity.

In Chap. 4, Claudia Mikkelsen and Sofia Ares study the quality of life and commuting in rururban communities of Argentina considering that the processes of urban growth, which spread population encourage the intensification of everyday commuting and the demands for new services, public passenger transport system

and the educational and health infrastructure. The results of the study illustrate the inequality of opportunities in commuting and the generation and consolidation of situations of vulnerability in the analyzed communities, in relation to their quality of life.

Mariano Rojas in Chap. 5 studies the negative impact of crime and safety concerns on satisfaction with community life in Mexico using a representative data set from 100 Mexican urban municipalities which show that satisfaction with safety in the neighbourhood is crucial for community satisfaction and that victimization has a very large impact on satisfaction with safety in the neighbourhood.

In Chap. 6, Karla Valverde Viesca and Enrique Gutiérrez Márquez provides a general overview on a successful citizen participation experience that emerged with the implementation of the Programa Comunitario de Mejoramiento Barrial (PCMB) *Community Program of Neighborhood Improvement in Mexico City*, which has a direct impact on the quality of life of its beneficiaries.

Cecilia Cadena-Inostroza and María Esther Morales Fajardo present, in Chap. 7, water governance as a topic linked to changes in the quality of community life due to the impact of water shortages and the decline in water quality in the locality, in terms of conflict. The aim of this chapter is to shed light on the difficulties of operating governance networks in independent potable water committees in Mexico.

The second part of the book comprises seven chapters and it is dedicated to the community quality of life of different groups: indigenous people, displaced persons, migrants, children, young people and older adults.

In Chap. 8, Lía Rodríguez de la Vega and Héctor Rodríguez presented the quality of life of one of the indigenous groups of South America, the guarani community.

Jorge Palacio, Isidro Maya-Jariego, Amalio Blanco, José Amar and Colette Sabatier examine in Chap. 9 the factors that affect the quality of life of displaced people in Colombia, presenting the results of three studies carried out in Northern Colombia, with quantitative and qualitative data on the process of restoration and adaptation of displaced communities.

In Chap. 10 Jaime Alfaro, Javier Guzmán, David Sirlopú, Denise Oyarzún, Fernando Reyes, María Victoria Benavente, Jorge Varela and José Fernández de Rota examine the association between life satisfaction with social-communitarian dimensions, and specifically the role that the sense of community plays in Chilean adolescents.

The aim of Chap. 11, written by Javier Martinez, Michael McCall and Isabel Preto, is to present an analytical framework that includes the concepts of community well-being/quality-of-life/risk together with the application of participatory mapping methodology. Studying cases in Portugal, the authors learned that participatory approaches stimulate children and young people to critically and actively involve with their community in the identification of problems as well as in the co-design of solutions.

Vicente Rodríguez-Rodríguez, Fermina Rojo-Perez and Gloria Fernandez-Mayoralas, present in Chap. 12 that family and social networks are changing at all

ages and these networks are among the most important dimensions of domain-specific quality of life among older adults. Using the Ageing in Spain Longitudinal Study, Pilot Survey (ELES-PS), representative of people aged 50 years old or more in community dwelling in Spain, the survey pointed to the residential independence of older adults from their family network, and the further relatives lived from older adults' home, the more contact was kept by phone, letter or other not in-person forms.

In Chap. 13, Cristiano Codagnone, Pilar Cruz and Isidro Maya-Jariego present a case study of the digital practices of Ecuadorians residing in a small city of Spain. The ethnographic fieldwork showed that Ecuadorian immigrants use digital media to maintain ties to the homeland and also as a tool for inclusion in the host society. Compared to mobile phones and online communities, *locutorios* are behaviour settings for recent immigrants, where digital media usage and appropriation take place in the context of local interaction among individuals in an active process of acculturation and adaptation to the receiving country.

Finally, Chap. 14, by Carmen Rodríguez-Blázquez, Gloria Fernández-Mayoralas, Fermina Rojo-Pérez, Pablo Martínez-Martín and Maria João Forjaz, present a cross-sectional study to assess the quality of life of community-dwelling older people and to identify its associated factors. Working with a representative sample of 1106 people aged 60 years or older in Spain, and using EQ-5D and PWI, the results indicated that quality of life of community-dwelling older adults was influenced by age, health status, loneliness, social support and disability.

I want to thank all the authors that participated in this book with original chapters that study the quality of life of different Latin communities.

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Graciela Tonon

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