Multidimensional Wellbeing: what it is, and how it relates to reducing poverty and inequality

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Rationale

• Poverty and inequality remains a key concern globally
• Poverty and inequality and interrelated and multidimensional
• Poverty and Inequality
  • have far-reaching consequences for wellbeing
  • compromise our life chances
  • affects people differently depending on sex, race, geography and generation
• Multidimensionality is a key frame for this work
How does wellbeing relate to reducing poverty and inequality?

- Methodologically
- Historically
- Wellbeing Project
- Conceptually
- Practically
Phase I: Descriptive and Explorative

- Conceptual focus on WB: How has WB been conceptualised in the Global South?
  - Working paper
  - HSRC seminar

- Policy focus on WB: How has WB been addressed historically through policy and ideologies in African contexts?
  - Working paper
  - HSRC seminar

- Measurement focus on WB: How has WB been measured in South African literature?
  - Working paper
  - HSRC seminar

Phase II: Empirical Studies

1. A quantitative module: How do people feel, to what do they attribute these feelings, to what extent do they believe themselves to be able to change their lives?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>How?</th>
<th>SASAS Module</th>
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| 12 Q Module in 2017 | - Individual agency to change adverse circumstances
- Collective agency and wellbeing in oppressive environments |
Phase II: Empirical Studies

1. A small qualitative pilot: How people understand wellbeing in households and their (collective) strategies for improving/achieving wellbeing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Data Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site 1</td>
<td>Separate interviews with each member concurrently or sequentially + Mapping activity</td>
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<td>N = 4 Households in Sweetwaters, KZN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 2</td>
<td>Dyadic or group interviews with dyads/couples or multiple family members at the same time + Mapping activity</td>
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<td>N = 3 Households in Thornton, WC</td>
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<td>A combination of separate and dyadic/group interview techniques + Mapping activity</td>
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Phase III: An annual longitudinal measure of Southern Wellbeing

- **Multi-dimensional wellbeing poverty and inequality South African survey**: Household and individual level accounts of wellbeing in varying degrees of poverty and across levels of inequality.
- Could this survey or index run at regular intervals, provide a tangible reminder to spread our policies and interventions over all three domains of wellbeing in South Africa and beyond?
Wellbeing in a racialized but changing society

1. A critical review of the conceptual understandings of wellbeing across various disciplines with a special focus on the Global South
2. An analytical review of how wellbeing has been addressed through ideology and policy with a focus on African contexts
3. A systematic review of the quantitative and qualitative measures of wellbeing in South Africa
4. A paper on racism and wellbeing