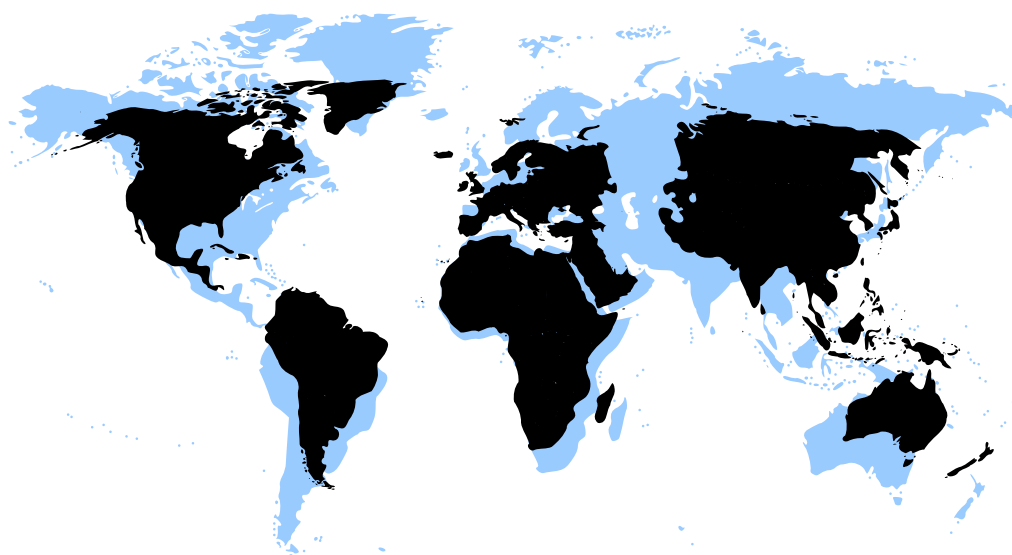


QUALITY OF LIFE SIRG

NEWSLETTER

QOL IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



EXPERIENCES FROM CHILE, PERU &
SAUDI ARABIA

CHECK THIS OUT...

- Highlights from the **IASSIDD Conference Chicago 2024**
- **Throwback** to 2024 activities
- Next **Research Roundtable** by 6th March 2025
- Podcast "**Culture, Disability & Quality of Life**"
- **Warmakuna Hope**: Project from Peru
- **Enhancing the Quality of Life** for People with Disabilities and Women in Saudi Arabia
- Next **QOL SIRG Annual Meeting**

IASSIDD WORLD CONFERENCE 2024

We enjoyed a robust programme of a large variety of lectures and posters about QOL from around the world...



...and a Social Event filled with lots of laugh and pool :)

THROWBACK TO WHAT WE DID IN 2024...

- Online Research Roundtable (1st March)
- 1st QOL SIRG Newsletter (June)
- Annual Meeting QOL SIRG (14th June)
- Participation at IASSIDD World Conference



NEXT RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE

VIA ZOOM

To be held the 6th of March 2025

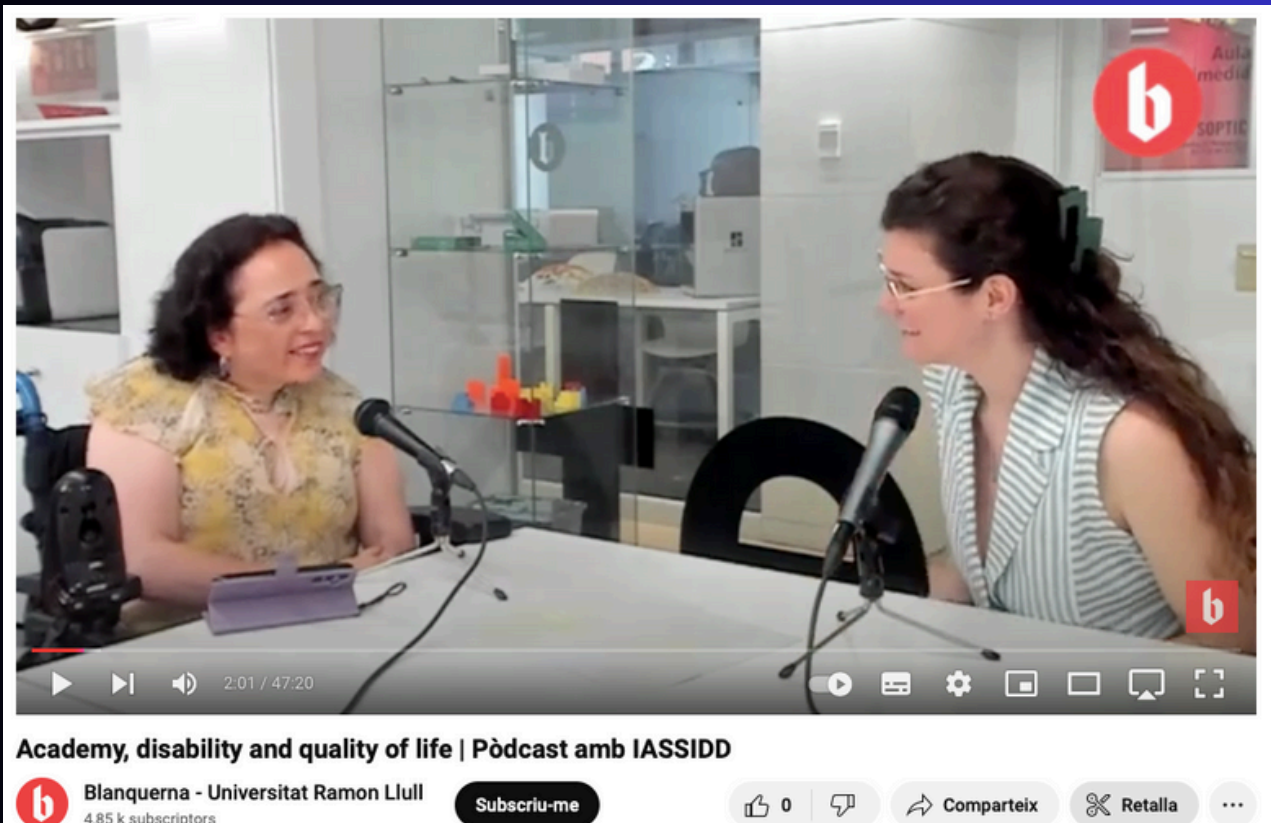


ONGOING:

- Update QOL Bibliography
- List of QOL Measures
- Update QOL SIRG Webpage

"ACADEMIA, DISABILITY & QUALITY OF LIFE"

FIRST EPISODE WITH **ANDREA SEPÚLVEDA, PHD.** SOCIOLOGIST & RESEARCHER FROM CHILE



Welcome to the podcast **"Culture, Disability and Quality of Life"**! 🌐 In this first episode, entitled **"Academia, Disability and Quality of Life"**, Olga Múries, PhD, lecturer of Psychology and Education at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and associate professor at the University of Barcelona, talks with Chilean sociologist Andrea Sepúlveda Ortega. With over 20 years of experience in research and consulting on diversity and inclusion, Dr. Sepúlveda shares her insights on the barriers in academia for people with disabilities and how these affect their quality of life. She is a recently graduate PhD at FPCEE Blanquerna (URL), focusing on studies related to university students with disabilities, quality of life, and social inclusion. Our goal with this podcast is to interactively showcase what it is like to live with a disability in different regions of the world, focusing on quality of life. 🌍 IASSIDD is an international association committed to diversity and inclusion. Therefore, we interview people from around the world in their preferred language, with English subtitles. Don't miss it!

WARMAKUNA HOPE: PROJECT FROM PERU

FIGURE 1. GUERRERO, PH.D. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES. DUKE UNIVERSITY, USA.



We are a community-based and volunteer-led organization in Manchay, Lima, Peru, that works with groups in extreme poverty to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities and their families, promoting integral development, social inclusion, and hope.

In Peru, around 80% of children with disabilities, mostly those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), are excluded from the education system, as reported by the Ombudsman Office in Peru. Similarly, access to rehabilitation services is limited due to a shortage of professionals and a centralized healthcare system. For instance, only 11% of individuals requiring physical therapy actually receive it. This systemic exclusion is fed by beliefs that predicate that individuals with IDD are unable to learn or develop. Thus, individuals with disabilities are secluded from society and hindered from becoming competent individuals.

We work under a human-rights approach and Christian values to restore dignity and promote the participation of every child with a disability. We provide empowerment workshops and accompaniment to families, so they learn about their children's rights and acquire a new vision of the possibilities of their children (Check out our Possibilities Series!).

WARMAKUNA HOPE: PROJECT FROM PERU

**FIGRELLA GUERRERO, PH.D. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW,
POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES. DUKE UNIVERSITY, USA.**

Youtube Possibilities Series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7syrQAfj6I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8q5AFQl5WU>

We provide free and subsidized rehabilitation services (physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology) to improve the functional outcomes of children, always with a participation goal in mind.



We also perform home modifications at the families' homes so children can be more independent. And, we implement projects in the community that promote inclusive education in school settings. Still, our efforts are little in comparison to the needs of families and the systemic change needed.

If you would like to share your expertise with families, professionals, and volunteers with Spanish-speaking families in Peru, feel free to reach out. We always need to share knowledge and testimonies with our families. Also, you can sponsor a child and/or donate to support our projects. Thanks for partnering with Warmakuna Hope to make Peru a place where no children are left behind!

Sponsor a child / Donate:

<https://warmakunahope.org/en/donate/>

Contact us at:

fiorella.guerrero@warmakunahope.org or hello@warmakunahope.org

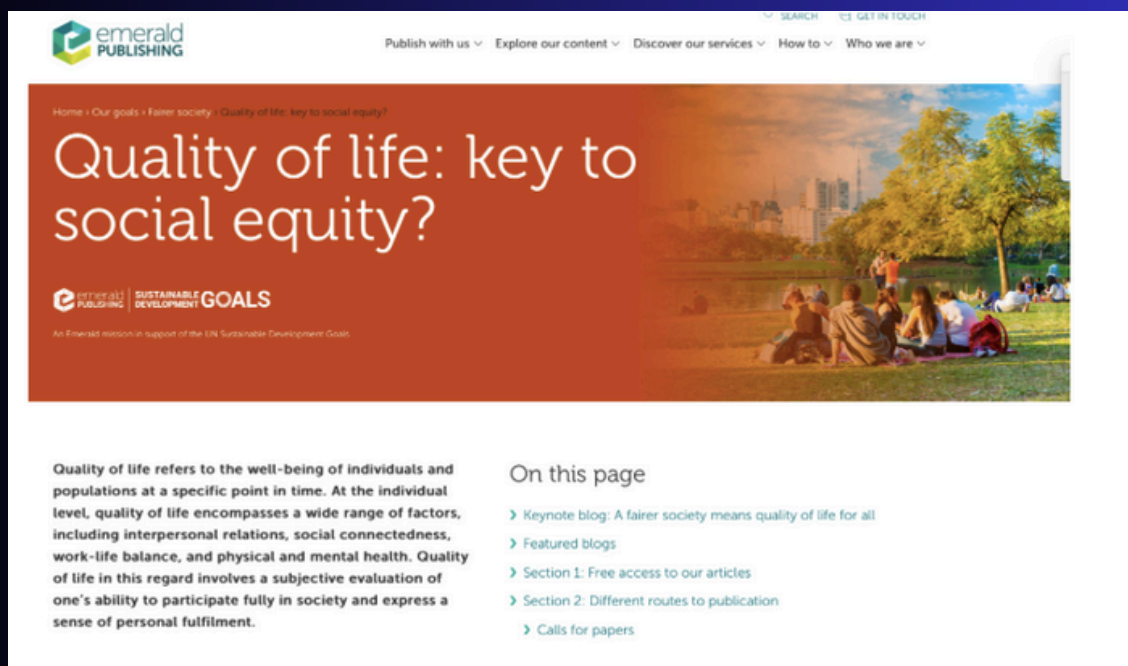
Social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/warmakunahope>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/warmakuna.hope/>

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA

AHLAM AHMED H. ALSHEHRI, SAUDI PHD CANDIDATE, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA.



This [blog](#) delves into Saudi Arabia's strides toward improving quality of life, particularly for people with disabilities and women, through the lens of the Quality of Life Program and the ambitious goals of Saudi Vision 2030. It emphasizes how inclusivity, accessibility, and gender equality are key pillars in fostering a fairer and more equitable society.

The blog highlights transformative milestones, such as the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities law and the promotion of gender equality across all sectors. It celebrates initiatives that empower women through equal employment opportunities and leadership roles, reflecting the Kingdom's commitment to societal progress.

The blog also draws attention to the broader impact of the Quality of Life Program, launched in 2018, which is reshaping Saudi Arabia into a global destination for sports, culture, and tourism while creating vibrant urban spaces. These efforts directly support the well-being and quality of life of all citizens, by providing access to resources like education, healthcare, and employment.

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA

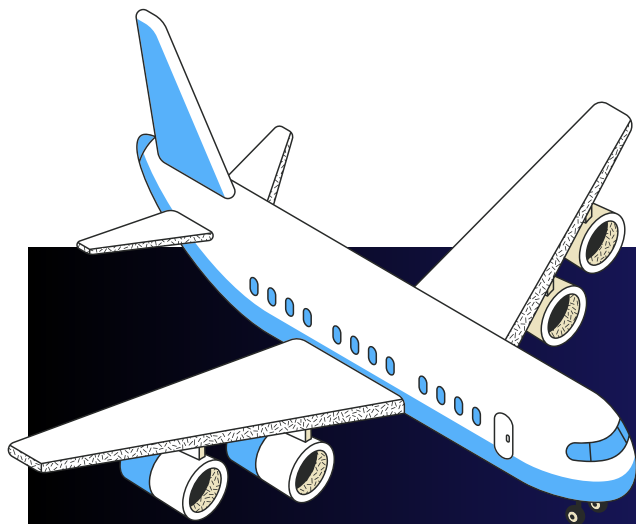
AHLAM AHMED H. ALSHEHRI, SAUDI PHD CANDIDATE, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA.



By connecting these initiatives to global frameworks like the United Nation -Habitat mission, the blog advocates for prioritizing quality of life as a benchmark for societal advancement. It underscores the importance of inclusivity and equity in achieving sustainable progress, ensuring no one is left behind.

To learn more about the mission, visit: [Quality of Life: Key to Social Equity?](#)





**NEXT QOL SIRG
ANNUAL MEETING TO
BE CELEBRATED IN...**



Lisbon, Portugal

A **Google Forms** will be sent to collect information from the QOL SIRG members regarding this Annual Meeting. It is expected that a series of trainings about disability and quality of life will be celebrated as well.

Further details will be sent in the following months.