

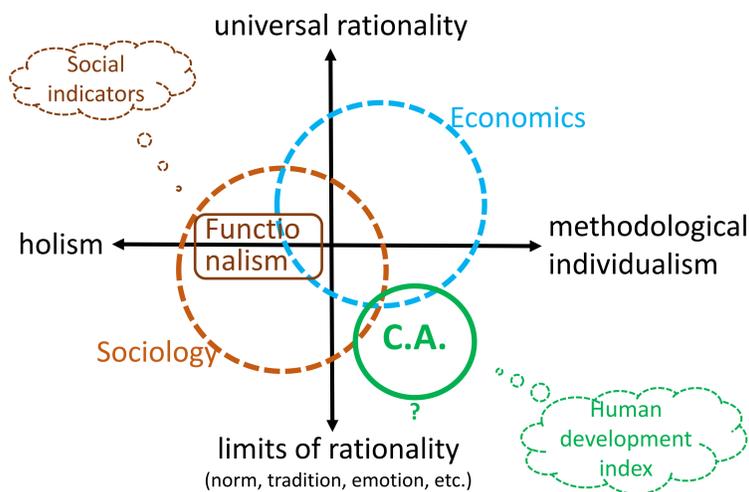
# Is the Capability Approach a Valid Alternative Framework in Sociology?

—The development of social indicators in Japan and human development indexes—

## The Founders of Sociology

- M. Weber value rationality, traditional action, etc.
- E. Durkheim solidarity, collective conscience, anomie, etc.
- V. Preto non-logical action, the circulation of the elite, etc.

## Positioning of sociology economics and the capability approach



## Let's Take Functionalism, Social Indicators, and Human Development Indices for Examination in Detail.

...functionalism accounts for a social activity by referring to its consequences for the operation of some other social activity, institution, or society as a whole. ... (Dictionary of Sociology, Penguin Books 4th edition)

## Systems of the Social Indicators (Japan, 1979)

Goal area	40/35	45/40	Fundamental social concern	40/35	45/40
A. Health			A-1. Improvement in level of health	101.1	115.0
			A-2. Improvement of social conditions for protection and promotion of health	115.0	102.7
B. Education, learning and culture	123.1 <sup>1)</sup>	118.9 <sup>2)</sup>	B-1. Fundamental education	118.0	115.7
			B-2. Upper secondary and higher education	108.4	115.9
			B-3. Self-developing activities	143.0	125.2
			B-4. Level of cultural environment	138.6	150.8
C. Employment and quality of working life	114.9 (126.0) <sup>3)</sup>	122.7 (126.7) <sup>3)</sup>	C-1. Growth of availability of advantageous employment opportunity	144.4 (144.3) <sup>3)</sup>	103.3 (132.2) <sup>3)</sup>
			C-2. Improvement in quality of working life	108.0 (108.7) <sup>3)</sup>	120.6 (119.4) <sup>3)</sup>
D. Leisure	126.3	143.6	D-1. Increase in level of freedom in life	103.0	106.7
			D-2. Improvement of life during free hours	149.6	180.5
E. Income and spending	124.1 (116.9) <sup>2)</sup>	132.2 (119.8) <sup>2)</sup>	E-1. Growth of income and assets	150.0 (128.4) <sup>2)</sup>	186.3 (258.5) <sup>2)</sup>
			E-2. Shrinkage of gap in income and assets	117.0	101.4
			E-3. Stabilization of income and assets	105.4	109.5
F. Material environment	95.3	110.1	F-1. Improvement of housing conditions	120.1	148.1
			F-2. Decrease of damages from harmful and disagreeable matters	68.1	74.2
			F-3. Decrease of damages from natural disasters	92.4	97.7
			F-4. Preservation of favorable natural environment	100.5	100.2
G. Crimes and execution of laws	98.3	110.6	G-f. Decrease of violence, sacrifice and suffering undergone by individuals	98.3	110.6
H. Family	108.5	107.0	H-1. Smoothing out of function in family life	111.7	116.9
J. Classes and social mobility	118.9	112.5	J-1. Dissolution of inequality in classes	113.8	113.1
			J-2. Growing ease of social mobility	124.0	111.9

(Notes)  
 1) The figure indicates an average of the fundamental social concerns, B-1, 2 and 3.  
 2) The figures within parentheses are the simple average indices.  
 3) The synthesized index for the area of health is not calculated herewith, because A-1 and A-2 should not be integrated in nature.

F.S.C.	S.C.	S.S.C.	Indicator
A1	A1a	A1a1	Death rate and average life span (sex-specific)
	A1a2	A1a2	Rate of injury & disease (classified by occupational, industrial, and mining of its activity)
	A1a3	A1a3	Employment rate for the severely handicapped (classified by primary and secondary and tertiary handicapped)
	A1a4	A1a4	Ratio of the monthly retained (classified by sex and monthly retained)
	A1a5	A1a5	Ratio of the physical handicapped (classified by occupational, industrial, and mining of its activity)
	A1a6	A1a6	Loss from health 4 and 5 for whole population as a total of each functionalism
A2	A2a	A2a1	Measured figures on physique (height, weight, lung vit.)
	A2a2	A2a2	Measured figures on respiratory function (lung capacity, etc.)
	A2a3	A2a3	Measured value on physiological function (heart rate, blood pressure, etc.)
	A2a4	A2a4	Comprehensive judgment of level of health (The Composite of "Survey on Life", Ministry of Health, etc.)
	A2a5	A2a5	Volume of various health
	A2a6	A2a6	Per capita living conditions (household, etc.)
	A2a7	A2a7	Incidence of traffic accidents
	A2a8	A2a8	Incidence of labor accidents and occupational injury & disease
	A2a9	A2a9	Environmental pollution (air pollution, etc.)
	A2a10	A2a10	Composition of living hours (study, living hours, etc.)
	A2a11	A2a11	Satisfaction rate
A2b	A2b1	A2b1	Number of medical facilities, hospital beds and number of persons working in medical facilities per 100,000 population
	A2b2	A2b2	Daily medical cost per patient (total)
	A2b3	A2b3	Medical equipment (beds, etc.)
	A2b4	A2b4	Number of patients per day per doctor per patient (total)
	A2b5	A2b5	Frequency of high-middle and low-level medical treatments in total medical treatments
	A2b6	A2b6	Rate of medical equipment per 100,000 population
	A2b7	A2b7	Number of medical facilities, hospital beds and persons working in medical facilities per 100,000 population
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## Magazine article about the Social Indicator in 1977



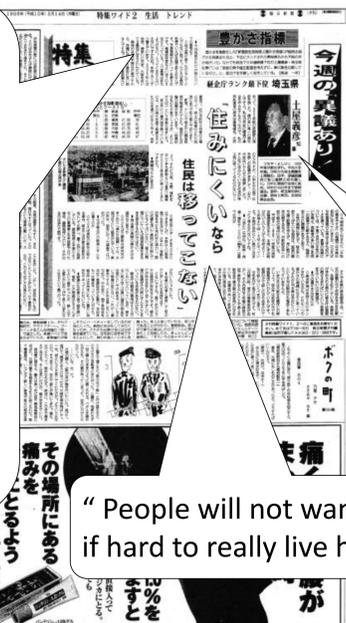
Symposium  
How do you measure the standards of welfare? (sequel)  
-considering the Social Indicator-

Three of the five participants were sociologists (functionalists).

Can you make an index about welfare such as the GNP?  
Is the synthesis of indexes desirable?

## Newspaper article about the Social Indicator in 1998

When "the richness index" was announced by the Economic Planning Agency, mutterings occurred successively from prefectural governors ranked as low ranks. Above all, governor of Saitama prefecture which was ranked as the last for six successive years criticized severely Economic Planning Agency.



This Week's "I Have an Objection"

Saitama Prefecture TSUTHIYA, Yoshihiko

"People will not want to move to here if hard to really live here."

## H. D. Indices (2015), They are made Synthesis, and Countries are Ranked. ... ?

Country	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	
1 Norway	95.1	94.9	94.7	94.5	94.3	94.1	93.9	93.7	93.5	93.3	93.1	92.9	92.7	92.5	92.3	92.1	91.9	91.7	91.5	91.3	91.1	90.9	90.7	90.5	90.3	90.1
2 Australia	94.8	94.6	94.4	94.2	94.0	93.8	93.6	93.4	93.2	93.0	92.8	92.6	92.4	92.2	92.0	91.8	91.6	91.4	91.2	91.0	90.8	90.6	90.4	90.2	90.0	89.8
3 Switzerland	94.5	94.3	94.1	93.9	93.7	93.5	93.3	93.1	92.9	92.7	92.5	92.3	92.1	91.9	91.7	91.5	91.3	91.1	90.9	90.7	90.5	90.3	90.1	89.9	89.7	89.5
4 Denmark	94.2	94.0	93.8	93.6	93.4	93.2	93.0	92.8	92.6	92.4	92.2	92.0	91.8	91.6	91.4	91.2	91.0	90.8	90.6	90.4	90.2	90.0	89.8	89.6	89.4	89.2
5 Netherlands	93.9	93.7	93.5	93.3	93.1	92.9	92.7	92.5	92.3	92.1	91.9	91.7	91.5	91.3	91.1	90.9	90.7	90.5	90.3	90.1	89.9	89.7	89.5	89.3	89.1	88.9
6 Germany	93.6	93.4	93.2	93.0	92.8	92.6	92.4	92.2	92.0	91.8	91.6	91.4	91.2	91.0	90.8	90.6	90.4	90.2	90.0	89.8	89.6	89.4	89.2	89.0	88.8	88.6
7 Iceland	93.3	93.1	92.9	92.7	92.5	92.3	92.1	91.9	91.7	91.5	91.3	91.1	90.9	90.7	90.5	90.3	90.1	89.9	89.7	89.5	89.3	89.1	88.9	88.7	88.5	88.3
8 United States	93.0	92.8	92.6	92.4	92.2	92.0	91.8	91.6	91.4	91.2	91.0	90.8	90.6	90.4	90.2	90.0	89.8									