Book Abstract.

Suffering has been a daunting and elusive concept, thus most researchers have overlooked or ignored it. I believe its time has come; great progress can be made in measuring suffering and improving the quality of life of those who suffer, if we move toward greater rigor in definitions and indicators, and toward deeper understanding of suffering. Linking suffering and quality of life will help because the two constructs are closely related and the progress in quality of life research will spill over onto suffering and offer new perspectives.

This collaborative writing project explores ways to improve research on suffering by using paradigms and methodologies from ‘quality of life’ (QOL) research. It also offers improvements to quality of life research by taking concepts and data on pain and suffering into account. For this project, suffering is defined very broadly to include physical suffering, especially pain; mental suffering (including depression, anxiety, other severe mental illness, and existential suffering); and social suffering (defined as suffering resulting from local or global social institutions that harm specific categories of people, such as the poor, the disabled, etc.). It is also useful to distinguish between moderate and extreme suffering.

A major feature of this book will be the research reports from around the world, providing profiles of suffering and quality of life at all levels of social and economic progress. The reader will take away a wealth of insights about the interaction of suffering and quality of life, the most up-to-date characterization of worldwide suffering, and a grasp of the implications of these data for local and global policy on health and social well-being.

Target Audience. This work primarily targets researchers, academics, and students in the social sciences, international studies, psychology, and health professions. It is also aimed at non-academic readers with an intense personal interest in suffering, whether intellectual, policy-oriented, or practical.

Vision. The principal purpose of this work is to promote better understanding of suffering’s impact on quality of life so that suffering becomes a visible research topic with its own community of scholars and researchers. Such a community could reinvigorate global health and human welfare policy—and make them more effective—by providing new tools. Describing and framing suffering from a variety of approaches will yield comprehensive understandings of suffering and the ‘reduction of suffering.’ Hopefully, a side effect of this project will be to add sufficient clarity to public understanding such that both humanitarian institutions and individuals take additional steps to relieve suffering of others.
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*Indicates than the abstract has not been received yet.
Due Dates | Tasks
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Dec. 15, 2013 | First draft of paper due
Mar. 1, 2014 | Revised draft of paper due
Apr. 15, 2014 | Final draft of paper due
July 1, 2014 | Complete manuscript of all chapters to publisher
Dec. 30, 2014 | Publication

**Length of Chapters:** The length of papers should be roughly 5,000 words (3,000 to 8,000 words accepted) including references, tables and figures. The target length is equivalent to 20 (with a range of 12 - 32 pp.) typed, double-spaced pages with a font size of 12.

**Formatting Requirements:** In writing your paper, you may use any font style and size you want, however, single-spaced Times Roman font size 12 is preferred. Footnotes are preferred to endnotes. Each chapter will have its own list of references. The APA Style Guide should be used for references and other formatting. Additional guides for Figures and tables will be provided.

Draft papers should be sent in MS Word as an email attachment, with any tables or charts embedded or inserted at the end of the file. Give your file(s) a file name that begins with your last name to identify the source of file. Separate files for each figure will be needed with the final draft only.

**Paper Review Process.** The fact that you received this invitation to submit a paper means that I have reviewed your work and feel confident that you would submit a high quality paper for this volume. However, one other author and I will review each full paper submitted for scholarship issues and clarity. When the paper is nearly final, a copy editor will review it for language and consistency with the APA Style guidelines and Springer’s requirements for figures and tables.

**Author Benefits.** Each contributing author will receive a complimentary copy of the full book at the time of publication. To help you now in preparing a paper for this volume on *World Suffering*, you can access a Word file of over 200 references on suffering and QOL (in APA format) at the bottom of the homepage of my personal website: [http://www.soc.umn.edu/~rea/index.html](http://www.soc.umn.edu/~rea/index.html)

On that same page, you will find a PDF copy of the 129-page SpringerBrief preprint that I just completed, titled *Human Suffering and Quality of Life - Conceptualizing Stories and Statistics*. A direct link to it is: [http://www.soc.umn.edu/~rea/documents/Preprint%20of%20Human%20Suffering%20SpringerBrief%20v5%2013june13.pdf](http://www.soc.umn.edu/~rea/documents/Preprint%20of%20Human%20Suffering%20SpringerBrief%20v5%2013june13.pdf)

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