

Beyond GDP: The Ongoing Search to Measure “Wellbeing”



- OLLI Fall Term 2022
- Wednesdays, 1-3pm
- Sept. 14 thru Nov. 2

- Co-facilitators:

David Carlson,

EEE Forum founder
and

Paul Belanger,

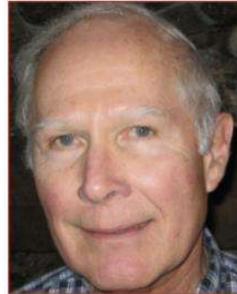
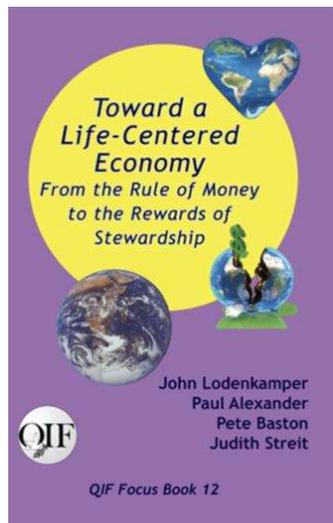
EEE Forum webmaster

Good afternoon and welcome to the the FINAL Session of Beyond GDP: The Ongoing Search to Measure Wellbeing. We'll begin with OLLI announcements—OR EMAIL THEM TO EVERYONE-- and an outline for the next couple of hours.

**Promoting measures of human and ecological wellbeing
(HEW) in Colorado—what's next?
Session #8 Outline**

- OLLI Announcements
- Highlights from Session #7
- Guest presentation and Q&A: *see next slide*
- Brief review of Searching for Wellbeing Measures
- 5-minute break
- A Brief introduction to “Climate Grief”
- Class-driven questions & comments; closing remarks

Final Session -- Guest Presentation



John Lodenkamper

Quaker Institute for the
Future Research Group

Thank you, John, for offering to share highlights from this book that you co-authored with colleagues from the Future Research Group.



This 12-page annual report features a common set of 35 indicators for ranking the counties in Colorado that gives equal weight to Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

[2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#)

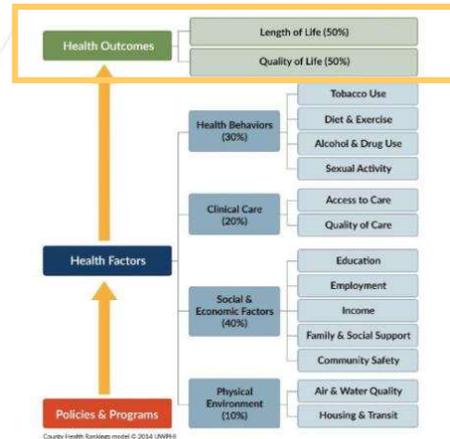
The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) has prepared annual “County Health Rankings” reports for each state since 2010.

2022 County Health Rankings for the 59 Ranked Counties in Colorado

County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Adams	27	46	Crowley	47	57	Gunnsion	7	8	Mesa	32	38	Rio Blanco	25	21
Alamosa	53	41	Custer	41	30	Hinsdale	NR	NR	Mineral	NR	NR	Rio Grande	50	50
Arapahoe	14	20	Delta	48	44	Huerfano	44	52	Moffat	43	45	Routt	6	6
Archuleta	21	26	Denver	23	34	Jackson	NR	NR	Montezuma	51	40	Saguache	57	58
Baca	39	42	Dolores	49	33	Jefferson	12	11	Montrose	31	35	San Juan	NR	NR
Bent	58	56	Douglas	1	1	Kiowa	NR	NR	Morgan	40	49	San Miguel	16	22
Boulder	4	3	Eagle	3	15	Kit Carson	36	31	Otero	59	53	Sedgwick	37	47
Broomfield	5	2	El Paso	33	24	La Plata	13	17	Ouray	19	5	Summit	8	10
Chaffee	17	13	Elbert	10	7	Lake	34	36	Park	26	12	Teller	30	16
Cheyenne	35	28	Fremont	42	43	Larimer	11	9	Phillips	29	14	Washington	45	27
Clear Creek	9	18	Garfield	15	25	Las Animas	55	55	Pitkin	2	4	Weld	18	32
Conejos	54	48	Gilpin	28	23	Lincoln	24	39	Prowers	46	51	Yuma	22	29
Costilla	56	59	Grand	20	19	Logan	38	37	Pueblo	52	54			

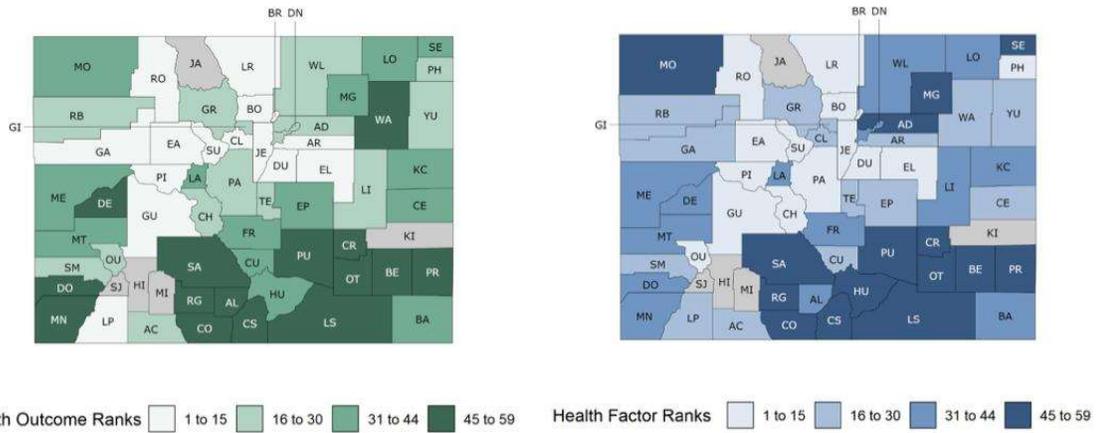
Note that 5 of Colorado's 64 counties are not ranked.

Conceptual Framework



The annual County Health reports rank health outcomes and health factors separately and treat each with equal importance. The conceptual model on the right displays the components for rating each dimension of county health.

Health OUTCOMES vs. Health FACTORS



Each map displays four groups of counties according to their rank--health outcomes on the left and health factors on the right. The strong correlation of health outcome rank and health factor rank is evident visually. The numbers on the previous slide could be used to calculate the degree of correlation.

The takeaway of strong correlation echoes Dr. Sheila Davis' presentation in session 4: "It's Note Your Genetic Code. It's Your Zip Code!"

2022 County Health Rankings: National and Colorado State Values for Ranked Measures					
Measure	Description	US	CO	CO Minimum	CO Maximum
HEALTHY OUTCOMES					
Premature death*	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)	7,300	6,300	3,100	14,200
Poor or fair health	Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted)	17%	14%	9%	28%
Poor physical health days	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted)	3.9	3.3	2.6	5.0
Poor mental health days	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted)	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.8
Low birthweight*	Percentage of live births with low birthweight (< 3,500 grams)	8%	9%	7%	12%
HEALTH FACTORS					
HEALTH BEHAVIORS					
Adult smoking	Percentage of adults who are current smokers (age-adjusted)	16%	14%	10%	21%
Adult obesity	Percentage of the adult population (age 18 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m ² (age-adjusted)	32%	24%	20%	34%
Food environment index	Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, from 0 (worst) to 10 (best)	7.8	8.5	1.7	9.5
Physical inactivity	Percentage of adults age 18 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity (age-adjusted)	26%	19%	13%	31%
Access to exercise opportunities	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity	80%	88%	6%	100%
Excessive drinking	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking (age-adjusted)	20%	20%	14%	24%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	Percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement	27%	34%	0%	75%
Sexually transmitted infections	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population	551.0	517.8	81.5	1,091.2
Teen births*	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19	19	16	4	34
ACCESS TO CARE					
Uninsured	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance	11%	9%	4%	18%
Primary care physicians	Ratio of population to primary care physicians	1,330:1	1,200:1	1,830:0	630:1
Dentists	Ratio of population to dentists	1,400:1	1,210:1	3,920:0	770:1
Mental health providers	Ratio of population to mental health providers	350:1	250:1	700:0	70:1
Preventable hospital stays*	Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees	3,767	2,337	746	5,864
Mammography screening*	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening	43%	40%	22%	52%
Flu vaccinations*	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination	48%	48%	19%	61%
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS					
High school completion	Percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent	89%	92%	79%	99%
Some college	Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education	67%	72%	21%	87%
Unemployment	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work	8.1%	7.3%	2.3%	11.3%
Children in poverty*	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty	16%	11%	3%	32%
Income inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile	4.9	4.4	2.6	5.7
Children in single-parent households	Percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent	25%	21%	4%	44%
Social associations	Number of membership associations per 10,000 population	9.2	8.6	0.0	31.6
Violent crime	Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population	386	326	0	631
Injury deaths*	Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000 population	76	83	46	164
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT					
Air pollution - particulate matter	Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5)	7.5	5.6	4.6	11.1
Drinking water violations*	Indicator of the presence of health-related drinking water violations. 'Yes' indicates the presence of a violation, 'No' indicates no violation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Severe housing problems	Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities	17%	16%	7%	27%
Driving alone to work*	Percentage of the workforce that drives alone to work	75%	73%	52%	84%
Long commute - driving alone	Among workers who commute in their car alone, the percentage that commute more than 30 minutes	37%	36%	5%	70%

2022 County Health Rankings: 35 key indicators

Example: Teen births (number of births per 1,000)

- U.S. vs Colorado: 19 vs 16 😊
- CO min vs. CO max: 4 😊 vs 34

Takeaway: averages hide disparities

Here are the 35 indicators that drive the rating and ranking process. In addition to ranking counties, each indicator compares state and national figures and the minimum and maximum values across all Colorado counties that are tracked. For example, Teen births. (Keep in mind that 5 of Colorado's counties are not ranked.)

we have a “dashboard” of indicators for county health – 2 overarching dimensions of county health; 5 domains or categories; and 35 quantitative indicators.

Previous slides show RELATIVE ranking of counties among themselves. This slide compares Colorado state values (i.e., averages) with national values, plus lists the lowest and highest values among Colorado counties.

Three examples are highlighted in RED: LOW BIRTHWEIGHT, TEEN BIRTHS, and UNINSURED. They illustrate that relying exclusively—or even primarily—upon averages can be seriously misleading. Especially so if we keep in mind the U.N.'s fundamental SDG equity principle –

Leave No One Behind.

I leave it as an exercise to see how many indicators map onto the SDGs – or the Raworth doughnut.

“Economic Security is Key to Thriving Communities”

- Economic security enables families to cover basic needs such as housing, education, childcare, food, and medical care. Each of these needs has demonstrated ties to health. **However, economic security is not equally accessible to all people.**
- Median household income varies by race and ethnicity across Colorado counties ranging between \$52,028 for American Indian & Alaska Native households to \$83,168 for Asian households. **These income disparities demonstrate how economic security is not equally accessible to all people living in Colorado.**

--from the [2022 Colorado County Health Rankings Report](#) (p. 7)

A key takeaway from this latest report.

Social Progress Index component-level framework

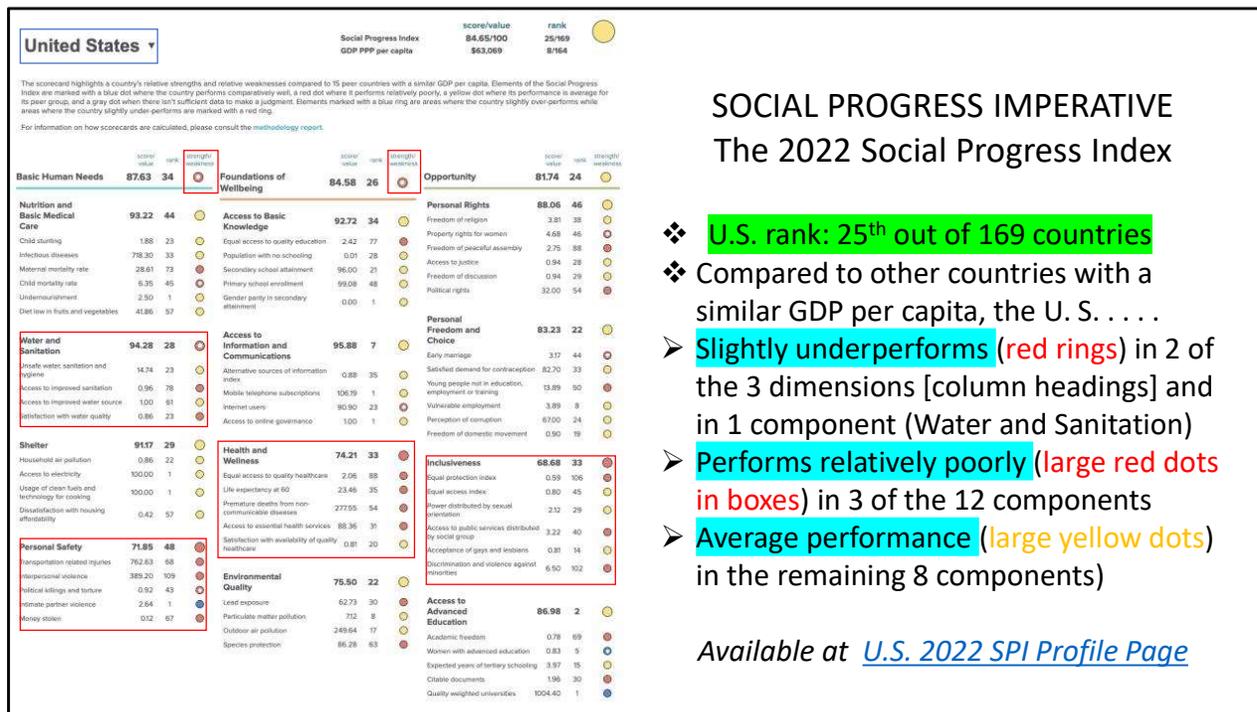


The Social Progress Index measures how well countries and communities convert their resources into social and environmental outcomes that impact people's lives every day.

3 dimensions, 12 components, 50-60 indicators total for countries, states, and (coming soon!) cities

Since 2014, the [Social Progress Imperative](#) has produced an annual *Social Progress Index* (SPI) of social and environmental indicators for more than 130 countries, including the United States. The SPI has also prepared occasional reports for U.S. states and is planning to add large cities as well.

The SPI is a US-based nonprofit organization. The Social Progress Index was designed by a team led by Prof. Michael E. Porter of Harvard Business School and Prof. Scott Stern at the MIT Sloan School of Management.



SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE The 2022 Social Progress Index

- ❖ **U.S. rank: 25th out of 169 countries**
- ❖ Compared to other countries with a similar GDP per capita, the U. S.
 - **Slightly underperforms (red rings)** in 2 of the 3 dimensions [column headings] and in 1 component (Water and Sanitation)
 - **Performs relatively poorly (large red dots in boxes)** in 3 of the 12 components
 - **Average performance (large yellow dots)** in the remaining 8 components)

Available at [U.S. 2022 SPI Profile Page](#)

Here we see the 1-page Profile for the U.S. – three columns, one for each dimension of social progress, with four components in each.

Numerical values--or scores, using a 100-point scale--are calculated for each indicator, component, dimension, and the country as a whole. Likewise, national rankings are given for each indicator, component, dimension, and the country as a whole. In addition, over- and under-performance is evaluated relative to 15 countries of similar GDP per capita.

In addition to providing how the U.S. ranks against the other 168 countries surveyed, the SPI measures how the U.S. is doing relative to other countries with similar GDP per capita. Color code:

- Blue—performs comparatively well
- Blue ring—country slightly overperforms
- Yellow--"average" performance compared to the peer group
- Red ring—country slightly underperforms

Red—performs relatively poorly

Three indicators have been highlighted with red boxes: Maternal mortality rate [column 1, first component]; Equal access to quality health care [column 2, third component]; discrimination and violence against minorities [third dimension, third component].

PPP DETAIL

- Purchasing power parity (PPP) is a popular metric used by macroeconomic analysts that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.
- Purchasing power parity (PPP) allows for economists to compare economic productivity and standards of living between countries.
- Some countries adjust their gross domestic product (GDP) figures to reflect PPP.

<https://www.socialprogress.org/?code=USA&tab=2>

Highlights from the 2022 SPI Report Since 2011 . . .

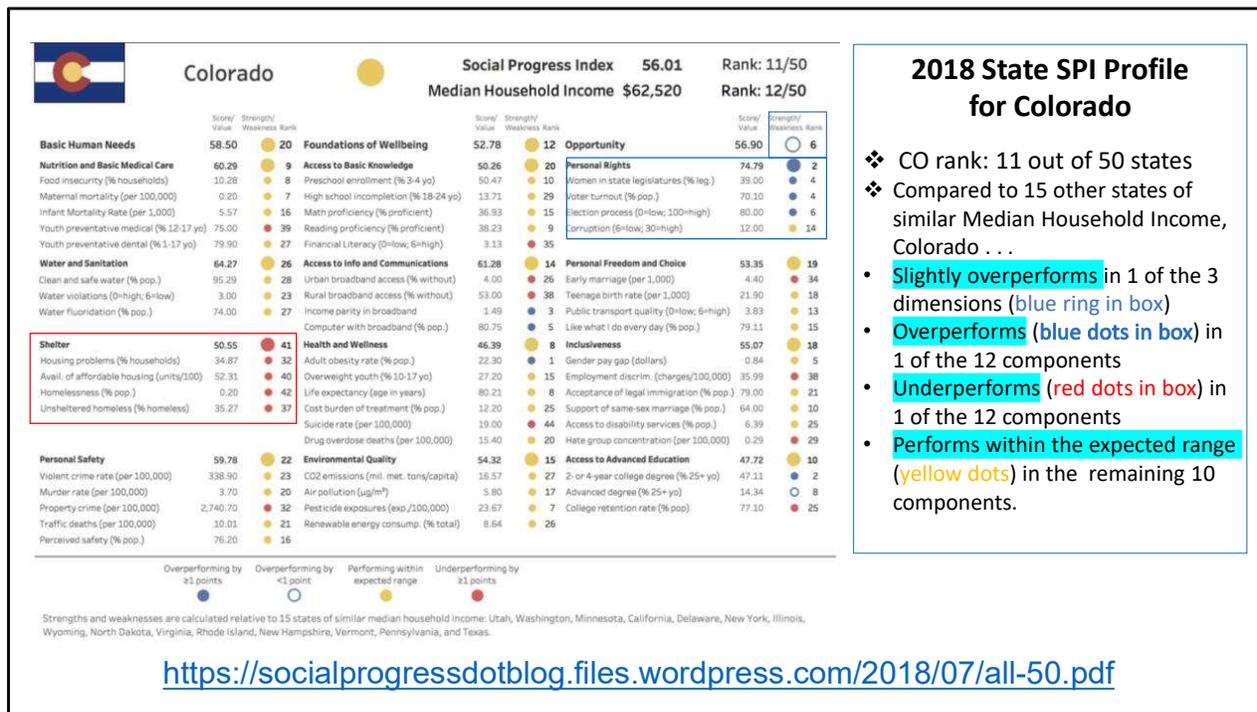
*The United States' social progress has stalled, and despite its wealth and reputation, at 25th place America is doing a poor job of delivering a good standard of living to its people.

* The United Kingdom is one of only four countries to see a steady decline in social progress since 2011, alongside Venezuela, Libya and Syria.

* This has been a lost decade for key emerging markets such as Brazil and Turkey where social progress has largely stagnated.

* China and India have seen significant improvement, but both countries are held back by lack of progress on rights, inclusiveness and environmental quality.

For more highlights, see [2022 SPI Report -- news release](#).



Same dimensions and components from the 2018 SPI report for states as those for the U.S. and other countries from the 2022 Report.

Strengths and weaknesses are measured in comparison to states with comparable median household income: Utah, Washington, Minnesota, California, Delaware, New York, Illinois, Wyoming, North Dakota, Virginia, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Indicators highlighted:

Column 1, the entire third component (SHELTER) and its four indicators, all flashing red when compared to peer states.

Column 2, third component (HEALTH & WELLNESS), and the "Adult obesity" indicator [Colorado is #1!]

Column 3, the entire first component (PERSONAL RIGHTS), and its four indicators.

Column 3, the second component (PERSONAL FREEDOM AND CHOICE), and indicator "Teenage birth rate"

With respect to this indicator, Colorado averages 22 births per 1,000 (rounded) in 2018. For comparison, the most recent Colorado County Health Rankings Report lists 16 births per

1,000 in 2022.

Column 1, the entire third component (Shelter), including its four indicators (one big red box)

Column 2, third component, Adult obesity rate indicator

Column 3, the entire first component (Personal rights), including its four indicators

Column 3, second component, Early marriage indicator

The Social Progress Index and the 17 SDGs



“Currently, the Social Progress Index measures outcomes related to all 17 goals and reflects 131 out of 169 targets in one simple framework, which makes the implementation, visualization and actionability of the SDGs a tangible reality for social innovators all over the world.”

[The Contribution of the Social Progress Index to the 2030 Agenda](#)

The Social Progress Index tracks strongly with the SDGs. Each of the 17 SDGs is connected to one or more components of the Social Progress Index.



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Denver
October 2022**

**Planning to Thrive: Sustainable,
Resilient and Equitable
Communities for the 21st Century**

Rocky Piro, PhD, FAICP
docroc93@gmail.com

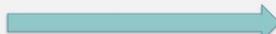


Rocky Piro is the founder and chief spokesperson for the newly-formed initiative in Colorado: Planning to Thrive. I attended the one-day conference on the Auraria campus in June that launched Planning to Thrive.

Planning to Thrive: applying an integrated holistic framework

from 20th century incrementalism
to 21st century integrated approach

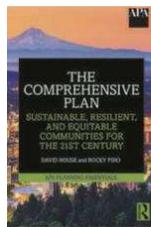
21st century approach = integrated
systems approach
interconnected framework

from this  to this

- recreation & tourism
- natural & cultural resources
- environment
- land use
- economic development
- affordable housing
- transportation
- parks & open space
- hazards
- capital improvements
- water supply & conservation
- efficiency in government
- energy
- sustainability
- urban design
- water



This slide captures the basic goal of Planning to Thrive: move from incrementalism [planning in silos] to an integrated systems approach as communities plan for the future.



The Comprehensive Plan *Sustainable, Resilient & Equitable Communities for the 21st Century* (Routledge Press: 2022)

guidance –process (I), substance (II), implementation (III)
framework – create sustainable, resilient, equitable places

- **sustainability, resilience, & equity foundational**
- **systems thinking: plan as “system of systems”**
- **authentic participation**
- **implementation focus**
- **examples from communities across US**



This slide features the book that Rocky co-authored, which provides communities with guidance and a framework for comprehensive planning.



The Planning to Thrive Initiative

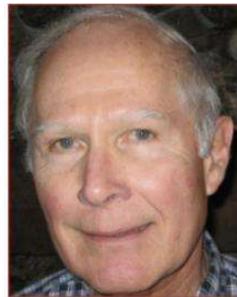
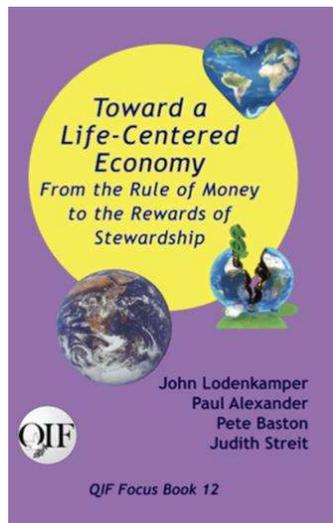
- launched in June 2022 – with 9 primary sponsors
- more than 20 groups & organizations participated in a 1-day symposium – sold out
- next steps – evolving into a collaborative partnership
- 2022-2023 focus – updating legislation on “housing for all” | lead partner: Conservation Colorado
- 2023-2024 – work on draft bill: *An Act for Equitable, Sustainable, and Resilient Growth*

<https://www.planningtothrivcolorado.com/>



Here we see milestones for the next two years and a website to stay connected.

Final Session -- Guest Presentation



John Lodenkamper

Quaker Institute for the
Future Research Group

And now let us welcome our guest presenter and class member, John Lodenkamper!

Some Frameworks for Measuring “Wellbeing” beyond GDP

- #2 Genuine Progress Indicator: U.S., Colorado (1960-2011), Maryland
- #3 8 state frameworks: AZ, HI, MD, MN (2), NJ, OR, and VA
- #4 UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015; annual reports by region)
- #5 Millennium Development Goals (2000)
- #5 SDSN Sustainable Development reports -- U.S. (annually since 2016), Colorado (2018 & 2021), Lakewood-Denver-Aurora and Colorado Springs (2019)
- #6 Doughnut Economics (2017) and the Doughnut model – Kate Raworth
- #7 Social Progress Imperative – U.S. (annually since 2014), Colorado (2018)
- #7 County Health Rankings Report – Colorado (annually since 2010)

Now let’s take a few minutes to look back on the course and the Ongoing Search to Measure Wellbeing in a couple of ways.

First, here is the list of the frameworks we’ve engaged since Week 2. By frameworks, I mean a collection of indicators spread across a set of categories—like the 17 SDGs and their 231 indicators. If the number of indicators is manageable, say 50-60 indicators, we sometimes call the framework a “dashboard.”

Which are memorable for you?

Beyond GDP – Weekly Guest Presenters

- #2 The Genuine Progress Indicator – Chris Stiffler
- #2 Spaceship Earth Economics – Alec Tsoucatos
- #3 The Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) – Paul Sutton
- #4 It's Not Your Genetic Code. It's Your Zip Code! – Sheila Davis
- #5 Food Insecurity: Post-Pandemic and Climate Change Challenges
-- Patti Iwasaki
- #6 Regenerative Economics and the SDGs – Brenna Simmons-St. Onge
- #7 Planning to Thrive: Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Communities for the 21st Century -- Rocky Piro
- #8 Toward a Life-Centered Economy – John Lodenkamper

(2) Guest presenters are going beyond GDP in (a) local or state-specific ways, or by challenging the dominant paradigm of growth-oriented economics.

Which were especially noteworthy to you and why?

Wellbeing “dashboard” for Colorado? -- Guiding Questions

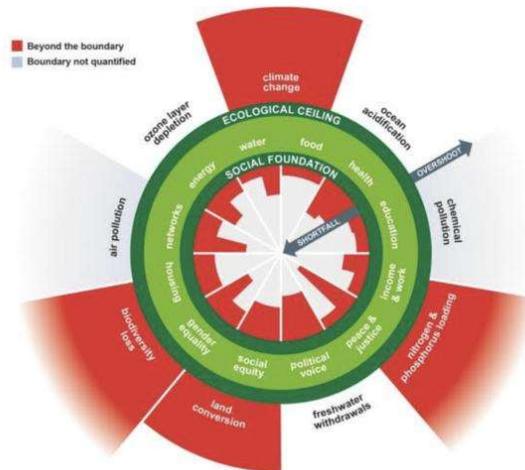
- 1) *Should Colorado join other states in developing and promoting a consensus “dashboard” of 30-50 key indicators that span economic, social, and ecological dimensions of wellbeing?*
- 2) *What about convening an annual or biennial Forum and/or report to highlight trends?*
- 3) *Would a “clearinghouse” that tracks indicators from several different HEW frameworks with measures of wellbeing for Colorado be useful?*

Here are the guiding questions from the course syllabus. In light of the wellbeing frameworks and the guest presenters, please comment on any of the 3 questions.

My response to question ONE: We have such “dashboards” already for Colorado, but not every year (SDSN—2018 & 2021; SPI—2018; County Health Rankings (annually since 2010). Perhaps The Alliance Center’s linking of its mission, activities and outcomes to the SDGs is a more fruitful approach.

SEGUE TO THE 5 MINUTE BREAK AND MENTION PAUL’S INTRO TO “CLIMATE GRIEF”

Shortfalls and Overshoots: Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut' Model



[Paul's notes] In our OLLI course "Beyond GDP" we've discussed GDP, GPI, SDGs and in particular focused on shortfalls and overshoots as exemplified in the following diagram.

We've tried to address the shortfalls and overshoots. Among the four overshoots we've primarily focused on Climate Change. That's not to say Biodiversity loss, Land Conversion and Nitrogen/Phosphorus loading aren't of concern but not within our sphere of being able to address due to our lack of expertise and time involved to address everything. However, the elephant in the room for many of us is of great concern and considered by many an existential threat. Climate change was once a bipartisan concern that was since politicized but even that is changing among conservatives (see <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/11/climate-conscious-conservatives-try-to-make-their-voices-heard/> and <https://www.niskanencenter.org/policy/climate/>) – Now, what to do about it.

In the meantime, with all the news there's a lot of stress, anxiety expressed as Climate Grief (as well as the fact that we have Covid grief, Ukraine grief, political grief, etc.). Dr. Jennifer Atkinson, among others past and present, discuss these

issues and how best to address these concerns and stresses. In the past week we have been reviewing Dr. Atkinson's 6-part climate grief seminars and think it worthwhile to leave you with a synopsis of these seminars in dealing with our climate, political, war, covid anxieties and how best to deal with them:

A Brief Intro to “Climate Grief: Moving from paralysis to action”



[Dr. Jennifer Atkinson](#),
Univ. of
Washington

*The age of climate crisis is upon us, and grief and anxiety are on the rise. This podcast – **FACING IT -- explores the emotional burden of climate change**, and why despair leaves so many people unable to respond to our existential threat. **Overcoming that paralysis is the first step in moving to action**, and yet official climate strategies rarely address the emotional toll of climate grief and eco anxiety.*

[Dr. Jennifer Atkinson](#), Associate Professor of environmental humanities at the University of Washington, Bothell. Her seminars on [Eco-Grief & Climate Anxiety](#) have been featured in many news outlets. She is currently working on a book titled *An Existential Toolkit for the Climate Crisis*, which offers strategies to help young people navigate the emotional toll of climate breakdown. She writes:

Facing It: A podcast about love, loss & the natural world



**Dr. Jennifer
Atkinson,**
Univ. of
Washington

- **Episode 1: Facing Down Climate Grief (15:20)**
- *Episode 2: Why Climate Emotions Matter (17:08)*
- *Episode 3: Eco-Grief: Our Greatest Ally? (17:08)*
- **Episode 4: Coping with Climate Despair in Four Steps (23:18) – see next slide for steps**
 - **Solastalgia (see notes)**
- *Episode 5: Is Hope Overrated? (22:48)*
- *Episode 6: Embracing Uncertainty (20:35)*

The podcast has six episodes; we only have time for the first episode.

Like Kate Raworth in her riveting TEDx talk of 2014, Atkinson weaves together in this initial Episode her personal and professional journey toward engaging the issue of "climate grief." She begins the episode with growing up in natural surroundings in California and shares her experience of climate grief as she watched from her current home near Seattle the extreme devastation from wildfires in the region of her childhood home.

Episode 1: Facing Down Climate Grief

The age of climate crisis is upon us, and grief and anxiety are on the rise. Our pilot episode introduces the emotional burden of climate change, and why despair leaves so many people unable to respond to this existential threat. Overcoming that paralysis is the first step in moving to action, and yet official climate strategies rarely address this emotional toll. Meanwhile, frontline communities — particularly people of color, indigenous communities, and other historically-marginalized groups — are experiencing the heaviest mental health impacts of

climate disruption and displacement.

<https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it>

The age of climate crisis is upon us, and grief and anxiety are on the rise. Our pilot episode introduces the emotional burden of climate change, and why despair leaves so many people unable to respond to this existential threat.

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solastalgia>

It is best described as the lived experience of negatively perceived environmental change. A distinction can be made between solastalgia linked to distress about what is in the process of negatively perceived change and [eco-anxiety](#) linked to what may happen in the future (associated with "pre-traumatic stress", in reference to [post-traumatic stress](#)).

Facing It: A podcast about love, loss & the natural world
<https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it>

Episode 4: Coping with Climate Despair in Four Steps

Step #1: Acknowledgment – but we’ve been in decades of collective denial

Step #2: Talk about it – if you can name it, you can own it

Step #3: Take time – spend time outside, connect with nature

Step #4: Action – hope is not the same thing as optimism

2 things to do:

- *Identify what you’re good at to be effective.*
- *Identify what you are passionate about, so as not to lose motivation.*

PAUL –YOUR NOTES, IF ANY

AFTER CLASS DISCUSSION OF EPISODE 1 AND THE OUTLINE OF EPISODE 4, WE’LL SHIFT TO COMMENTS FROM THE CLASS ABOUT THE COURSE, STARTING WITH DIANA SHER’S REQUEST OF ALEC [I’M OK WITH LEADING OFF WITH DIANA’S REQUEST.

“I was very interested in Alec's comments about the psychopathology of people. I am thinking not only about voting behavior, but the constant insane desire for growth and the difficulty people have understanding that having "enough" for everyone is a good life. I'd love to hear him say a little more about this.”

Related links

- Before class, we highly recommend listening to a brief podcast (less than 9 minutes) with Canadian public health researcher **Ashlee Cunsolo**: [Is climate change causing us to experience 'ecological grief'?](#)
- Climate change was once a bipartisan concern that was since politicized but even that is changing among conservatives.
SEE:
 - <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/11/climate-conscious-conservatives-try-to-make-their-voices-heard/> and
 - <https://www.niskanencenter.org/policy/climate/> – policy statement
 - [Can Young Republicans Override Trump's Climate Denialism?](#)
 - Now, what to do about it.

The Niskanen center has its roots in Libertarian influential people. It has reasonable conservative policy recommendations on Climate change, immigration and health care among others. See

<https://www.niskanencenter.org/policies/>

and

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niskanen_Center

Local response model to doughnut economics

www.doughnuteconomics.org/amsterdam-portrait.pdf

Final comments/good-byes

- After Alec is finished, invite other comments from participants– out loud or in Chat.
- Paul – closing remarks, slides??
- David – closing remarks slides??
- OLLI – closing remarks ??