



Session 6

Social outcomes

Technical Workshop on Time, People, Places and Relationships: A New Lens to Organize Social and Demographic Outcomes (Hosted by Statistics Canada (Ottawa, Canada, 9 - 11 September 2025))

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Defining social outcomes



Social outcomes

– Levels

- measures of the quality of life and living conditions in a society
- subjective and objective measures of individual well-being
- assessments of how a society is developing over time

– Processes

- an outcome is the result or effect of an action, situation or event
- causal relations with *People, Relationships, Places, and Time*
- outcomes of a dynamic system

– Value system of the CF-SPSS



Human development

- **People are the real wealth of a nation.** The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.
- ... social arrangements must be judged by the extent to which they promote “**human good**” ...
- [the term] denotes both the *process* of widening people’s choices and the *level* of their achieved wellbeing.



Existing frameworks

- clear convergence towards common principles in measuring well-being
 - focus on multiple aspects that matter to people's lives
 - measuring outcomes rather than inputs and outputs that might be used to deliver those outcomes
 - distinguish between current well-being (outcomes of the present generation) and future well-being (resources for future generations; sustainability)
- question **how** well-being outcomes are produced: process involving drivers and determinants



Three systems and their standards

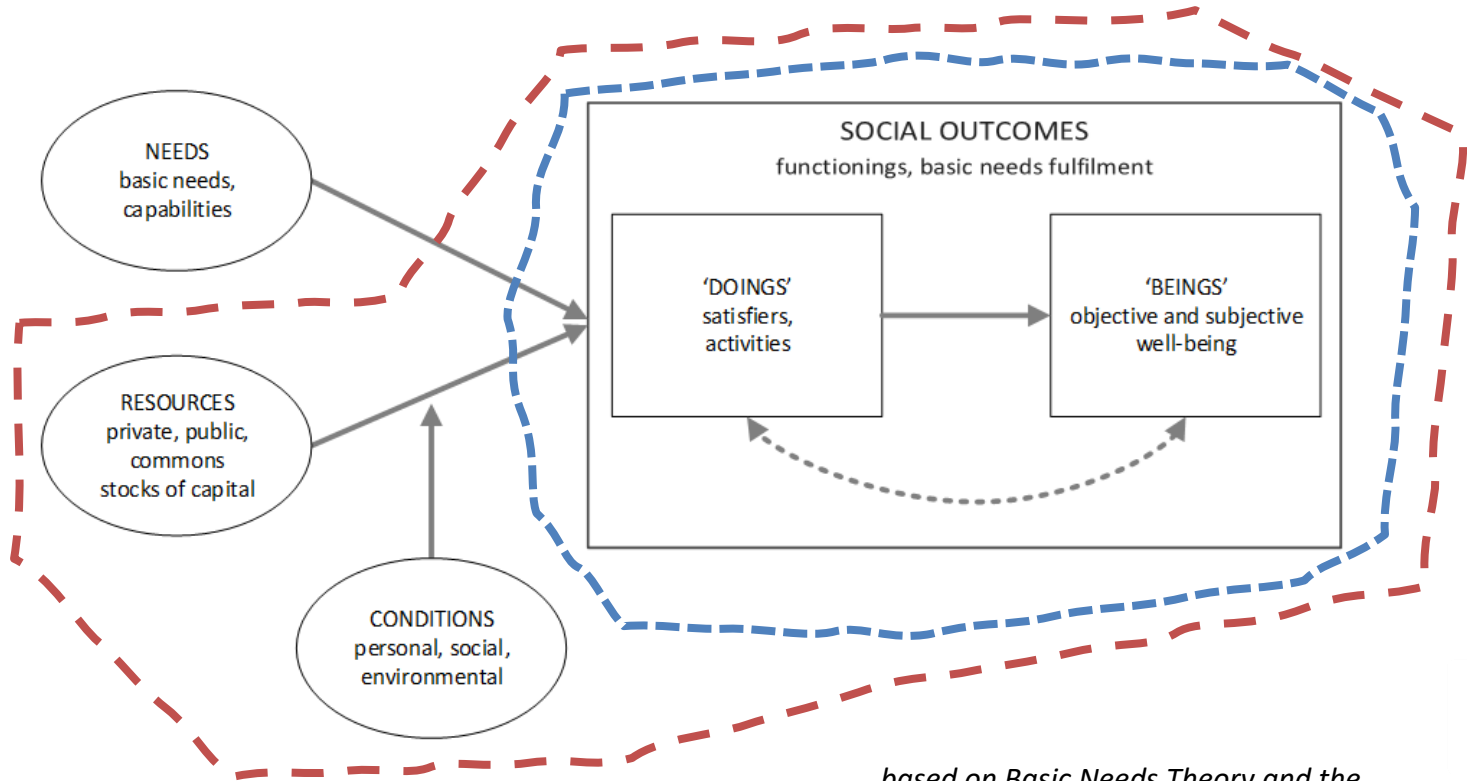
System	Society	Economy	Environment
Statistical standard	CF-SPSS	SNA	SEEA
Description	the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile statistics about population and society, and measure the development of well-being and living conditions of the people living in it, individually and in communities and social groups	the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity in accordance with strict accounting conventions based on economic principles	a multipurpose conceptual framework that describes the interactions between the economy and the environment, and the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets
Function for human well-being	Society provides structure and order (through social norms and practices, rules and roles) and facilitates interaction, cooperation, and exchange, so that people can meet their basic needs and live a good life, individually and as communities	Meet material human needs in the short term (production, consumption) and long term (accumulation), facilitate transactions between actors and nations	Sustain the biosphere in which humans, animals and plants have their habitat, provide ecosystem services for human well-being and economic production
Valuation	People, time and social outcomes	Current exchange values	Current exchange values and physical volumes
Stocks (assets)	Social capital and Relationships, institutional structures and capacity	Produced capital, human capital	Ecosystem assets
Flows (use of assets)	Actions (time use, participation) and interactions, social outcomes (e.g. life expectancy) and living conditions over the life course	Production, consumption, incomes	Ecosystem services, biochemical, hydrological, and other flows and cycles



Conceptual framework



Conceptual model of social outcomes



*based on Basic Needs Theory and the
Capability Approach*



Horizontal integration

- Needs
- Resources
 - private
 - public
 - commons
- Conditions
 - personal (*People*)
 - social (*Relationships*)
 - environmental (*Places*)
- Social outcomes:
 - ‘Doings’ (time use, participation, activities)
 - ‘Beings’ (objective and subjective well-being)



Structural integration

- CF-SPSS measures at three levels:
 - the **microlevel** of individuals and households
 - the **macrolevel** of entire societies
 - the **mesolevel** of subgroups
- Dynamic perspective on the emergence of meso and macro outcomes from micro behaviours: **society as a complex adaptive system**



Structural integration

- Individual actors and their preferences and rules of conduct
- Interactions and adaptation
- Environment
- Emergent outcomes

Structural integration

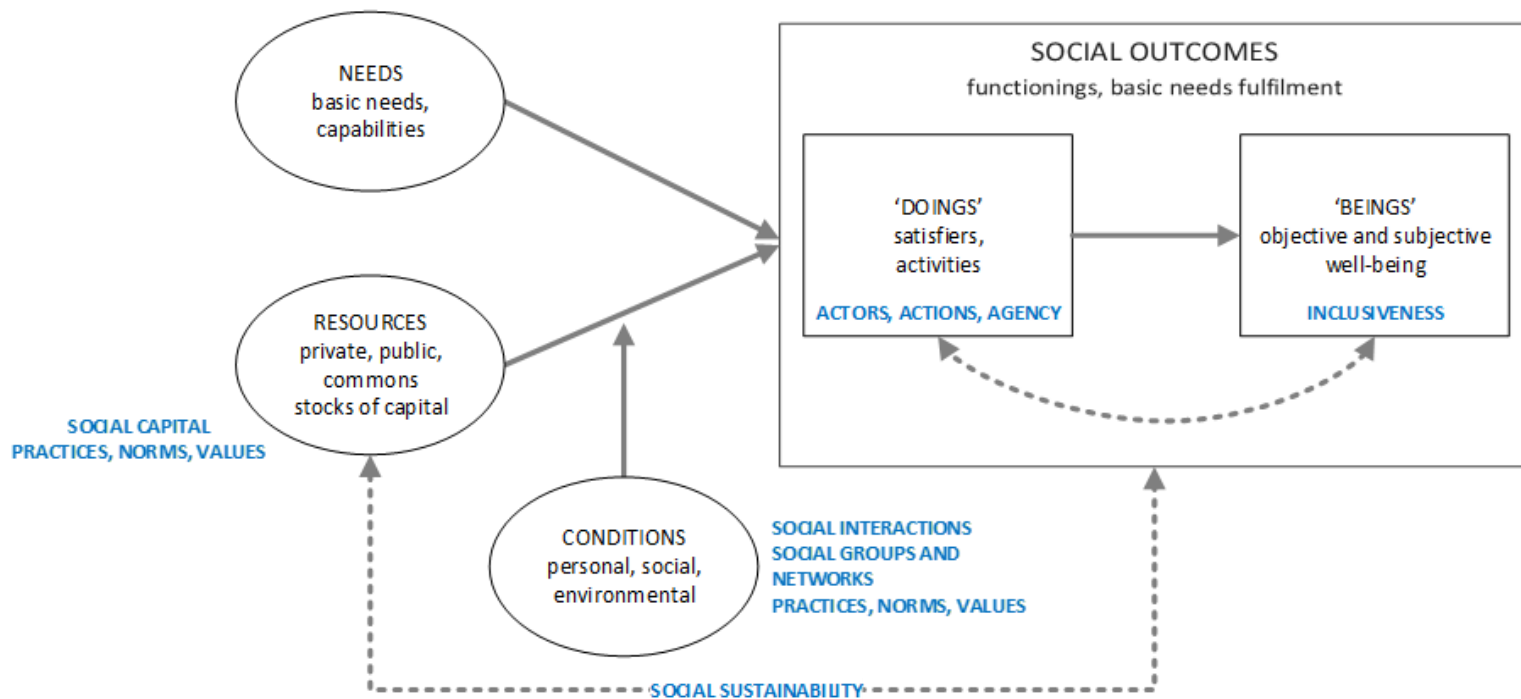
- Individual actors and their preferences and rules of conduct (*People, Time*)
- Interactions and adaptation (*Relationships*)
- Environment (*Places*)
- Emergent outcomes (*Social Outcomes*)

Structural integration

- Individual actors and their preferences and rules of conduct (*People, Time*)
 - Needs, Resources, Conditions (personal), Doings (time use)
- Interactions and adaptation (*Relationships*)
 - Conditions (social), Resources (public: institutional actors)
- Environment (Places)
 - Conditions (environmental), Resources (commons)
- Emergent outcomes (*Social Outcomes*)
 - Beings (well-being outcomes)



Relevant concepts



Scope and boundaries, selection and classification, universality



Selection and classification

- Which components need to be described in the CF-SPSS? Do we only include outcomes or also determinants?
- Where are we going to draw boundaries? What is ‘social’?
- Which classifications do we need? (CSA 2.0)
 - a comprehensive catalogue of actors
 - dimensions of well-being
 - resources (stocks of capital)
 - etc.

Scope

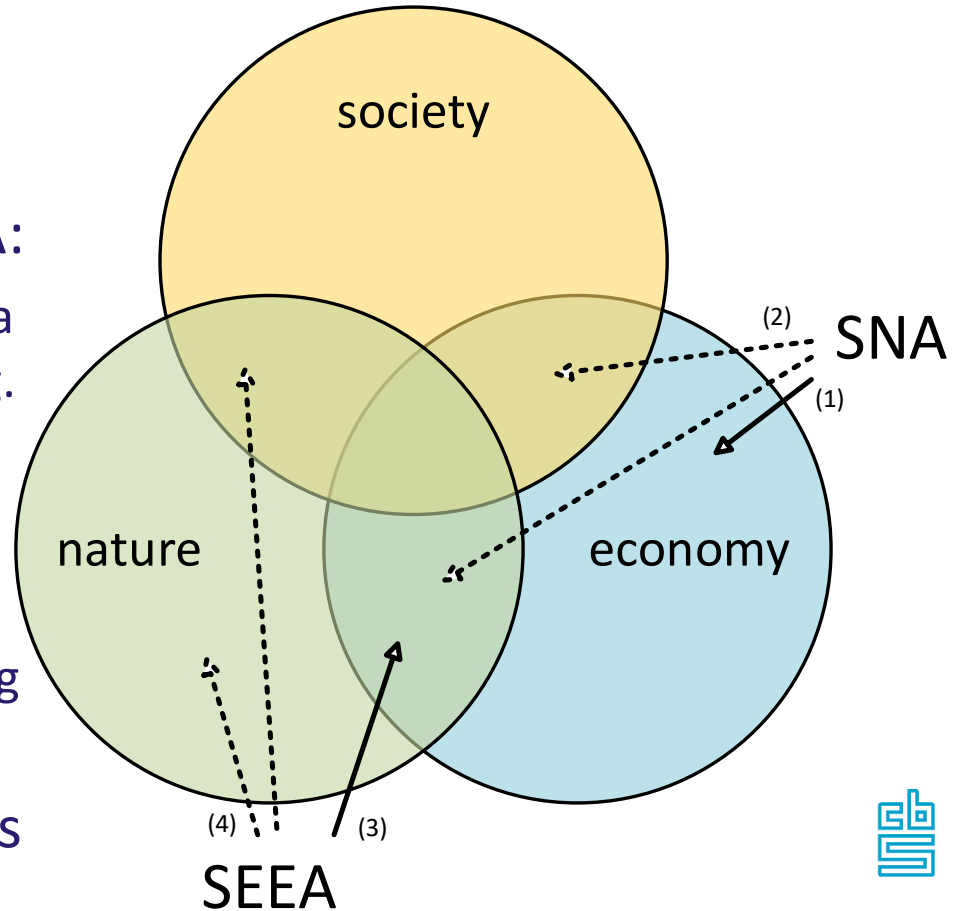
CF-SPSS versus SNA and SEEA:

- how to deal with phenomena that occur in the overlap (e.g. work)?

CF-SPSS vs FISW:

- which aspects of social outcomes (well-being) belong in CF-SPSS and in FISW?

What happens where systems interact?





Universality

Universality

- Classifications that are universally applicable
 - Existing frameworks?
 - Theory?
 - Human rights?
 - SDGs?
- Making space for specific national or cultural requirements
 - indigenous peoples
 - individual versus community



Normative issues

- Selection should be based on *science* and *consensus*
- Use *formal* methods and *systematic* approach to measure potentially problematic statistics (e.g. deprivation)
- Leave normative statements (good versus bad, problems) to *users*

Vertical integration

...will be discussed by Kari Wolanski (StatCan)



Social outcomes along the life course

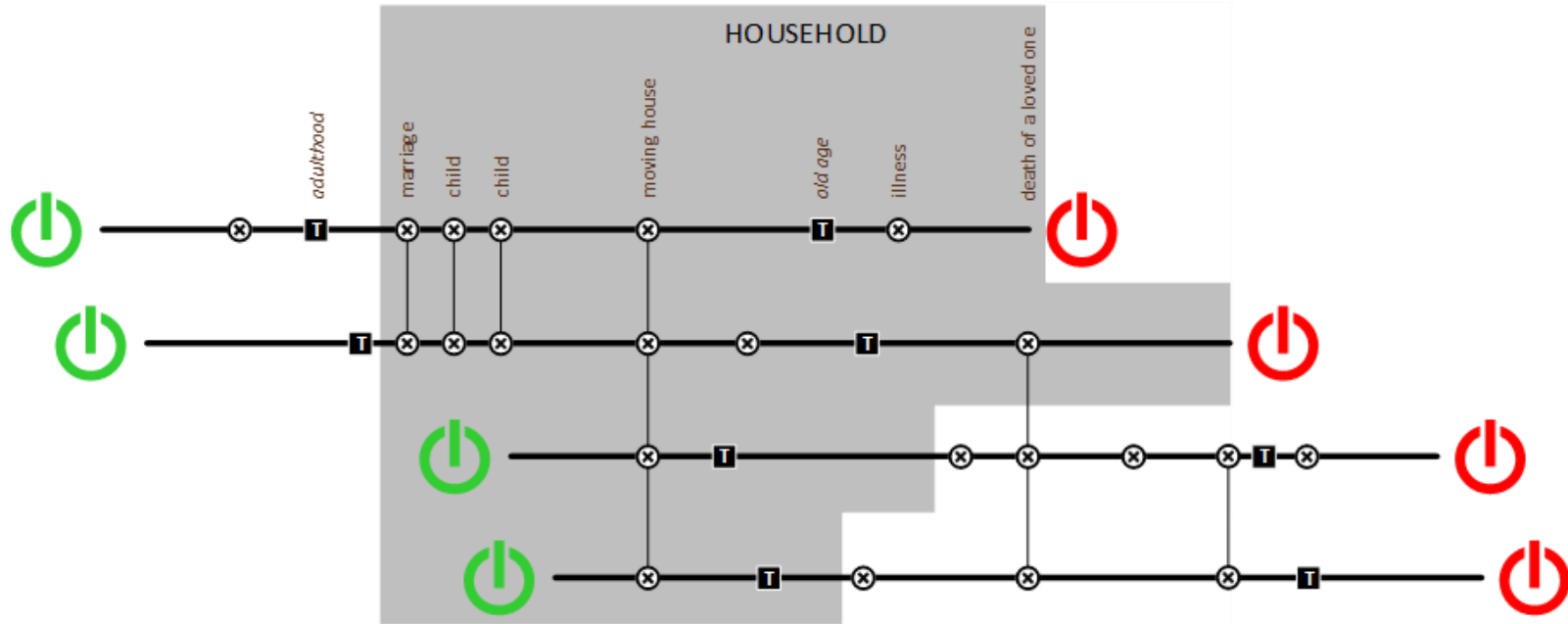


Time: a life course approach



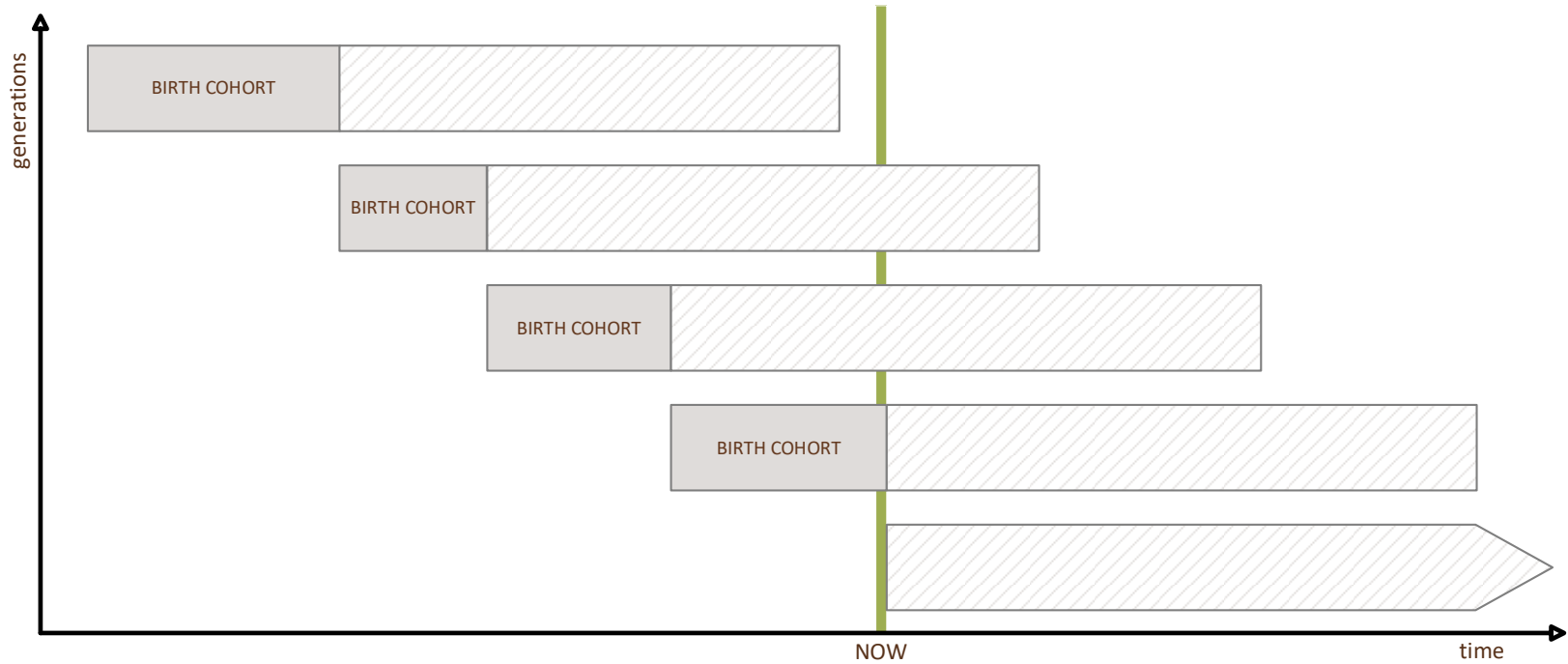
Life course of a single person showing transitions and events

Time: a life course approach



Life courses of multiple related persons ('linked lives')

Time: generations



Generations and cohorts (age, period, cohort) to understand (social) sustainability



Looking towards the future



Convergence and successor mechanisms

- How to deal with differences in experience and statistical capacity?
- Based on the first CF-SPSS: start with what exists today and identify what is still missing
- Countries with experience and capacity can experiment and provide technical assistance to countries with less experience or capacity
- How to collectively go forward





Facts that matter