

First International Workshop AIQUAV  
“Exploring and exploiting quality of life complexity  
(QoLexity): epistemological, methodological  
and statistical issues”

# Quality of life research: global versus local studies

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# Quality of life

- Definition of quality of life: material vs. non material concerns
- From global problems and studies to local monitor and policies
- Planning for quality of life at local level:
  - Community size
  - Local history, environment, weather, culture
  - Local territorial vocation and political tradition
  - Local needs and expectations
  - Local resources and constrains

# Does urban size matter?

Applying Sen's concepts to urban contexts  
From resources to functionings and capabilities  
by city size

	Large cities	Small and medium cities
Resources: goods and services	xxx	x
Level of <i>transformation</i> of resources in functionings	x	xx
Functionings	xxx	xx
Capabilities	xxx	x

# Does climate matter?

Interchanging private and public spaces

	Northern community	Southern community
Quality of life in indoor spaces	xxx	x
Quality of life in outdoor spaces	x	xxx

# Does local polarization matter?

Combining basic and secondary needs

	Polarized community	Un-polarized community
Quality of life: as a combination of different services of different level	xxx	x
Quality of life: good standard services	x	xxx

# Community Quality of Life Research

## 1. The level of analysis

- Region
- Province
- Commune
- Neighborhoods (only few data)

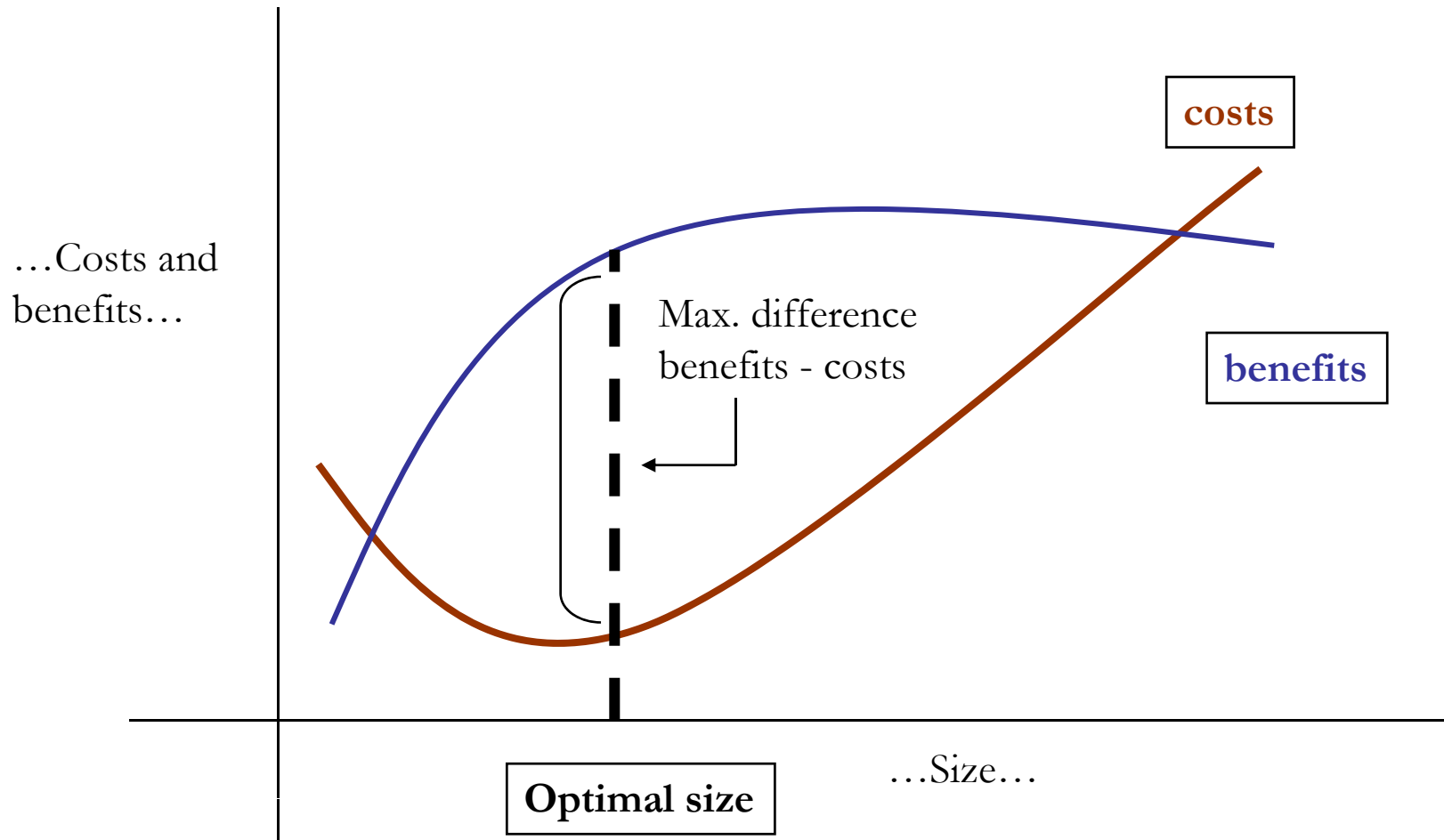
## 2. Type of populations

- Resident: inhabitants (native or immigrants)
- Non residents: commuters, city users, businessmen, tourists

## 3. The evaluation of the conditions and of the policies

- The definition of standard threshold for comparing (average, scientific, legislative)
- Ex-ante and ex-post data collection and analysis

# Costs and benefits by urban size



# New perspectives

- To improve the availability of social indicators at the micro level
- To define threshold for evaluating living conditions
- To identify different population needs and segments
- To measure non resident populations “using” the local services



# Italian experiences

## **BSA: Bilanci sociali di Area in Milan '70**

Objective and subjective indicators at the neighborhood level

### **Objective indicators**

- Definition of population needs by age
- Definition of available services (education, social, health and leisure services) by age users

### **Subjective indicators**

- Survey on a large sample of family and individuals about living styles and living conditions

# Observatory on Quality of life in Italy in the '90

Pilots experiences in Como, Imola, Lodi, Monza, Nichelino (TO),  
Pistoia, Bolzano, Milan, Bologna, Naples, Verbania

Main aims:

1. To collect data about environmental, economic and social concerns
2. To map and comparing living conditions at the local level
3. To help local authorities in the decision making processes
4. To evaluate local policies
5. To inform citizens about living conditions in the area