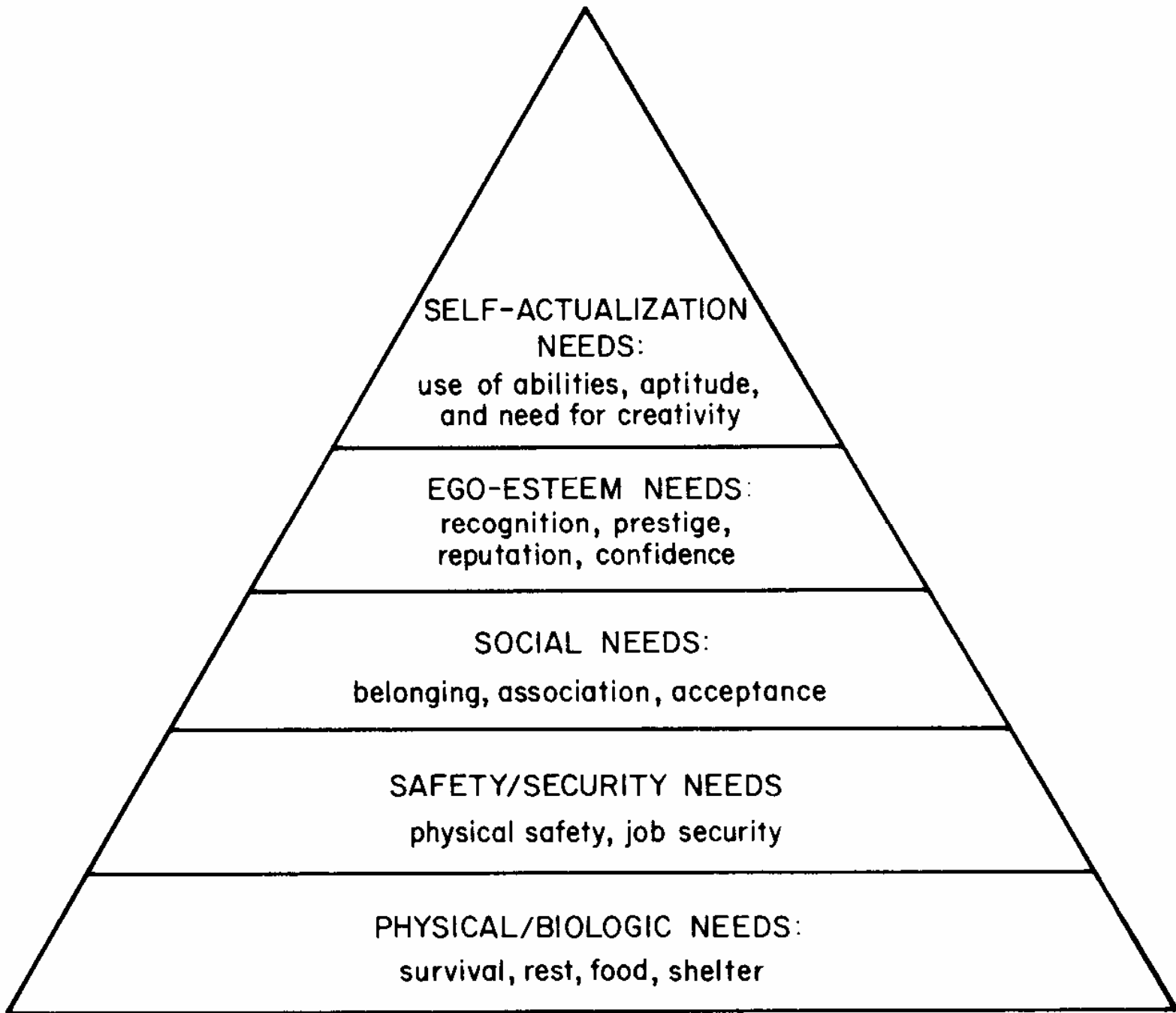


***GEOGRAPHY OF
WELLBEING,
(NEW) RESEARCH FIELD IN
HEALTH GEOGRAPHY***

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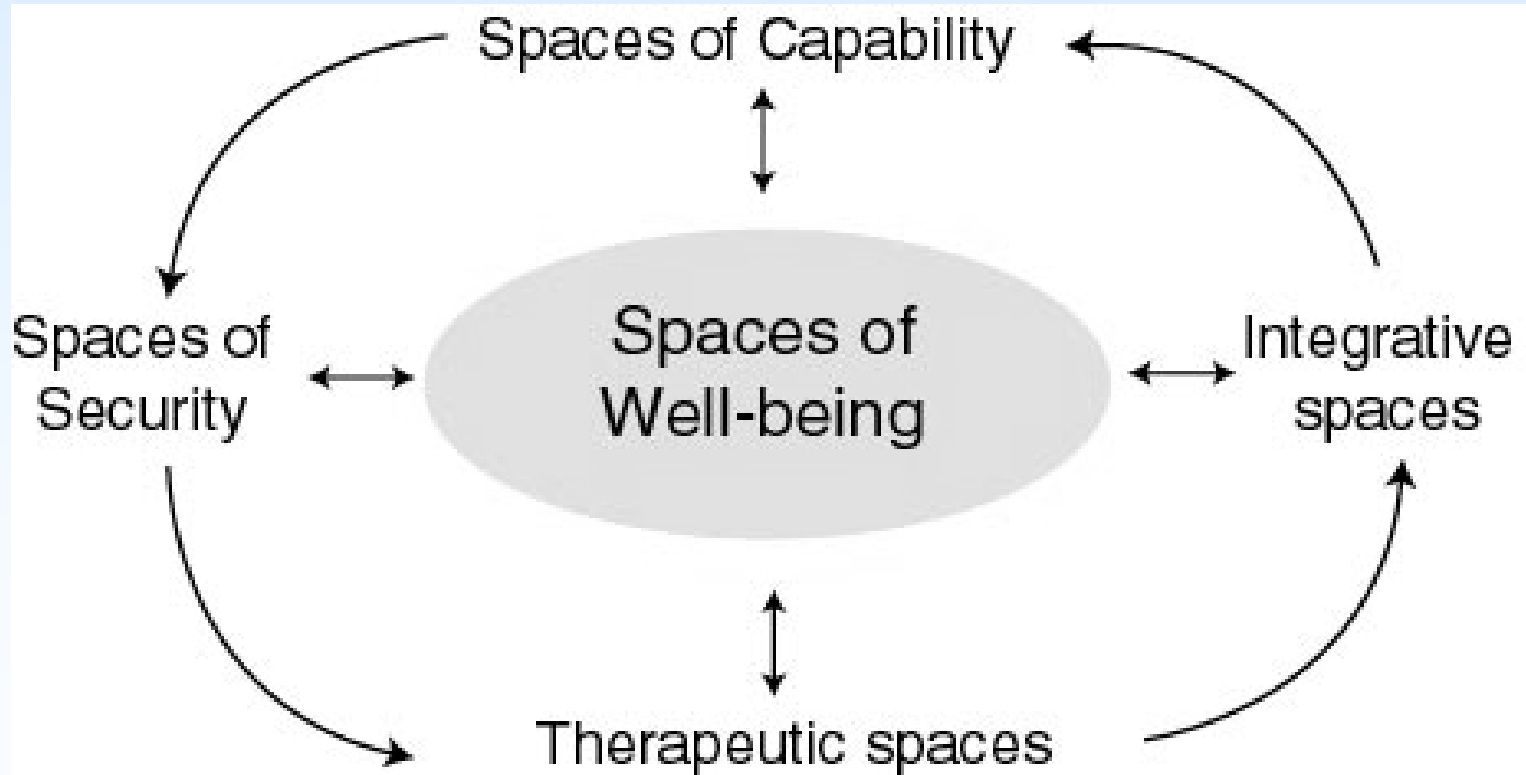


The persistent vagueness surrounding well-being

- Problem of semantics and context
- How can well-being be measured ?
Moving from the concept to action

Categories of indicators	Examples
<i>Social indicators published by national administrations or agencies</i>	Census, national surveys : <i>demography, employment, housing, health, etc ...</i>
<i>Indicators published by the international organizations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the indicator of human development –IDH- (PNUD) : <i>arithmetical average of three elementary indicators (expectation of life, illiteracy and income)</i> - the social indicators of the OECD - etc.
Synthetic indicators	The indicator of " Social health " ¹ (USA) calculated on the basis of 16 elementary indicators (<i>Infant mortality, Child abuse, Child poverty, Youth suicide, Teenage drug use, High school dropouts, Teenage births, Unemployment Wages, Health care coverage, Age 65 plus poverty, Life expectancy, Violent crime, Alcohol related traffic fatalities, Affordable housing, Inequality in family income</i>).
<i>Indicators of sustainable development</i>	Pressure-State-Response approach, classification of the indicators (mainly environmental) in three categories : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>the indicators representative of pressures to the environment</i> - <i>the indicators representative of changes resulting in the state of environment</i> - <i>the indicators representative of responses given by the public policies.</i>
<i>Indicators of the quality of life</i>	Ontario State in Canada publishes every year a synthetic index of the quality of life based on 4 category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social : <i>children entrusted to " Children's Aid Societies ", welfare recipients, waiting list of the housing establishments.</i> - Health : <i>children with a low birth weight, elderly waiting to be placed in a long-term care facility, new cases of cancer.</i> - Economy : <i>number of unemployed, employed people, bankruptcies.</i> - Environment : <i>number of hours in which air is of a poor or bad quality, residual spills or waste to the environment, tons of waste subject to a selective sorting.</i>
<i>Indicators of subjective well-being (happiness, satisfaction)</i>	The Australian Unity Well-being Index proposes a double index : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>the first one focussed on the person (living standards, health, self-actualization, present and future uncertainty/stability, all social relations ...) : personal well-being index</i> - <i>the second one at the scale of the society (economical situation, social environment and conditions) : national well-being index</i>

What particularities does well-being have in Geography ?



Research perspectives for wellbeing geography

- Documenting and comparing current uses of the term well-being across different contexts
- Mapping the range of actions and agencies promoting well-being at different scales
- Cases studies and cross-country comparative research projects