

Bank of Italy

Centre for Economic
& International Studies
University of Tor Vergata
(CEIS)

Joint Research Centre
European Commission
(JRC)

Organisation for Economic
Cooperation and
Development (OECD)

International Conference

Is happiness measurable and what do those measures mean for policy?

Rome, 2-3 April 2007
University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Conference programme

Monday, 2 April

- 9.30 – 10.00 Opening speeches
- Luigi Paganetto (CEIS - University of Tor Vergata)
 - Enrico Giovannini (OECD)

10.00 – 11.30 Keynote session: Happiness Accounts for Policy Use

- Chair: Salvatore Rossi (Bank of Italy)
- Keynote Speaker: Ed Diener (University of Illinois) : *Happiness Accounts for Policy Use*
- Discussant: Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Statistics Finland)
- General discussion

Part I: The determinants of happiness

What aspects of life determine how happy people are, and what is the role of (macro) economic factors such as inflation and inequality? Satisfaction need not refer to life as a whole, but can apply to specific domains of life, e.g. work, family, health, education, etc. Different domains will have different determinants of subjective well-being, which, in turn, feed back into overall happiness.

12.00 – 13.30 *Session IA – Why and how does happiness differ across countries and over time?*

- Chair: Pertti Majanen (Finnish Ambassador to the OECD)
- Speakers:
 - Alois Stutzer (University of Basel): *Work and Well-Being: Insights from Happiness Research*
 - Claudia Biancotti (Bank of Italy): *Inequality and Happiness*
- Discussant: Jochen Jesinghaus (JRC)
- General discussion

Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00 *Session IB – Work and Subjective Wellbeing*

- Chair: Giovanni Trià (CEIS - University of Tor Vergata)
- Speakers:
 - Andrew Clark (Paris-Jourdan Sciences Economiques, Ecole normale supérieure): *Work, Jobs and Well-Being Across the Millennium*
 - Leonardo Becchetti (CEIS - University of Tor Vergata): *The Effects of Age and Job Protection on the Welfare Costs of Inflation and Unemployment: a Source of ECB anti-inflation bias?*
- Discussant: Sveinbjorn Blondal (OECD)
- General discussion

Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 *Session IC – Education and Subjective Wellbeing*

- Chair: Daniele Vidoni (JRC)
- Speakers:
 - Marcel Canoy (European Commission, BEPA): *Wellbeing in European Policy*
 - Alex Michalos (University of Northern British Columbia): *Education, Happiness and Wellbeing*
- Discussant:
 - Marc Lachance (Canadian Council of Learning)
- General discussion

Tuesday, 3 April

Part II: Measures of happiness and policy

Over the last few decades tremendous progress has been made both in measuring happiness and life satisfaction and in our understanding of the factors influencing them. The questions we want to answer now are how the findings of the field can be used for policy purposes? Do we know enough and is our knowledge is robust enough to have subjective well-being indicators inform policy making.

9.30 – 11.00 *Session IIA – Happiness and Public Policy I*

- Chair: Martine Durand (OECD)
- Speakers:
 - Ruut Veenhoven (Erasmus University Rotterdam): *Measures of Happiness for Public Policy*
 - Paul Dolan (Imperial College London): *Cost-happiness Analysis: A New and Improved Form of Economic Appraisal?*
- Discussant: Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy)
- General discussion

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 *Session IIB – Happiness and Public Policy II*

- Chair: Joan Boer (Dutch Ambassador to the OECD)
- Speakers:
 - Bruno Frey (University of Zurich): *Should National Happiness be Maximized?*
 - Luigino Bruni (University of Milan-Bicocca): *Happiness as Eudaimonia: The Relational Determinant of Well-being*
- Discussant : Stefano Bartolini (University of Siena)
- General discussion

Lunch break

14.00 – 16.00 Final roundtable: What Have We Learnt?

- Chair: Luigi Paganetto (CEIS-Tor Vergata)
- Enrico Giovannini (OECD)
- Andrea Saltelli (JRC)
- Luigi Federico Signorini (Bank of Italy)
- Tito Boeri (University of Milan-Bocconi)
- Johan Norberg (Author and Freelance Marketeer)
- David Halpern (UK Prime Minister Strategy Unit)