



New Frontiers in Subjective Well-being Measurement

4 March 2024 | 09:00-17:00 CET

Hybrid event – Room CC13 of the OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France and online

In the ten years since the OECD published its official [Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being](#), the inclusion of evaluative, affective and eudaimonic indicators of well-being in national measurement frameworks and household surveys has grown. A [recent stock-take](#) of current official data collection efforts across OECD member states reveals that life satisfaction data are largely harmonised, however measurement practice around affect and eudaimonia remain less standardised, and infrequent.

To fill these needs, and address identified gaps in international guidance, over the next two years the [OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity](#) (WISE) will be developing a new and expanded version of the *Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being*. To kick-off this effort and shape the policy and measurement agenda, WISE is holding a public hybrid conference on subjective well-being measurement, convening official data producers, policy makers and researchers to discuss topics for future OECD measurement recommendations. These include revisiting affective measurement recommendations, developing a more comprehensive measurement of eudaimonia, crafting guidance on child subjective well-being indicators, and introducing more globally inclusive approaches to measurement, including perspectives from Indigenous communities, minority groups and different cultural traditions across OECD countries.

The event is open to all, including media, civil society, policy professionals, academics, statisticians, and others interested in this important agenda.

Agenda

- 09:00-09:05 **Welcome**
Opening remarks by **Yoshiaki Takeuchi**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General ([watch Welcome remarks and Introduction](#))
- 09:05-09:20 **Conference scene-setting**
Welcome and introduction from the OECD WISE Centre Director, **Romina Boarini** ([presentation](#))
- 09:20-10:20 **Revisiting affect: Which states to measure, and how?** ([watch session](#) – start at 26:20)
This session focuses on how to measure the affective component of subjective well-being. It will cover the affective recommendations in the original *OECD Guidelines*, highlight additional affective states that may be worth considering for inclusion in an updated publication, and discuss experienced well-being indicators, their inclusion in time use surveys, and how these data may have unique value add for policy.
Moderated by **Carrie Exton**, Acting Senior Counsellor, WISE
- [Arthur Stone](#), Professor of Psychology, University of Southern California ([presentation](#))
 - [Conal Smith](#), Economist and Principal at Kōtātā Insights ([presentation](#))
 - [Lucia Macchia](#), School of Health and Psychological Sciences City, University of London ([presentation](#))

10:20-10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30-11:30 **Towards a more comprehensive measure of eudaimonia** ([watch session](#))

This session is devoted to the concept of eudaimonia: how it is defined, how it can be measured, and the ways in which different approaches to eudaimonia have been operationalised by official data producers in practice. The session will also include a discussion of how these indicators can – and have been – used in policy, and the ways in which the drivers of eudaimonic well-being may be distinct from those of other subjective well-being measures, including life satisfaction.

Moderated by **Lara Fleischer**, Acting Head of Unit, WISE

- [Carol Ryff](#), Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison ([presentation](#))
- [Carol Graham](#), Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution ([presentation](#))
- [Nancy Hey](#), Executive Director, What Works Centre for Well-being ([presentation](#))

11:30-12:30 **Measuring subjective well-being in children and young people** ([watch session](#))

Panellists in this session will discuss efforts to measure subjective well-being in children and young people, bringing together perspectives from national statistical offices, national policy makers, and those with expertise in designing and fielding international surveys.

Moderated by **Olivier Thévenon**, Head of Child Well-being Unit, WISE

- **Sabrina Twilhaar**, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions/UKRI Fellow, University of Warwick ([presentation](#))
- **Gwyther Rees**, Social & Economic Policy Manager, UNICEF Innocenti Center ([presentation](#))
- **Oddrun Samdal**, International Coordinator, Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey ([presentation](#))
- **Anna Visser**, Principal Officer, Child Poverty and Wellbeing Programme Office, Department of the Taoiseach, Government of Ireland ([presentation](#))

12:30-14:30 *Break for lunch*

14:30-15:30 **A better understanding of domain satisfaction: Validity and policy use** ([watch session](#))

Domain satisfaction indicators ask respondents the extent to which they are satisfied with various aspects of their lives – their jobs, their family life, the way they spend their time, etc. Despite their inclusion in the original *OECD Guidelines*, these indicators have not received as much attention as other measures of subjective well-being. This session will discuss the statistical validity of domain satisfaction measures, highlight gaps in the evidence base that could be filled by future research, and discuss useful policy applications of these data.

Moderated by **Jessica Mahoney**, Policy Analyst, WISE

- **Mariano Rojas**, Professor of Economics and Expert in Happiness and Well-being, Universidad UPAEP and Universidad Internacional de La Rioja ([presentation](#))
- **Anthony Bardo**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Kentucky (remote [presentation](#))
- **Alessandra Tinto**, Head of the Equitable and Sustainable Well-being Project, Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) ([presentation](#))

15:30-15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45-16:50 **Globally inclusive approaches to measurement** ([watch session](#))

The next iteration of the *OECD Guidelines* will develop an experimental module that highlights more globally inclusive subjective well-being measurement approaches, pulling from a broader evidence base that includes the perspectives of Indigenous communities, minority groups and different cultural traditions across OECD countries. This session will outline how culture can shape our experiences of, or the value we place on, our emotions, feelings of satisfaction, and meaning. It will also showcase examples of Indigenous subjective well-being and health measurement approaches in different OECD countries.

Moderated by **Atawhai Tibble**, Indigenous Economist and Director of Iwinomics

- **Rosemary Goodyear**, Principal Analyst, Statistics New Zealand ([presentation](#))
- **Erhabor Idemudia**, Research Professor in the School of Research and Post Graduate Studies, North-West University (NWU) South Africa (remote [presentation](#))
- **Shigehiro Oishi**, Marshall Field IV Professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago ([presentation](#))

16:50-17:00 **How to use subjective well-being data in policy** ([watch session](#))

Moving from measurement to policy, how can different types of subjective well-being indicators be adopted by policy makers to inform decision making – and why is this of such great importance?

John Helliwell, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia