



Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche

Università degli Studi di Cassino

International Conference - Call for papers

Well-Being ***Are we happy with our standard of living?***

Cassino (Italy), September 26-27, 2008

“...there will be ever larger and larger classes and groups of people from whom problems of economic necessity have been practically removed.”

“Thus for the first time since his creation man will be faced with his real, his permanent problem-how to use his freedom from pressing economic cares, how to occupy the leisure, which science and compound interest will have won for him, to live wisely and agreeably and well.” Keynes (1930)

Objective

In the last decade, household debt has been rising, relative to income, in several industrialized countries. At the micro level, household surveys report an increase in the number of families who are unable to save, or who experience some other kind of financial or economic stress. This is sometime related to a decrease in self-reported happiness. This evidence may be at odds with growth in output, which has not decelerated and has actually increased in some countries. Consumption and saving patterns may also be related to changes in the distribution of income, which has been substantial, although with different characteristics across countries.

So, was Keynes entirely wrong in his “Economic possibilities for our grandchildren”, where he predicted in 1930 that “the economic problem may be solved, or be at least within sight of solution, within a hundred years”, through income growth enjoyed by a growing share of the population, and resulting in a decrease of working hours and an increase in leisure?

The aim of the conference is to collect state-of-the-art contributions on these issues, at the micro, macro and policy levels. Sections will be devoted to problems related to how we measure well-being, poverty and happiness, to differences between perceived and effective well-being, to how well-being is related to income growth and the distribution of income, to the role of economic policy.

Papers on these or related topics are welcome. Authors are free to submit more than one paper for different sessions. If you wish to organize a session (4 papers on the same topic) please contact the organizing committee. A discussant will be assigned to each paper. All papers will be distributed through the conference web site. A selection of papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

Deadlines

Paper proposals, including an abstract and JEL codes, should be submitted by email no later than June 30th, 2008. Papers accepted for the conference should be submitted no later than September 1st, 2008.

Location

The conference will be held in Cassino, which is located half-way between Rome and Naples. We will provide transportation to/from Rome airport. All participants will be required to provide for

their own expenses; details on accommodation opportunities at special rates will be provided on the conference web site.

Registration and Conference Fee

You may register on the conference web site, or directly at the conference.

There is a Conference fee of €150, which will cover for all meals and coffee breaks, and for conference materials.

Scientific Committee

Philip Arestis, University of Cambridge & Levy Economics Institute

Marina Bianchi, Università di Cassino

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, Levy Economics Institute

Maurizio Pugno, Università di Cassino

Gennaro Zezza, Università di Cassino & Levy Economics Institute

For additional information please contact:

Gennaro Zezza

zezza@unicas.it

Tel +39 0776 2994641

Fax. +39 0776 2994834

Conference web site : <http://dipse.unicas.it/wb2008>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, September 26

- 8.30 - 17.00** Registration
- 9.00 - 9.15** Welcome address
- 9.15 - 10.00** Invited lecture. *John Helliwell* (University of British Columbia). "The Social Context of Well-Being in Workplaces, Communities and Nations"
- 10.00 - 11.30** Parallel sessions A
- 11.30 - 11.45** Coffee break
- 11.45 - 13.15** Parallel sessions B
- 13.15 - 14.30** Lunch
- 14.30 - 15.15** Invited lecture. *Ajit Zacharias* (Levy Economics Institute). "Measuring long-term trends in economic well-being in the United States: A new perspective"
- 15.15 - 17.15** Parallel sessions C
- 17.15 - 17.30** Coffee break
- 17.30 - 19.00** Round-table: "Well-being and inequality"
- 21.0** Dinner

Saturday, September 27

- 9.00 - 9.45** Invited lecture. *Bernard M.S.van Praag* (University of Amsterdam). Title TBA
- 9.45 - 11.15** Parallel sessions D
- 11.15 - 11.30** Coffee break
- 11.30 - 14.00** Round-table: "Policies for well-being"