

# HAPPINESS, FUNCTIONINGS, AGENCY AND RESPONSIBILITY

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## **Abstract**

The starting point for this paper is the search for possible intersections and mutual impulses of the capability approach and the happiness literature. Respecting the request for multidimensionality, I agree with suggestions favoring to use happiness information as functionings among others. Two separate ways to do so are detected. First hedonic research is making use of so-called objective happiness. In this regard, objectivity is obtained by only evaluating instant information, which are assumed to be free of emotional biases. In contrast to that, the rather new eudaimonic literature focuses on noninstant information. Subjective information evaluated by the Self-Determination Theory (SDT) are assumed to contain hints about the processes behind decision-making. I claim, that what initially is seen to be open for interfering (adaptation) biases, by means of SDT, might become a measure that indicates if the achieved beings and doings are agency goals. Even further, high levels of such measures indicate that the respective achieved beings and doings have been chosen freely. Therefore, being able to evaluate the proposed subjective indicators could possibly supersede the counting and reviewing of existing alternatives. Assessing welfare in the sense of the CA would then get by with achieved functionings. Finally, it is argued that working with SDT's concepts, the CA would be enabled to be more responsive to the questions of individual responsibility.

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