



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA
Dipartimento di Economia Politica

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

Policies for Happiness

June 14-17, 2007

Certosa di Pontignano

University of Siena
Italy

Submission deadline: 31 January 2007

In recent years, an animated interdisciplinary discussion has been fuelled by the evidence that, in the long-term, people's satisfaction with their lives is not significantly influenced by increases in their income and that other aspects of their lives, especially their social relationships, are of greater importance. This evidence raises a challenge to the economic policy paradigm that has traditionally emphasized income as the primary determinant of well being. In light of the new evidence: what should be done to improve the quality of people's lives? Can economic and social changes be made which enhance well-being? What policies are required? How do policies for well-being differ from traditional ones targeted on redistribution, the correction of market inefficiencies, and growth? Are there dimensions of well-being that have been neglected by traditional policies? Is happiness a meaningful policy target?

An answer to these questions may require an inter-disciplinary approach (economics, sociology, psychology, political science, urban science, anthropology, neuroscience). By means of this conference we intend to encourage a discussion among scholars of different disciplines with the aim of promoting research on economic, social and cultural reforms which are capable of generating well-being.

Keynote Speakers

Samuel Bowles (University of Siena and Santa Fe Institute)

Andrew Clark (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris)

Bruno Frey (University of Zurich)

Daniel Kahneman (Princeton University)

Richard Layard (London School of Economics)

Andrew Oswald (University of Warwick)

Juliet Schor (Boston College)

Robert Sugden (University of East -Anglia)

Topics of interest include the impact on well-being of:

- Social capital and relational goods
- Urban and spacial policies
- Policies for infancy, adolescence, education
- Economic, social and political organization
- Cultural values
- Environmental policies

Important Dates

Electronic Submission Deadline: January, 31, 2007

Notification of acceptance: March, 15, 2007.

Paper Format and Submission

Authors must submit electronically from the conference website a two-page abstract. Alternatively, the abstract may be sent in pdf format to happiness.conference@unisi.it

Conference Scientific committee

Stefano Bartolini (University of Siena)

Samuel Bowles (University of Siena and Santa Fe Institute)

Luigino Bruni (University of Milano-Bicocca)

Benedetto Gui (University of Padova)

Richard Layard (London School of Economics)

Ugo Pagano (University of Siena)

Pier Luigi Porta (University of Milano-Bicocca)

Maurizio Pugno (University of Cassino)

Pierluigi Sacco (University of Venice, IUAV)

Robert Sugden (University of East -Anglia)

Sandro Vercelli (University of Siena)

Stefano Zamagni (University of Bologna)