Winter term 2019/2020

The Economics of Happiness

Lecture
Start/end date: Oct 15, 2019 / Dec 3, 2019
Time: Tuesdays, 2 pm to 6 pm
Location: HS 108a (Garystr. 21)

Problem class
Start/end date: Jan 8, 2020 / Feb 2, 2020
Time: Wednesdays, 4 pm to 8 pm
Location: PC-Pool 2 (Garystr. 21)

Course outline
The lecture introduces students to the Economics of Happiness. We will discuss why the normative question of what makes people happy, i.e. how individual and societal welfare can be measured, has become urgent in economics since the end of the last century. Then, the concepts and methods of happiness research will be introduced. In the process, we will lay the ground for a thorough discussion of the contributions of happiness research to economics, for instance in the realms of welfare measurement and labor economics. In the course of the problem class, students will conduct their own empirical happiness research project using STATA.

Study programs
MSc Public Economics and MSc Economics, module Ausgewählte Themen der Sozialpolitik

Assessment
Midterm exam on December 3, 2019 (60 minutes)
Term paper (empirical project), 10 to 12 pages, due by March 31, 2020, 24 hrs CET

Introductory reading

Notes
The course is limited to 30 participants.
The lecture precedes the lecture of Staat und Beschäftigung that will start in December to avoid overlap. For the same reason, the problem classes alternate with those of Makroökonomische Analyse.
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1. Why Economists Study Happiness
2. Concepts and Methods of Happiness Research
   3. Does Income Increase Welfare?
   4. Welfare Measurement
3. The True Cost of Unemployment
   6. Labor Market Policy
5. Cost-Benefit Analysis