

STATEC

INVITATION

Measuring Progress: STATEC Well-being Seminar Series

16:00 CET (10:00 AM Eastern) – 17:00 CET (11:00 PM Eastern)

22 October 2025

Held online and in person, see registration details below

How Happy is the World Today? Tracking Cross-Country Subjective Wellbeing in Real Time Via Data Harmonization.

Dr. Roberto Foa, University of Cambridge



Abstract: Is it possible to provide a live update on global happiness in real time? Traditional cross-country measures of subjective wellbeing rely on nationally representative surveys, that provide high quality yet infrequent data. In this article we build on our existing work that addresses this limitation, by integrating high-frequency indicators - online river sample surveys, weekly web panels, and daily search queries - with conventional F2F and phone polling sources, using statistical imputation via machine learning models, to produce a continuous and updatable series. We then demonstrate the use of such techniques, not only in countries with established high frequency mood tracker data, such as Britain or the United States, but also for more data scarce environments such as Russia, Ukraine or the Middle East.

Dr. Roberto Foa is Associate Professor in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. He is Executive Committee Member of the World Values Survey, Co-Founder of the Centre for the Future of Democracy, and Co-Founder of the Sephira Institute. His work on public opinion and wellbeing has been published in a wide range of journals including PLoS One, World Development, Perspectives in Psychological Science, the British Journal of Political Science and Frontiers.

The seminar will be held in English, in person, and online via Cisco Webex and recorded.

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