Measuring Progress: Online Forum on Well-Being

29 June 2021

17:00 CET (11:00 AM Eastern) – 19:00 CET (1:00 PM Eastern)

Ruut Veenhoven Erasmus University Rotterdam

Greater happiness for a greater number: How can that be achieved?

Abstract: This conference is about the promotion of ‘wellbeing’ in public policy, but wellbeing is too broad a concept to allow fact-based choice. We better focus on happiness; how much people like the life they live. Happiness is the most comprehensive indicator of how well people live in a country, especially when combined with longevity. This approach fits the utilitarian ethic that governments should aim at greater happiness for a greater number. Governments can foster happiness of citizens by 1) providing good living conditions and 2) strengthening life-ability in the population. Empirical happiness research provides indications of which living conditions and life-abilities are the most relevant in contemporary modern societies. Data on that matter are gathered in the World Database of Happiness

John de Graaf Author, filmmaker, speaker

The Economics of Beauty – The Future of an Idea

Abstract: Several recent studies have shown that living amid beautiful natural and built environments has a powerful impact on happiness and wellbeing, but beauty has not yet been included in alternative wellbeing indexes or surveys. This is a serious oversight. Strong evidence shows that beauty is not simply “in the eye of the beholder” but is a powerful universal feeling, developed through human evolution. We sense in beautiful environments a safe and flourishing place for human habitation and, far from distracting us from important issues like social justice and sustainability, beautiful habitats and settings enhance sustainable behaviors, tolerance, altruism and our passion for justice. In his talk, John de Graaf will address these issues and present the story behind his new documentary film: STEWART UDALL AND THE POLITICS OF BEAUTY. Working toward a more beautiful world can also help us move beyond polarizing current political divisions, counter tendencies toward unsustainable consumerism, and promote cooperation and wellbeing. You can watch a short trailer for John’s new film here: Stewart Udall and the Politics of Beauty — Filmmakers Collaborative SF

The webinars will be held in English via Cisco Webex and recorded.

Meeting password: c7YPJSMT796

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