



Journal of Economic Literature

ISSN 0022-0515 (Print) | ISSN 2328-8175 (Online)

≡ Menu

What Can Economists Learn from Happiness Research?

Bruno S. Frey

Alois Stutzer

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE
VOL. 40, NO. 2, JUNE 2002
(pp. 402–435)

Download Full Text PDF

Article Information

Abstract

In recent years, there has been a steadily increasing interest on the part of economists in happiness research. We argue that reported subjective well-being is a satisfactory empirical approximation to individual utility and that happiness research is able to contribute important insights for economics. We report how the economic variables income, unemployment and inflation affect happiness as well as how institutional

factors, in particular the type of democracy and the extent of government systematically influence how satisfied individuals are with their life.

This website uses cookies.

By clicking the "Accept" button or continuing to browse our site, you agree to first-party and session-only cookies being stored on your device to enhance site navigation and analyze site performance and traffic. For more information on our use of cookies, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept

Frey, Bruno, S., and Alois Stutzer. 2002. "What Can Economists Learn from Happiness Research?" *Journal of Economic Literature*, 40 (2): 402–435.

DOI: 10.1257/002205102320161320

Choose Format:



JEL Classification

D10 Household Behavior: General

A12 Relation of Economics to Other Disciplines

Copyright 2024 American Economic Association. All rights reserved.

[Terms of Use & Privacy Policy](#)

This website uses cookies.

By clicking the "Accept" button or continuing to browse our site, you agree to first-party and session-only cookies being stored on your device to enhance site navigation and analyze site performance and traffic. For more information on our use of cookies, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept