

2016/06/07 Introduction to Economic History Seminar Series

Bruno S. Frey (2016) *Happiness Research: Where are we*

by 徐正憲

1. What is the question? [導讀者觀點]

就我們所知，有哪些指標會影響到人的幸福指數呢？又有哪些是我們不易注意到的？這場演講將會展現出關於「**幸福程度研究**」的最新研究動態。

2. Why should we care about it? [導讀者觀點]

幸福本身關係到一個人工作的**效率**、**合作**的意願、社會的**穩定性**等項目。當然，我們身為人類，多數都「希望自己可以過得幸福快樂」，沒錯吧？因此，透過了解構成幸福的因素，我們便能人為促使多數人更加幸福。

傳統概念上，如果要衡量一國的幸福指標，我們可能只想得到**人口結構**與**失業率**。然而，**政治自由與民主**等因素也會對人類幸福與否產生對應的影響。講者也提到政策制定者可著手於此類的要素，方能得知「**如何最大化國民幸福**」。

3. What is the presenter's answer?

個體**所得高**、社會**聯繫強**、**健康水準高**，可預期地都與幸福指數呈現**正相關**；然而，在**固定收入**下衡量**失業效果**，我們將**不會**得到以往認知的顯著**負相關**⁰。此外，**年齡漸增**，幸福程度**先減後增**；而**婚姻**前後生活，幸福的程度則會**先增厚減**。除了**指配婚姻**會看見幸福**指數型上升**以外，自由戀愛下的婚姻是讓人不快樂的元凶！

4. How did the presenter get there?

在這次演講中，我們只會從折現圖中看到以上的結果。當然，也可以假設講者的結論與書中¹來自相同的方法：**簡單迴歸**與**敘述統計**。但無論如何，這次的演講中資料多來自問卷中的主觀資料。

5. What's more out there?

講者正在做的研究問題如下：

1. 「**未來的幸福可以被預測嗎？**」進行此一類的預測又會有什麼偏誤呢？
2. 我們可以把收入與健康因素由相關性證成為具有決定性的**因果關係**嗎？
3. 我們是否可以將更多的資料由主觀資料轉換為**客觀資料**呢？

0. 簡報中無法得知實際關聯性，因此在導讀上僅以「無此效果」為論點。

1. Happiness and Economics: How the Economy and Institutions Affect Human Well-Being (2001)
Bruno S. Frey & Alois Stutzer. 中譯《幸福與經濟學：經濟和制度對人類福祉的影響》(簡)

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Bruno S. Frey (2016) *Happiness Research: Where are we*
by Lawrence C.-H. Hsu

1. What is the question? [Instructor's POV]

What are the factors influencing happiness? And what we are not quite aware of?
The presentation would be connected to the frontier of “**Happiness Research.**”

2. Why should we care about it? [Instructor's POV]

Happiness itself affects a person's working **efficiency**, willingness to **cooperate**, and **stability** in the society, and so on. By the way, **we all want to be happy, don't we?**
To boost happiness in general, we have to know where else could we focus.

In the traditional point of view, we may only apply **demographic** and **unemployment rate** for happiness measurement; however, **political** and **democratic factors** are also influential parts of human happiness. The presenter found different factors which could be considered by the policy makers, so that we would reach the “**Maximum of Happiness.**”

3. What is the presenter's answer?

The effect of **higher** individual **income**, **more** social **contacts**, and **better health** conditions **positively** correlated to the measurement of happiness, beyond expectation. Meanwhile, **unemployment with conditions of constant income** showed **different results** comparing to the original rate⁰; moreover, **age** is **U-shaped** correlated to happiness, which is out of our expectation. The fun part comes to **marriage**, which is drawn in a **reverse U-shape**; while **arranged marriage** is described in a nearly **exponential increase** of happiness.

4. How did the presenter get there?

So far, the presenter only shows graphs in the presentation. Perhaps, most results came from **Summary Statistics** and **OLS** as he did in his book.¹ But whichever way did the presenter use, they are often **subjective** data.

5. What's more out there?

The presenter is currently discussing the “**Happiness Prediction**” in the future? Also, how could we explain income and health not only correlated to happiness, but applied as **causality** to our happiness? Moreover, are there **objective** data about happiness?

0. Not mentioned in the Slides, so I did not specify the effect in the introductions.

1. Happiness and Economics: How the Economy and Institutions Affect Human Well-Being (2001)
Bruno S. Frey & Alois Stutzer.