

HAPPINESS

While it occupies a central place in philosophy and economics, the idea of happiness continues to puzzle philosophers and economists. How is it defined? Is it a feeling or an emotion? Should it be sought through the pursuit of virtue? Through a concern for others? Through a detachment from worldly pursuits? How do self-reported measures of happiness correlate with income levels, family ties, and political structures? Policy experts must have the greatest interest in these questions; for if their policies don't make people happier, what good are they?

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