

The Economics of Happiness

A half-day workshop on Wednesday 11 November 2009
Venue: Finkel Lecture Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical
Research, Australian National University



8.15-8.45am Coffee

8.45-9.00am Andrew Leigh, Australian National University

Chair's Welcome

9.00-10.00am Betsey Stevenson, University of Pennsylvania

Economic Growth and Subjective Well-Being: Reassessing the Easterlin Paradox

10.00-10.30am Morning Tea

10.30-11.30am Paul Frijters, Queensland University of Technology

Happiness Dynamics with Quarterly Life Event Data

11.30-12.30pm Justin Wolfers, University of Pennsylvania

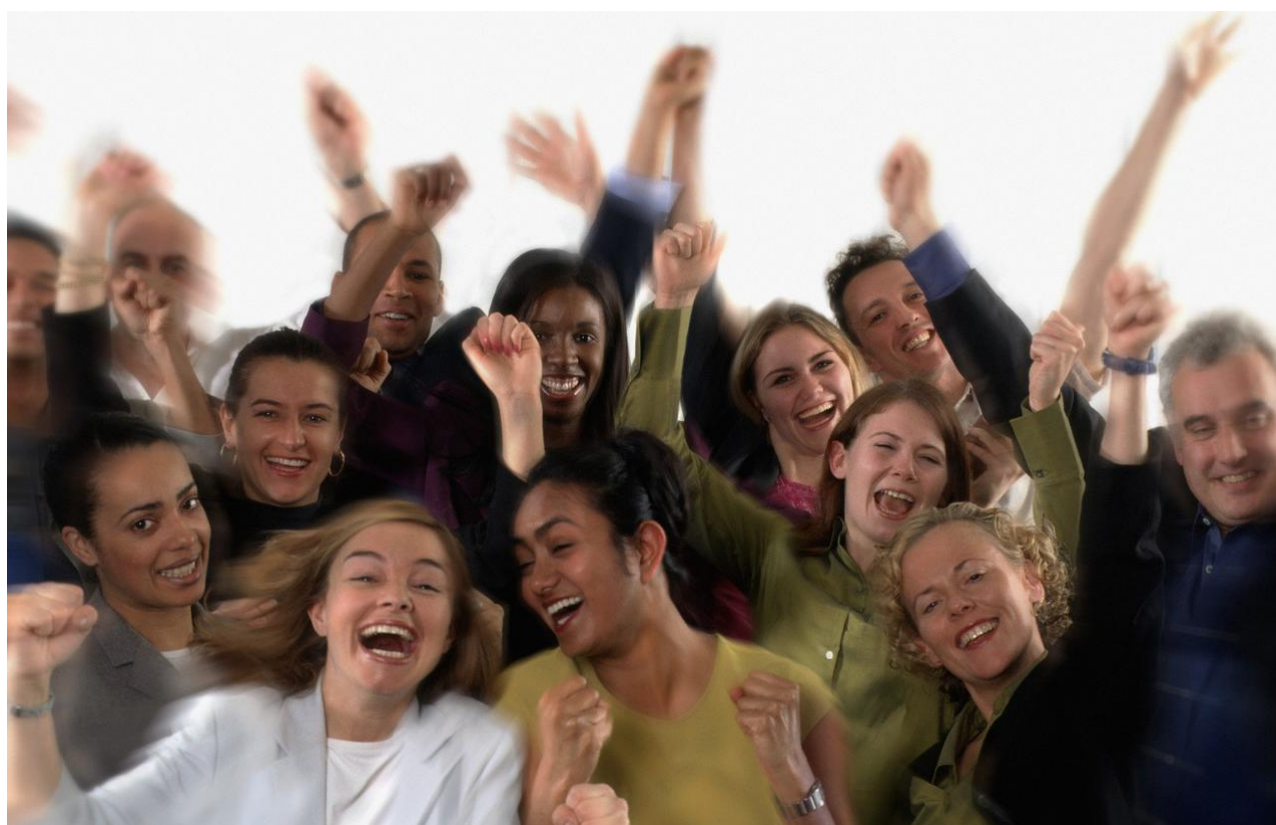
The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness

12.30-1.00pm Roundtable on "Happiness Research – Where to Next?"

1.00pm Close

This conference draws together three researchers with international reputations in the economics of happiness. They will present new findings, and discuss how the happiness can help answer fundamental questions of economic growth, inequality, labour markets and household production. Attend this event, and you will never again describe economics as "the dismal science".

The conference is organized by Andrew Leigh and is presented by the Economics Program in the Research School of Social Sciences. Attendance is free. To raise our life satisfaction, those planning to attend are asked to send an email to andrew.leigh@anu.edu.au.



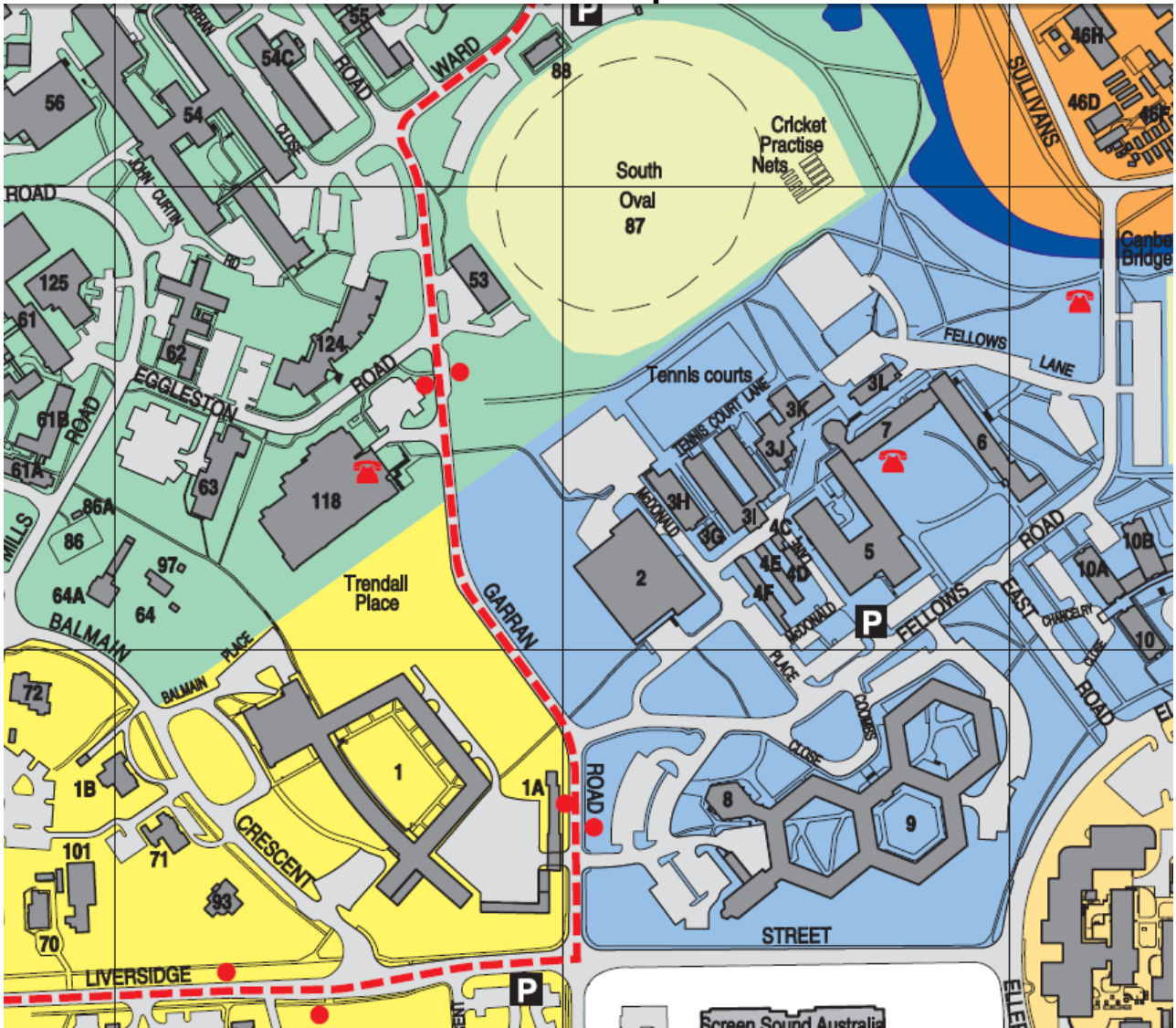
About the Presenters

Paul Frijters is a Professor of Economics at the Queensland University of Technology and an adjunct professor at the Australian National University's Research School of Social Sciences. He has been with ANU since 2003 and QUT since 2006. He is also an executive board member of the National Centre of Econometrics Research (NCER), Senior Research Fellow of the Tinbergen Institute and a Research Director of the Rumici Project. The project monitors rural to urban migration in China and Indonesia. Paul holds a Ph.D. on welfare and well-being in Russia from the University of Amsterdam. The thesis applies and extends psychological insights about the causes, definition and measurement of well-being into economics. He has a wide range of research interests, specialising in happiness, labour market, health economics and econometrics. In 2009, Paul was awarded the Economic Society of Australia's Young Economist Award. Paul is also a contributor to the Club Troppo and Core Economics blogs.

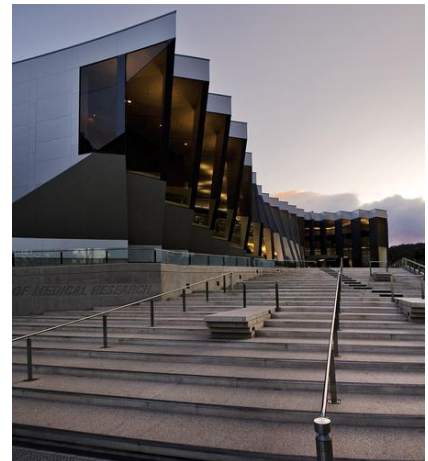
Betsey Stevenson is an assistant professor of business and public policy at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research; a Fellow of the CESifo in Munich and, a visiting scholar with the San Francisco Federal Reserve. She received her PhD in economics from Harvard University and has worked in both government and industry before coming to Wharton. Her research focuses on the impact of public policies on the welfare of women and families as well as analyzing trends in American families and women's lives. Her research has demonstrated a tight link between income and measures of subjective well-being such as life satisfaction and has found that this relationship continues even at high levels of income. She has also investigated trends in gender differences in measures of subjective well-being data finding that the reported subjective well-being of women has fallen over the past four decades relative to that of their male counterparts. Research on women and families has highlighted the interplay between women's growing attachment to the labour force and family behavior. She has published widely in leading economics journals and her research has been frequently covered by both print and television media. She has appeared on Good Morning America, The CBS Early Show, NBC's Today Show, Nightline, CNN, and MSNBC and is often quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, and Financial Times, among other leading media outlets.

Justin Wolfers is an associate professor of economics in the Business and Public Policy Department at the Wharton School. He is also a non-resident senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, co-editor of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, a visiting scholar with the San Francisco Federal Reserve; a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research; a Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn; a Research Affiliate with the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London; an International Research Fellow with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, and a Fellow of the CESifo, in Munich. He was previously an Assistant Professor at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, and an economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia. Dr. Wolfers earned his Ph.D. in economics in 2001 from Harvard University, and was a Fulbright, Knox and Menzies Scholar. He earned his undergraduate degree in Economics at the University of Sydney in 1994, winning the University Medal. Wolfers' research focuses on labor economics, macroeconomics, law and economics, social policy and behavioral economics. Beyond research, he is a popular MBA teacher, a contributor to the New York Times' Freakonomics blog, an occasional editorialist, and is a frequent contributor to the public debate.

Venue Map



Building 54C - John Curtin School of Medical Research, corner of Garran Rd and Ward Rd (conference venue, pictured right)



**Building 1 - University House (on-campus accommodation)
Building 9 – Coombs Building (Economics RSSS)**