

Policies for happiness, ed. by Stefano Bartolini et al. Oxford, 2016. 291p bibl index ISBN 9780198758730, \$99.00; ISBN 9780191818653 ebook, contact publisher for price.

Happiness or, more formally, “subjective well-being” continues to fascinate academics from the humanities—mainly philosophy—and social sciences. In terms of books on the subject, the literature cup on the topic over the last two decades begins to runneth over. The link, or lack thereof, between happiness and income is one well-trodden fork in that scholarly road. In *Policies for Happiness*, a set of mostly European economists take another path—social and personal relationships instead of money per se—and insert more normative considerations into the debate: what should be done in terms of public policies and goals to improve peoples’ lives and make them happier? In a dozen largely self-contained, well-referenced chapters, the contributors tackle the questions of whether happiness research should be taken seriously, what government roles should be in terms of intervention into citizens’ lives, and the importance of social capital, such as culture, education, values, and trust, in increasing well-being. Tables, figures, and even some solid mathematical analyses complement the prose. The book will be of solid value to the scholarly community; general readers will take a pass. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.