



## Conference - Relativity, Inequality and Public Policy Edinburgh June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 7<sup>th</sup> (2009)

### Final Programme

**General Session Format:** 25 minutes per speaker plus 5 minutes questions plus 15 minutes combined discussion at the end of each session.

### Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>

9.00-9.15 Registration

9.15-9.30 Introductory Remarks

9.30-10.45 Session 1: Happiness Studies

Andrew Oswald, Warwick University  
Happiness and productivity

Claudia Senik, Paris School of Economics  
Direct Evidence on Income Comparisons and their Welfare Effects

10.45-11.15 Coffee/Tea

11.15-13.00 Session 2: Theory

Matthew Rabin, University of California, Berkeley  
Wealth, News, and Utility

Ed Hopkins, University of Edinburgh  
Which Inequality?

Sanjeev Goyal, University of Cambridge  
Keeping up with the neighbors: social interaction in a market economy

13.00-14.00 Lunch

## Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> (cont'd)

14.00-15.45 Session 3: Experiments I

Lise Vesterlund, University of Pittsburgh  
TBA

Hyejin Ku, Florida State University  
Incentive Effects of Inequality and Group Status

Johannes Abeler, University of Nottingham  
Gift Exchange and Workers' Fairness Concerns - When Equality Is Unfair

15.45-16.15 Coffee/Tea

16.15-18.00 Session 4: Social Comparisons

Bernard Van Praag, Universiteit Van Amsterdam  
Subjective Income Inequality with Inclusion of a Reference Effect: An  
Evaluation of the Power of Social Policy.

Luis Angeles, University of Glasgow  
Adaptation or Social Comparison? The effects of income on happiness

Georgios A. Panos, University of Aberdeen  
Satisfaction, Information and Comparison a Twice Relative Approach

19.00 Informal Buffet Dinner, Abden House (speakers and invited persons only)

## Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>

9.00-10.45 Session 5: Field Experiments

Imran Rasul, University College London  
Team Incentives: Evidence from a Field Experiment

Nagore Iriberry/Ghazala Azmat, Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
The Importance of Relative Performance Feedback Information: Evidence  
from a Randomized Natural Experiment using High School Students

Peter Werner, University of Cologne  
Reference Points and Bonus Payments - Field Evidence

10.45-11.15 Coffee/Tea

## Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> (cont'd)

11.15-13.00 Session 6: The Public Economics of Relative Concerns

Matti Tuomala, University of Tampere  
Inherent inequality, relativity and optimal nonlinear income taxation

Ennio Bilancini, University of Siena  
Redistribution and the Notion of Social Status

Felix FitzRoy, University of St. Andrews  
Public Economics of Subjective Well-Being and Relative Income

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.15 Session 7: Inequality – General Issues

Shlomo Yitzhaki, Hebrew University  
Inequality Comparisons: The Role of Government and Demographic Structure

Richard Wilkinson, University of Nottingham  
What Difference Does Inequality Make

15.15-15.45 Coffee/Tea

15.45-17.30 Session 8: Evidence from Emerging Economies

Carol Graham, Brookings Institution  
Inequality, Happiness, and Individual Attitudes about Upward Mobility:  
Some Evidence from Latin America

Xiaobo Zhang, IFPRI  
Sex Ratio Imbalances Stimulate Savings Rates: Evidence from the “Missing  
Women” in China

Erwin Bulte, Wageningen University and Tilburg University  
Positional Spending and Status Seeking in Rural China

19.00 Conference Dinner (speakers and invited persons only)

## Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

9.15-11.00 Session 9: Experiments II

Aldo Rustichini, University of Cambridge

The nature of counter-factual emotions: envy with skill and luck

Ro'I Zultan, The Hebrew University

Treating Equals Unequally - Incentives in Teams, Workers' Motivation and Production Technology

Arnab K. Basu, College of William and Mary

Aversion to Poverty and Relative Deprivation? An Experimental Analysis of Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Fair Trade Coffee

11.00-11.30 Coffee/Tea

11.30-12.45 Session 10: Incentives with Relative Concerns

Alexander Herzog-Stein, Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI)

Games of Status and Discriminatory Contracts

Abhijit Ramalingam, Indiana University

Status Concerns and Firm Profitability: Can a firm profit from the competitive nature of its employees?

12.45-13.00 Concluding Remarks