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No human is an island: essays on the economic geography of happiness

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Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

No human is an island: essays on the economic geography of happiness

by

Thanasis Ziogas

1. When all people individually can enjoy daily life, it helps the entire society to further prosper due to the externalities and spillovers that are generated by happy people living together.
2. The source of one's income impacts on a person's subjective well-being and happiness.
3. People may consider receiving social benefits as a verification of their poor socio-economic condition, resulting in an even worse psychological effect on their well-being due to the associated "stigma".
4. Social capital and cohesion at the neighbourhood level mitigate the negative effects of any possibly stigmatised components of income.
5. "Your status is related to two fundamental human needs: to have control over your own life and to be a full social participant with all that implies about being a recognised member of society" - Michael Marmot (2004)
6. Policy makers that are interested in improving the life satisfaction of a community should take into account both the level of life satisfaction, the income level and the unemployment rate in neighbouring communities among other things.
7. Spillover effects between individuals in terms of happiness are more volatile under different social weather scenarios. In contrast, quality of life spillovers display a more stable behaviour.
8. A categorisation from a "sunny social weather" to a "rainy social weather" will help individuals on where to reside and what they should expect by their imminent location and interaction with their neighbours.

9. When it comes to spatial weight matrices, beware of the queen's gambit. Using queen contiguity in weight matrices may lead to surprising stalemate outcomes, while the rook's straightforward approach can sometimes offer more reliable endgame results.