

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2005

2005 F.H. GRUEN LECTURE

DOES HAPPINESS RESEARCH HAVE A FUTURE IN THE DISMAL SCIENCE?

Dr Paul Frijters

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Thursday 27 October, 5.30pm

The Shine Dome, Gordon Street, Acton

This lecture is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will follow the lecture.
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THE LECTURE

Economics has long been known as the 'dismal science' because of the dominance of materialism in the profession. The stereotypical economist of 20 years ago insisted that calculated greed was at the bottom of most socio-economic phenomena, and was almost exclusively concerned with the question of how a society could produce more goods. How times are changing!

In the last 10 years, there has been an upsurge of interest from within the economics profession into what actually makes people happy. Economists have become interested in the happiness value of social relations, work, security, climate, and even religion. This lecture will take stock of the literature on the economics of happiness: what we know about happiness so far, what questions remain to determine the future of happiness research, and the policy dilemmas that are emerging out of this literature.

THE LECTURER

Dr Paul Frijters is the Fred Gruen Fellow at the Research School of Social Sciences, ANU. He has written over 50 papers and three books on topics including econometrics, duration models, labour markets, social capital, love, institutions, creative destruction, trade models, happiness, health, mass murders, fashion, business cycles, and the theory of the firm. His work regularly appears in major international journals, including the *American Economic Review*, the *Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Human Resources*.