

Propositions

attached to the thesis

Migrant Happiness

Insights into the broad well-being outcomes of migration and its determinants

by

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1. Migration is a powerful instrument for individuals and families to reach greater happiness, but much of this potential remains untapped because of migrants' excessive expectations and inaccurate beliefs about what is important for happiness (bounded rationality). (this dissertation)
2. Typical immigrant receiving countries (e.g., Western Europe) are not "full": in general, additional influxes of immigrants will not negatively affect natives' happiness and will increase migrants' happiness, eventually leading to a happier world. (this dissertation)
3. Immigrants' deprived happiness is a vital cause of many immigrant-related problems, such as their social tensions with natives and their overrepresentation in crime and unemployment. (this dissertation)
4. The migration literature has overestimated the net effects of migration and migrants' well-being assimilation because it has overlooked migrants' subjectively experienced well-being, and thus has failed to consider that migrants' subjective gains are considerably lower than their objective gains. (this dissertation)
5. A happiness-maximizing immigrant frequently interacts with, but rarely compares him- or herself to, the host country's native population. (this dissertation)
6. Conceptually, a multilevel approach takes the study of each research problem to a higher level.

7. Social scientists generally know much about people's living conditions but little about how people experience daily life.
8. Everyone has an opinion about how to pursue a happy life, but only few actually have it right.
9. The secret to happiness is wanting what you get while simultaneously attempting to get more.
10. The policies pursued by nationalist and anti-immigrant parties regarding immigrants hurt the well-being of both immigrants and the native population.
11. Completing a PhD on happiness is a laborious way to become happier but still much more effective than endeavouring to obtain greater happiness while not knowing where to find it.