

Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2015 Project Description

School/Department:	Faculty of Social Sciences (Institute for Psychology) & Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO), based in School of Economics
Project Title:	<i>Conditions for happiness: A meta-analysis</i>
Abstract:	Happiness is an important goal in modern nations, individual citizens seek ways to lead a more satisfying life and hold their governments responsible for the required societal conditions. The achievement of this goal requires solid knowledge on conditions for happiness. Since the 1970s this demand has resulted in a growing stream of empirical research on life satisfaction, the findings of which are gathered in the World Database of Happiness. Meta-analysis of the many research findings allows answers to several questions about ways to achieve greater happiness. One of these questions is which conditions for happiness are universal and which are variable across time and cultures. Another important question is to what extent conditions for happiness differ across kinds of people within contemporary nations.
Requirements of candidate:	<p>Master degree: Yes</p> <p>Background: Affinity with interdisciplinary thinking, strong in statistical analysis and good command of English language</p> <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (<i>minimal 6.0 per component</i>) or TOEFL: 100 (<i>minimal 20 per component</i>)</p>
Supervisor information:	<p>1) <i>Prof. dr. Lidia Arends: first promoter</i> <i>Psychologist methodologist, expert in meta-analysis</i> <i>e-mail: arends@fsw.eur.nl</i> <i>Homepage: http://www.eur.nl/fsw/english/psychology/researchers/profiel_mis/11452/</i></p> <p>2) <i>Dr. Martijn J. Burger</i> <i>Economist and Sociologist.</i> <i>E-mail: mburger@ese.eur.nl</i> <i>Homepage: http://www.mjburger.net</i></p> <p>3) <i>Prof. dr. Ruut Veenhoven: daily supervision and co-promotor</i> <i>Sociologist: emeritus professor of social conditions for human happiness</i> <i>E-mail: veenhoven@ese.eur.nl</i></p>

Homepage: <http://www2.eur.nl/fsw/research/veenhoven>
Selected publications of supervisors

Prof. Dr. Lidia Arends

- De Jonge, T., Kalmijn, W., Veenhoven, R. & Arends, L. (2014).
Stability of Boundaries Between Response Options of Response Scales: Does 'Very Happy' Remain Equally Happy over the Years?
Social Indicators Research, accepted, in press.
- Sonnenschein-van der Voort, A.M.M., Arends, L.R., de Jongste, J.C. et al. (2014).
Preterm birth, infant weight gain, and childhood asthma risk: A meta-analysis of 147,000 European children
Journal of allergy and clinical immunology, 133(5), 1317-1329.
- De Jonge, T., Arends, L.R. & Veenhoven, R. (2014).
Homogenizing responses to different survey questions on the same topic: proposal of a scale homogeization method using a reference distribution
Social Indicators Research, 117(1), 275-300.
- Arends, L.R., Durmuş, B., Ay, L., Hokken-Koelega, A.C., Raat, H., Hofman, A., Steegers, E.A.P. & Jaddoe, V.W.V.K. (2013).
Parental anthropometrics, early growth and the risk of overweight in preschool children. The Generation R Study
Pediatric Obesity, 8(5), 339-350.
- Kalmijn, W.M., Arends, L.R. & Veenhoven, R. (2011).
Happiness scale interval study. Methodological considerations
Social Indicators Research, 102(3), 497-515.
- Kleingeld, A., Mierlo, H. van & Arends, L.R. (2011).
The effect of goal setting on group performance: A meta-analysis
Journal of Applied Psychology, 96(6), 1289-1304.

Dr. Martijn J. Burger

- Arampatzi, E., Burger, M.J. & Veenhoven, R. (2014). *Financial distress and happiness of employees in times of economic crisis*. Applied Economics Letters, in press.
- Broekel, T., Balland, P.A., Burger, M.J. & Oort, F. G. (2014). *Modeling knowledge networks in economic geography: a comparison of four empirical strategies*. Annals of Regional Science, in press.
- Van Oort, F.G., Burger, M.J., Knoben, J. & Raspe, O. (2012). *Multilevel approaches and the firm-agglomeration ambiguity in economic growth*. Journal of Economic Surveys, 26(3), 468-491.
- Burger, M.J. & Karreman, B. (2010). *Worldwide differences in executive pay, culture, well-being and economic growth*. Environment and Planning A, 42(2), 255-256.
- Burger, M.J. & Buskens, V. (2009). *Social context and network formation: an experimental study*. Social Networks, 31(1), 63-75.
- Burger, M.J., Van Oort, F.G. & Linders, G.J.M. (2009). *On the specification of the gravity model of trade: zeros, excess zeros and zero-inflated estimation*. Spatial Economic Analysis, 4(2), 167-190.

Prof. dr. Ruut Veenhoven

- Veenhoven, R. (2013). *The four qualities of life: Ordering concepts and measures of the good life*. in: DellaFave, A (ed) 'The Exploration of happiness: Present and future perspectives', Springer, Dordrecht, Netherlands, Happiness Studies Book Series 2013, Chapter 11 p. 195-226.
- Veenhoven, R. & Berg, M (2013).

	<p><i>Has modernization gone too far? Happiness and modernity in 141 contemporary nations</i> International Journal of Happiness and Development (in press)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rojas, M. & Veenhoven, R. (2013). <i>Contentment and affect in the estimation of happiness</i> Social Indicators Research, 110: 415-431. • Veenhoven, R. (2012). <i>Does happiness differ across cultures?</i> in: Selin, H & Davey, G. (Eds.) 'Happiness across cultures Views of happiness and quality of life in non-western cultures', Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, ISBN 978-94-007-2699-4, pp 451-472. • Veenhoven, R. (2012). <i>Evidence-based pursuit of happiness: What we should know, what we do know and what we can get to know.</i> Erasmus Happiness Research Organization, White paper nr. 1, Erasmus University Rotterdam. Also published as Opentia paper, North-West University South Africa
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