



Public **SEMINAR**

Measuring Dimensions of Subjective Well-Being: The Role of Official Statistics

**Friday, October 24, 2014 • National Academy of Sciences Main Building
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • Lecture Room**

- 2:00 pm ***Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests – First Floor East Court***
- 2:30 ***Welcome***
 —James House, CNSTAT member and University of Michigan Survey Research Center
- 2:35 ***Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office***
 —Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician of the United States
- 2:45 ***Measuring Dimensions of Subjective Well-Being: The Role of Official Statistics***
Introduction: Lisbeth Nielsen, National Institute on Aging
Presenters: Arthur Stone, Professor of Psychology, University of Southern California
 Ed Humpherson, Head of Assessment, the UK Statistics Authority
 Carol Graham, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution

A CNSTAT panel's recently issued [report](#) reviewed measurement of people's self-reported, or subjective, well-being (SWB); the report's primary focus is on happiness, suffering, and other dimensions of experience. The study was funded by the National Institute on Aging and the UK Economic and Social Research Council. **Arthur Stone**—panel chair—will discuss the emergence of SWB measurement and its recent migration from the academic realm to a key interest of national statistics offices. He will present an overview of the panel's report and recommendations. **Ed Humpherson**—principal adviser to the UK Statistics Authority on the statutory assessment and re-assessment of official statistics—will provide an overview of the experience of the UK Office for National Statistics with their experimental subjective well-being measurement program: why the ONS became involved in SWB data collection and how ONS programs have changed in response to a growing emphasis on broader measures of progress beyond those associated with conventional market economic growth. **Carol Graham**—panel member and recent winner of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies award for substantial contribution to QOL research—will discuss ways in which SWB measures must continue to develop in order to become fully appropriate for government statistical agencies. She will also consider potential policy applications of current measures and possibilities for the future.

- 4:00 ***Floor Discussion***
- 4:30–5:30 ***Reception – First Floor East Court***

This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering [here](#).
For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or jsovde@nas.edu.