

Summary: Bachelor Thesis Tomás de Joode

Economists are interested in measuring wellbeing such that they can make interpersonal evaluations. Welfarism uses preference-satisfaction to conceive of wellbeing. However, this can prove to be problematic because it can lead to mental adaptations and adaptive preferences. Moreover, preferences cannot differentiate between what matters and what does not. Contrastingly, the capability approach looks at what human beings really are and what they can actually do and be. This research aims to examine both approaches and show how they differ in their methods. I argue that the capability approach allows for a rethinking of how wellbeing could be conceptualized.