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Journal of Happiness Studies



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Synonyms

JOHS

Definition

An interdisciplinary scientific journal on subjective well-being.

Description

History

The Journal of Happiness Studies (JOHS) is an interdisciplinary forum on ► [subjective well-being](#). The first issue appeared in 2000. Founding editors were Ed Diener, Alex Michalos, and Ruut Veenhoven. All three were members of the ► [International Society for Quality of Life Studies](#) (ISQOLS) as were most of the members of the editorial board.

The journal has roots in the social indicator movement and emerged as a split-off from the successful journal of “► [Social Indicators Research](#)” that got ever more submissions on ► [happiness](#). Alex Michalos was at that time the editor in chief of *Social Indicators Research*, which he established in 1973. The journal rooted also in the ► [positive psychology](#) movement that emerged at that time and in which Ed Diener was a key person. Ruut Veenhoven was founder of the ► [World Database of Happiness](#) and as such central in the field.

The publishing house was Kluwer Academic in the Netherlands, the same publisher of *Social Indicators Research*. Kluwer Academic became part of Springer Publishers, which now hosts several more scientific journals on well-being, such as Quality of life Research since 1997, Applied Research in Quality of Life since 2003, and *Psychology of Well-Being* since 2011.

The first editor in chief was Ruut Veenhoven (2000–2004), followed by Ed Diener (2005), Bob Cummins (2005–2009), and Antonella della Fave (since 2009).

Scope

The journal does *not* cover everything ever associated with the word happiness. The focus is on subjective well-being, both cognitive evaluations of life (like ► [life satisfaction](#)) and affective ► [enjoyment of life](#) (such as ► [mood](#) level). In

addition to contribution on appraisal of life as a whole, the journal accepts contributions on life domains (such as ► [job satisfaction](#)) and life aspects (such as perceived ► [meaning of life](#)).

The journal provides a forum for two main traditions in happiness research: (1) speculative reflection on the ► [good life](#) and (2) empirical investigation of subjective well-being. Contributions from all sciences are welcomed: alpha sciences (in particular philosophy), beta sciences (especially ► [health-related quality-of-life](#) research), and gamma sciences (not only psychology and sociology but also economy).

Leading Questions

The journal accepts contributions conceptualization, measurement, ► [prevalence](#), explanation, evaluation, imagination, and study of happiness.

Conceptualization:

- What meanings are denoted by terms like happiness and subjective well-being?
- How do these fit in with broader conceptions of the good life?

Measurement:

- In what ways can we assess how people feel about life?
- What are the best measures for what purposes?
- Can scores be compared between individuals and across time and culture?

Prevalence:

- How do people feel about life?
- Are there systematic differences across social categories, culture, and time?

Explanation:

- What goes on in people when they appraise their life? Which mental and neural processes are involved?

- What conditions foster a positive appreciation of life?
- How are these effects mediated?
- Why do we feel good or bad? What is the use of going through life appraisals?

Evaluation:

- What are the consequences of enjoying life or not?
- Is happiness a worthwhile goal for therapy and social policy?

Imagination:

- How is happiness portrayed in arts and fiction?
- What does the public think of it? Do beliefs fit reality?
- How do policymakers think of happiness? Do their beliefs matter?
- Does imagination affect appraisals of life?

Study:

- How has the study of happiness developed?

Availability

The journal is available on paper (ISSN 1389–4978) and in electronic version (ISSN 1573–7780). The journal homepage is www.springeronline.com/social+sciences/wellbeing/journal/10902.

Impact

From start, the journal was quite successful in terms of submissions and citations. It received ISI recognition already in 2008. The 5 year impact factor was 4.75 in 2021.

References

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- World Database of Happiness. <http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl>