Ekaterina Oparina

Contact Information

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Current Position

Since 2020   London School of Economics (LSE), Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)
              Research Economist

Professional Affiliations

Since 2021   University of Oxford, Wellbeing Research Centre
              Research Associate

Education

2016-2020   PhD in Economics (including MRes), University of Surrey (UK)
              Thesis: "Econometric Analysis of Subjective Wellbeing Data"
              Supervisors: S. Srisuma and J. Blanden
2009-2011   Master of Public Administration, Higher School of Economics (Russia)
2005-2009   BSc in Economics, Higher School of Economics (Russia)

Research Interests

Primary: Health Economics, Economics of Wellbeing, Behavioural Economics
Secondary: Applied Econometrics, Economics of Crime, Economics of Education, Policy Evaluation

Publications

Oparina, E.*, & Srisuma, S. (2022). Analyzing Subjective Well-Being Data with Misclassification. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, *40*(2), 730–743. Link.
* corresponding author

Chen, L.-Y., **Oparina, E.**, Powdthavee, N., & Srisuma, S. (2022). Robust Ranking of Happiness Outcomes: A Median Regression Perspective. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *200*, 672–686. Link. Covered in VoxEU.

Selected Working Papers

Oparina, E.* (r) Krekel, C. (r) Srisuma, S. (2024). Talking Therapy: Impacts of a Nationwide Mental Health Service. *CEP Discussion Paper 1982.*
* corresponding author, (r) for the random order of authors

Abstract: Common mental health problems impose significant costs, yet healthcare systems often overlook them. We provide the first causal evidence on the effectiveness of a pioneering nationwide mental health service in England for treating depression and anxiety using non-experimental data and methods. We exploit oversubscription and resulting variations in waiting times for identification, based on a novel dataset of over one million patients. We find that treatment improves mental health and reduces impairment in work and social life. We also provide suggestive evidence that it enhances

employment. However, impacts vary across patients, services, and areas. Nevertheless, the programme is highly cost-effective.

Oparina, E.,* & Kirchmaier, T. (2024). Under Pressure: The effect of police officers' workload on victim withdrawal. *CEP Discussion Paper 1985*.
* corresponding author

Abstract: This paper addresses the relationship between police officer workload and statement withdrawal of domestic abuse victims. Based on a uniquely detailed dataset from Greater Manchester Police we show that adding 10 more cases to a police officers' monthly workload is associated with an increase of the probability of statement withdrawal of 3 perc. points, or 17% of the average withdrawal rate. In the process we provide evidence of the secondary – and likely unintended – costs and consequences of police austerity measures.

Oparina, E.** (r) Gentile, N.** (r) Kaiser, C.**; Tkatchenko, A., Clark, A., De Neve, J-E., D'Ambrosio, C. (2022) Human Wellbeing and Machine Learning. *CEP Discussion Paper 1863*.
** equal lead author, (r) for the random order of authors
R&R at *Scientific Reports*

Abstract: Subjective wellbeing data are increasingly used across the social sciences. Yet, our current ability to predictively model wellbeing is limited. In response, we here use tree-based Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to provide a better understanding of respondents' self-reported wellbeing. We analyse representative samples of more than one million respondents from Germany, the UK, and the United States, using data from 2010 to 2018. We make three contributions. First, we show that ML algorithms can yield better predictive performance than standard methods, and establish an upper bound on the predictability of wellbeing scores with survey data. Second, we use ML to identify the key drivers of evaluative wellbeing. We show that the variables emphasised in the earlier intuition- and theory-based literature also appear in ML analyses. Third, we illustrate how ML can be an impartial arbiter in questions about functional forms, including the existence of satiation points in the effects of income and the U-shaped relationship between age and wellbeing.

Selected Work in Progress

Health:

1. Talking Therapies: Incremental Benefits of Having Therapy in Different Conditions (with D. Clark, C. Krekel, I. Parkes and S. Srisuma)

2. Labour Market Outcomes of NHS Talking Therapies (with V. Nafilyan, K. Rzepnicka, E. Sharland)

Education:

3. Welfare Effects of Expanding School Choice (with D. Bhattacharya and Q. Xu)

Wellbeing:

4. Suicide and Subjective Wellbeing in the UK: A Statistical Inquiry (with C. Kaiser and A. Oswald)

5. The Easterlin Paradox at 50: Revisiting the Relationships between Income and Wellbeing (with A. Clark and R. Layard)

Health and Wellbeing:

6. The Effects of the Nation-Wide NHS and Care Volunteer Responders Programme (with C. Krekel, A. Boler and A. Smith)

7. Feeling Good by Doing Good: The Effects of Sports and Volunteering on Wellbeing and Social Outcomes (with M. Cotofan and C. Krekel)

8. The Long-Run Effect of Retirement on Health and Wellbeing (with D. Frayman, C. Krekel, I. Parkes)

Policy Reports and Book Chapters

1. Living Long and Living Well: The WELLBY Approach (with R. Layard), in: Helliwell, J., Layard, R., Sachs, J., and J.-E. De Neve (eds.), *World Happiness Report*, 2021.

2. Exercises (with R. Layard, J.-E. De Neve, and M. Kaats), in: Layard, R., & De Neve, J.-E. (2023). *Wellbeing: Science and Policy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grants, Awards, and Scholarships

2024	Labour Markets Evaluation and Pilots (LMEP) Fund Grant, *Labour Market Outcomes of NHS Talking Therapies*, Co-Investigator, joint with ONS, £480,075.
2023	LSE Teaching Award, Excellence in Education Award
2022	ESRC SDAI grant, *Analysing Heterogeneous Effects of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme*, Co-Investigator, with C. Krekel and S. Srisuma, £240,000.
2016-2020	University of Surrey, Doctoral Scholarship

Teaching Experience

2024	*PP421: Happiness*, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science (PBS), LSE (postgraduate) – teaching evaluations 4.7/5
2024, 2023	*PP424: Happiness and Public Policy*, School of Public Policy, LSE (postgraduate, MPA/MPP), co-teaching with R. Layard, – teaching evaluations 4.8/5, 5/5 Received: *LSE Teaching Award 2023* and *Excellence in Education Award 2023, 2024*.
2024, 2023	Master dissertation supervision, PBS, LSE (25 dissertations)
2023, 2022	Guest lecturer in *PB421: Happiness*, PBS, LSE (postgraduate)
2020, 2019	Teaching Assistant in *Intermediate Econometrics*, University of Surrey (undergraduate) – teaching evaluations 4.5/5, 4.6/5
2018	Teaching Assistant in *Principles of Microeconomics*, University of Surrey (undergraduate) – teaching evaluations 4.2/5
2018	Teaching Assistant in *Introductory Economics*, University of Surrey (undergraduate) – teaching evaluations 3.9/5

Previous Positions

2019-2020	Research Assistant for R. Layard, P. Frijters, C. Krekel, LSE, CEP
2019	Research Assistant to A. Gupta for the paper: Gupta, A., & Seo, M. H. (2023). Robust inference on infinite and growing dimensional time-series regression. *Econometrica, 91*(4), 1333-1361.
2011-2016	Research Fellow (Centre for Public Private Interactions), Deputy Head (Centre for Applied Economics), Higher School of Economics, Russia
2011	Translator for the book de Speville, B. (2010). *Overcoming corruption: The essentials*. Research for Social Advancement. ISBN: 978-967-5942-03-7.

Conference Presentations and Invited Seminars

2024	Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting, LSE Wellbeing Seminar, LSE Mental Health Workshop, CEP Annual Conference, Office for National Statistics (invited

	talk), Highland Health Economics Symposium, Var Leer Foundation (invited talk), IFS-CAGE Workshop on the Economics of Mental Health, EEA-ESEM Congress (scheduled)
2023	Royal Economic Society and Scottish Economic Society Annual Meeting, Canadian Economic Association, Measuring Progress Annual Workshop (Luxembourg), LSE Wellbeing Seminar
2022	LSE Wellbeing Seminar, Loughborough University (invited speaker), Mental Health and Economic Status Workshop (University of Warwick)
2021	Global Wellbeing Summit, co-organised by Gallup (roundtable participant)
2019	LSE Wellbeing Seminar, European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE), Royal Economic Society Symposium of Junior Researchers (University of Surrey)

Professional Activities

Refereeing:	*Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Review of Income and Wealth, Journal of Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Happiness Studies*
Since 2021	Co-Organizer of LSE Wellbeing Seminar
Since 2020	UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) Accredited Researcher
Since 2019	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

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