

Anke C. Zimmermann

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Personal Information

Work:

Department of Economics
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Research Interests

Applied microeconomics
Subjective well-being
Life course studies

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, expected May 2007

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Dissertation title: *“Adaptation, Aspirations, and Assets. Three Essays on the Economics of Subjective Well-Being”*

Advisor: Richard A. Easterlin, University Professor and Professor of Economics

Master of Arts in Economics, August 2005

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts in European Economic Studies, September 2001

Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Bamberg, Germany

Bachelor thesis: *“Financing the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union”*

Exchange Program, August 2000 - May 2001

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Dean's List, President's Honor Roll

Honors and Awards

Final Year Dissertation Fellowship

USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

August 2006 - May 2007

Poster award

Fourth International Positive Psychology Summit, Washington, DC

September 2005

IPPS Fellow

Fourth International Positive Psychology Summit, Washington, DC

September 2005

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Department of Economics, USC

Spring 2004

Publications and Papers

Anke C. Zimmermann and Richard A. Easterlin. “Happily Ever After? Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce, and Happiness in Germany”. *Population and Development Review*. 32(3), pp. 511-528, September 2006 (job market paper).

Abstract:

In Germany the life satisfaction of those in first marriages traces the following average course. Starting from a baseline of life satisfaction in noncohabiting years one or more years prior to marriage, those who cohabit before marriage have an increase in life satisfaction significantly above the baseline. In the year of marriage and that immediately following, the life satisfaction of those in first marriages, prior cohabiters and noncohabiters combined, increases to a value even further above the baseline, significantly higher than for premarital cohabiters. Thereafter, life satisfaction of those in first marriages drops, but remains significantly above the baseline, at the same level as for premarital cohabiters. Those whose first marriage ends in separation or divorce have a life satisfaction trajectory not significantly different from that described above, but separation or divorce reduces this group’s life satisfaction to the original baseline value. The roots of prospective dissolution apparently lie in this group’s distinctive socioeconomic and personality traits. These findings are from an analysis of 21 waves of the German Socio-Economic Panel.

Anke C. Zimmermann. “Financial Satisfaction Over the Life Cycle: The influence of assets and liabilities” (completed draft).

Abstract:

Money does not buy happiness, but various studies have shown that financial satisfaction is, among other domains, an important determinant of overall individual well-being. Contrary to the common belief that financial satisfaction mainly depends on an individual’s income, evidence for the U.S. indicates that life cycle financial satisfaction steadily increases from the thirties onwards, whereas life cycle income shows an inverted U-pattern with a peak at midlife. To judge from studies in Germany and Norway, this pattern for financial satisfaction is not unique. The aim of the present analysis is to explore the determinants of this life cycle financial satisfaction pattern, taking into account not only income but also the possible impact of assets and liabilities. The analysis suggests that while income has the expected positive relation, increasing financial satisfaction at older age can be partly explained by decreases in liabilities and increases in financial assets, and that assets and liabilities considered separately provide a better explanation than net wealth. In addition, reduction in the dependency burden at old age leads to increased financial satisfaction while the deterioration of health has a negative impact.

Anke C. Zimmermann and Richard A. Easterlin. “Chasing the Good Life: Life Cycle Aspirations for Goods, Family, Work, and Health” (preliminary draft).

Richard A. Easterlin and Anke C. Zimmermann. “Life Satisfaction and Economic Outcomes in Germany Pre- and Post-Unification” (draft completed for submission).
IZA discussion paper No. 2494

Work Experience

Research Assistant *Fall 2004 - Summer 2006*
for Richard A. Easterlin, Department of Economics, USC

Teaching Assistant *Fall 2002 - Spring 2004*
Department of Economics, USC

Assistant *March-April 2000*
for the representative of economics, law, transportation and technology at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Corporate Assistant *August - November 1999*
Components Department, Mannesmann Dematic, S.A., Madrid, Spain

Invited Presentations

Happily Ever After? Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce, and Happiness in Germany
Financial Satisfaction over the Life Cycle: Only a Matter of Income?
7th Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)
“Prospects for Quality of Life in the New Millennium”
Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa *July 2006*

Financial Satisfaction over the Life Cycle: Only a Matter of Income?
IAREP/SABE Congress, Paris, France
Theme: Behavioural Economics and Economic Psychology *July 2006*

Financial Satisfaction over the Life Cycle: Only a Matter of Income?
3rd European Conference on Positive Psychology, Braga, Portugal *July 2006*

Financial Satisfaction
Conference in honor of Richard A. Easterlin, Los Angeles, CA *April 2006*

Is Adaptation to Marriage Rapid and Complete?
Population Association of America, 2006 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA *April 2006*

Panel Discussion: Domain Satisfaction, Family Relationships, and Subjective Well-Being
Symposium on the Economics of Happiness
University of Warwick, USC Institute for Economic Policy Research, Los Angeles, CA *March 2006*

Is Adaptation to Marriage Rapid and Complete? (Poster)
Fourth International Positive Psychology Summit, Washington, DC
IPPS Fellow. Poster award. *September 2005*

Chasing the Good Life: Life Cycle Aspirations for Goods, Family, Work, and Health
Second Workshop on Capabilities and Happiness, Milan, Italy *June 2005*

Life Cycle Aspirations for Goods, Family and Work (Poster)
Population Association of America, 2005 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA *March 2005*

Chasing the Good Life: Aspirations and Attainments over the Life Course
Sixth International Society for Quality of Life Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA *Nov. 2004*

Invited Workshops

Measurement, Data Collection and Data Quality Issues for Cross-National Survey Data, financed by the European Science Foundation, Programme “Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences” (QMSS), Lugano, Switzerland *August 2006*

Workshop for Users of the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) and the Cross-National Equivalent Files (CNEF). Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Travel fellowship. *September 2005*

RAND Summer Institute. Santa Monica, CA *July 2005*

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant Fellow Center for Excellence in Teaching, USC, 2006-2007

Contributed to the development of training curricula for teaching assistants by combining personal teaching expertise with research on best practices of learning and teaching.

Courses taught:

Instructor Sophomore Seminar, *The Science of Happiness*, USC, Spring 2007

A 2-unit seminar with up to 18 students from all majors. The seminar introduces participants to interdisciplinary research on subjective well-being.

Courses assisted:

Head Teaching Assistant for Econ 205 - Introduction to Macroeconomics (Prof. Easterlin)

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Spring 2004

Introductory undergraduate class in macroeconomics with almost 300 students. Coordinated and supervised four teaching assistants and taught one discussion session with about 20 students.

Invited guest lecturer Department of Economics, USC:

Econ 432 - Economics of Happiness (Prof. Easterlin), 2 guest lectures, Fall 2006

Econ 432 - Economics of Happiness (Prof. Easterlin), 4 guest lectures, Fall 2005

Econ 499 - Economics of Happiness (Prof. Easterlin), 2 guest lectures, Fall 2004

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, USC:

- Econ 340 - Economics of Less Developed Countries (Prof. Tan), Fall 2003
Graded exams and assignments in a class of 30 undergraduates.
- Econ 348 - Current Problems of the American Economy (Prof. Moore), Fall 2003
Graded class papers in a class of 40 undergraduates.
- Econ 205 - Principles of Macroeconomics (Prof. Al-Sabea), Spring 2003
Taught two discussion sessions with 20-30 students each.
- Econ 203 - Principles of Microeconomics (Prof. Al-Sabea), Fall 2002
Taught two discussion sessions with 20-30 students each.

Special courses taken:

GRSC 850ab: *The Future Professoriate*, Center for Excellence in Teaching, USC, 2005-2006

Selected from a university-wide pool of applicants to participate in an intensive year-long program on the development of practical skills and theoretical knowledge necessary for leadership, research, and teaching within the academic field.

Professional Organizations

American Economic Association (AEA)
International Association for Research in Economic Psychology (IAREP)
International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS)
Population Association of America (PAA)
Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics (SABE)

Journal Refereeing

International Review of Economics Education
Journal of Happiness Studies
Schmollers Jahrbuch

Languages

German: native
English: fluent, written and spoken
Spanish: advanced, written and spoken
French: advanced, written and spoken
Portuguese: intermediate, written and spoken

References

Richard A. Easterlin
University Professor and Professor of Economics
USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089
phone: (001)213-740 6993, email: easterl@usc.edu

Timur Kuran
Professor of Economics and Law
USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089
phone: (001)213-740 2102, email: kuran@usc.edu

Merril Silverstein
Professor of Gerontology and Sociology
USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089
phone: (001)213-740 5156, email: merrils@usc.edu