

Laura Angelescu

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Personal Information

Work Address:

University of Southern California
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Research and Teaching Interests

Research: Applied microeconomics, Development economics, Labor economics, Subjective well-being, Aging

Teaching: Introductory Microeconomics/ Macroeconomics, Development economics, Labor economics, Economics of happiness

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Southern California, August 2010

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Dissertation title: *“Essays on the Economics of Subjective Well-Being in Transition Countries”*

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

Master of Arts in Economics, December 2008

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Master of Arts in European Studies, June 2003

Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Bachelor of Arts in International Business, July 2002

Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Bachelor thesis: *“The Challenges of the European Union’s Eastward Enlargement: The Special Features of the Romanian Candidacy”*

Papers

Laura Angelescu. “Life Satisfaction and the Economic Transition in Poland” (job market paper).

Laura Angelescu. “Transition at Work: A Comparison of Job Satisfaction and Its Determinants in Eastern and Western Europe”.

Richard A. Easterlin and Laura Angelescu. “Happiness and Growth the World Over: Time Series Evidence on the Happiness - Income Paradox”. *Happiness, Growth, and the Life Cycle* (Richard A. Easterlin), New York, Oxford University Press, Chapter 5, 2010.

Richard A. Easterlin and Laura Angelescu. “Modern Economic Growth and Quality of Life: Cross Sectional and Time Series Evidence”. *Handbook of Social Indicators and Quality-of-Life Research* (Kenneth C. Land, ed.), New York and London, Springer, forthcoming 2010.

Richard A. Easterlin, Laura Angelescu, and Jacqueline Zweig. “The Impact of Modern Economic Growth on Urban-Rural Differences in Subjective Well-Being” (submitted).

Richard A. Easterlin, Laura Angelescu, Malgorzata Switek, Onnicha Sawangfa, and Jacqueline Smith Zweig. “The Happiness Income Paradox Revisited” (submitted).

Honors and Awards

Merit Fellowship University of Southern California	<i>2005 - 2010</i>
Graduate Research Assistantship University of Southern California	<i>2006 - 2010</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistantship University of California, Irvine	<i>2004 - 2005</i>
Fellowship for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania	<i>1998 - 2003</i>

Research and Teaching Experience

Research Assistant for Richard A. Easterlin, Department of Economics, USC	<i>2006 - 2010</i>
Teaching Assistant Department of Economics, UC Irvine Undergraduate courses: Intermediate microeconomics, global economy, probabilities and statistics.	<i>2004 - 2005</i>

Conference Presentations and Posters

9th Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS), Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence, Italy	<i>2009</i>
Population Association of America, 2009 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI	<i>2009</i>
IAREP/SABE Conference, LUISS, Rome, Italy	<i>2008</i>
The Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Student Conference on “Democracy and Its Development”, University of California, Irvine, CA	<i>2008</i>
8th Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS), San Diego, CA	<i>2007</i>
Civic Education Project International Student Conference, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary	<i>2001</i>

Journal Refereeing

Health Education Research

Other Work Experience

Project Controls Honeywell Romania SRL, Bucharest, Romania	<i>2003 - 2004</i>
Finance and Administration Assistant (part-time) Honeywell Romania SRL, Bucharest, Romania	<i>2001 - 2002</i>

Languages

Romanian: native
English: fluent, written and spoken
French: advanced, written and spoken
Italian: intermediate, written and spoken

Computer skills

STATA, E-views, LaTeX, Microsoft Office, website creation

Job market paper abstract

Life Satisfaction and the Economic Transition in Poland

Since 1989 Poland has been considered a leader in economic reform, but did the transition make its people happier? What has determined the course of happiness in Poland? In answering these questions I use data from the World Values Survey and the Eurobarometer. I find evidence of a collapse followed by recovery in life satisfaction in Poland. Despite the fact that GDP per capita quickly recovers to pre-transition levels, high unemployment and involuntary early retirement take their toll on the happiness of the Poles. The eventual recovery of life satisfaction is made possible by economic improvements, but also by birth cohort replacement – new generations are better adjusted to the new society and better equipped to cope with the challenges of transition. Methodologically, the inclusion of year of birth fixed effects in the regressions of life satisfaction on time allows me to see to what extent changes in life satisfaction are driven by changes in the surveyed cohorts as opposed to changes in the objective life circumstances of each birth cohort.

References

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John Strauss
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