

The Pursuit of Happiness: ethics, politics and economics of the good life

Villa Wolkonsky, Rome, Thursday May 13th 2010

Welcome to the second in a series of TN2020 networking events in Italy. We hope you'll find the event provides you with a stimulating, challenging and fun debate. Please do use the feedback forms to tell us what we could do better, or to share your ideas about possible future events. Please do get in touch after the event – this is after all primarily a networking event for you all to make exciting new contacts with your international peers.

Michael Taylor

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Partner Organisations

- The American Embassy in Italy
- The British Council Italy
- The British Embassy in Italy
- The Canadian Embassy in Italy
- The Italian association "Rete per l'Eccellenza Nazionale" (RENA)
- Transatlantic Network 2020 (TN2020)
- Vision

The Event

The debate will be split into two sessions.

The first session aims look at the **Economics of the Good Life**, from both a measurement and a global perspective. This section poses questions about how we might define the good life, and measure it, and whether the good life can be defined in ways which make it internationally comparable.

The second session looks at the **Ethics and Politics of Happiness**, at whether happiness should be an individual or collective concern, and how far states should get involved in pursuing the happiness of their citizens.

Both sessions will take the form of an open debate that makes good use of the variety of viewpoints at our disposal – **statistical, economic, philosophical, political and literary** – to give as broad and interesting a discussion as possible.

After each initial presentation and discussion by the panellists, each session will be opened up to the floor for questions & answers. After this, each table will be given one key question to tackle by the panel (seating is "cabaret style", with about ten delegates to each table). Each table will discuss these issues and then we will round off each session once more with a brief feedback in plenary.

The debates will be held in **English**.

About Transatlantic Network 2020 (TN2020)

The Transatlantic Network 2020 is a network for action which brings together young influencers from business, civil society, the arts, science and media to revitalise transatlantic and global links for the future. Importantly, TN2020 reflects the changing demographics, ideologies and dynamics of Europe and North America.

Who Are The TN2020 Members?

The network currently features 100 members from 21 different countries across the two continents.

Incredibly successful and networked in their own right, they recognise the value of multilateral collaboration and are eager to work globally to create positive social change.

Many of the members of TN2020 are already established in their fields – ranging from an LAPD cop focused on gang violence prevention to the 2007 British Female Inventor of the Year, and from a Kosovo activist in post-war civil society projects to the youngest elected member of the Welsh Assembly.

TN2020 members are selected on an annual basis via an open application process as well as through the programme's extensive network of partners.



Transatlantic Network 2020

How Does TN2020 Work?

TN2020 achieves its goals through a three step process:

Discover – Identifying individuals who reflect 21st century shifts in demographics, power and communication, and engaging them in TN2020.

Connect – Providing immersive, shared experiences that allow the members to learn from and better understand each other and build purposeful connections.

Activate – Supporting the members on collaborative efforts which address areas of common interest.



What are The TN2020 Target Areas?

Current members are working on projects falling under three focus areas. They are:

- **Sustainable Living**
- **Building Resilience in Communities**
- **Creativity & Innovation – Sharing Know-How**

Partner support will allow TN2020 projects to be fully realised.

TN2020 at a Glance

- A network programme that leads to action
- A diverse group of members from differing backgrounds, professional sectors and perspectives
- A multilateral programme – members from 21 different countries in Europe and North America
- An incubator for new, cooperative ideas, led by the interests of its members
- Committed to the use of social networking tools and digital technology to facilitate collaboration

Find out more: www.britishcouncil.org/tn2020.htm | www.tn2020.net

1700 - 1730	Delegate Registration & Coffee
1730 – 1845	<p>The Economics of the Good Life</p> <p>Does the good life lie beyond financial wealth? Does more equality increase happiness? Is there such a thing as a global definition of the good life? Can we assess how well we are doing as a society in terms other than GDP?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Dennis Redmont, Head of communication, development and media at the Council for the United States and Italy.</p> <p><i>Welcome:</i></p> <p>Edward Chaplin, British Ambassador to Italy</p> <p><i>Brief introduction to the topic:</i></p> <p>Francesco Grillo, Director of the Italian think-tank Vision</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <p>Enrico Giovannini, Italian Economist and statistician, President of the Italian Statistical Institute (ISTAT)</p> <p>Prof. Richard Wilkinson, British researcher on health and equality issues, co-author of <i>The Spirit Level</i></p>
1845 – 1900	Refreshment Break – coffee, drinks, prosecco
1900 – 2030	<p>The Ethics and Politics of Happiness</p> <p>Is happiness a right or a moral duty? Is it an individual or collective endeavour? Should states pursue happiness? How do we decide as a community what the collective objectives should be?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Dennis Redmont, Head of communication, development and media at the Council for the United States and Italy</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <p>Samir Bantal, Dutch architect and designer</p> <p>Dan Hind, British journalist and author</p> <p>Reihan Salam, American conservative political commentator, author and journalist</p> <p>Megan Williams, Canadian writer and journalist</p>
2030 – 2130	Closing remarks by Christine Melia , Director British Council Italy, followed by Networking Buffet Dinner

ABOUT THE PANELLISTS AND SPEAKERS



Samir Bantal: TN2020 Member. Samir is an architect/designer currently based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Samir previously was an architect and researcher for the Office for Metropolitan Architecture and teaches as assistant professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Technology in Delft. He also serves as editor of the Dutch Annual Architecture Yearbook by Nai Publishers and as an independent creative consultant.



Edward Chaplin: Edward Chaplin CMG, OBE is Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Italian Republic and San Marino. He took up his appointment in October 2006. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1973 after graduating from the University of Cambridge. Early postings included Muscat and Brussels, and a year at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris. Immediately before coming to Italy, he spent 8 months on sabbatical as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of International Studies in Cambridge.

www.ukinitaly.fco.gov.uk



Enrico Giovannini: President of the Italian Statistical Institute (ISTAT). From January 2001 to July 2009, he was Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, where he designed and implemented a thorough reform of the Organization's statistical system, founded the "[World Forum on "Statistics, Knowledge and Politics"](#)" and launched the [Global Project on the "Measurement of Progress in Society"](#)". Since 2002, he has been a Professor of Economic Statistics at the Economics Department of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata".



Francesco Grillo: Francesco is managing director of Vision&Value, a spin-off of McKinsey, advising strategies to major institutions and multinationals. He holds an MBA from Boston University and is completing his Ph.D. at The London School of Economics. He is also Director of the think tank Vision. He is author of *Il Ritorno della Rete*, *La Macchina che cambiò il Mondo* on the impact of information technologies on society and *Il Sonno della Ragione* on the crisis of rationality. His analyses have been quoted by international media like *The Economist* and he is currently columnist of *Il Mattino*.

<http://www.visionwebsite.eu/>



Dan Hind worked as a book editor for ten years and has written journalism for *Lobster*, the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Guardian* online. His first book, *The Threat to Reason*, was published in 2007. His second book, *The Return of the Public*, is to be published by Verso in September of this year. He lives in London.



Christine Melia: studied geography and archaeology at university and taught in Italy and Germany before joining the British Council in 1979. During her 30 year career in cultural relations with the British Council she has worked in Romania, West Africa, Brazil, Jamaica and Spain. Her last UK post was based in Oxford as Director of the British Council's UK regional network and since July 2009 she has been Director of the British Council in Italy, based in Rome. The job also has responsibility for British Council operations in Malta.

www.britishcouncil.it



Dennis Redmont: Head of communication, development and media at the Council for the United States and Italy. Director for Mediterranean for 25 years at Associated Press. Professor at RAI School of Journalism, Perugia. Media consultant, columnist and journalist.

<http://www.dennisredmont.com/>



Reihan Salam: TN2020 Member, United States. Co-author of *Grand New Party*, policy advisor at e21 and a fellow at the New America Foundation, Reihan previously worked for *The Atlantic*, *NBC News*, *The New York Times*, the Council on Foreign Relations and *The New Republic*.



Prof. Richard Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research and his work has been published in many languages. He studied economic history at the London School of Economics before training in epidemiology and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Nottingham Medical School, Honorary Professor at University College London and a Visiting Professor at the University of York. Richard co-wrote *The Spirit Level* with Kate Pickett and is a co-founder of The Equality Trust.

<http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/>



Megan Williams: Megan Williams is an award-winning Canadian journalist and author. She can be heard regularly on CBC, NPR, Marketplace, The World and other public radios, with reports from Italy and around the world. Her documentary "Message in a Bottle" on music composed during the Holocaust won the 2010 Gabriel Award. Her most recent book is the story collection *Saving Rome*.

<http://www.megankwilliams.com/>

TN2020 MEMBERS ATTENDING THE EVENT



Sara Callegari: TN2020 Member. A former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and UN Department of Social Affairs Fellow, Sara is specialized in gender and development and has worked in development cooperation in Africa, Latin America and the Balkans. She co-founded a non-profit organization that promotes equality of opportunities between women and men in Italy, in which she coordinates the working group on employment and merit. She is a member of RENA.

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