

MAJA RYNKO
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EDUCATION

- European University Institute, Department of Economics, Florence, Italy, 2006-Present
 - PhD Candidate (Degree expected July 2010)
Supervisor: Prof. Richard Spady,
Second Advisor: Prof. Helmut Lütkepohl
Thesis Title: Inequality, poverty, and happiness: a semiparametric measurement approach.
 - M. Res. in Economics (June 2007)
- Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, 2001 – 2006
faculty: Quantitative Methods and Information Systems (specialization: Mathematical Economics); additionally: Social-Demographics path and Finances path
 - Master of Arts in Economics
Supervisor: Prof. Irena E. Kotowska
Thesis Title: Demographics and labour markets in Poland, Italy and Finland: opportunities and challenges.
- Pedagogic Study (at the Warsaw School of Economics), Poland, 2002 - 2006
 - Supervisor: Doc. dr Bogumila Fotowicz-Kata
Thesis Title: A comparison of various academic and non-academic students' life aspects in Poland and Germany.
- Georg August Universität Göttingen, Germany, 2004 - 2005
Socrates – Erasmus Exchange Program

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Semi -, Non-Parametric Econometrics, Discrete Outcome Modelling
- Psychometrics (as related to the measurement of ability, satisfaction and trust), Item Response Theory
- Welfare Analysis, Stochastic Dominance
- Quantitative Approaches to Electoral Behaviour

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Mathematics for Economists, Operational Research
- Econometrics, Semi-Parametric Econometrics, Causality in Microeconometrics
- Statistics
- Game Theory

AWARDS

- Thesis completion grant, European University Institute, 2009
- Doctoral scholarship, Government of the Republic of Poland, 2006 – 2009
- Scholarship for Academic Achievements, Warsaw School of Economics, 2002-2006
- Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Scholarship for The International Summer Course of German Language and Culture, Heidelberg, Germany, 2004

RESEARCH PAPERS

- Inequality in Poland at the change of millennium – a stochastic dominance approach.
- Income, relative social status, and the determinants of happiness in Europe.
- Concern for family, health and economic aspects of life: how important are they in shaping the individual's happiness.
- Comparison of semi-parametric estimators for the binary outcome model (joint with Alicia Perez-Alonso and Christoph Weiss).
- Investigating multi-party voting choice, work with Prof. Mark Franklin (Chapter for a volume edited by Michael Bruter provisionally entitled *From the Engine Room: Political Science Research in Practice*)

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Skills Workshop, European University Institute, Sep. 2009
Trainers: Neil McLean (LSE), Angela O'Neill (College of Europe, Brugge, Belgium).
- Graduate Student Instructor: Background Course in Mathematics for first year PhD students in Economics, European University Institute, Sep. 2009.
- IRISS Research Visit at CEPS/INSTEAD, Differdange, Luxembourg (Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques); work on inequality in Poland (CHER/PACO database), satisfaction in Europe (EHP database), July 2008.
- Voluntary Teaching Work: Summer English classes for children from the countryside in the South-East regions of Poland under the auspices of "Zielona Akcja" ("Green Action"), July 2004.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Well-Being and Interpersonal Relations in the Economic Sphere, International Conference, Venice, Italy, June 2009.
Paper presented: "Income, relative social status and the determinants of happiness in Europe".
- Fifth International Young Scholar German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium (Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences), Delmenhorst, Bremen, March 2009.
Paper presented: "Concern for family, health and economic aspects of life: how important are they in shaping the individual's happiness".

CONFERENCE AND SUMMER SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

- CEMMAP Master Classes: New Developments in Econometrics (Tutors: Guido Imbens, Jeffrey M. Wooldridge), London, UK, June 2009.
- Third European Colloquia, "The World Economy, Financial Markets and Investors at an Akward Corner", Venice, Italy, Nov. 2008.
- Measuring Discrimination, Inequality and Deprivation: Recent Developments and Applications, conference, Differdange, Luxembourg, Oct. 2008.
- Econometrics Summer School organized by CIdE (Centro Interuniversitario di Econometria, Italy) on Panel Data Analysis (Badi Baltagi) and Discrete Dependent Variables (Rainer Winkelmann), June 2008.
- ISEO Summer School (Istituto di Studi Economici e per l'Occupazione in Iseo, Italy) on the subject "Europe 2007: the new frontier", Iseo, Italy, June 2007.

SKILLS

- Languages
 - Polish: mother tongue
 - English: fluent
 - German: fluent (very good result at Test DaF, June 2005)
 - Italian: intermediate
 - Russian: basic
 - French: basic
- Computer
 - LaTeX, SWP, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access)
 - R, Stata, Gauss, Matlab, SPSS for Windows, Statistica, JMulti, Maxima

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Nationality: Polish
- Date of birth: 16 November 1982

JOB PREFERENCES

- Academia, Institutions
- Available from September 2010

REFERENCES

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Professor Mark Franklin

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JOB MARKET PAPER ABSTRACT

Income, relative social status, and the determinants of happiness in Europe

This study uses the ECHP 2000 dataset to investigate the determinants of individuals' happiness. We model happiness as a latent trait that stochastically determines responses to four satisfaction questions; the relations between social characteristics and the trait, and between the trait and the responses, are estimated in a unified semiparametric model. The results provide a succinct characterization of the role of covariates in determining the distribution of happiness within and between European states. Relative income plays an important role in the analysis and its effects are further examined by estimating sub-models for groups defined by incomes relative to cohort averages. This more detailed analysis suggests that the genesis of happiness is affected by relative social status, and that income is more important to high status individuals.