



Local Wellbeing Index Development: Panel of Experts

The Wellbeing Project Panel of Experts has been assembled by RAND Corporation, in partnership with the New Economics Foundation (nef), to draw upon the deep knowledge base of leading researchers from various disciplines to inform and advise development of the framework for the first Local Wellbeing Index. Anita Chandra, DrPH, is the lead representative from RAND's Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department, working in collaboration with Saamah Abdallah, Senior Researcher with nef's Centre for Well-Being.

About the Panel

Saamah Abdallah – *New Economics Foundation*

Saamah is Senior Researcher at the Centre for Well-being, where he has worked since its foundation in 2006. Saamah leads the Centre's analytical and measurement work, including work on indicator and indicator sets such as the Happy Planet Index, National Accounts of Well-being, and the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare. Other recent projects include a report based on analysis of the European Quality of Life Survey, advising Eurostat on measures of quality of life and well-being, and BRAINPOoL - an EU funded project looking at the opportunities and barriers to Beyond GDP indicators being used in policy making. Saamah is a member of Eurostat's Quality of Life Expert Group, and the UK Office for National Statistics' Technical Advisory Group on Wellbeing. Saamah is particularly interested in how the science of well-being can inform research into pro-environmental behaviour and value change, and a more sustainable economy.

Saamah has an academic background in the natural sciences, having graduated from the University of Cambridge in Experimental Psychology, and having worked for two years as a research assistant, in Cambridge and at the University of Barcelona. He has also completed an MSc. in Democracy and Democratisation at University College London, where his dissertation explored views of deliberative democracy. Saamah also has a strong background in non-formal education, having worked in this field in the UK, Poland and Spain.

Outside of work, Saamah has a passion for travel (for example, he spent 2011 living and working in Latin America), theatre, and cycling.

James Anderson - *Bloomberg Philanthropies*

James Anderson leads the government innovation portfolio and develops strategic initiatives for Bloomberg Philanthropies. In this capacity he oversees initiatives including the Mayors Challenge, an innovation competition for cities (which Santa Monica won for its well-being project), and the Innovation Delivery Team program, a multi-city effort to refine models that mayors can use to develop and deliver innovation. He also led the foundation's successful efforts to launch the first social impact bond in the United States, in partnership with the City of New York and Goldman Sachs.

Before joining Bloomberg Philanthropies, James served as communications director to New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. During that time, he was the chief architect of NYC Service, the City's high impact citizen service strategy, and Cities of Service, a bipartisan coalition that now includes over 160 mayors representing more than 55 million Americans. Previously, he served as senior advisor to the commissioner of the City's homeless services agency, and as communications director for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, a national advocacy organization.

He lives in Brooklyn Heights, New York.

Sarah Burd-Sharps - *Measure of America*

Sarah Burd-Sharps is Co-Director of Measure of America, a project of the nonpartisan Social Science Research Council that provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America. Sarah is co-author of two volumes of *The Measure of America* (Columbia University Press, 2008 and NYU Press, 2010) as well as state and county-level well-being reports for California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Marin and Sonoma Counties. Prior to this position, Sarah worked for the United Nations for over two decades, with a focus on democratic governance, economic empowerment, and gender equity. Before she left the UN in 2007 to found Measure of America, she was Deputy Director of the UN's Human Development Report Office, where she worked on three global *Human Development Reports* (Oxford University Press) and led the UN's work on national human development reports on every continent. Sarah contributes regularly to media outlets, with articles published in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Huffington Post*, and more, and research cited by *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, NPR, *Slate*, *Freakonomics blog*, and many more. She received a Masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Anita Chandra – *RAND Corporation*

Anita Chandra, DrPH, is a senior policy researcher and director of the Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department at the RAND Corporation. Her background is in public health, child and adolescent development, and community-based participatory research and evaluation. She currently leads or co-leads studies on community well-being; deployment and military families; community resilience and long-term disaster recovery; and child health and development. Throughout her career, Anita has engaged government and nongovernmental partners to consider cross-sector solutions for improving child and community well-being and to build systems and evaluation capacity. This work has taken many forms including engaging with the Department of Health and Human Services and local government agencies on building systems for emergency preparedness and resilience both in the U.S. and globally; partnering with private sector organizations to build the science base around child systems; and collaborating with city governments and foundations to measure well-being, sustainability, and health transformation. Specifically, in the area of wellbeing, she has particular expertise in measurement of health and social connections, youth assets and development, and lifespan trajectories. This expertise is currently being applied with partners in Washington, DC as part of a healthy communities collaborative and interactive dashboard and with partners in Memphis to track child wellbeing particularly in the early years of life.

Anita has also partnered with community organizations to conduct broad-scale health needs assessments, to examine the integration of health and human service systems, and to determine how to address the needs of historically vulnerable populations in health and social services. These projects have occurred in partnership with local health systems, foundations, and other community organizations.

Elizabeth Cox - *New Economics Foundation*

Elizabeth Cox is an economist who has leads on nef's UK and international local economic development work, and has responsibility for developing international partnerships. Her work includes developing community-based action research and enterprise support approaches. She has particular research interests in exploring what *low carbon, high well-being* local economic development looks like in practice, and the design of measurement and reporting frameworks. Current projects include: supporting the London Borough of Haringey to deliver their 40% carbon reduction commitment by 2020; piloting a climate change adaptation approach with 12 UK communities; developing measurement frameworks for social impact investment; and working with civil society partners in South Africa and India to establish national hubs to widen debate and action on developing the new economy in these countries. This latter project includes developing criteria for the new economy, mapping existing new economic policies and practice, and developing innovation labs to support enterprises. Prior to joining nef in 2003 Elizabeth worked as an economist in South America for four years, and as a Research Fellow in the University of Aberdeen.

Lew Daly – Demos

Lew Daly is Director of Policy and Research, helping to plan and manage research and policy development across the organization. He also currently leads Demos's Beyond GDP project, a multi-year campaign to advance alternative indicators of well-being and sustainability in federal and state-level governance in the United States. He is the author (with Stephen Posner) of *Beyond GDP: New Measures for a New Economy*. A companion report, *What is Our Public GDP? Measuring and Valuing Government in the Twenty-First Century Economy*, is forthcoming in 2014. Lew works internationally as a member of Global Well-Being Lab and as an advisor to the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation in South Africa.

Lew was previously a fellow of the Schumann Center for Media & Democracy, where he worked closely with then-president Bill Moyers on special projects, and he was a research fellow of the Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland from 2002-2005. In the mid-1990s, he did pastoral work in a federal prison as well as community organizing on labor issues. He received his B.A. from Oberlin College and advanced degrees from Brown University, the University at Buffalo, and Union Theological Seminary. With his wife Pam Rehm and their children Nate and Cora, he lives in the West Harlem neighborhood of upper Manhattan.

Nancy Etcoff - Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Nancy Etcoff is a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School and Harvard University's Mind-Brain-Behavior Initiative conducting scientific investigations in the psychology and neuroscience of emotion, and the psychology and biology of beauty. In 2003, she founded the Program in Aesthetics and Well Being within the Department of Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital to foster research, education and consultation at the intersection of these two fields. She is the co-founder and co-manager of Hedonometrics LLC (with Hugo Liu Ph.D.), a consulting company that provide insights, research and new technologies using ethnography, data mining, and computational cognitive science. Her research has culminated in numerous awards, and her book, *Survival of the Prettiest: The Science of Beauty* (Doubleday, 1999; Anchor, 2000) has been published in over a dozen languages, and is the subject of a one-hour Discovery Channel program. Her 2004 TED talk on happiness has been viewed by over 855,000 people.

Carol Graham - Brookings Institution

Carol Graham is Leo Pasvolosky Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, College Park Professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, and Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany. She is currently serving on a National Academy of Sciences panel on well-being metrics and public policy. From 2002-2004, she served as a Vice President at Brookings. She has also served as Special Advisor to the Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank, as a Visiting Fellow in the Office of the Chief Economist of the World Bank, and as a consultant to the International Monetary Fund and the Harvard Institute for International Development. She is the author of numerous books and articles. Her most recent books are: *The Pursuit of Happiness: Toward an Economy of Well-Being* (Brookings, 2011), also published in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean; and *Happiness around the World: the Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires* (Oxford University Press, 2010), also published in Chinese and Portuguese. She has published articles in a range of journals including the *World Bank Research Observer*; *Health Affairs*, *Health Economics*, the *Journal of Socio-Economics*; the *Journal of Development Studies*; *World Economics*; the *Journal of Human Development*; and *Foreign Affairs*; and her work has been reviewed in *Science*, the *New Yorker*, and the *New York Times*, among others. She is an Associate Editor at the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. She has an A.B. from Princeton University, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins, a D.Phil from Oxford University, and is the mother of three children.

Jon Hall - United Nations Development Program

Jon Hall has been championing the development – and use – of new metrics of progress for the past 15 years. He was the principal architect and lead author of the Australian Bureau of Statistics “Measures of Australia’s Progress”. This was the first attempt by a national statistical office to define and measure progress, and went on to win a national award as the most innovative social project in Australia in 2003. According to one journalist it came “as close to the meaning of life as a statistician can get”. He moved to Paris and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2005 to set up the OECD’s Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, which he managed for 4 years, in the process building a global network of people interested in measuring progress and organizing major international conferences in Istanbul and Busan. He now works for the United Nations Development Program in New York, where he runs a unit supporting national human development reporting around the world and is also looking at the links between subjective wellbeing and human development. Jon has spoken about measuring progress and development in more than 40 countries, and has degrees in mathematics, statistics and public service administration. An Australian and British citizen, he spends most of his spare time searching for some of the planet’s rarest wildlife.

John Helliwell - University of British Columbia

John F. Helliwell, of the Vancouver School of Economics at UBC, is Senior Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and Co-Director of CIFAR’s program on ‘Social Interactions, Identity and Well-Being’. His most recent books include *Well-Being for Public Policy* (OUP, with Diener, Lucas and Schimmack, 2009), *International Differences in Well-Being* (OUP, edited with Diener and Kahneman, 2010), the *World Happiness Report* (edited with Richard Layard and Jeffrey Sachs, 2012) and the *World Happiness Report 2013* (same editors, UN Sustainable Development Research Network, September 2013). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Tim Kasser - Knox College

Tim Kasser, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. He has written numerous scientific articles and book chapters on materialism, values, ecological sustainability, and quality of life, among other topics. He is also the author of *The High Price of Materialism* (MIT Press, 2002) and *Lucy in the Mind of Lennon* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Tim works extensively with a variety of activist and civil society organizations that protect children from commercialization, that promote ecological sustainability, and that encourage a more “inwardly rich” lifestyle than what is offered by consumerism.

Ewen McKinnon & Lisa Ollerhead - Cabinet Office, UK

Lisa Ollerhead and Ewen McKinnon work in the Office of Civil Society in the Cabinet Office on wellbeing policy and analysis. The UK is measuring National Wellbeing and Cabinet Office is encouraging the application and use of wellbeing in policy. Their programme consists of

- i. measuring wellbeing – encouraging the inclusion of wellbeing questions in policy surveys to support analysis across a wide range of policy areas
- ii. analysing data – to explore wellbeing implications across policy areas
- iii. capacity building – developing training and tools to enable economists and policy makers to use wellbeing evidence in their day jobs
- iv. encouraging specific policies to actively consider wellbeing

Lori Nathanson - *Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence*

Lori Nathanson, Ph.D., is director of research for the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and an associate research scientist in the Department of Psychology. Lori's research focuses on developing better measures of social and emotional learning (SEL) skills and implementation fidelity, especially for interventions related to SEL. Her experience with RULER as a postdoctoral fellow and her research interests position her to contribute to the Center's body of research and ongoing program development. Lori is also responsible for shaping the Center's research agenda, expanding the research portfolio, and supporting the Center's team of researchers.

Lori received her B.A. from Duke University and earned her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia as an Institute of Education Sciences Pre-doctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training (IES-PIRT) fellow. As a Yale postdoctoral fellow, she implemented and studied RULER at New Line Learning in Maidstone, England. Between her postdoc and returning to the Center, Lori contributed to the Research Alliance for NYC Schools at NYU's development as a non-partisan research organization and conducted research on high school choice, improving the NYC School Survey, and evaluating college readiness programs in NYC.

Gwyther Rees - *University of York*

Until recently, Rees was Research Director at The Children's Society – a non-governmental organisation in England aiming to improve the lives of children and young people. During his time there he managed and conducted research projects on a range of topics relating to disadvantaged children. His involvement in research on children's well-being began in 2005 when he initiated a joint research programme between The Children's Society and the University of York on children's subjective well-being (see <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/wellbeing>). The programme has since gathered views from over 50,000 young people and has produced a series of annual reports of findings that have generated considerable media and policy interest in the UK. Rees is currently a Visiting Associate at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York where, as well as having an ongoing involvement in the above research programme, his main work is as a member of the core team of researchers for the Children's Worlds survey. This is a new international survey of children's lives and well-being. The current wave of the survey, funded by the Jacobs Foundation, is being conducted with over 50,000 children in 16 countries around the world (see <http://www.isciweb.org/> for further details). Rees has a particular interest in exploring ways that measures of children's subjective well-being can be useful for policy and practical purposes.

Gus Speth - *Vermont Law School*

James Gustave Speth joined the faculty of the Vermont Law School as Professor of Law in 2010. He serves also as Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos and Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. In 2009 he completed his decade-long tenure as Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. From 1993 to 1999, Gus Speth was Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and chair of the UN Development Group. Prior to his service at the UN, he was founder and president of the World Resources Institute; professor of law at Georgetown University; chairman of the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality (Carter Administration); and senior attorney and cofounder, Natural Resources Defense Council. Throughout his career, Speth has provided leadership and entrepreneurial initiatives to many task forces and committees whose roles have been to combat environmental degradation and promote sustainable development. He is the author, co-author or editor of seven books including the award-winning *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability* and *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. His latest book is *America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy*, published by Yale Press in September 2012. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale University in 1964 with a BA in Political Science, and subsequently earned an M.Litt. in Economics from Oxford University in 1966 as a Rhodes Scholar and his JD from the Yale Law School in 1969. After law school, he served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black. Speth has been honored with numerous awards for his work, and currently serves on a diverse variety of boards.

Arthur Stone - *University of Southern California*

Arthur Stone, Ph.D., was recently appointed Director of USC Dornsife Center for Self-Report Science and Visiting Professor of Psychology at USC. He is also Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at Stony Brook University. His early work was concerned with improving the measurement of life events and coping with the goal of understanding how events and coping impact our susceptibility to somatic illnesses. These studies led to an interest in psychobiology with a particular emphasis on how environmental events affect health. At the same time, he was developing an interest in how people self-report information about their psychological, emotional, and symptom states. This led to the development of various kinds of daily diaries that measured end-of-day and within-day phenomena, which ultimately yielded a set of techniques known as Ecological Momentary Assessment. More recently, Stone has been involved with the development of alternative methods for capturing the ebb and flow of daily experience, in particular hedonic, he has co-developed the Day Reconstruction Method (DRM) which captures daily time use and experiential data. He has also been involved with the development of self-report symptom questionnaires for use in clinical trials, as part of the PROMIS consortium of the National Institutes of Health. Stone recently chaired the National Academy of Science's panel on hedonic wellbeing and is a member of the OECD's High Level Expert Group on wellbeing.

Mathis Wackernagel – *Global Footprint Network*

Mathis is co-creator of the Ecological Footprint and President of Global Footprint Network, an international sustainability think-tank. Global Footprint Network focuses on bringing about a sustainable human economy in which all can live well within the means of one planet. It proposes the Ecological Footprint, which measures how much nature we use and how much nature we have, as a tool for bringing ecological limits to the center of decision-making everywhere.

Mathis has worked on sustainability on six continents and lectured at more than a hundred universities. He previously served as the director of the Sustainability Program at Redefining Progress in Oakland, California, and ran the Centro de Estudios para la Sustentabilidad at Anáhuac University in Xalapa, Mexico. Mathis has authored or contributed to over 50 peer-reviewed papers, numerous articles and reports and various books on sustainability that focus on the question of embracing limits and developing metrics for sustainability.

Benjamin Warner - *Jacksonville Community Council Inc.*

Ben Warner is the President and CEO of Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI). He has been at JCCI since 1998. Through JCCI's Community Works, Ben has assisted communities around the world in the creation of community-based public policy organizations and the development of community indicators. Ben is a past president of the National Association of Planning Councils (NAPC) and was inaugural president of the international Community Indicators Consortium. For his work with NAPC he was presented with the Distinguished Service Award, the fifth such award presented in the organization's long history. Ben received his B.S. in Sociology from Brigham Young University and his Masters in Social Work from Florida State University.

Liz Zeidler - *Happy City Initiative, Bristol*

Liz Zeidler is co-founder and Director of Happy City Initiative, a ground breaking Charity and Social Enterprise based in Bristol UK. Happy City was born out of a recognition that our current societal focus on consumption and competition was damaging people and planet at an alarming rate. Happy City works to focus energy into ways of being and acting that allow people to thrive and the planet to sustain itself. It delivers training, projects and measurement tools to support individuals, communities and better policy. Its flagship Happy City Index project is creating an innovative and interactive new measure of prosperity for city regions.

Liz is also founder and co-director of modoto, a change agency for leaders in public, private and voluntary sectors. Liz has worked at all levels, in every sector, on 4 continents, ranging from individual entrepreneurs to global businesses, and from small teams in NGOs to UN meetings.

About RAND Corporation

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis. RAND focuses on the issues that matter most such as health, education, national security, international affairs, law and business, the environment, and more. With a research staff consisting of some of the world's preeminent minds, RAND has been expanding the boundaries of human knowledge for more than 60 years. As a nonpartisan organization, RAND is widely respected for operating independent of political and commercial pressures. Through a dedication to high-quality and objective research and analysis and with sophisticated analytical tools developed over many years, RAND engages clients to create knowledge, insight, information, options, and solutions that will be both effective and enduring.

About the New Economics Foundation

New Economics Foundation (NEF) is the UK's leading think tank promoting social, economic and environmental justice. Our purpose is to bring about a Great Transition – to transform the economy so that it works for people and the planet. NEF's mission is to kick-start the move to a new economy through big ideas and fresh thinking. We do this through:

1. High quality, ground-breaking research that shows what is wrong with the current economy and how it can be better
2. Demonstrating the power of our ideas by putting them into action
3. Working with other organizations in the UK and across the world to build a movement for economic change

NEF is fully independent of any political party. NEF relies on donations and help from our thousands of supporters to effect social change.