



UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

BEING WELL AND DOING GOOD

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Akademisk avhandling

som med vederbörligt tillstånd av Rektor vid Umeå universitet för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen framläggs till offentligt försvar i Hörsal HUM.D.220 (Hörsal F), Humanisthuset, fredagen den 09 juni, kl. 13:15.

Avhandlingen kommer att försvaras på engelska.

Fakultetsopponent: Professor Jonathan Wolff,

University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Organization

Umeå University
Department of Historical,
Philosophical and Religious
Studies

Document type

Doctoral thesis

Date of publication

17 May 2023

Author

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Title

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Abstract

This dissertation contains an introductory chapter and four articles. In section 1 of the introductory chapter, I provide an overview of my argument. In section 2, I do five things. First, I show that well-being is *subject-relative*, meaning that well-being is always present in a life if it is present at all. Second, I restrict the discussion to people as *welfare subjects*. Third, I describe the levels of generality that well-being theorising can take. Fourth, I show well-being's relations to other values. Fifth, I describe the distinction between having or not having positive well-being and enduring ill-being. In section 3 of the introductory chapter, I outline the main philosophical well-being theories. I highlight their strengths and weaknesses, before moving on to section 4 where I describe the conceptual framework I use in my articles: *the capability approach*. The capability approach focuses on genuine opportunities, beings, and doings. The opportunities, beings, and doings can be specified in different contexts as needed. Hence, capability analyses focusing on different opportunities, beings and doings, are available. In my articles, I argue for four things regarding those well-being analyses. First, I argue that, and show how, expert opinions and public opinions can be reconciled in well-being policy-making situations. Second, I argue that, and show how, prudentially negative beings and doings should be assessed by analysing cases of homelessness. Third, I argue that the capability approach can be used to offer a complementary account to the predominant philosophical analyses of addiction which mainly focus on its descriptive nature. My complementary analysis highlights further targets for policy-making efforts. Fourth, I argue that well-being is context-sensitive. To that end, I bolster the capability approach by refining a view called *contextualism*. I defend this view against counterarguments and consequently both contextualism and the capability approach are made more viable.

Keywords

well-being, ill-being, capability approach, monism, pluralism.

Language

Swedish

ISBN

print: 978-91-8070-063-4
PDF: 978-91-8070-064-1

ISSN

1650-1748

Number of pages

47 + 4 papers