Illness and Happiness in Global Contexts

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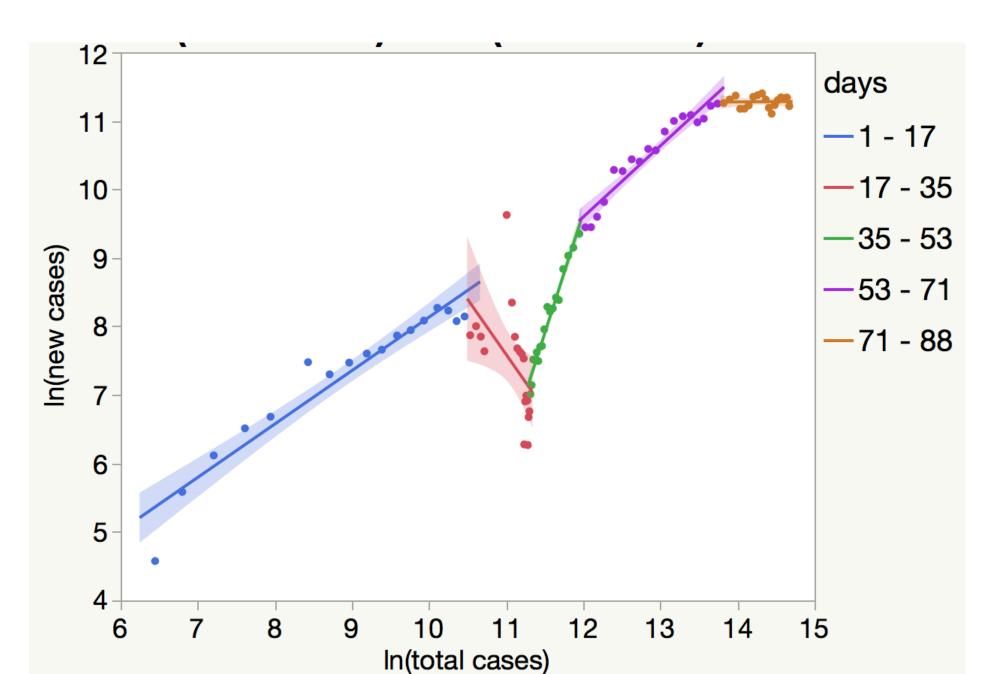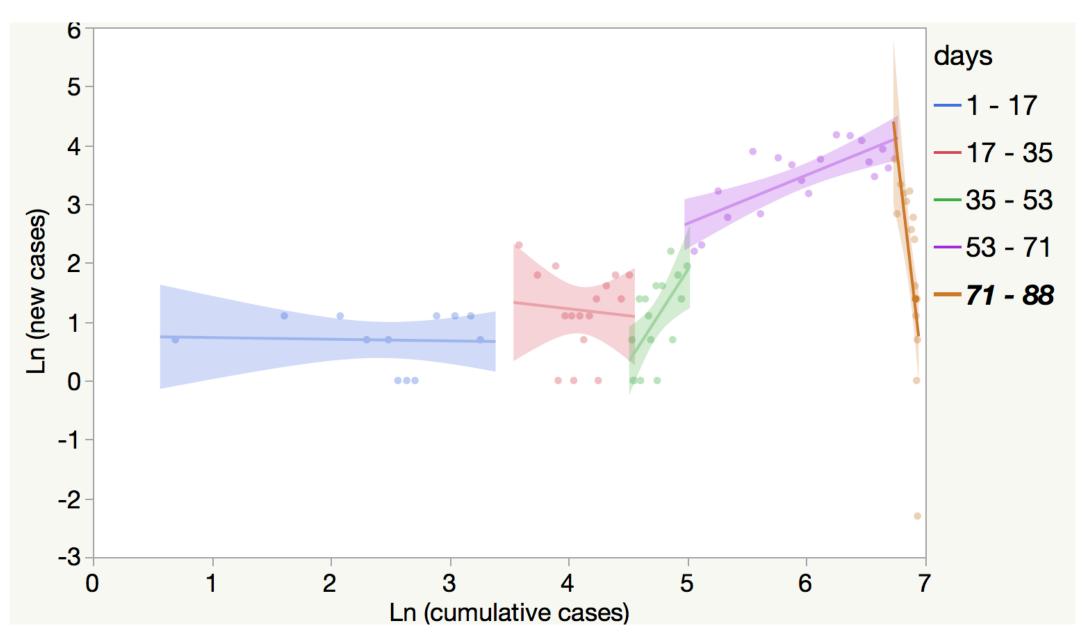
Illness

Happiness

Globalization

Illness

Infection rate of the world
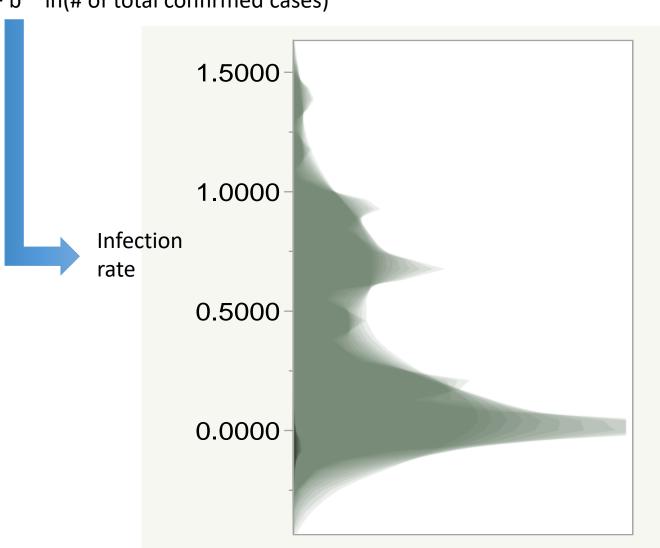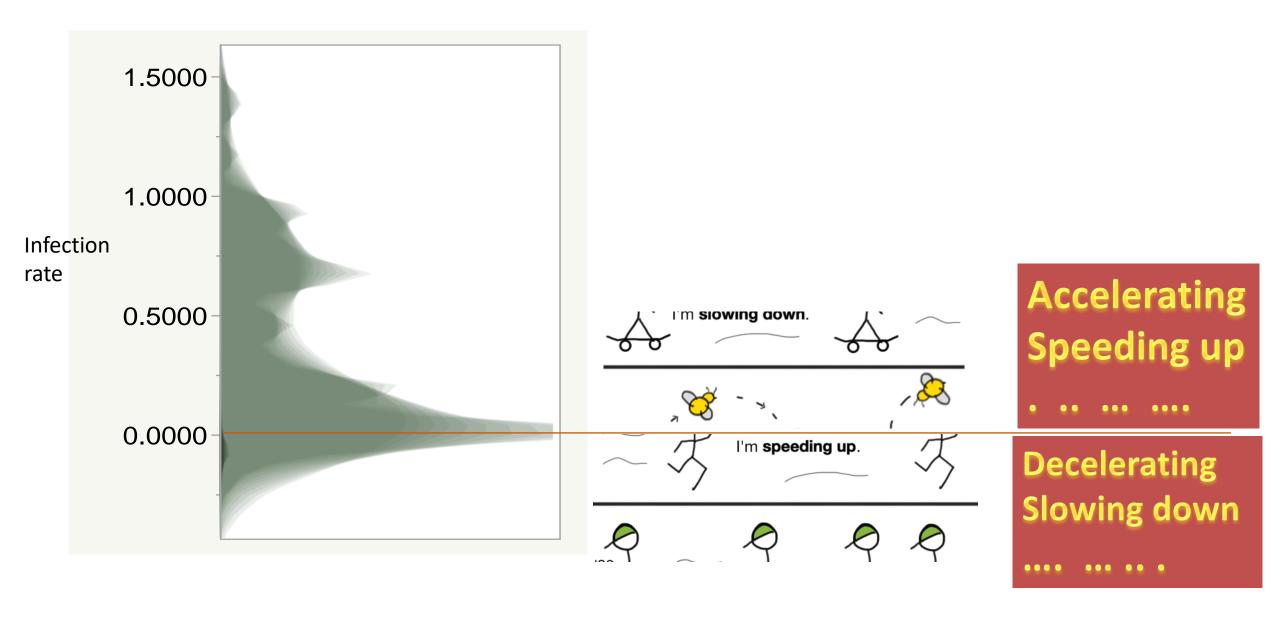
Infection rate of Hong Kong
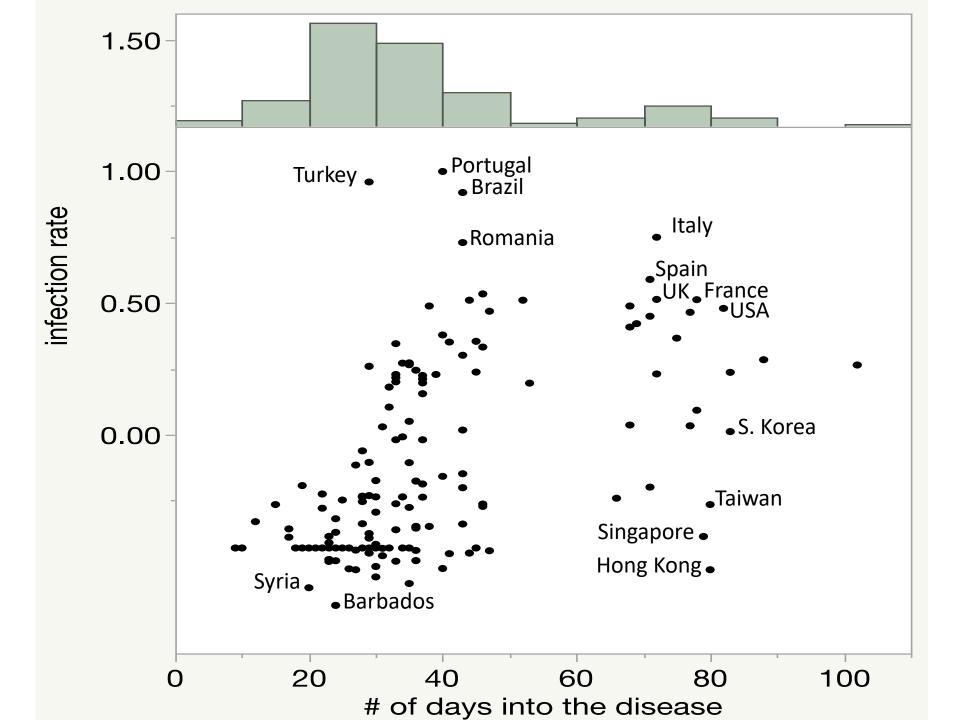
For each country,
ln(# of new case on Day N) ~ a + b * ln(# of total confirmed cases)

Infection
rate

Infection rate

1.5000
1.0000
0.5000
0.0000

I'm **slowing down**.

I'm **speeding up**.

Accelerating Speeding up
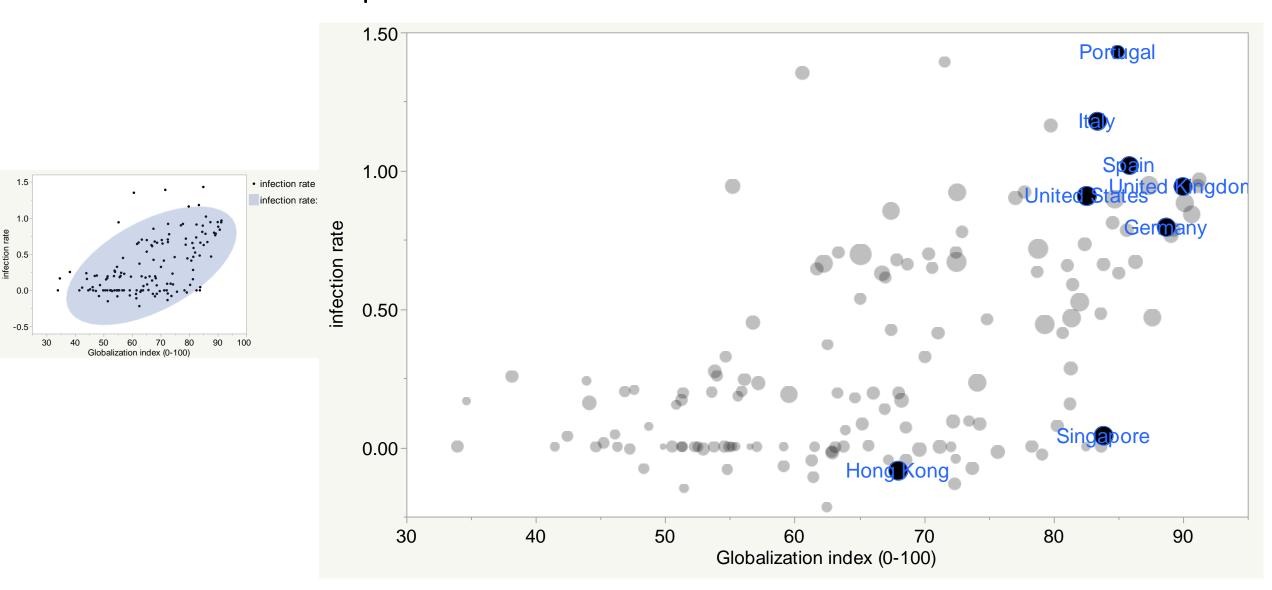. .. ..

Decelerating Slowing down
....

Illness

Globalization

In general, globalized entities speed up, but there are exceptions ….

Illness: How can I prevent it?

PERSONAL FREEDOM & CONVENIENCE ⟷ COMMON GOOD

An infection is preventable if you…

"wash hands more often; use alcohol-based hand sanitizer more often; wear a face mask; avoid social events; avoid public transport; eat out less; touch your face less; shop for groceries less; cooking at home more; stay home, work from work …"

Photo Credit: South China Morning Post

Photo Credit: Independent

More videos from The Independent

00:20 / 00:22

Coronavirus: Army drafted in to help move corpses in 'Italy's Wuhan'

Coronavirus: Italy charges 50,000 people with breaching lockdown, including priests

Zoe Tidman | Friday 20 March 2020 18:16 |

Sander van der Linden and David Spiegelhalter at the University of Cambridge

They collected data from 8 countries: USA, UK, Italy, Spain, Germany, Australia, Mexico, and Sweden.

Most of these countries have high number of confirmed cases.

About 700 participants from each country participated in the study between March 19, 2020 and March 29, 2020. The total sample size is 5,598
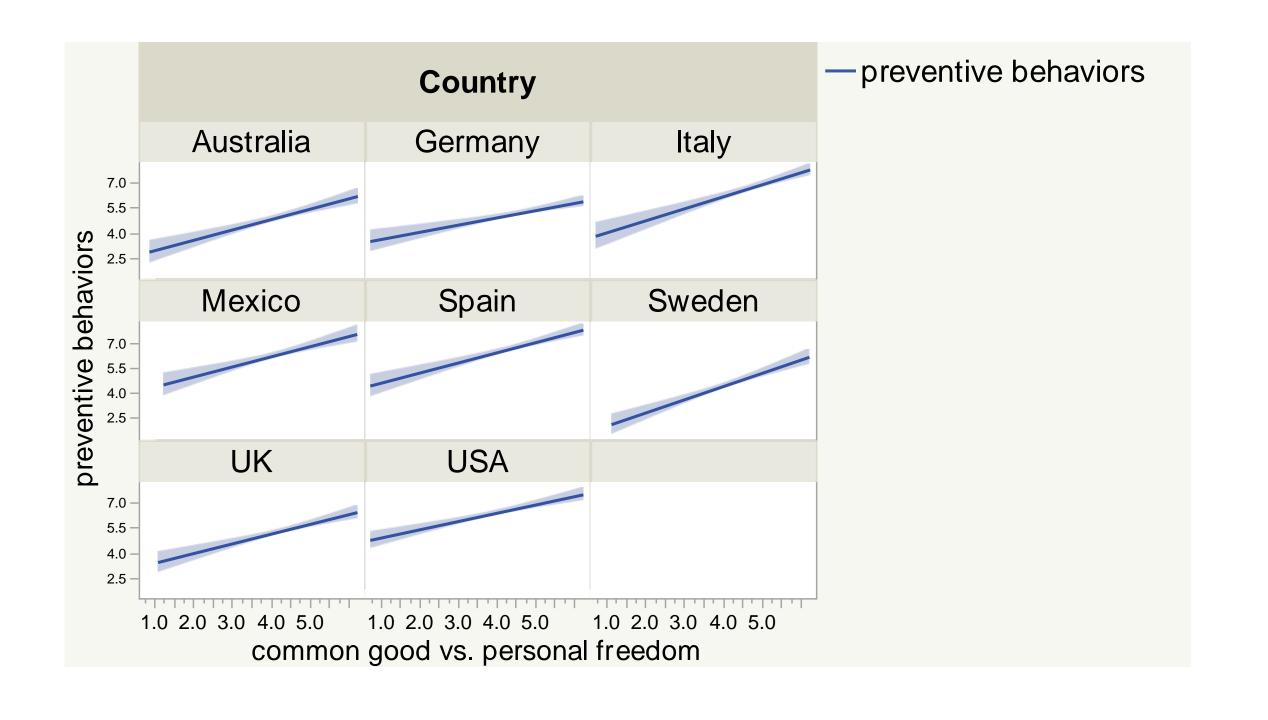
Number of preventive actions taken:

"Which of the following steps, if any, have you taken in the last month to prepare for the possibility of many cases of the coronavirus/COVID-19 in your community? (No. of steps taken)
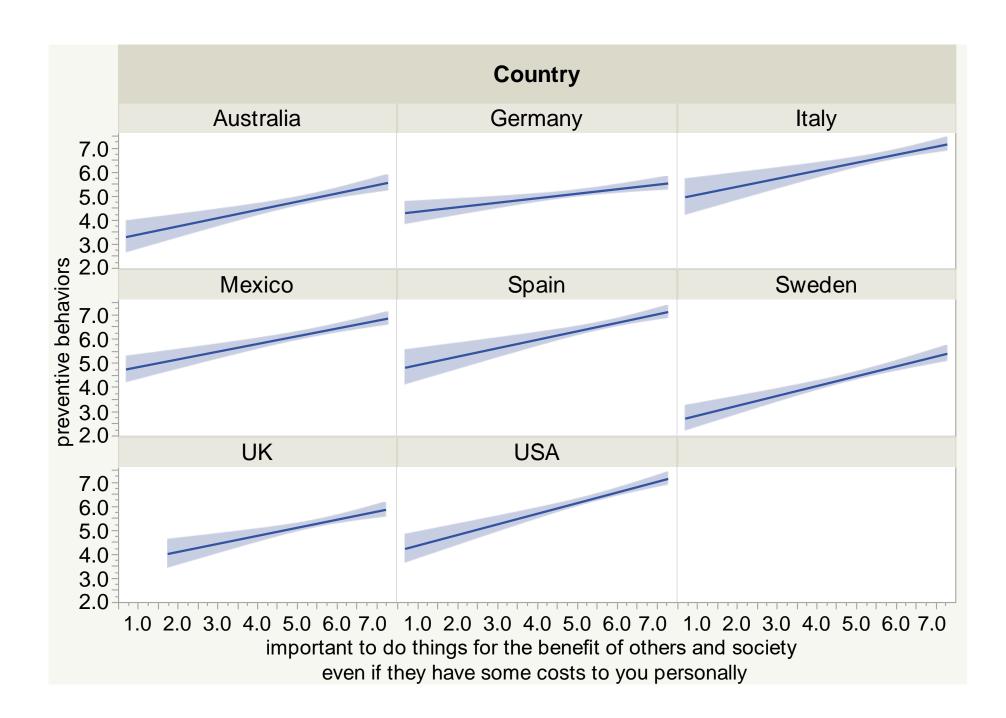
- washing hands more often
- using alcohol-based hand sanitizer more often
- wearing a face mask
- avoiding social events
- avoiding public transport
- eating out less
- touching your face less
- shopping for groceries less
- cooking at home more
- staying home from work extra supplies

Common good vs. personal freedom

Mean of five items

- "The government interferes far too much in our everyday lives" (reverse)
- "Sometimes government needs to make laws that keep people from hurting themselves."
- "It's not the government's business to try to protect people from themselves" (reverse)
- "The government should stop telling people how to live their lives." (reverse)
- "The government should do more to advance society's goals, even if that means limiting the freedom and choices of individuals."
- "Government should put limits on the choices individuals can make so they don't get in the way of what's good for society."
- "I think the response in the past few weeks was putting too many restrictions on people." (reverse)

Country

Illness: How can WE prevent it?

FRANCE

French police fine over 4,000 people for violating lockdown

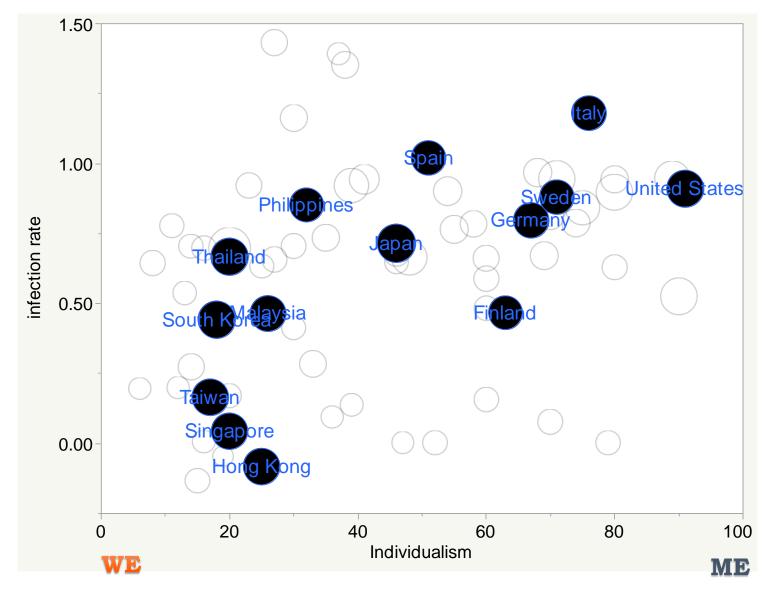Issued on: 19/03/2020 - 18:11   Modified: 19/03/2020 - 18:11

French police control people and evacuate the beach in Pornichet near La Baule as a lockdown is imposed to slow the rate of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in France, March 18, 2020. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe REUTERS - STEPHANE MAHE

Infection rate by Individualism
Sized by # of days into the disease

Individualism:

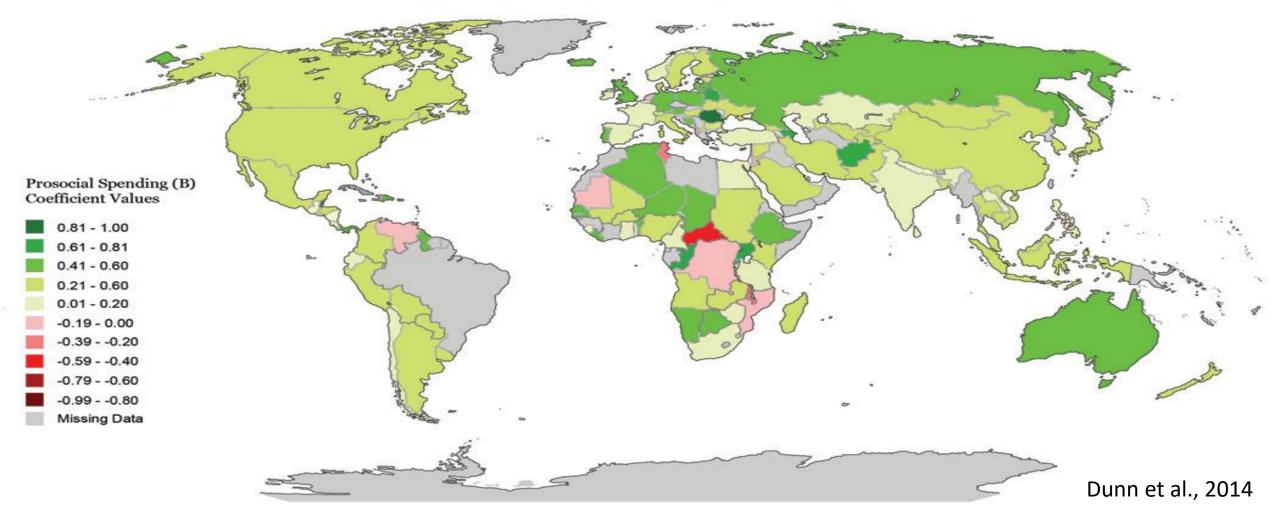Put personal goals before common good

小我
ME

大我
WE

Happiness

Globalization

Beyond Hedonism: Eudaimonic Happiness

Prosocial spending makes people happy almost everywhere in the world

Prosocial Spending Predicting Well-Being

Prosocial Spending (B) Coefficient Values
- 0.81 – 1.00
- 0.61 – 0.81
- 0.41 – 0.60
- 0.21 – 0.60
- 0.01 – 0.20
- -0.19 – 0.00
- -0.39 – -0.20
- -0.59 – -0.40
- -0.79 – -0.60
- -0.99 – -0.80
- Missing Data

Dunn et al., 2014

A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH
TO SUCCESS

GIVE
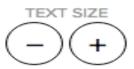*and*
TAKE

ADAM GRANT

Illness   Happiness
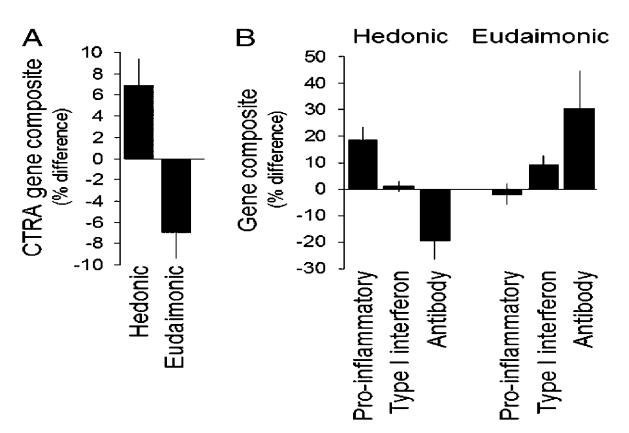
Meaning gives you good health

Fig. 2. Expression of the CTRA gene set. (A) Linear model-based estimates of mean difference (±SEM) in expression in a 53-gene CTRA contrast score in PBMCs from individuals with low levels (−2 SD relative to sample mean) vs. high levels (+2 SD) of hedonic well-being and eudaimonic well-being (each adjusting for the other and for demographic and behavioral covariates). (B) Differential expression of CTRA subcomponents: 19 proinflammatory genes, 31 type I IFN response genes, and three antibody synthesis genes.

A functional genomic perspective on human well-being

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