

## Special Seminar (Colloquium of Environmental Studies)

### Exploring and analysing the social, economic and environmental determinants of happiness and wellbeing



#### Speaker: Dr Dimitris Ballas

Professor of Economic Geography  
Chair, Department of Economic Geography  
Faculty of Spatial Sciences  
University of Groningen  
The Netherlands

Date & Time: 10.30-12:00 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Venue: Lecture Room 1 on the fourth floor of the main building of the graduate school of environmental studies.

No pre-registration is required.

**Abstract:** This seminar highlights the importance of geographical and socioeconomic contextual factors pertaining to well-being and happiness with a particular emphasis on the impact of social and spatial inequalities and social justice. It also makes a strong case for a spatial economics and economic geography perspective in the analysis of the spatial determinants of happiness, including new innovative ways of geovisualization as well as new possibilities for advanced spatial analysis. The presentation revisits the literature on the economics and spatial economics of happiness (including earlier work by the speaker on ‘what makes a happy city’ see Ballas, 2013 and the Economic Geography of Happiness – Ballas, 2023) with a particular focus on geographical and environmental features. The seminar will also confide the impact of the physical environment and natural disasters as well as the green transition on happiness and wellbeing

#### References:

Ballas, D, (2013), What makes a ‘happy city’?, *Cities*, volume 32, s39–s50.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275113000504>

Ballas D. (2021), The Economic Geography of Happiness. In: Zimmermann K.F. (eds) *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*.

Springer, Cham [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6\\_188-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_188-1)

Organised by the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, GP-RSS, JSPS Kakenhi (25K00554), JST COI-NEXT (JPMJPF2110)

Contact: Professor Tomoki Nakaya, the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University, Japan. Email to: [tomoki.nakaya.c8@tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:tomoki.nakaya.c8@tohoku.ac.jp)

特別講演 (コロキウム環境)

## Exploring and analysing the social, economic and environmental determinants of happiness and wellbeing



**Speaker: Dr Dimitris Ballas**

Professor of Economic Geography  
Chair, Department of Economic Geography  
Faculty of Spatial Sciences  
University of Groningen  
The Netherlands

日時： 2025年11月17日 10.30-12:00

場所： 環境科学本館 4F 第1講義室

事前登録不要

共催： 環境科学研究科、GP-RSS (予定)、JSPS 科研費(25K00554)、JST 共創の場形成支援プログラム(COI-NEXT) JPMJPF2110 美食地政学に基づくグリーンジョブマーケット醸成共創拠点

世話人：中谷友樹 環境科学研究科 教授

email: tomoki.nakaya.c8@tohoku.ac.jp

**Abstract:** This seminar highlights the importance of geographical and socioeconomic contextual factors pertaining to well-being and happiness with a particular emphasis on the impact of social and spatial inequalities and social justice. It also makes a strong case for a spatial economics and economic geography perspective in the analysis of the spatial determinants of happiness, including new innovative ways of geovisualization as well as new possibilities for advanced spatial analysis. The presentation revisits the literature on the economics and spatial economics of happiness (including earlier work by the speaker on 'what makes a happy city' see Ballas, 2013 and the Economic Geography of Happiness – Ballas, 2023) with a particular focus on geographical and environmental features. The seminar will also confide the impact of the physical environment and natural disasters as well as the green transition on happiness and wellbeing

**References:**

Ballas, D, (2013), What makes a 'happy city'?, *Cities*, volume 32, s39–s50.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275113000504>

Ballas D. (2021), The Economic Geography of Happiness. In: Zimmermann K.F. (eds) *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. Springer, Cham [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6\\_188-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_188-1)