

Chapter 5

CLASSIFICATION OF CORRELATIONAL FINDINGS

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5/1 CLASSIFICATION BY CORRELATE SUBJECT

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5/1.1 Approach of this subject classification

The 'subject' of a correlational finding is the substance of the variable of which the relationship with happiness was investigated, such as personal characteristics (e.g. 'age') or situational variables (e.g. air pollution in the country). The classification is made to show the available data to its fullest advantage. It presents the theme's that have figured in empirical happiness-research until now. The classification has evolved over time.

Not theory driven

The subject-classification does not depart from some a-priori theory of happiness. The classification of correlates is not entirely a-theoretical, however. It is organized around key-concepts, which are presented in alphabetical order. Some problematic concepts are defined, for instance 'Freedom' and 'Livability'.

Implied thesaurus

There is no generally accepted lexicon in the social sciences and hence different terms are used to denote the same phenomena, e.g. 'character' and 'personality' for the tendency to react in a particular way. For that reason, we had to choose a word, and in the case of tendency to react in a particular way, we have chosen for the term 'personality'. See subject categories on 'personality' below in [Chart 5/1.2](#).

The term 'character' is added as a *keyword*, so that users of this database can find this standard label.

Ordered alphabetically

The main subjects are presented in alphabetic order, the first subject being 'Activity' and the last 'Worries'.

As such, this classification of correlational *findings* by subject differs from the classification of *publications* on correlates of happiness in the Bibliography, which follows a systematic distinction between 'situational' and 'personal' topics, within which further systematic partitions are made, such as between 'country characteristics' and 'life-events' in the case of situational subjects.

Any classification has its pro's and con's and by providing two lenses we improve the chance that users of this database find what they are looking for.

5/1.2 Main correlational subject classes

To date (June 2020) the classification consists of 168 main categories, which are shown in [Chart 5/1.2](#). The current number of findings in a subject-category is indicated in the right column.

Chart 5/1.2**Main subject categories by 1-6-2020**

| | |
|---|-----|
| ACTIVITY (how much one does) | 2 |
| ACTIVITY: PATTERN (what one does) | 361 |
| AFFECTIVE LIFE | 81 |
| AGE | 830 |
| AGGRESSION | 15 |
| ANOMY | 35 |
| APPEARANCE (good looks) | 28 |
| ATTITUDES | 17 |
| AUTHORITARIANISM | 4 |
| BIRTH CONTROL | 2 |
| BIRTH HISTORY (own birth) | 201 |
| BODY | 113 |
| CHILDREN | 13 |
| CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations) | 13 |
| CHILDREN: HAVING (parental status) | 337 |
| CHILDREN: CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S CHILDREN | 40 |
| CHILDREN: RELATION WITH ONE'S CHILDREN | 19 |
| CHILDREN: REARING OF ONE'S CHILDREN (parental behavior) | 35 |
| COMMUNAL LIVING | 16 |
| COMPETENCES | 20 |
| CONCERNS | 50 |
| CONSUMPTION | 171 |
| COPING | 71 |
| CREATIVENESS | 8 |

| | |
|---|------|
| CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR | 3 |
| CULTURE (Arts and Sciences) | 51 |
| DAILY JOYS & HASSLES | 7 |
| DISASTER | 3 |
| EDUCATION | 705 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 1052 |
| ERA (temporal period) | 156 |
| ETHNICITY | 227 |
| EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOR | 14 |
| FAMILY OF ORIGIN (earlier family for adults, current for young) | 511 |
| FAMILY OF PROCREATION | 143 |
| FAMILY OF RELATIVES | 270 |
| FARMING | 68 |
| FREEDOM | 59 |
| FRIENDSHIP | 374 |
| GENDER | 815 |
| GRIEF | 1 |
| HABITS | 2 |
| HANDICAP | 55 |
| HAPPINESS: BEHAVIOR | 1 |
| HAPPINESS: CAREER | 302 |
| HAPPINESS: DISPERSION OF HAPPINESS | 20 |
| HAPPINESS: EFFECT OF CONDITIONS FOR HAPPINESS | 3 |
| HAPPINESS: CORRESPONDENCE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES | 396 |
| HAPPINESS: OF OTHERS | 21 |
| HAPPINESS: REPUTATION OF HAPPINESS | 27 |
| HAPPINESS: SEQUALE | 1 |
| HAPPINESS: VIEWS ON HAPPINESS | 160 |
| HEALTH: BEHAVIOR | 67 |
| HEALTH: MENTAL | 308 |
| HEALTH: PHYSICAL | 962 |
| HEALTH: PSYCHO-SOMATIC COMPLAINTS | 71 |
| HEALTH: PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT | 548 |
| HEALTH: TREATMENT MEDICAL | 201 |
| HELPING | 19 |
| HOPE | 38 |
| HOUSEHOLD: COMPOSITION | 313 |
| HOUSEHOLD: WORK | 48 |
| HOUSING | 381 |
| INCOME | 1366 |
| INSTITUTIONAL LIVING | 64 |

| | |
|---|------|
| INTELLIGENCE | 92 |
| INTERNET | 196 |
| INTERESTS | 18 |
| INTERVIEW | 104 |
| INTIMACY | 222 |
| LANGUAGE | 49 |
| LEADERSHIP | 15 |
| LEISURE | 461 |
| LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS | 522 |
| LIFE CHANGE | 72 |
| LIFE EVENTS | 149 |
| LIFE GOALS | 131 |
| LIFE HISTORY | 12 |
| LIFE STYLE | 72 |
| LOCAL: CULTURE | 11 |
| LOCAL: DEMOGRAPHY | 37 |
| LOCAL: ECONOMY | 235 |
| LOCAL: GEOGRAPHY | 283 |
| LOCAL: LIVABILITY (fit with human needs/capacities) | 8 |
| LOCAL: POLITICS | 13 |
| LOCAL: RESIDENCE | 89 |
| LOCAL: SOCIETY | 259 |
| LOTTERY | 13 |
| LOVE-LIFE | 46 |
| MARRIAGE: MARITAL STATUS CAREER | 117 |
| MARRIAGE: CURRENT MARITAL STATUS | 1030 |
| MARRIAGE: RELATIONSHIP | 197 |
| MARRIAGE: PARTNER | 84 |
| MEANING | 34 |
| MEDITATION | 8 |
| MIGRATION: TO OTHER COUNTRY | 125 |
| MIGRATION: MOVING WITHIN COUNTRY (residential mobility) | 53 |
| MIGRATION: MIGRANT WORK | 5 |
| MILITARY LIFE | 14 |
| MODERNITY | 62 |
| MOOD | 406 |
| MOTIVATION | 22 |
| NATION: ATTITUDES TO ONE'S NATION | 80 |
| NATION: CULTURE | 188 |
| NATION: DEMOGRAPHY | 40 |
| NATION: ECONOMY | 491 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| NATION: GEOGRAPHY | 90 |
| NATION: HISTORY | 8 |
| NATION: JUSTICE | 61 |
| NATION: LIFESTYLE | 11 |
| NATION: LIVABILITY (fit with human needs/capacities) | 70 |
| NATION: NATIONALITY | 82 |
| NATION: PERSONALITY (modal) | 88 |
| NATION: POLITICS | 228 |
| NATION: POSITION OF ONE'S NATION | 23 |
| NATION: SOCIETY | 312 |
| NUTRITION | 184 |
| OCCUPATION | 260 |
| PERFORMANCE | 149 |
| PERSONALITY: HISTORY | 57 |
| PERSONALITY: CHANGE | 15 |
| PERSONALITY: CURRENT ORGANIZATION | 10 |
| PERSONALITY: CURRENT TRAITS | 855 |
| PERSONALITY: LATER | 22 |
| PETS | 4 |
| PLANNING | 12 |
| POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR | 318 |
| POPULARITY | 33 |
| PREFERENCES | 6 |
| POSSESSIONS | 260 |
| PRISON | 3 |
| PROBLEMS | 40 |
| REGION OF RESIDENCE | 109 |
| REGION: CULTURE | 11 |
| REGION: DEMOGRAPHY | 9 |
| REGION: ECONOMY | 44 |
| REGION: GEOGRAPHY | 33 |
| REGION: LIVABILITY. Fit environment - human needs/capacities | 6 |
| REGION: POLITICS | 9 |
| REGION: POSITION | 1 |
| REGION: SOCIETY | 7 |
| RELIGION | 542 |
| RESOURCES | 37 |
| RETIREMENT | 167 |
| ROLES | 31 |
| SCHOOL | 783 |
| SELF-IMAGE | 356 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| SEX-LIFE | 87 |
| SLEEP | 19 |
| SOCIAL MOBILITY | 27 |
| SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: PERSONAL CONTACTS | 114 |
| SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS | 162 |
| SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: TOTAL (personal + associations) | 60 |
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS | 209 |
| SOCIAL SUPPORT: RECEIVED | 148 |
| SOCIAL SUPPORT: PROVIDED | 25 |
| SPORTS | 226 |
| STIMULANTS | 104 |
| SUICIDE | 10 |
| SUMMED DETERMINANTS | 216 |
| TIME | 238 |
| TOLERANCE | 39 |
| TRAVEL | 30 |
| TRUST | 70 |
| VALUES: CAREER | 8 |
| VALUES: CURRENT PREFERENCES (own) | 171 |
| VALUES: CLIMATE (current values in environment) | 13 |
| VALUES: SIMILARITY (current fit with others) | 14 |
| VALUES: LIVING UP TO | 20 |
| VICTIM | 46 |
| WAR | 9 |
| WISDOM | 1 |
| WORK: CAREER | 2 |
| WORK: CONDITIONS | 149 |
| WORK: ATTITUDES | 466 |
| WORK: PERFORMANCE | 42 |
| WORRIES | 60 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 36 |

5/1.3 Standard distinctions within main subject classes

Subject classes are systematically sub-divided, using three secondary categories: 1) development, 2) current, 3) attitudes.

The application of these sub-divisions to all subject categories creates many empty cells, in the 'development' sub-category. The bulk of empirical happiness-research is concerned with cross-sections and is hence categorized in the 'current' sub-category. Panel-studies are still the exception in this field of research. Hence there is little data on life-history variables (earlier and later life)

and on life-change. Hopefully future research will fill in these blanks. For the time being the empty cells may help to acknowledge information deficits.

5/1.3.1 Current state of characteristic vs. Development of characteristic

Most correlational findings concern the relationship of happiness with 'current' characteristics, such as present income. 'Present' income is not the same as 'earlier-', or 'later' income. Neither is current 'level' of income the same as 'change' in income.

These distinctions with 'earlier' or 'later' are highly relevant for a good understanding of happiness. Same time correlations do not inform us about causality. A positive relationship between happiness and income does not mean that money buys happiness; the statistical relationship may be spurious, or it may reflect an effect of happiness on earning-chances. The distinction between *level* and *change* is one of the ways to assess causality. If a change in income is followed by a change in happiness one can be sure that money buys happiness indeed (*ceteris paribus*). The few findings on change from follow-up studies get easily lost in the bulk of cross-sectional data. Therefore, the distinction is standard in all subject-categories, even if there are no change-data available now. In that case a zero appears in the right-hand column.

The distinction between *earlier* and *current* is also relevant. Happiness may be related to earlier income-level, but not to present income. If so, that could mean that income effects happiness largely through its effects on self-image in sensitive periods. To separate such developmental data from the bulk of current-state information, the sub-category 'earlier' is standard for all subject-categories in this index.

The distinction between *current* and *later* is a tool in identifying consequences of happiness (rather than its determinants). Hence the sub-category 'later' is standard as well. Yet, data on happiness-sequel are scarce.

5/1.3.2 Characteristic as such vs. Attitude to characteristic

A second distinction is between the respondent's characteristics themselves, and the respondent's attitudes to these characteristics. For instance, in the case of income, income-level must be distinguished from income-attitudes. In rich nations happiness is typically hardly related to (relative) income-level, but sizably related to satisfaction with income. Because happiness is an attitudinal phenomenon itself, it tends to relate more pronouncedly to attitudinal variables.

This distinction is also applied to attitudinal characteristics. Some findings concern an attitude to an attitude, for instance, acceptances of one's own attitude to life.

An example is shown on [Chart 5/1.3](#). This is the case of correlational findings on Happiness and Appearance, which reflects the general pattern of most of the findings concerning the 'current' (same time) correlation and missing finding (0) on effects of earlier happiness on later appearance. The 1 study on change in appearance' is from a medical study among breast cancer patients and

illustrates as such absence of data from plastic surgery. Apparently, the face-lift industry is more concerned with making money than in the happiness of their clients.

Chart 5/1.3

Example of sub-divisions in a main subject category

| Subject code | Description | Number of findings | Keywords / References |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| A07 | APPEARANCE (good looks) | 0 | beauty., disfigured, handsome, homely, looks, mis-shapen, physical attractiveness. pretty <i>See also Main subject: P10 POPULARITY</i> |
| A07aa | Development of one's appearance | 0 | earlier body condition |
| A07aa01 | Earlier appearance | 4 | past looks |
| A07aa02 | Change in appearance | 1 | change looks <i>See also B03ab03 Change in body</i> |
| A07aa03 | Later appearance | 0 | later looks |
| A07ab | Current appearance | 0 | current looks |
| A07ab01 | Ratings of good looks by others | 8 | |
| A07ab02 | Self-rating of good looks | 5 | perceived beauty <i>See also S02ab Current self-characterization</i> |
| A07ac | Attitudes to own appearance | 0 | <i>See also B03ad Attitudes to one's body</i> <i>See also G01ab01 Gender-role attitudes</i> |
| A07ac01 | Interest in appearance | 3 | concern about looks <i>See also C09ab02 Specific concerns</i> |
| A07ad | Satisfaction with one's appearance | 7 | <i>See also S02ad03 Evaluation of aspects of self</i> <i>See also S02ae Current satisfaction with self</i> |

5/1.4 References across subject classes

Any classification involves disputable choices as to what is included what not, for instance, should personal income and possessions put in one hat as 'wealth' or be treated separately? We typically followed the latter path, while bringing the communality to the user's attention providing links to 'related subjects' in the classification.

Examples of such cross references can be seen in the right-hand column of [Chart 5/1.3](#). A click on the green colored link brings the user to that subject category, either a main category (presented in italics *CAPITALS*) or a sub-

category, and from there, links to related subjects will allow further exploration of the cloud of subjects the user is interested in. as will be explained in more detail in section.

Cross-references serve to make the classification better accessible. They allow the use of different search-terms. For instance: someone looking for data on the relation of happiness to 'friendship' can find the appropriate subject-category (F 6) either directly, or through cross-references from 'intimacy', 'love', 'peers' and 'social-participation'. Cross-references also mark related phenomena in this data-collection. For instance, the cross-reference-category 'Standard of living' mentions 'Income' (I 1) and 'Possessions' (P 10).

5/1.5 Key words

Another way to make the subject classification better accessible is to provide keywords with each subject category, typically synonyms. Examples of such keywords can be seen in the right-hand column of [Chart 5/1.3](#), printed non-italic. This feature also allows the people who maintain this database to adjust to change in word-use in the research field by adding keywords.

5/2 CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIFICATIONS

5/2.1 [Use and relevance of specifications](#)

5/2.2 [Classification of specification variables](#) [Chart 5/2.2](#)

5/2.3 [Use of key words](#)

5/2.4 [Links to correlational subjects](#)

5/2.5 [Links to special publics](#)

5/2.1 Use and relevance of specifications

Correlational findings are sometimes 'specified' e.g. when the correlation between happiness and income is presented separately for young and old people. 'Age' is then used as a specification variable. Such splits are also referred to as *elaborations*. Specifications reveal conditional differences in correlation with happiness, for instance when the correlation between happiness and income is stronger among males than among females. Sex is then said to be a *moderator* in the relation between happiness and income. Another term used for specifications is *contingencies*; the relation between happiness and income is then said to be contingent on sex.

Correlational research on happiness aims typically at identifying conditions for happiness and assumed initially that there are conditions that add to the happiness of everybody. Specifications have shown that this is not always true and currently the focus is rather on findings out what works for whom.

5/2.2 Classification of specifications

Specification variables are also sorted by subject and this classification is given below. This classification is a-theoretical; it lists the specification variables that have been used in happiness research so far alphabetically. This classification of specification variables is linked to the classification of correlate subjects discussed above. For illustration: the topic 'gender' figures both as a correlate subject and as a specification variable. [Chart 5/2.2](#) presents the classification of specification variables by October 2021.

Chart 5/2.2
Specification variables by 1-10-2021

| Variable | Number of split findings |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Age | 351 |
| Assessment: conditions during interview | 17 |
| Assessment: Mode | 1 |
| Assessment: order of presentation | 5 |
| Attendance | 2 |
| Children: Characteristics | 1 |
| Children: Having | 27 |
| City | 74 |
| Country/ region of origin | 14 |
| Debts | 1 |
| Deviant | 2 |
| Economic crisis | 9 |
| Education | 70 |
| Employment | 85 |
| Enjoyment | 0 |
| Ethnicity | 117 |
| Family of origin | 1 |
| Fear of crime | 1 |
| Gender | 1582 |
| Handicapped | 12 |
| Happiness | 140 |
| Health | 5 |
| Health: Behavior | 1 |
| Health: Mental | 23 |
| Health: Physical | 9 |
| Homeowner | 1 |
| Housing type | |
| Income | 103 |
| In love | 1 |
| Institution | 29 |
| Internet use | 3 |
| Life-change | 31 |
| Marriage: Characteristics of spouse | 7 |
| Marriage: Relationship | 24 |
| Marriage: Status | 783 |
| Medical treatment | |
| Method of happiness assessment | 1 |
| Migrant | 28 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Migration rate | 2 |
| Mono/dy-zygotic | 5 |
| Mood | 17 |
| Nation: Origin | 12 |
| Nation: Residence | 216 |
| Nation: Consumption | |
| Nation: Regime | |
| Neighborhood | 6 |
| Occupation | 46 |
| Perceived importance of life-domains | 30 |
| Period | 151 |
| Personality | 18 |
| Political preference | 4 |
| Possessions | 1 |
| Preferences | 1 |
| Problems | 1 |
| Public/private sector | 1 |
| Purpose | |
| Region | 109 |
| Religion | 12 |
| Remittances | 2 |
| Retirement | 3 |
| Rural/Urban | 126 |
| Satisfaction (other than with life) | 6 |
| Sexual orientation | |
| Social contacts | 3 |
| Social participation | 4 |
| Social status | 60 |
| Sporting | 1 |
| Stage of study | 11 |
| Stage of life | 24 |
| Stimulants | 3 |
| Support | 3 |
| Time | 25 |
| Time since change | 34 |
| Transgender: vs cisgender | 1 |
| Transgender: Type | 12 |
| Union member | 15 |
| Values | 8 |
| Victimization | 1 |
| Work hours | 2 |
| Work-place characteristics | 28 |

5/2.3 Use of keywords

The terms for categories given above denote meanings that are often also called by other names; for example, 'occupation' is also referred to as 'profession' or just 'job'. Since users of this database may search on such synonyms, 'keywords' are attached to each of the categories, searching on which leads the user to the differently named category in the classification. This use of keywords is also applied in the classification of correlational subjects, cf. section 5/1.5

5/2.4 Links to correlational subjects

A same variable can be used both as a correlate and a specification e.g., in the case of 'age' we can assess whether happiness tends to decline when we grow older (correlation) but also whether determinants of happiness differ across age-groups e.g., whether the effect of income is stronger among the young than the old (specification). For a full understanding of the relationship between happiness and age we need to consider both correlations and specifications. The view on such connections is facilitated in this database using interlinks between subject classifications. The specification variable 'age' figuring in the top of Chart 5/2 links to the correlational subject category AGE given in Chart 5/1.

5/2.5 Links to special publics

Sometimes a specification variable coincides with the population addressed in a study on happiness, for example, when 'young' and 'old' people are sampled. To bring these findings to the attention of its users, this database also provides links to the classification of special publics presented in [Chart 5/4.2.1a](#) of this chapter

5/3 CLASSIFICATION BY MEASURE(S) OF HAPPINESS USED

5/3.1 [Approach to classification of measures of happiness](#) [Chart 5/3.1](#)

5/3.2 [Focus of the measure](#)

5/3.2.1 [Variant of happiness measured](#)

5/3.2.2 [Time frame of measure](#)

5/3.3 [Method of measurement](#)

5/3.3.1 [Mode of observation](#)

5/3.3.2 [Rating-scale used](#)

This text is similar to section 3 in the introductory text to Collection Measures of Happiness

Since this database involves a detailed classification of happiness measures of happiness, findings can also be selected by the measure of happiness used. For instance: one can select all the findings yielded by Bradburn's Affect Balance Scale or by Hunsberger's variant of the Life-graph method. One can then select all the available findings or restrict to findings in a certain correlate class. For example, one can first select the findings on the relation between income (I 1) and happiness as assessed by all questions on Hedonic level affect (coded A) and next the findings on the relation between income and happiness as assessed by questions on Contentment (coded C), to see whether income is more related to how well one feels most of the time (affective component) than to the degree to which one perceives that life brings what one wants from it (cognitive component).

5/3.1 Approach to classification of measures of happiness

Accepted queries are classified in two ways: first by the substantive meaning they tap and second by their methodological characteristics.

The categorization of *meaning* involves in the first place a tagging of the kind of happiness the measure focuses on, for instance whether the focal point is on pleasant mood or on contentment. This is called the *focus* of the measure. Further the measures of happiness are also classified by the period considered. For example, whether a question on happiness pertains to the last few years or to the mood of the moment. This is referred to as the *time frame* of the measure.

The classification of *methodic* aspects starts with the technique by which happiness is assessed. Questioning is the most common method but affect level can also be assessed by behavioral observation (cf. Section 2.2). Next to direct questioning, there are also indirect techniques, such as content analysis of diaries. These assessment methods are referred to as the

measure *mode*.

All assessments of happiness are scored in a way that allows a ranking. Mostly this is done by means of numerical scales, but scores are also recorded on verbally labeled scales or on graphic scales. So, the next subject of classification is the *rating-scale* used. Both the *scale-type* and the *scale-range* are recorded.

Given the many sub-divisions within these five classifications (to be shown below), the number of possible combinations is enormous. However, we see only a limited number of configurations. Many of the measures of happiness fit the same characteristics. The most common measure is a direct question on current life-satisfaction, rated on a numerical 10-step scale.

Still often such measures of happiness differ slightly in *wording*. To keep these differences in mind all query-codes have an extension, which indicate the variant. That extension a character (a, b, c, ...). If a measure-code has an extension 'z', that means that there are at least 26 variants of that item in the catalog.

Chart 5/3.1

Classification of Measures of Happiness

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <i>Substantive Meaning</i> | Focus | The kind of happiness addressed. |
| | Timeframe | The period considered |
| <i>Method of assessment</i> | Mode | The technique by which happiness is assessed |
| | Scale-type | How the observation is scored |
| | Scale range | Number of degrees of happiness distinguished |
| <i>Sub-variant</i> | Wording | Variation in phrasing of otherwise equivalent query |

Example of a much-used measure of happiness

'Taken all together, how would you say things are these days? Would you say that you are....?'

- 3 very happy
- 2 pretty happy
- 1 not too happy

This question is coded: O-HL-c-sq-v-3-aa

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Focus</i> | Overall: Happy Life | O-HL |
| <i>Time frame</i> | currently | c |
| <i>Mode</i> | self-report on single question | sq |
| <i>Scale type</i> | verbal rating scale | v |
| <i>Scale range</i> | 3 step rating scale | 3 |
| <i>Sub-variant</i> | wording variation | aa |

5/3.2 Focus of the measure

5/3.2.1 Variant of happiness measured

Following the conceptual distinction between overall happiness and two components, 4 main kinds of happiness measures are distinguished:

- Measures of overall happiness: coded O
- Measures of Hedonic level of Affect coded A
- Measures of Contentment coded C
- Mixed measures that combine two or three of the above variants coded M

Further sub-divisions are made within these focus categories based on key terms used in questions, such as 'happiness' (coded O-HL) and 'satisfaction with life (coded O-SL). These sub-divisions are presented in detail in the introductory text to the Collection of [Measures of Happiness](#), section 5/3.

5/3.2.2 Time frame of measure

- c currently (presently, today, these days)
- cm last month, last few weeks
- cq last quarter
- cw last week
- cy last year g generally
- h hitherto
- l over lifetime
- ly last year

| | |
|----|---|
| m | momentary, now md last day |
| mh | last hour mi last instant |
| mp | last part of the day |
| se | since event |
| u | time frame unspecified |
| yd | yesterday |
| * | various time frames (in case of mixed measures) |
| ? | time frame not reported |

5/3.3 Method of measurement

5/3.3.1 Mode of observation

- Self-reports
 - Single closed questions
 - Multiple closed questions
 - Open questioning
 - Content-analysis of ego-documents
- Ratings by others
 - Ratings based on clinical contact
 - Ratings based on daily contact
 - Ratings based on systematic observation

5/3.3.2 Rating-scale used

- Graphical scale
- Numerical scale
- Verbal scale

Sub-divisions are presented in more detail in the introductory text to the Collection of [Measures of Happiness](#), section 5/4

5/4 CLASSIFICATION BY PEOPLE INVESTIGATED

5/4.1 [Approach to the classification of people investigated](#)

5/4.2 [Classification by Public](#)

5/4.2.1 [General public](#)

5/4.2.2 [Special publics](#)

- Main categories [Chart 5/4.2.1a](#)
- Example of subdivision [Chart 5/4.2.1b](#)

5/4.3 [Classification by Place](#)

5/4.4 [Classification by Time](#)

All findings in this catalog are linked to characteristics of the study, and one of these characteristics is the population investigated. Hence the findings can also be selected by type of respondents.

5/4.1 Approach of the classification by people

The population studied is characterized by 1) public, 2) place (nation, region) and 3) time (year).

With respect to publics, a main distinction is between the *general public* in a geographical area and *special publics*, such as students, elderly persons, or lottery winners. General public studies are coded by area, mostly a nation. Special publics are coded by features such as age, education, or ethnicity. The full classification is presented on [Chart 5/4.2.1a](#).

5/4.2 Classification by public

With the term 'public' we denote a 'population', that is, a particular kind of people. The 'general public' is all people living in an area, although studies typically restrict to adults. A special public is any more specific group, such as pensioners or teachers,

5/4.2.1 *General public*

The general public in an area is typically studied using probability sampling. There is difference in age-range considered. In the 1950 general population surveys used to sample from age 18 on, but today samples start from age 15 or even 12.

Happiness surveys among the general public are used for assessing the apparent livability of nations and cities (Veenhoven 2005) by comparing with other areas and over time. See the introductory text to the collection of

distributional findings on [Happiness in Nations](#).

5/4.2.2 *Special publics*

A great variety of special publics has been covered in empirical happiness research. See Chart 5/3.2.1a. Sub-groups are discerned with-n these main categories of special publics, as shown in Chart 5/3.2.1b for the main category 'Education'.

Much of the happiness research among special publics is based on non-probability samples, such as in the case of university students, where typically participants in a course complete a questionnaire. We call that a 'chunk sample'.

Chart 5/4.2.1a **Classification of special publics**

| <i>Main class</i> | <i>Number of findings by 1-6-2020</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AGE groups | 1900 |
| CHILDREN special | 5 |
| CONVINCTIONS | 3 |
| COMMUNAL LIVING | 6 |
| DEVIANT | 0 |
| ETHNIC GROUP | 51 |
| EDUCATION | 436 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 206 |
| FAMILY | 45 |
| GENDER | 165 |
| HEALTH | 168 |
| INCOME | 17 |
| INSTITUTIONAL LIVING | 25 |
| INTELLIGENCE | 6 |
| LIFE-HISTORY | 8 |
| LIFE-STYLE | 33 |
| LIFE-STRESS | 55 |
| LOVE-LIFE | 1 |
| MARITAL STATUS | 64 |

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| MIGRATION | 44 |
| MEMBERSHIPS | 8 |
| OCCUPATION | 127 |
| PERSONALITY | 10 |
| PARENTHOOD | 106 |
| POSSESSIONS | 2 |
| PRACTICES | 0 |
| PRISONERS | 2 |
| PROSTITUTES | 3 |
| RELIGION | 4 |
| RESIDENCE | 155 |
| SOCIAL STATUS | 20 |
| SPORTS | 3 |
| THERAPY | 52 |
| WELL-BEING | 2 |

Chart 5/4.2.1b**Example of a subdivision in a main category of special publics**

| <i>Sub class</i> | <i>Number of findings by 1-6-2020</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| EDUCATION | |
| High school pupils | 78 |
| University students | 339 |
| Trainees | 4 |
| Alumni | 5 |
| School-leavers | 3 |
| Highly educated | 6 |

We speak of a 'special public' if this is the population studied and this kind of people was sampled for that purpose. This classification does not cover subgroups in wider populations.

The numbers in the right-hand columns refer to studies that were entered in the finding archive. To date (2020) a lot of studies are still on the waiting list.

5/4.3 Classification by Place

Studies are coded by nation. All the nations in which studies on happiness have been performed are in a list. On that list you also find common combinations of nations, such as EC-nations, African-nations and first world nations.

Many studies deal with selected publics within a nation, for instance with students at a particular university or town. These latter places are described in the excerpts, but not coded.

5/4.4 Classification by Time

Studies are also coded by year. If available, the excerpts also report the months of the year when the interviews took place. That latter information is not coded, however. In case of follow-up studies, the period covered is noted. That information is not coded either.

5/5 CLASSIFICATION BY METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

5/5.1 [Approach to classification of methods](#)

5/5.2 [Study design](#)

5/5.3 [Sampling](#)

[chart 5/5.3](#)

5/5.3.1 [Probability sampling](#)

5/5.3.2 [Non-probability sampling](#)

5.5.4 [Statistics](#)

5/5.1 Classification of methodological features

Findings can also be selected on methodological qualities. One quality is in the design of the study, for instance whether it is a onetime shot or a follow-up. Other qualities are in sampling and statistics.

5/5.2 Study design

Currently, all the studies are classified by means of the following typologies:

- public: general or special
- observation period: snapshot or longitudinal
- comparison: within cultures (mono-cultural) or across cultures (cross-cultural)
- intervention: no intervention (non-experimental) or intervention (experimental)

5/5.3 Sampling

All studies are coded by sampling method. The current classification is presented in chart 5/4.1. The methods discerned can be described as follows:

Sampling is the process by which inference is made to the whole by examining only a part. Usually a limited amount of the subjects is selected out of a wider population. When the process' of sampling is spread over a longer period we speak of *time-sampling* or *multi-phase sampling*.

Two main types of sampling methods are distinguished; probability sampling and non-probability sampling.

5/5.3.1 **Probability sampling**

Subjects are selected at random and for that reason this method allows generalizations over the population out of which this random selection took place. Variants of probability sampling are:

- *Simple random sampling* is selecting respondents without any system or criterion. For example, haphazardly picking names out of parish registers. The only system allowed in this method is preventing that the same person is invited more than once to cooperate in the study.
- *Systematic probability sampling* allows for some system in choosing the subjects if this system does not interfere with the aim of the study. For example, drawing every first name out of a register or inviting the head of the household of house nr 5 of every street in town. This procedure is also known as *pseudo random sampling* and *ordinal sampling*. A variant of this method is random start sampling. Here some files of a register are chosen at simple random and thereafter used in a systematic way. The procedure is also known as the method of interpenetrating sub-samples. '
- More criteria are introduced with *stratified sampling*. Here the distribution of special characteristics in the sample is manipulated. This procedure is also known as controlled sampling, for example the age of the subjects may be controlled. If the investigator wants the distribution of his sample to be equal to the distribution of age in his population, he draws a sample proportionally stratified by age. If he wants to be sure that there will be enough 90-year old subjects in his sample, he will be inclined to draw a disproportional sample with relatively more old people.

Often the population is too great to take a simple random sample. The inhabitants of a nation are not all represented in one great file. So, for convenience' s sake samples are sometimes drawn from clusters, such as towns, companies, households, schools, etc. Usually they are selected by simple or stratified random sampling methods.

- When the cluster is geographically defined, we speak of *area sampling*.
- The method of first selecting a few areas, next several households within these areas and finally the subjects within the households is called *multi-stage sampling*.

5/5.3.2 **Non-probability sampling**

In these methods, implicit or explicit criteria for selection are used. For that reason, these sampling methods provide no basis for generalization. Only when the sample thus constructed can be shown to equal the population in the distribution of some relevant characteristics, some generality may be claimed. Non-probability methods are often used in exploratory research where the focus is on generating new ideas. probability methods fit better with the objectives of describing and testing studies.

- The simplest method of non-probability sampling is *accidental sampling*. One simply reaches out and takes the cases that fall to hand, continuing the process until the sample reaches a designed size, without paying attention to possible distortions in the distribution of essential variables due to the way of selection.
- When the selection is not totally hap-hazard, but a group is taken which allows some prediction of the distortion in the distribution of the variables aimed at, we use the term *chunk sample*. For example, a class of students, members of a club, employees of a firm, etc.
- *Purposive sampling* is selecting subjects on basis of some criteria which are relevant for the variables in the study. When these criteria are vague and complex, this selection of ten takes place by *expert choice*. for example, in a study of drug addiction a police-officer can select high-addiction districts in the town, or he can bring the investigator into contact with some addicts who on their turn can supply more subjects. Expert choice is also used when the composition of two contrasting samples is necessary: for example, healthy and unhealthy employees by the factory-doctor.
- Another form of non-probability purposive sampling is *quota sampling*, also called *stratified non-random sampling* and *interviewer selected sampling*, where an interviewer chooses the subjects on the basis of some instructions, for example, to find subjects of certain age, sex and educational level.

Chart 5/5.3 Classification of sampling methods

Probability sampling

- Simple random sample
- Cluster sample
- Stratified sample
- Systematic sample
- Multi-stage area sample

Non-Probability

- Accidental sample
- Chunk sample
- Snowball sample
- Purposive sample
- Quota sample

Mixed sampling

No sample: full population

Sampling not reported

When reported, the excerpts also note the amount of non-response and checks for non-response selectivity.

5/5.4 **Statistics**

Observed statistical relationships are quantified by means of different statistics. Since these statistics are recorded at the level of findings, it is possible to select findings based on statistical methods. For instance, by selecting statistic 'Beta' one can get to all the findings that used multiple regression as a statistical technique. An overview of the statistics was presented above in [chapter 4](#) of this introductory text.

5/6 HOW TO USE THESE CLASSIFICATIONS IN SEARCH FOR PARTICULAR FINDINGS

5/6.1 [Selection of correlational findings by subject](#)

5/6.2 [Selection of correlational findings by happiness measure](#)

5/6.3 [Selection of correlational findings by people investigated](#)

5/6.4 [Selection of correlational findings by methodology](#)

The above-mentioned classifications can be used to select correlational findings on happiness. This can be done on the website using the search screen as shown below. Findings can be searched on each of the classifications separately, e.g. only on 'subject', but also in combination with other classifications, such as on subject and population together. For example, a search for findings on happiness and income (subject) among married people (special public).

5/6.1 Selection of correlational findings on subject

On top at the right in the screen dump below is a search field in which the subject classification appears, as shown in [Chart 5/1.2](#). A click on 'Add filter' opens additional search options on 'keywords' added to subject categories and words used in the descriptions of how a correlate was measured and of how the observed correlation was specified.

The screenshot shows the 'WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'This database', 'Collections', 'Search', 'Reports', 'Related', 'Research Field', 'FAQs', 'About us', and 'Join us'. Below this is a 'Search collections' section with a 'print' icon. A row of filters includes 'Bibliography', 'Studies', 'Measures of happiness', 'Distributional findings', 'Correlational findings', and 'Search all'. The 'Findings by subject' section is active, showing a search field with the text 'Type/Select Subject Classification'. Below the search field is an 'Add filter' dropdown menu with the following options: 'Subject Classification', 'Classification keyword', 'Word in text field operationalization', and 'Word in text field 'Elaboration''. Below this are sections for 'Findings by methodology' and 'Findings by measures of happiness used', each with an 'Add filter' button.

5/6.2 Selection of correlational findings by happiness measure

At the bottom of the screen dump below are the features of of happiness measures as shown above in [Chart 5/3.1](#), which can be used separately and in combination

The screenshot shows the 'Search collections' page with several filter sections. The 'Findings by measures of happiness used' filter is expanded, showing a list of options: Conceptual focus, Time Frame, Observation method, Scale type, Scale Length, and Word(s) in measure. Below the filters is a table of search results.

| Year | | Measure(s) used | Author's label | Finding |
|-------|------|------------------|--|---------|
| first | last | | | |
| 2015 | 2016 | A-AB-cm-mq-v-5-f | Positive Psychology Intervention program | |

5/6.3 Selection of correlational findings by people investigated

In the middle of the screen dump below one can see the classifications discussed in [section 5/3](#) of this chapter.

The screenshot shows the 'Search collections' page with several filter sections. The 'Findings by people studied' filter is expanded, showing a list of options: Special Public, Nation / Region, and Year when study was conducted. The page header includes the logo and navigation menu.

5/6.4 Selection of correlational findings by methodology

On the screen dump below one can see the classification of methodological features, discussed in [section 5/4](#) of this chapter

The screenshot shows the 'Correlational findings' section of the World Database of Happiness. It features a navigation bar with icons for Bibliography, Studies, Measures of happiness, Distributional findings, Correlational findings, and Search all. Below the navigation bar, there are four filter sections: 'Findings by subject', 'Findings by people studied', 'Findings by methodology', and 'Findings by measures of happiness used'. The 'Findings by methodology' section is active, showing a filter for 'Assessment method' with 'Diary' selected. Below the filters, it states 'Found 62 Findings' and 'For query: Assessment method Diary'. A table displays the results of the search.

| Population | | Place | | Year | | Measure(s) used | Author's label | Finding |
|------------|------------------------|--------|------------|-------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Public | special | nation | region | first | last | | | |
| - | Psycho-therapy clients | AU | Queensland | 2012 | - | A-AB-md-mqr-v-5-a O-DT-c-sq-v-7-f | Gratitude and kindness interventions | |
| - | Academics | GB | - | 1920 | - | A-ASA-ml-mnr-n-7-a | Intensity of feelings | |

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