



**Well-being and Modernization in China:  
Accounting for regional differentiations in economic development**

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The regional differentiations in national income and well-being in China has already met with wide concern of researchers and regional planners. Based on 5 waves data of world value survey(WVS) this paper reexamines the relationship between national income per capita and subjective well-being. , Exploration of the relevant factors led to the following conclusions: (1) Since 1990 up to now, the well-being curve in China was U-shaped, and the mean value of life satisfaction has declined in general. (2) The results of horizontal comparison of different provinces showed that there is no significant positive relationship between income and well-being during the modernization as many poor western provinces have relative high satisfaction of life while some rich eastern or southern provinces just have very low level of life satisfaction. (3)The results of vertical comparison of different provinces selected according to regions showed that the declining level of well-being is closely related to unemployment, dismantling of social safety net, and growing income inequality. (4)Through analysis of the economic, political and social factors, we attempt to make interpretation of happiness - its changes and differentiation in various provinces or municipalities - a more rational and closer to the real conditions and their perception in the population.

**Keywords:** life satisfaction; happiness; Easterlin paradox; World Value Survey.