Special Issue: Well-Being and Public Policy

This special issue of Philosophy and Public Policy Quarterly contains papers from a workshop on well-being and public policy held at the University of Manchester in September of 2012. The workshop was inspired in part by a 2010 speech by British Prime Minister David Cameron, who argued that the UK government must aim to measure the progress of the nation “not just by how our economy is growing, but by how our lives are improving; not just by our standard of living, but by our quality of life.” As Sam Wren-Lewis points out in his contribution, the trend toward so-called subjective measures of well-being – which is not unique to the UK – might suggest that the use of such measures for policy purposes is less problematic than it really is. The five papers in this issue explore from different perspectives the challenges and opportunities, advantages and disadvantages, associated with the use of such measures. As the papers illustrate, the debate about the philosophy and public policy of well-being, far from being settled, has only just begun.

Erik Angner, Guest Editor

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