

# Lucía Macchia

Women and Public Policy Program  
Harvard Kennedy School | Harvard University  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2020-	<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> – Women and Public Policy Program Harvard Kennedy School   Harvard University
	<b>Research Affiliate</b> - Wellbeing Research Centre University of Oxford
	<b>Research Affiliate</b> – STAR Lab Harvard University
2019-2020	<b>Research Fellow</b> - Wellbeing Research Centre University of Oxford
2017-2018	<b>Research Associate</b> - Wellbeing Programme, Centre for Economic Performance. The London School of Economics and Political Science

## EDUCATION

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2016-2020	<b>PhD in Psychology</b> City, University of London
Spring 2019	<b>Visiting scholar</b> Harvard Business School
2014-2015	<b>MSc in Behavioural Economics</b> City, University of London
2006-2010	<b>Bachelor of Business Administration</b> School of Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Subjective wellbeing, inequality, opportunities, public policy.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

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2018	ESRC South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) & Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Business Boost Industry Engagement Fund. £5,000.
2018	Worshipful Company of Saddlers travel bursary. £1,000.

- 2016-2019 School of Arts and Social Sciences Doctoral Studentship/Teaching Fellowship. City, University of London. £48,000.
- 2014-2015 School of Arts and Social Sciences International Excellence Scholarship for the MSc Behavioural Economics. City, University of London. £5,000.
- 2014-2015 MSc Behavioural Economics bursary. City, University of London. £5,000.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Macchia, L.**, Plagnol, A.C., & Powdthavee, N. (2020). Buying happiness in an unequal world: Rank of income more strongly predicts wellbeing in unequal countries. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 46(5), 769-780.

Whillans, A.V., & **Macchia, L.**, Dunn, E. (2019). Valuing time over money predicts happiness after a major life transition: A pre-registered longitudinal study of graduating students. *Science Advances*, 5, 9.

**Macchia, L.\***, & Whillans, A.V.\* (2019). Leisure beliefs and the subjective well-being of nations. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.

**Macchia, L.**, & Plagnol, A.C. (2019). Life satisfaction and confidence in national institutions: Evidence from South America. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 14(3), 721-736.

**Macchia, L.**, Plagnol, A.C. & Reimers, S. (2018). Does experience with high inflation affect intertemporal decision making? Sensitivity to inflation rates in Argentine and British delay discounting choices. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 75, 76–83.

\*Shared first authorship.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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**Macchia, L.**, & Plagnol, A.C. (2019). The subjective well-being political paradox: Evidence from Latin America. Chapter in: Mariano Rojas (ed.). *The Economics of Happiness: How the Easterlin Paradox Transformed our Understanding of Wellbeing and Progress*. Oxford University Press.

Plagnol, A.C., & **Macchia, L.** (2018). Economics of subjective well-being: Evaluating the evidence for the Easterlin Paradox. Chapter in: Ayse K. Uskul and Shige Oishi (eds.). *Socioeconomic Environment and Human Psychology: Social, Ecological, and Cultural Perspectives*. Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780190492908.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR REVISION

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Proulx, J.\* , **Macchia, L.\*** , Aknin, L.B., & Whillans, A.V. Can youth-focused prosociality interventions increase generosity? A pre-registered field experiment. Invited revision: *Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology*.

**Macchia, L.**, & Whillans, A.V. Understanding whether and when income inequality is associated with happiness: The case of Latin America. Under review: *World Development*.

Gonzalez, A., **Macchia, L.**, & Whillans, A.V. The perpetuation of inequality: Parental transmission and behavioral consequences of children's inequality attributions. Under review: *Psychological Science*.

**Macchia, L.**, & Ariely, D. Building on people's sense of justice: A novel approach to elicit preferences for redistribution. Under review: *Research Policy*.

**Macchia, L.**, & Oswald, A. Physical pain, gender, and the business cycle in 146 nations. Under review: *Psychological Science*.

**Macchia, L.**\*, & Whillans, A.V.\* Whether & when income & income inequality shape generosity around the world: A multiverse approach. Under review: *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

\*Shared first authorship.

## SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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**Macchia, L.**, Easterlin, R.A., & Plagnol, A.C. Trends and fluctuations in subjective well-being in Latin America since the 1990s. Target journal: *World Development*. *Finished manuscript*.

**Macchia, L.** Educational opportunities, social mobility, and the happiness of the rich: Cross-national and experimental evidence. Target journal: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the USA*. *Finished manuscript*.

Plagnol, A., Kanji, S., Chung, H., & **Macchia, L.** The gendered division of the mental load among couples: Development and validation of a quantitative measure. Target journal: *Gender, Work and Organization*. *Write-up in progress*.

## PRESS ARTICLES

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Gómez, M., & **Macchia, L.** (2020). The importance of trust in government. *Contribution to Dispatches from the Behavioral Scientists Fighting Coronavirus in the Global South*. *Behavioral Scientist*.

Soto Mota, P. I., **Macchia, L.**, & Gómez, M. (2020). Building trust to face the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries. *Behavioral Scientist*.

Whillans, A., Giurge, L.M., **Macchia, L.**, & Yemiscigil, A. (2020). Why a Covid-19 world feels both tiring and hopeful for college students. *Harvard Business Review Ascend*.

**Macchia, L.**, Plagnol, A.C., & Powdthavee, N. (2019). Why do people tolerate income inequality? *Harvard Business Review*.

**Macchia, L.** & Whillans, A.W. (2019). Happiness after graduation. *Thrive Global*.

**Macchia, L., & Plagnol, A.C. (2018).** Life ratings and trust in institutions in South America. *Gallup*.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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**Forbes (2019).** The 10 happiest countries in the world, and how they got there (2019).

**The Telegraph (2019).** You don't need a lot of money to be happy, as long as you're richer than your friends, study finds.

**Tech Round (2019).** Earning more than your peers buys more happiness in countries with a larger rich-poor divide.

**Financial advisor (2019).** It's not how much you make, it's how you rank among peers.

**Finanzwelt (2019).** Einkommensungleichheit fördert Zufriedenheit.

**ANSA Latina (2018).** La desconfianza ciudadana reina en Sudamérica.

## **CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

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2020	Wellbeing Research Centre – Weekly seminar. University of Oxford, United Kingdom.
2020	Behavioral Insights Group Doctoral Workshop. Harvard Kennedy School, United States.
2019, 2020	MSc in Behavioural Economics Seminar. City, University of London; London, United Kingdom.
2018	Common Cents Lab - Centre for Advanced Hindsight. Duke University, North Carolina, United States.
2018	USC Happiness Conference in honour of Richard A. Easterlin. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, United States.
2017	15 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS). University of Innsbruck School of Management, Innsbruck, Austria.

## **TEACHING**

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### **Postgraduate teaching:**

2020/2021	Teaching assistant. MLD304 Science of Behavior Change Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University
2019/2020	Lecturer PEM102 Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice MSc Behavioural Economics. City, University of London

- 2016-2020 Teaching assistant PEM104 Behavioural Research Methods: Design and Analysis  
MSc Behavioural Economics. City, University of London
- 2016-2018 Teaching assistant PEM107 Applied Econometric and Psychological Research Methods  
MSc Behavioural Economics. City, University of London
- 2016-2018 Teaching assistant PEM101 Principles of Economics  
MSc Behavioural Economics. City, University of London

### **Undergraduate teaching:**

- Summer 2019 Lecturer MG101 - Marketing Summer School.  
The London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2018, 2019 Guest lecturer Introduction to Quantitative Inference.  
City, University of London
- 2016, 2017 Guest lecturer Topics in Behavioural Economics.  
BSc Psychology. City, University of London
- Summer 2016 Lecturer Decision making: rationality or intuition? Bachelor of Business Administration.  
School of Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2016-2017 IPSOS Mori – Behavioural Science Consultant.  
London, United Kingdom.
- 2012-2014 Petrobras Argentina S.A. – Strategic Planning Analyst.  
City of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011-2012 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu – Enterprise Risk Services Consultant.  
City of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **STATISTICS SOFTWARE**

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R, Stata.

### **LANGUAGES**

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Spanish (native), English (fluent), French and Italian (intermediate).

### **REFERENCES**

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**Anke C. Plagnol**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, City, University of London.  
anke.plagnol.1@city.ac.uk

**Andrew J. Oswald**, Professor of Economics and Behavioural Science. University of Warwick.  
andrew.oswald@warwick.ac.uk

**Dan Ariely**, James B. Duke Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics, The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University. dan@danariely.com