



# Human Flourishing and Causal Inference

## Abstract

Many empirical studies throughout the social and biomedical sciences and many policy discussions focus only on very narrow outcomes such as income, or a single specific disease state, or measures of positive affect. Human well-being or flourishing, however, consists in a much broader range of states and outcomes. Flourishing might be understood as living in a state in which all aspects of a person's life are good including, but not limited to, happiness and life satisfaction, physical and mental health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, and close social relationships. The empirical literature from experimental, longitudinal, and quasi-experimental studies is reviewed in attempt to identify major determinants of, and resources for, human flourishing. Principles of causal inference are used to carefully evaluate evidence. Measures of human flourishing are proposed. Discussion is given to the implications of a broader conception of human flourishing for personal well-being, for research, and for policy.



Image from Pixabay



**Tyler J. VanderWeele**  
Harvard University

## Biography

Tyler J. VanderWeele, Ph.D., is the John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Director of the [Human Flourishing Program](#) and Co-Director of the [Initiative on Health, Religion and Spirituality](#) at Harvard University. His research has focused on the application of causal inference to epidemiology, as well as on the relationship between religion and health. He is the recipient of the 2017 [Presidents' Award](#) from the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS). He has published over three hundred papers in peer-reviewed journals and he also writes a monthly blog posting on topics related to human flourishing for [Psychology Today](#).

**THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2021**  
**8.00 PM (SG Time)**

**12.00 PM (GMT Time)**

ONLINE LECTURE

This event will last about an hour.

**EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

ZOOM Link will be provided after registration is received and processed.



Email: [ims@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ims@nus.edu.sg)

