



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI
ALDO MORO

DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA E FINANZA
DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN “ECONOMIA E FINANZA DELLE
AMMINISTRAZIONI PUBBLICHE”

CICLO DI SEMINARI INTERNI DEFAP 2024/2025
Martedì 2 Luglio 2024 | ore 11:30

***“International Migration and Well-Being of the Left Behind:
Proposing the Role of Happiness Remittances”***

Relatore:

Dott. *Marco Micunco* | Dottorando, **Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro**

Abstract:

International migration has profound implications not only for migrants themselves but also for the family members they leave behind. This study analyses the impact of the departure of a family member by looking at the subjective well-being (SWB) of non-migrating family members in Poland. The study leverages on a longitudinal dataset and employs fixed effects model. Our findings indicate a significant, positive influence of international migration on the well-being of non-migrating family members, with effects that are considerable i.e., half the size of the marriage effect. Secondly, we investigated the heterogeneity of the results, revealing that the effect is largely attributable to partners and sons left behind, while there is no significant effect when the individual left behind is the head of the household. Finally, we question the prevailing notion that the financial gains experienced by families following the international migration of a member fully account for the observed enhancements in SWB. Initial evidence suggests that these financial improvements contribute only partially to the overall effect. This revelation paves the way for a novel concept: “happiness remittances” - the well-being enhancement experienced by those left behind, stemming from the perception that their migrant relatives are leading happier and more successful lives abroad. This phenomenon suggests a form of emotional contagion and intra-family altruistic behavior, where the positive perceptions of migrants’ success abroad, positively affect the mood and overall psychological state of their non-migrating family members.

Coordinatori del ciclo di seminari:

Dott.ssa *Paola C.D. De Pascalis*, Dott. *Fabio Farella* | **Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro**

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primo piano (in modalità ibrida, su richiesta, al codice Teams: 7ot1x43)