Ekaterina Oparina

Contact Information

Centre for Economic Performance
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Research Interests Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Public Economics, Applied Econometrics

Academic Positions

Research Economist, Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), LSE	2020–present
Research Affiliate, Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford	2021–present

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Surrey Thesis: "Econometric Analysis of Subjective Wellbeing Data" Supervisors: Sorawoot Srisuma and Jo Blanden	2016–2020
M.P.A., Higher School of Economics (HSE), Russia	2009–2011
B.Sc. Economics, HSE	2005–2009

Previous Positions

Consultant, then Deputy Head, Centre for Applied Economics, HSE	2011–2016
Research Assistant, Centre for Public-Private Interactions, HSE	2015–2016

Job Market Paper

Oparina, E., Krekel, C., & Srisuma, S. (2026). **"Talking Therapy: Impacts of a Nationwide Mental Health Service."**
CEP Discussion Paper 1982, IZA Discussion Paper
Reject & Resubmit at American Economic Journal: Economic Policy
Media: IZA Opinion Piece

We provide the first causal evidence on the effectiveness of a nationwide mental health service in England for treating depression and anxiety using non-experimental data. Exploiting oversubscription and resulting exogenous variation in waiting times across areas and over time, and based on a novel dataset of over one million patients, we find that treatment significantly improves mental health and reduces impairment in work and social life. We also provide suggestive evidence of employment gains. Impacts vary across patients and services. Nevertheless, the programme is highly cost-effective. Mental health problems impose high costs but can be treated cost-effectively at scale.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Cotofan, M., Krekel, C., & Oparina, E. (2026). **"Getting Fit by Doing Good: Exercise, Volunteering, and Mental Health at Scale."** *Social Science & Medicine*, 408, 119707. [Link]

Kaiser, C., Oparina, E., & Oswald, A. (2026). **"Is it Psychologically Dangerous to Live in a Rich Area? Evidence from Census-Matched Micro Data on Suicides in England and Wales."** *The Review of Income and Wealth*, 72(4), e70095. [Link]

Rzepnicka, K., Sharland, E., Rossa, M., Dolby, T., Oparina, E., Saunders, R., Ayoubkhani, D., & Nafilyan, V. (2026). **"The Effect of Adult Psychological Therapies on Employment and Earnings: Evidence from England."** *Psychological Medicine*, 56, e33. [Link]
Media: LSE Business Review, CentrePiece

Cooper, K.B., Heffetz, O., Ifcher, J., Oparina, E., & Wu, S. (2026). **"Teaching Happiness (Economics) in Your Dismal-Science Courses."** *The Journal of Economic Education*, 1–15. [Link]

Oparina, E., Kaiser, C., Gentile, N., Tkatchenko, A., Clark, A., De Neve, J-E., & D'Ambrosio, C. (2025). **"Machine Learning in the Prediction of Human Wellbeing."** *Scientific Reports*, 15(1632). [Link]

Oparina, E. & Srisuma, S. (2022). **"Analyzing Subjective Wellbeing Data with Misclassification."** *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, 40(2), 730–743. [Link]

Chen, L.-Y., Oparina, E., Powdthavee, N., & Srisuma, S. (2022). **"Robust Ranking of Happiness Outcomes: A Median Regression Perspective."** *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 200, 672–686. [Link]
Media: VoxEU

Working Papers

Kirchmaier, T. & Oparina, E. (2026). **"Under Pressure: Victim Withdrawal and Police Officer Workload."**
CEP Discussion Paper 1985
Revise & Resubmit at The Journal of Law and Economics
Media: LSE British Politics and Policy, CentrePiece, CEP Policy Brief

Layard, R. & Oparina, E. (2026). **"What is the Public's Social Welfare Function?"**
CEP Discussion Paper 2190
Revise & Resubmit at Economica

Oparina, E., Clark, A.E., & Layard, R. (2024). **"The Easterlin Paradox at 50."**
CEP Discussion Paper 2048
Revise & Resubmit at The Review of Income and Wealth, 2nd round minor revision requested
Media: Financial Times, Vox, Alternatives Économiques, LSE Inequalities, Economics Observatory

Oparina, E., Krekel, C., Parkes, I., Srisuma, S., & Clark, D. (2025). **"A New Approach to Evaluating the Effectiveness of Clinical Healthcare Services Using Population-Wide Patient Data: An Illustration with the NHS Talking Therapies Programme."**
Revise & Resubmit at BMJ Mental Health

Bhattacharya, D., Oparina, E., & Xu, Q. (2024). **"Empirical Welfare Analysis with Hedonic Budget Constraints."**
CEP Discussion Paper 2050
Under Review

Work in Progress

The Effects of the Nation-Wide NHS and Care Volunteer Responders Programme (with C. Krekel, A. Boler, and A. Smith)

Evaluating a Lay-Led Interpersonal Counselling Intervention for Depression in Brazilian Primary Care: A Randomised Controlled Trial (with D. Frayman, B. Baron, and C. Krekel)

The Crime Impact of Providing Mental Health Support in Schools (with M. Cotofan, C. Krekel, and C. Villa)

Income Sources and Life Satisfaction: Evidence from the UK Family Resources Survey, 2013–2023 (with R. Layard)

Comparing Effectiveness of CBT and Counselling for Depression in Routine Practice: Evidence from Population-Wide NHS Talking Therapies Data (with D. Clark, C. Krekel, I. Parkes, and S. Srisuma)

Policy Reports and Book Chapters

Layard, R. & Oparina, E. (2021). **"Living Long and Living Well: The WELLBY Approach."** In *UN World Happiness Report 2021.* Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Layard, R., Oparina, E., De Neve, J.-E., & Kaats, M. (2023). **"Exercises."** In R. Layard & J.-E. De Neve (Eds.), *Wellbeing: Science and Policy.* Cambridge University Press.

Research Projects

WELLMOD: A Wellbeing Micro-Simulation Model to Enhance Wellbeing for the Future. Researcher; led the development of the model's first working prototype. PI: C. Krekel (LSE), with A. Clark (Paris School of Economics), C. D'Ambrosio (University of Luxembourg), and A. Gromada (Polish Academy of Sciences). Funded by CHANSE. 2025–2028

Grants

100x Impact Accelerator Grant, "Closing the Gap: Evaluating a Lay-led Intervention to Support People with Depressive Symptoms in Brazilian Primary Health Care," with C. Krekel, D. Frayman, and ImpulsoGov. **£82,000**. Co-I. 2025

LSE Cohesive Capitalism Programme Grant, data collection for "What is the Public's Social Welfare Function?", with R. Layard. **£5,500**. PI. 2025

Labour Markets Evaluation and Pilots (LMEP) Fund Grant, "Labour Market Outcomes of NHS Talking Therapies," joint with ONS. **£480,075**. Co-I. 2024

ESRC SDAI Grant, "Analysing Heterogeneous Effects of the IAPT Programme," with C. Krekel and S. Srisuma. **£240,000**. Co-I. 2022

Research for ClimateXchange on Climate Journalism, with C. Krekel, via LSE Consulting. **$25,000**. 2025

Peer Review of Research on Life Satisfaction and Housing Quality, DLUHC, via LSE Consulting. **£10,000**. 2024

Awards and Fellowships

LSE Excellence in Education Award 2023, 2024, 2025

LSE Teaching Award 2023

Doctoral Scholarship, University of Surrey 2016–2020

Teaching

PP424: Happiness and Public Policy, School of Public Policy, LSE (postgraduate, MPA/MPP), co-teaching with R. Layard. Evaluations: 4.8/5, 4.8/5, 5/5 2023–2025

Master Dissertation Supervision, Dept. of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE (37 dissertations) 2023–2025

PB421: Happiness, Dept. of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE (postgraduate). Evaluations: 4.7/5 2024

Module on Happiness and Public Policy, The Urban95 Academy, Van Leer Foundation × LSE (executive) 2024

Teaching Assistant, University of Surrey (undergraduate): Intermediate Econometrics (4.5/5, 4.6/5), 2019–2020; Principles of Microeconomics (4.2/5) and Introductory Economics (3.9/5), 2018 2018–2020

Seminars and Conferences

2027: ASSA Annual Meeting (*planned*)

2026: LSE Wellbeing Seminar, Mental health and labour market outcomes (University of Essex)

2025: City St George's University, Welfare & Policy Conference (Bordeaux), Measuring Progress Seminar Series (Luxembourg), ISQOLS Conference, Easterlin Memorial Workshop (Paris School of Economics), UK Government Economic Service (GES)

2024: ASSA Annual Meeting, LSE Mental Health Workshop, City University, CEP Annual Conference, Office for National Statistics, Highland Health Economics Symposium, Van Leer Foundation, Warwick Business School, IFS-CAGE Workshop on the Economics of Mental Health, EEA-ESEM Congress

2023: Royal Economic Society and Scottish Economic Society Annual Meeting, Canadian Economic Association, Measuring Progress Annual Workshop (Luxembourg), LSE Wellbeing Seminar

2022: LSE Wellbeing Seminar, Loughborough University, Mental Health and Economic Status Workshop (University of Warwick)

2021: Global Wellbeing Summit (Gallup)

2019: LSE Wellbeing Seminar, European Meeting of the Econometric Society, IAAE Annual Conference, Royal Economic Society Symposium of Junior Researchers

Professional Service

Associate Editor, Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) 2025–

Member, OpenSAFELY Talking Therapies Expert Advisory Panel (NHS secure analytics platform for electronic health records)

Co-Organizer, LSE Wellbeing Seminar 2021–2025

Fellow, Higher Education Academy 2019–

Referee for journals: Economica, The Economic Journal, Empirical Economics, Health Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Happiness Studies, Jour-

nal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, Nature Communications, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Review of Income and Wealth, the Unjournal

Referee for conferences: European Association of Young Economists 2024, 2025

Grant reviewer: UK Research and Innovation, Colt

Personal

Citizenship: United Kingdom, Russia.

References

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Last updated: November 2026