

Global Wellbeing Initiative Newsletter, Volume IV

STRIVING TOWARD WELLBEING FOR ALL

JANUARY 2022

Welcome to the Global Wellbeing Initiative Newsletter.

Happy New Year, readers! As the GWI community continues to grow, we are eager to share what we are learning from each other and discovering along the way. In this newsletter, we cover highlights from our end-of-year discussion with Jeffrey Sachs, insights from our Annual Summit and updates on our most recent article.

Have anything you would like to share with the community? Please email us at contact@globalwellbeinginitiative.org, and we may include your work in our next issue.

With gratitude,
The GWI Team

WORLD POLL UPDATE



Priscilla Standridge, Ph.D.

We are currently reviewing all the 2021 datasets from the GWI World Poll question. Collecting global data continues to present challenges in the midst of the enduring pandemic; however, we expect to have wellbeing data for over 120 countries and will be sharing the results publicly Fall 2022.

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Kristjan Archer

2021 was a busy year for the GWI, and we are so glad that you, reader, were along for the ride!

We started the year off by launching our [World of Wellbeing](#) podcast series with Dr. Louise Lambert. This collection of conversations with wellbeing experts around the world covered everything from how phones impact your wellbeing to the effects of religion and spirituality. If you haven't checked them out yet, they are worth a listen.

Last year we also brought a stacked roster of researchers and thought leaders to our quarterly webinar series. The likes of Tyler VanderWeele from Harvard's Human Flourishing Program, Nancy Hey of the What Works Wellbeing Centre and Sir Richard Layard from the Centre for Economic Performance joined Gallup's Editor-in-Chief Mohamed to discuss their work. We ended 2021 with a remarkable discussion with Professor Jeffrey Sachs and heard his comments on how the past year affected our happiness (more on that in a later section). To watch these past webinars, visit [our YouTube channel](#) or find them at globalwellbeinginitiative.org.

Finally, we announced an exciting new partnership with Nikkei Media Group for a quarterly survey of Japanese wellbeing. This partnership is the first of what will be many to help measure and improve wellbeing around the world.

In summary, the GWI had a busy 2021, but we couldn't be more excited for 2022 and hope you will continue our journey with us as we try to make wellbeing more globally inclusive.

GW I WEBINAR RECAP



WATCH: A Year in Review With Jeffrey Sachs: How 2021 Reshaped Our Happiness

Professor Jeffrey Sachs and Mohamed Younis

2021 was a challenging year. Extreme weather, poverty and inequality, and the ever-present COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on people's wellbeing.

Despite this, we have also seen progress through the pain. Given the events that have transpired, we must ask ourselves: How did 2021 reshape our happiness?

Watch Jeffrey D. Sachs, university professor and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Gallup Editor-in-Chief Mohamed Younis discuss how the past year affected our collective and personal happiness and action items that we can take into 2022 to create conditions for the greatest possible happiness.

INSIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL SUMMIT



GW I's 2021 Annual Summit was the first time the summit held separate roundtables for scholarly and policy discussions. These discussions took place over multiple days with leading academics and changemakers from around the world. Conversation focused around the central question: How can we create a globally inclusive measurement of wellbeing?

Check out the key points that were distilled from the roundtables, as well as other insights from the summit, on the GW I website.

STAY IN TOUCH

contact@globalwellbeinginitiative.org

To find out more about the Global Wellbeing Initiative, visit www.globalwellbeinginitiative.org

SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY



Toward the end of 2021, Dr. Tim Lomas of the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard and senior researcher for the Wellbeing for the Planet Earth Foundation penned an engaging article on finding "calmness and tranquility amidst the chaos" of the holiday season. We share this with you now to reflect upon at the start of a new year.

Peace on Earth?

By Tim Lomas

As the holiday season approaches, many people enter — willingly or not — into a reflective mood. Alongside the parties and presents, as the year draws to a close, a quiet space is opened outside of hectic daily routines, inviting meaningful contemplation about one's life. However, these meditations may have ...