Valuing the welfare effects of air pollution in the Jinchuan mining area

Li, Zhengtao

Propositions with the PhD thesis of Zhengtao Li
Valuing welfare effects of air pollution in the Jinchuan mining area

PROPOSITIONS

1. The notion of happiness is a complement, not a substitute for the conventional money measures of equivalent variation and compensating variation. It therefore deserves as prominent a position in (environmental) economics and regional science as the traditional money measures (this thesis).

2. Since subjective risk has at least as large an impact on people's happiness as objective risk, it deserves at least as prominent a position in welfare analysis as its objective counterpart (this thesis).

3. Ignoring internal mental processes, and the factors that play a role in it, like attitudes, perception and knowledge, will lead to inadequate explanations of people's (environmental) behavior (this thesis).

4. Since structural equation modeling with latent variables (SEM) allows adequate measurement and handling of unobservable variables, it is an outstanding econometric approach in behavioral economics and regional science (this thesis).

5. Economic development and environmental protection are becoming more and more intertwined and will become increasingly dependent on each other (This thesis).

6. The linked processes of economic growth and environmental degradation pose new security threats to an already insecure world. They impact the vulnerability of ecosystems and societies, and the least resilient ecosystems. The livelihoods of the poorest communities are most at risk. (Najam, 2007)

7. We are awash in a sea of uncertainty, caused by a flood tide of sampling and measurement errors (Abelson, 1997). SEM is a lifebuoy in this sea as it allows accounting for measurement errors in the explanatory variables and thus reduces bias towards zero (Folmer and Oud, 2008).

8. Health risk perceptions deserve a prominent place in environmental analyses because they are theoretically interesting, managerially relevant, and have implications for people's welfare and public policy (Menon, 1998).

9. How to gain, keep, or recover happiness is for most men at all times the secret motive for all they do (William, 1972).

10. Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort (Franklin Roosevelt, 1933).