



Abstract



World Futures Studies Federation
19th World Conference
"Futures Generation for Future Generations"
21-24 August 2005
Futures Studies Department
Corvinus University of Budapest

Values: affect and rationality

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This paper argues that the rational approach to the study of values and everyday life is incomplete without taking into account the factor of affect. Its starting point is the assumption that value is an aspect of an act that is experienced as gratification. The latter differentiates primarily along the line of feelings (Max Scheler's emotive a priori) rather than rationality. The implications of this assumption are significant for clarifying the possibilities, limits, and problems of everyday life. Happiness and unhappiness appear as degrees of the fullness of feeling or its deprivation. This involves two paradoxes. One concerns the non-cumulative nature of gratification that precludes both perfect happiness and total unhappiness, while the other concerns faith that is salutary to both states of mind.