



INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEMINAR



Source: iStock by Getty Images

A Defence of Informed Preference Satisfaction Theories of Welfare

Roberto Fumagalli (King's College London)

Abstract

This paper defends informed preference satisfaction theories of welfare against the most influential objections put forward in the philosophical and economic literatures. The paper explicates and addresses in turn: the objection from inner rational agents; the objection from unfeasible preference reconstruction; the objection from dubious normative commitments; the objection from conceptual ambiguity; and the objection from conceptual replacement. My defence does not exclude that preference satisfaction theories of welfare face significant conceptual and practical challenges. Still, if correct, it demonstrates that philosophers/welfare economists are justified in relying on specific versions of such theories, namely informed preference satisfaction theories of welfare.