

# **The David Hume Institute**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Spring Seminar Series 2007**

**6pm 14 March 2007**

**The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh**

### **Lord Richard Layard**

#### ***“Mental Health and Public Policy”***

Chair: Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer

**Jeremy Peat, Director of The David Hume Institute said** “The Institute is privileged to welcome Lord Richard Layard to Edinburgh. His seminar is sponsored by our good friends at the Economic and Social Research Council and appropriately falls within the UK’s ‘Social Science Week’.

For many years Richard Layard has been the UK’s pre-eminent labour economist. He is currently focusing on how to produce a happier society and his book ‘Happiness – Lessons from a New Science’ came out a year ago and is now appearing in 11 languages.

In this seminar, to be chaired by the Scottish Executive’s Chief Medical Officer Dr Harry Burns, Lord Layard will be turning his attention to issues relating mental illness to the labour market and the broader economy.

Mental illness affects one in six people, drawn from all social groups, and is one of the main forms of deprivation. Only one quarter of those affected receive treatment, even though it is believed that evidence-based psychological therapies can cure half of those treated.

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The lecture will discuss the cost-effectiveness of a proposed new national policy to make these therapies available, as well as which forms of organisation are desirable. This seminar will be of interest not only to those who are concerned with mental illness, but also to both labour market and health economists and those who are interested in policies for increasing the effective labour force by reducing the numbers of people with long term incapacity.

Finally, the speaker will argue that these therapies have the seeds of what will be the dominant cultural values of the early twenty-first century.

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**Lord Layard** is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, where he was until recently the founder-director of the Centre for Economic Performance. He now heads the Centre's Programme on Well-Being. Since 2000 he has been a member of the House of Lords.

He has worked on unemployment, inflation, education, inequality, and post-Communist reform. He was an early advocate of the welfare-to-work approach to European unemployment, and co-authored *Unemployment: Macroeconomic Performance and the Labour Market* (OUP 1991, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed 2005) which has influenced policy in many countries. He has chaired the European Commission's Macroeconomic Policy Group and the UN University's World Economy Group.

He is currently working on happiness and how to produce a happier society. His book *Happiness – Lessons from a New Science* was published in March and is appearing in 11 languages.

**Notes to Editors:**

The views that will be expressed by the speaker are his own and do not commit the <sup>1</sup>Trustees or Officers of the Institute in any way.

**Issued by:**

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