



CID Talk, Dr Girol Karacaoglu

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Inter-generational Wellbeing and Public Policy Management in New Zealand

Wednesday 23 May, 2018

Dr Karacaoglu spoke to a packed room about the business of ‘measuring wellbeing’ and supporting societies to experience it. He touched on considerations about what indicators are measured, who does that measuring, how to then use that data in policy-making and ultimately, the collective responsibility of operationalising such policies in New Zealand communities.

The notion of wellbeing is defined as *the opportunity to live the kind of life a person values, without being judged*. Assessments of wellbeing move beyond income and economics. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) have set out a range of parameters that examine both quality of life and material well-being under the broad categories of basic needs, foundations of wellbeing (for example, health) and opportunities (for example, personal rights and freedoms). These parameters have been mapped to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and Statistics New Zealand currently collect data that can demonstrate NZ’s progress under these. Statistics NZ provide data to measure NZ’s performance under the SDG indicators, and Dr Karacaoglu and his team are piloting an exciting website to widen the conversation around this progress. They seek a conversation that includes cross-agency government departments, civil society and academia, on how to not only measure these indicators but to drive progress and participation.

New Zealand compares relatively well when benchmarked against other countries, but the new government is still very much grappling with complex problems including distribution of wellbeing within a society characterised by growing inequality, and gender and ethnic differences and multiple value systems. The pressure to invest public funds and achieve the greatest “bang for buck” is accompanied by the known but not yet realised imperative of involving communities in solutions in meaningful ways.

For more details, please view Dr Karacaoglu’s presentation [here](#), and follow the conversation in upcoming CID Weekly newsletters.