

## *10th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland*

*Workshop - Workshop 5B (room 2208) - wealth and well-being II - Monica Budowski, University of Fribourg; Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel*

### **Homeownership and Happiness: Empirical Evidence for Switzerland**

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#### **Abstract**

For many people, owning a house is a lifelong dream. In addition, many countries support the purchase of real estate property by providing financial contributions or tax advantages. This paper investigates whether homeownership makes people happy in Switzerland. Global research has shown mixed results so far. We use data from the Swiss Household Panel for 2012 and 2016 and apply different research approaches. The findings show no evidence that homeownership makes people in Switzerland happier. Other factors such as the financial status of the household, health, age, and partnership have a much greater influence. These results are broadly robust against changes in models and estimates.

JEL Classification: D31 Personal Wealth; I31 Well-Being; R21 Housing Demand

Keywords: Homeownership; Happiness, Subjective Well-being