

# As to the Term "Hedonic Calculus" or the "Calculus of Advantage"

Post by "Don" of February 27, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Agreed. The term is definitely not ancient. It appears to have started with Bentham:

[Felicific calculus - Wikipedia](#)

The Epicureans seemed to have consistently used "choices and rejections" as the key phrase: αἴρεσιν καὶ φυγῆν (hairesin (kai "and") phugēn).

Here's my translation of 130, maybe a little more literal than Bailey:

Quote from Epicurus in Letter to Menoikeus

[130] So, all pleasure, through its nature, belongs to us as a good; however, not all are elected; and just as all pains are entirely evil by their nature, so not all are always to be shunned. It is proper when judging these things to consider what is advantageous and what is not advantageous for you; in other words, what the consequences will be. We consult the consequences of our actions; because, on the one hand, pleasure over time can lead to pain; and on the other hand, pain can lead to pleasure.

Hedonic calculus also seems to be popular with positive psychology researchers, as well as hedonic treadmill. I think we can potentially learn a lot from this field of research as long as we don't get hung up on terms and approach with a critical eye.