

Pier Luigi Sacco: The Economic and Social Impact of Capabilities
Building and Individual Education

[Pier Luigi Sacco](#) is a cultural economist at the IUAV in Venice. The following is my translation of a 2009 presentation by Prof. Sacco on the role of culture in economic renewal. I find in a highly informative analysis from an economic perspective of the role of commercial media, and particularly television, in a society.

My brief summary of his paper is that commercial media can lead over an extended time to a loss of positive freedom—the capacity for self-governance—which loss is antithetical to an information economy; cultural experiences can be the catalyst for people to examine their world and their place in it, which can have positive indirect consequences for an information economy. It is a worthwhile read on its own merit, it is also an informative backdrop to my paper *Liberal Markets and Illiberal Outcomes*, also posted on this blog. The presentation is 9 pages, single spaced.

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