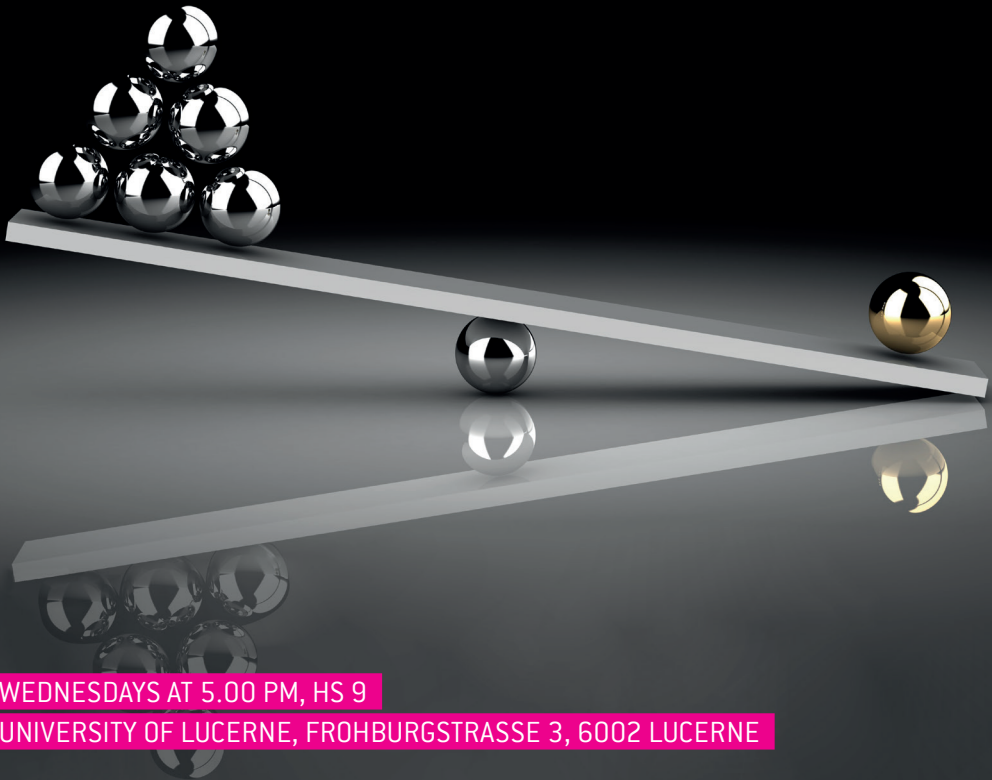


Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department Health Sciences and Health Policy

LECTURE SERIES FALL 2017

Mind the Gap: Lessons from Health Inequality



WEDNESDAYS AT 5.00 PM, HS 9

UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE, FROHBURGSTRASSE 3, 6002 LUCERNE

Introduction

Despite the increase of wealth in many countries, health has not improved at the same rate for many parts of the populations. Consistently, studies find a strong correlation between income and health; however, increasing an individual's income does not result in ever-increasing health. The effect flattens out at higher income levels. In other words, increasing wealth of only a part of the population will not help to improve a nations' health.

More equal societies tend to be better regarding their whole population's health. They have various desirable features such as social cohesion, solidarity and lower stress level, characteristics that help a society to be happier and healthier. Even when the causal link between income and health is difficult to prove, several studies have now provided pervasive evidence that many forms of social inequalities and unfairness result in health inequalities.

The lecture series in fall 2017 will present and discuss the latest research findings on health inequalities, and show possibilities how these findings have been translated into and implemented as policy actions.

We are delighted to have five internationally renowned experts in the field who will share their in-depth knowledge and insights in health inequalities. The Department of Health Science and Health Policy is pleased to welcome all interested listeners.

Coordinators of the lecture series:



Prof. Dr. Gisela Michel



Dr. Diana Pacheco

www.unilu.ch/healthsem

Program

October 25, 2017 Health inequalities in Europe. New insights from comparative studies



Prof. Dr. Johan P. Mackenbach

Department of Public Health Erasmus MC, Rotterdam Netherlands

Socioeconomic inequalities in mortality are present in all European countries, but their magnitude and development over time is highly variable. In a series of on-going comparative studies we exploit these variations to identify the macro- and micro-level determinants of these mortality inequalities. In my presentation I will summarize the results of these studies, and relate our findings to current insights into the explanation of health inequalities in modern welfare states.

November 8, 2017 Health Equity and Healthy Ageing



Dr. Ritu Sadana

Senior Advisor Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization

A wide range of determinants, through multiple pathways, contribute to stark differences in the level and distribution of Healthy Ageing. Determinants include root causes representing the social, political and economic context; structural determinants that stratify people and groups into different positions in society and differential access to resources and power; and intermediary determinants including individual-level differences in strengths, exposures and vulnerabilities, as well as coverage by health and social care systems, and quality of the built environment. Almost all are modifiable or amenable to change, meaning that policies and interventions could benefit a wider range of older adults, including those experiencing declines in intrinsic capacities.

Acknowledging the full range of determinants of health and the range of outcomes that older adults value, provide additional entry points to support and increase what older people can be and do. Moreover, understanding and measuring Healthy Ageing trajectories, across the life course, offers greater insights on what is important to individuals, compared to a focus on chronologic age, disease or morbidity status.

November 22, 2017 Social inequality and health in a rich country: the case of Switzerland

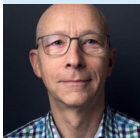


Dr. phil. Nicole Bachmann

Health and Social Psychologist, University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland; FHNW School of Social Work, Institute for Social Work and Health, Olten Switzerland

Switzerland is characterized by serious inequalities in morbidity and mortality due to social factors. From birth to death social determinants influence wellbeing, health behavior and the amount of resources and burden, people are confronted with. Facts about health inequality, relevant aspects of social and health policy as well as examples of interventions are discussed.

December 6, 2017 Cultural Capital as a fundamental cause of health inequities



Prof. Thomas Abel

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Berne

The literature on individual-level socioeconomic inequalities in health is voluminous but theoretically underdeveloped. This has led to a theoretically unconvincing divide of material and cultural determinants of health and to limited consideration of the social processes that link material and non-material resources to one another in the production of health. To address this issue, we introduce the concept of cultural capital (Bourdieu) for health and its meaning in the structure – agency dynamics which underlay the re-production of health inequality. We then link our findings to Fundamental Cause Theory (Link and Phelan) and discuss how cultural capital functions as one of the major fundamental causes of health.

December 13, 2017 An International perspective on health inequalities in rich countries



Prof. Danny Dorling

Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, UK

Why are babies today still several times more likely to die in their first year of life in the most unequal of US states as compared to the most equitable of European or Asian countries? Why is life expectancy so closely correlated to levels of economic inequality? Why is older-age mortality currently improving in Norway, Finland and Japan, but reducing in the USA and UK? And how might living with great inequality, uncertainty and precarity influence our mental health? This talk presents some evidence and gives some suggestions.

Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy

The lecture series is organized by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne. The department promotes research and prepares scientists to work in the field of health and disability from a biopsychosocial perspective. The theoretical framework of the department is rooted in the concept of human functioning, as codified by the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

Master in Health Sciences

This innovative educational program launched by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne is the ideal preparation for an exciting career in health. Students of the Master program in Health Sciences also attend the lecture series. It is an important part of their curriculum to broaden their interdisciplinary understanding of health.

The program offers different majors that will provide students with the unique opportunity to closely work with their supervisors and further develop their expertise in the chosen area of interest. After completion of the first semester, students can choose from the following majors:

Health Communication: Studying the science of using communication to influence health decisions at the individual level, in institutions and in policy.

Health Behavior and Management: Facilitate learning on how health behaviors and health experiences can be addressed and changed with appropriate interventions or changes to the health system.

Health Economics and Health Policy: Providing the foundation and principles of economic thinking and theories of political science to understand complex health systems, and to identify and address future challenges in the health care sector.

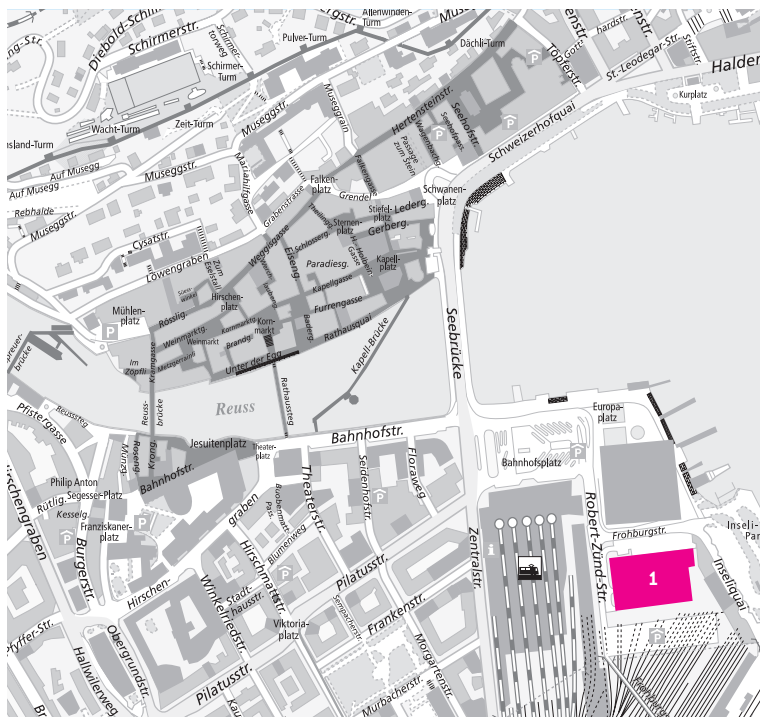
Health Services Research: Get accustomed with different health systems and learn the fundamental tools to develop and assess effective strategies to improve health from an institutional perspective.

Research Methods: Developing skills to aid decision making processes in the health sciences and related fields using state of the art quantitative and qualitative research.

The Master in Health Sciences aims to bring a new dimension into research, health service provision, and healthcare management by pioneering the development and application of a comprehensive approach in the field of health.



www.master-healthsciences.ch



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