

Health and Society Seminar Series

This seminar series focuses on population health, preventive interventions and social and political sciences perspectives on health and well being. It will feature the work of local researchers and practitioners. All are welcome. Undergraduate and post graduate students are especially encouraged to attend.

November 1, 2006 - Alan Shiell - *Medicare and the threat to sustainability*

November 15, 2006 - Patrick Patterson - *Theories of Dynamic Change in Policy Processes: Illustrations from Two Tobacco Policy Studies*

Policy development and implementation processes involve multiple changes, both for the groups that are the target of the study and for the people involved in making them happen. These dynamic processes are treated differently within various theoretical approaches. This seminar will present an overview of several theories of policy development and implementation and will discuss how that may impact on the conclusions drawn by researchers. Qualitative analyses drawn from two studies of tobacco policy processes will be used to illustrate the application of the theories.

November 29, 2006 - Jenny Godley - *Within Neighbourhood Contextual Effects on Health and Financial Security*

Most sociological research that incorporates contextual effects into individual-level models uses the 'neighbourhood' as the geographic unit of analysis. We use a more fine-grained unit, the Census Dissemination Area (DA) to examine the effects of socio-economic variation within a neighbourhood on individuals' sense of financial security and self-reported health.

December 13, 2006 - Bretta Maloff - *The Calgary Health Region and population health*

March 14, 2007 - Toni Ashton - *Living with a dual system: The public/private mix of health care in New Zealand*

New Zealand's health system is often described as a "mixed" system, in which private health insurance is available in parallel with public funding, and services are provided by both public and private providers. A notable feature of the system is that, in spite of major restructuring during the 1990s and efforts to introduce a "quasi-market" into the sector, the public-private mix in both funding and provision of services has remained almost unchanged. New Zealand has now turned its back on efforts to introduce greater competition into the system and the government is increasing its

investment in health services. At the same time, the private sector is calling for greater collaboration between the two sectors. Proposals have included tax rebates for private health insurance, greater use of private hospitals for publicly funded patients, and the co-location of public and private facilities. This seminar will explore the realities and implications of living in this dual world.

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 - David Strong - Introduction to the Calgary Regional Public Health Observatory

Justine Fitzpatrick will be providing an overview of the UK Public Health Observatory model and its impact on health and social policy. She will also be providing her insights on the evolving role of the London Health Observatory especially within the context of the current health funding problems of the NHS. David Strong and Justine Fitzpatrick will provide an overview of the current state of development of the Calgary Regional Public Health Observatory and will highlight its positioning within the CHR's CSD initiative.

The seminars will take place at the University of Calgary, Health Sciences Centre, 3330 Hospital Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta.

[For More Information, Ideas for More Speakers, etc](#)

This Seminar Series is sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Social and Physical Environments and Health. We'd like it to reflect a range of perspectives and interests. We welcome participation. Please contact Lindsay Bradshaw, at ph (403) 210 9316; email bradshaw@ucalgary.ca if you have any ideas or suggestions.