

Understanding Health Outcomes: Beyond the Social Determinants of Health

The importance of upstream factors in determining population health is a pillar of social epidemiology, and there is little doubt that social constructs such as race, gender, and class affect health outcomes (Berkman & Kawachi 2000; Krieger 2001; Honjo 2004). Additionally, there is a growing recognition that these social determinants of health do not tell the entire story, and that factors even further upstream may be equally important. Politics, for instance, is increasingly seen as a neglected topic in the study of population health (Mackenbach 2014; Navarro & Muntaner 2004). Indeed, partisanship, politics, the environment, urban planning, corporate influence, public opinion, and public discourse may affect population health in various different ways.

In order to explore these further-upstream factors, the Institute for Health and Social Policy (IHSP) and the University of Glasgow's MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit will co-host a workshop entitled "Understanding Health Outcomes: Beyond the Social Determinants of Health" at McGill University on September 14th-15th, 2017. This workshop will focus on the determinants of health that are one or two-steps removed from those commonly explored in the social epidemiology literature. For example:

- To what degree should policies in non-health areas be formulated with a view to their effects on health?
- How does the greater causal uncertainty related to interventions based on upstream determinants factor into decision-making?
- How can making changes to the built environment contribute to both health and other outcomes?
- What is the relationship between partisanship and public health? What is the health impact of increased polarization?
- How can lessons learned from specific policy advocacy be applied across different policy areas?
- How might changing understandings of the trustworthiness of news media impact health and health policy outcomes?

The hope is for a multidisciplinary and diverse discussion, and we encourage abstracts from both the social and medical sciences. Accepted papers will have the opportunity to be published in a special journal issue on the theme.

Space is extremely limited. If you are interested in participating, please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to mark.daku@tcu.edu by August 15, 2017.