

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COURSES IN HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY
SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH +
INEQUALITY AND INEQUITY IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE
8-12 JULY 2019

OVERVIEW: Health differs markedly by education, race, occupation and income. In high-income countries, a 30-year-old male college graduate can expect to live almost eight years longer than a contemporary with only compulsory schooling. Narrowing such socioeconomic disparities in health is a primary objective of public health. Health administrators are often expected to deliver health care equitably and yet health economic evaluation neglects distributional objectives.

This course will arm you with tools to measure health inequality. In addition to gaining competence in the computation of health inequality indices, you will be forced to consider the normative implications of the measures. You will also become familiar with the theoretical and empirical literature in economics that seeks to explain socioeconomic disparities in health. We will introduce you to the analysis of equity in the distribution of health care and demonstrate how the tools of health inequality measurement can be used to make cost-effectiveness analysis equity-sensitive.

The course is mainly targeted at economists embarking on research on population health, as well as at researchers from the field of public health wishing to become competent in techniques used by economists to analyse inequality in health and health care. The material is also of interest to cost-effectiveness researchers that want to broaden their toolkit to equity-sensitive health economic evaluation

OBJECTIVES:

To attain competence in:

- normative evaluation of health inequality;
- measurement of health inequality;
- computation of health inequality indices;
- decomposition of health inequality;

To become familiar with:

- economic models of health behaviour;
- analysis of equity in the delivery of health care;
- equity-sensitive health economic evaluation;

FACULTY: [Owen O'Donnell](#) and [Tom Van Ourti](#), Erasmus University Rotterdam.

PREREQUISITES: This course is open to research master students, PhD students, Postdocs and researchers with an interest in a quantitative approach to health inequality. Students should have done an intermediate course in statistics, be familiar with regression analysis and preferably have completed an intermediate course in microeconomics. Those with a public health background who have not previously followed a course in economics should be

comfortable with statistical analysis. Familiarity with the statistical package STATA is an advantage.

FORMAT: Lectures introduce concepts, explain measures and models, and review evidence. Practical computing sessions using Stata® provide hands-on experience with the computation of measures and application of decomposition techniques. Example Stata do files are provided. Seminars provide an opportunity to embed understanding through discussion.

MATERIALS: You are expected to have your own laptop capable of running Stata. If you do not have Stata installed on your laptop, please inform the course administration on application.

ASSESSMENT: Students are assessed on the basis of a written report of the assignment submitted after the course, in addition to the presentation made during the course. The assignment involves the measurement and explanation of health inequality. Example data are made available but students are encouraged to use their own data.

COURSE OUTLINE

MONDAY, JULY 8

- Overview of socioeconomic disparities in health
- Rank-dependent health inequality measures
- Practical: Inference for concentration curves
- Practical: Estimation of concentration indices

TUESDAY, JULY 9

- Corrected concentration indices
- Normative foundations for health inequality measures
- Alternative attitudes to health inequality
- Unfair health inequality

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

- Decompositions of health inequality
- Practical: Decompositions of the concentration index
- Inequity in health care
- Practical: Inequity in health care

THURSDAY, JULY 11

- Equity-sensitive health economic evaluation
- Excel practical: equity-sensitive health economic evaluation
- Students prepare assignment

FRIDAY, JULY 12

- Causes of health inequality
- Policy responses to health inequality
- Student presentations of assignments