



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

The health effects of a financial crisis: epidemiology on a large scale

by

Professor Martin McKee

**Professor of European Public Health
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
United Kingdom**

Date : August 17, 2016 (Wednesday)
Time : 12:30 – 14:00 (*sandwich lunch from 12:30 to 12:45; seminar begins at 12:45*)
Venue : Mrs Chen Yang Foo Oi Telemedicine Centre (MTC), 2/F, William MW Mong Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Abstract:

The global financial crisis that began in 2008 has had major consequences for health. However, identifying these consequences, and attributing them to policies has been both challenging and politically contentious. In this paper I will argue that the challenges involved can be addressed by returning to the basics of epidemiology, such as defining exposures and plausible outcomes, identifying causal pathways, understanding time lags and bias, and identifying mediating factors. I will illustrate these with reference to our work on the financial crisis and on others previously. However, I will also argue that it is important to understand the political context within which such work has done, recognizing that evidence is not always welcomed by everyone.

Bio-sketch:

Martin McKee qualified in medicine in Belfast, Northern Ireland, with subsequent training in internal medicine and public health. He is Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where he founded the European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition (ECOHST), a WHO Collaborating Centre. He is also research director of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and President of the European Public Health Association. He has published over 900 academic papers and 44 books and his contributions to European health policy have been recognised by, among others, election to the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, and the US Institute of Medicine, by the award of honorary doctorates from Hungary, The Netherlands, and Sweden and visiting



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

professorships at universities in Europe and Asia, the 2003 Andrija Stampar medal for contributions to European public health, in 2014 the Alwyn Smith Prize for outstanding contributions to the health of the population, and in 2015 the Donabedian International Award for contributions to quality of care. In 2005 was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). He has an active following on Twitter as @martinmckee

***For registration and enquiries, please contact Ms Karen Lau at 3917 9928
or via email phrc@hku.hk***