

Exploring Economics Summer Academy 2022

Health Economics Workshop

14 June 2022

Short description

Health Economics traditionally involves two distinct strands. One focuses on the application of core neoclassical economic theories of the firm, the consumer and the market to health-seeking behaviour and other health issues. It suggests a role for government intervention only in the case of specific market failures (for example externalities, asymmetric information, moral hazard, and public goods) that distort market outcomes. The second strand is evaluation techniques, used to assess the cost-effectiveness of competing health interventions.

However, these two strands apply only one version of economics – neoclassical economics – to health, and do so in a problematic way. In this workshop we aim to critically engage with Health Economics, rooted in neo-classical economic theory, and to present and discuss alternative perspectives relevant to global public health. These include Keynesian, political economy, feminist and ecological perspectives, paying more attention to health inequalities and planetary health. We will touch upon topics such as the shift from the movement for comprehensive primary healthcare throughout the 1970s to the promotion of selective primary healthcare with the ascendancy of neo-liberalism in the 1980s to contemporary calls for Universal Health Coverage; the colonial roots and practices of global public health; the increasing reliance on the private sector in healthcare delivery; as well as public policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biographies

Julia Ngozi Chukwuma (The Open University, UK)

Julia is a Lecturer in Economics at the Open University. Her work focuses on the political economy of health policy development and implementation and global efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage. She is interested in understanding how different interest groups, such as policymakers, civil society organisations, communities, health professionals or international organisations shape a healthcare system and influence how healthcare services are delivered and who can ultimately access them. Her research approach is rooted in understanding the political context in which policies are developed, the causes of economic and social realities within a certain country-context (with a particular focus on Nigeria) as well as issues of inequality and power. Prior to joining the Open University, Julia taught at Queen Mary University of London, SOAS and Goldsmiths University. She also worked with UNICEF's social policy and emergency teams in Burundi, Mali and Senegal.

Kevin Deane (The Open University, UK)


Kevin is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Open University. He is an interdisciplinary specialist in Economics, Political Economy and International Development. His research interests focus on the political economy of health with an application to the HIV epidemic in Eastern and Southern Africa. He has worked on a range of topics related to HIV including gender, migration, workplace programmes, HIV testing and the relationship between socio-economic status and HIV. He is also interested in the political and social determinants of malaria. He is primarily a qualitative researcher with experience of conducting fieldwork in East Africa. Prior to his role at the Open University, Kevin worked as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Global Public Health at Queen Mary University of London, and as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in International Development at the University of Northampton. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

Course overview

CEST	Saturday, 30 July	Sunday, 31 July	Monday, 1 August	Tuesday, 2 August	Wednesday	Thursday
10.30-12.00	1 Lecture: The Economics of Health	4 Self-study: Health-seeking behaviour	7 Self-study: Political economy of health & capitalism	10 Self-study: Gender and health	13 Project: Project implementation (Phase C)	Wrap-up session
13.00-14.30	2 Self-study: Markets and Health	5 Lecture: Health-seeking behaviour	8 Lecture: Political economy of health & capitalism	11 Lecture: Gender and health	14 Project: Feedback on project (Phase C)	
15.00-16.30	3 Lecture: Markets and Health	6 Project: Select a health issue (Phase A)	9 Project: Develop a project plan (Phase B)	12 Project: Project implementation (Phase C)	15 Project: Project implementation (Phase C)	

 *Lectures: will be facilitated by Kevin and Julia*

 *Self-study sessions: will give you time to read/watch some material in preparation of lectures*

 *Self-directed project sessions: will give you and your peers time to decide, plan and execute your project*

 *Feedback session on project: presentation of project to Kevin and Julia*

Course outline

Syllabus and resources	
Prior to workshop	<p>Introduction to the Economics of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please read the following: Chukwuma and Deane (2022), Economics and Global Health, In: La Placa and Morgan [Eds.], Social Science Perspectives on Global Public Health, Routledge. [Link to chapter to will be provided in due time] ▪ Please watch the following video: History of Global Public Health ▪ Additional reading if you have time: Birn and Richter (2018), U.S. Philanthrocapitalism and the Global Health Agenda, In: Waitkin, H. [Ed.], Health Care under the Knife: Moving Beyond Capitalism for Our Health, Monthly Review Press.
<p>Session 1 – Lecture Saturday, 30 July 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>LECTURE 1: Introduction to the Economics of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of convenors, workshop objectives, roadmap of workshop ▪ Introduction to and intersections between economics and health ▪ Health inequalities and the social gradient of health ▪ Social determinants of health and political economy approaches to health ▪ Universal Health Coverage and today's global health architecture ▪ Introduction to the workshop project
<p>Session 2 – Self-study Saturday, 30 July 2022 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>Markets and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please watch the following video: Ted Talk by Emilie Oster - watch from the beginning to 6mins 55 seconds in as this is the key 'economic' section of interest ▪ Please watch this short clip: Discussion on patents ▪ Please read the following paper: Alcott, Lockwood and Taubinsky (2019), Should we tax Sugar-Sweetened Beverages? An overview of Theory and Evidence, Journal of Economic Perspectives, No.3, p. 202-227. <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which neo-classical economic concepts appear in these videos and readings? 2. How can economics help us explain health outcomes?
<p>Session 3 – Lecture Saturday, 30 July 2022 15:00-16:30</p>	<p>LECTURE 2: Markets and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neo-classical economic approaches to framing health ▪ Firms, markets and industries in the healthcare sector of the economy ▪ Market failure and the role of the State
<p>Session 4 – Self-study Sunday, 1 August 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Health-seeking behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please watch the following video: Ted Talk by Dan Gilbert ▪ Please read an extract of the following paper: Kahneman, D (2003), Maps of Bounded Rationality: Psychology for Behavioural Economics, The American Economic Review, Vol. 93, No. 5 – please read pages 1449-1452 (introduction and section I). ▪ Please read the following: Soofi et al. (2020), Using Insights from Behavioral Economics to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19, Applied Health Economics and Health Policy. <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are key ideas of behavioural economics? 2. How can insights from behavioural economics help us improve public health policy?
<p>Session 5 – Lecture Sunday, 1 August 2022 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>LECTURE 3: Health-seeking behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept of bounded rationality ▪ Nudging or fudging? ▪ Behavioural economics and COVID-19
<p>Session 6 – Project Sunday, 1 August 2022 15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Phase A: Select a health issue [see project brief]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What health issue do you want to discuss/address? Where? Case studies? ▪ How might economists think about the health issue?

<p>Session 7 – Self-study Monday, 2 August 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Political Economy of health and capitalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Please watch the following video</u>: Labour theory of value [Link to video will be provided in due time] ▪ <u>Please watch the following video</u>: Angela Davis discussing capitalism ▪ <u>Please read the following extract from Marx’s Capital</u>: https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch10.htm [more details to be provided] <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you think of contemporary examples of the impact of working conditions on health? 2. What might be the effect of capitalism on health?
<p>Session 8 – Lecture Monday, 2 August 2022 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>LECTURE 4: Political Economy of health and capitalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the labour theory of value ▪ Capitalism and working conditions in the Global South ▪ Capitalism and mental health ▪ Systems of Provision: food and healthcare
<p>Session 9 – Project Monday, 2 August 2022 15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Phase B: Develop a project plan [see project brief]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What activities are needed to advocate for the health issue to be addressed? ▪ Who does what?
<p>Session 10 – Self-study Tuesday, 3 August 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Gender and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Please read the following chapter</u>: Deane (Forthcoming), Cash Transfers & HIV Prevention in Africa, In: Potter & Dauncey [Eds.], The Companion to Development Studies, 4th edition. ▪ <u>Please read the following article</u>: Naila Kabeer (2020), Women’s Empowerment and Economic Development: A Feminist Critique of Storytelling Practices in “Randomista” Economics, Feminist Economics. <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you think could make women more susceptible to HIV? 2. How is empowerment theorised in the context of cash transfers and are there other ways to think about empowerment?
<p>Session 11 – Lecture Tuesday, 3 August 2022 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>LECTURE 5: Gender and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structural processes shaping health outcomes ▪ Gender and HIV/Aids ▪ Introduction to social reproduction theory ▪ Cash transfers
<p>Session 12 – Project Tuesday, 2 August 2022 15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Phase C: Project implementation [see project brief]</p>
<p>Session 13 – Project Wednesday, 3 August 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Phase C: Project implementation [see project brief]</p>
<p>Session 14 – Project Wednesday, 3 August 2022 13:00-14:30</p>	<p>Feedback session: Present project and advocacy campaign [see project brief]</p>
<p>Session 15 – Project Wednesday, 3 August 2022 15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Part C: Project implementation [see project brief]</p>
<p>Wrap-up session Thursday, 4 August 2022 10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Wrap-up session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion on outstanding issues ▪ Reflections