



# PŘEDNÁŠKOVÁ SÉRIE LECTURE SERIES

Elena Popa, Jay Zameska (Jagiellonian University, Krakow)

## Why Specifying Causal Pathways Featuring Social Determinants of Health Matters for Public Health Ethics

This paper will investigate how analyses of causality can help specify social determinants of health for use in public health ethics. While important for finding effective interventions, specific pathways through which the 'fundamental causes' (cf., Goldberg 2023) affect health are insufficiently researched.

Regarding causal concepts, a surgical notion of intervention would not work due to the complexity of the system and because fundamental causes have multiple effects (Valles 2018). Thus, we use mechanistic and dispositional notions. The discussion of the deterioration of mental health in high-income countries due to rising inequality refers to mechanisms, one of which involves stress, disrupting cardio vascular function in a top-down manner (Wilkinson & Pickett 2010: 86). The health effects of inequality are also explained through its negative effects on trust (Pickett and Wilkinson 2015).

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Center for Environmental and Technology Ethics, 4th floor, Celetná 988/38, Prague