

UNNATURAL CAUSES ...is inequality making us sick?

A documentary from California Newsreel and public engagement campaign



Recommended Health Equity Speakers

UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? benefited from the contribution of some of the country's leading health equity researchers, practitioners and advocates. The following contributors are great resources for bringing additional expertise to your screening, panel, or other events.

Many of our contributors already receive many speaking requests. Please use the provided contact to extend your invitation and kindly understand that they may have limited ability to accept new commitments.

1 -The speaker appears in the documentary; 2 - The speaker served as an advisor to the series.

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, PhD, MPA-URP ²

Associate Professor of Society, Human Development and Health, Harvard University

Research includes effects of residential segregation and immigrant integration on health disparities, and effect of non-health policies (e.g., housing, immigrant policy) on health inequities.

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/faculty/dolores-acevedo-garcia>, <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu>
dacevedo@hsph.harvard.edu

Nancy Adler, PhD ²

Chair, MacArthur Network on Socio-Economic Status and Health; Director, Center for Health and Community at the University of California, San Francisco

Leading expert on psycho-social factors and health inequities, including how these vary by class, gender and ethnicity.

<http://www.macses.ucsf.edu/Network/nancy.htm>, <http://www.macses.ucsf.edu>
Contact: Michael Daluz, Michael.Daluz@ucsf.edu

Margarita Alegría, PhD ¹

Director, Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Principal investigator for two large-scale studies on Latino health, including the National Latino and Asian American Study (NIMH).

<http://www.multiculturalmentalhealth.org/investigators.asp>, <http://www.multiculturalmentalhealth.org>
malegría@charesearch.org

Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D

Distinguished Professor, Bouve College of Health Sciences; Director, Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University

Public health epidemiology, prevention and intervention/treatment in the areas of substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, mental illness and inter-personal violence.

http://www.northeastern.edu/bouve/faculty/amaro_h.html
h.amaro@neu.edu

Lisa Berkman, PhD ¹

Chair, Department of Society, Human Development and Health, and Cabot Professor of Public Policy & Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health.

Her work is largely devoted to identifying the role of social networks and support in predicting declines in physical and cognitive functioning and onset of disease and mortality, especially related to cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease.

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/faculty/lisa-berkman/>
lberkman@hsph.harvard.edu

Stephen Bezruchka, MD, MPH ²

Founder, Population Health Forum; lecturer, University of Washington Department of Health Services; and emergency room physician

Work includes seeking effective methods of disseminating determinants of population health to the general population so they work to change societal structures to improve America's health.

http://depts.washington.edu/hserv/faculty/Bezruchka_Stephen, <http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth/sabez@u.washington.edu>

Angela Glover Blackwell, JD ¹

Founder and CEO, PolicyLink—an Oakland-based research and advocacy organization advancing economic and social equity.

Renowned community-building activist and expert on race, policy and neighborhood revitalization.

<http://www.policylink.org/AngelaGloverBlackwell.html>, <http://www.policylink.org/agn@policylink.org>

Paula Braveman, MD, MPH ²

Director, Center for Social Disparities in Health; professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine at UCSF; research director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America

Leading authority on how to identify and measure class status and its impacts on health. Also developing metrics for racism and its relationship to health status, particularly with regards to maternal and infant health.

http://familymedicine.medschool.ucsf.edu/faculty/bios/brave_p.aspx
braveman@fcm.ucsf.edu

Gail Christopher, DN ²

Vice President for Health Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; former director, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute

A strategic, visionary leader with more than 20 years of experience designing and managing national initiatives and non-profit organizations, instrumental in launching the “fair health” movement.

http://www.imdiversity.com/villages/african/careers_workplace_employment/bpr_kellog0407.asp
Contact: Annette Beecham, arb@wkkf.org

James Collins, Jr., MD, MPH ¹

Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Children's Memorial Hospital; Professor of Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

<http://www.childrensmemorial.org/depts/neonatology/bios.aspx?doctorID=1176>
jcollins@northwestern.com

Richard J. David, MD ¹

Co-director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, John Stroger Hospital; Attending Neonatologist, John Stroger and Cook County Hospitals; Professor of Pediatrics, University of Illinois, Chicago

http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/assets/uploads/file/Richard_David_08.rf
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Neonatologists in Chicago whose landmark studies, including one comparing birth outcomes in the U.S. among African-born, African American, and white women, point to racism—not genetics—as a key risk factor for premature labor and low birth weights.

Ana Diez-Roux, MD, PhD, MPH ¹

Professor, Epidemiology; Director, Center for Integrative Approaches to Health Disparities; Associate Director, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Leading expert on neighborhood health effects, including cardiovascular disease epidemiology and racial/ethnic inequities.

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/iscr/faculty/profile.cfm?unique=adiezrou>
Contact: Monique Willis, moniwill@umich.edu

Troy Duster, PhD ²

Professor of Sociology, New York University; Former President of the American Sociological Association
Leading authority on the use and misuse of race and ethnicity in biomedical research.

<http://sociology.fas.nyu.edu/object/troyduster>
troy.duster@nyu.edu

Alan Goodman, PhD

Professor, Biological Anthropology, Hampshire College;
Teaches and writes on the health and nutritional consequences of political-economic processes such as poverty, inequality and racism; advised on the documentary series *RACE: The Power of an Illusion*.

<http://www.hampshire.edu/faculty/agoodman.htm>
agoodman@hampshire.edu

Richard Hofrichter, PhD ²

Senior Analyst, National Association of County and City Health Officials; Editor, [Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice](#) and other books on health inequities.

Authority and author on the relationship between class inequality, injustice and health equity.
rhofrichter@naccho.org

Tony Iton, MD, JD, MPH ¹

Director and Health Officer, Alameda County Public Health Department in the San Francisco Bay Area

Pioneering practitioner attempting to integrate a health equity and social justice framework into public health department work. Department conducted a survey finding that recent Latino immigrants have excellent health, which declines with time.

<http://www.acphd.org/user/about/about.html>
Contact: Lois Fleming, Lois.fleming@acgov.org

Fleda Mask Jackson, Ph.D. ¹

President and CEO of MAJAICA, LLC, Professor of Applied Public Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Health, and senior scientist at the Atlanta Regional Health Forum.

Work is aimed at advancing the well being of African American children, families, and communities, informed by community-based, culturally sensitive research that can be translated into practice and policy.

<http://www.drfladamjackson.com/>
fledamjackson@gmail.com

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD ^{1,2}

Research Director on Social Determinants of Health and Equity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Researches the structural causes of health inequities, with a focus on naming, measuring, and addressing the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation.

<http://www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2001/spkrbios/Jones.htm>
cdj9@cdc.gov or (770) 488-5268

Ichiro Kawachi, MD, PhD ^{1,2}

Director, Center for Society and Health; Chair, Department of Society, Human Development, and Health; and Professor of Social Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

Research encompasses multiple levels of population health determinants, from macro- (e.g. income inequality, social cohesion), to meso- (neighborhood contextual influences), to individual (stress, psychosocial risk factors).

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/faculty/ichiro-kawachi/>, <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/centers-institutes/society-and-health/>
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James Krieger, MD, MPH ¹

Chief, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Section, Seattle-King County Public Health Department; Clinical Professor of Medicine and Health Services, University of Washington Schools of Medicine and Public Health

Respected figure in community-based health promotion and chronic disease prevention and one of the visionaries behind the new High Point mixed-income neighborhood in West Seattle.

<http://depts.washington.edu/gim/faculty/kreiger.htm>
Contact: Claire Magbanua, ArseniaClaire.Magbanua@kingcounty.gov

Nancy Krieger, PhD^{1,2}

Professor of Society, Human Development and Health and Co-director of the Interdisciplinary Concentration on Women, Gender, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Internationally-recognized social epidemiologist and long-time activist focused on societal determinants of health inequities including racism, class, and gender; methods for monitoring social inequalities in health; and theoretical frameworks, informed by history and politics, for addressing health inequities.

Contact: Noreen Loughran, nloughra@hsph.harvard.edu

Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD

William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy and Director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Researcher and experienced public speaker identifying the sources of our present health disparity crisis in broader societal factors, including interactions among the educational system, criminal justice system, economic market and healthcare system.

<http://www.laveist.com/>

Thomas@laveist.com

Michael Lu, MD, MPH¹

Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Associate Director, Child and Family Health Training Program, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities

His "lifecourse perspective" suggests that cumulative stress (including the added burden of racism) over a lifetime, not just during pregnancy, increases the risk of pre-term labor.

<http://www.healthychild.ucla.edu/DropDownMenu/StaffDirectory/Lu.asp>

mclu@ucla.edu

Meizhu Lui¹

Director, Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative, Insight Center; former Executive Director, United for a Fair Economy; Co-author, The Color of Wealth: the Real Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide

Long-time "professional troublemaker" fighting for racial and gender equality, whose work connects wealth, employment, and individual and community well-being.

<http://www.insightcced.org/about-us/staff-new/meizhu-lui-2.html>

meizhului@gmail.com

Gaye Adams Massey, JD

Deputy General Counsel, UnitedHealth Group

Experience working in law and the health insurance industry, with a strong understanding of the importance of health equity and the social determinants of health

<http://www.diversityinpractice.org/about-diversity-in-practice/board-of-directors/>

gamassey@uhc.com

Bruce McEwen, PhD¹

Alfred E. Mirsky Professor and Head of the Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, Rockefeller University.

Explores the long-term impact of stress and stress hormones on the brain and on immune function, leading to the realization that these hormones are productive in the short run but potentially damaging in the long run.

<http://www.rockefeller.edu/research/abstract.php?id=109>

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Neal Palafox, MD, MPH¹

Family practitioner; Chair of Family Medicine and Community Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, Manoa

Principal investigator for federal grant to provide care for the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands who were exposed to radioactive fallout from the Pacific US nuclear weapons testing program.

<http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/JABSOM/faculty/bio.php?facultyid=139>

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Richard Price, PhD ¹

Director, Prevention Research Center, and Professor of Management & Organizations and of Psychology, University of Michigan

Researches personal and organizational foundations of psychological resilience and health. The Center is a national resource for information on connections between employment conditions, economic stress, and health outcomes.

<http://www.bus.umich.edu/FacultyBios/FacultyBio.asp?id=000144356>, <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/seh/mprc/ricprice@umich.edu>

Dennis Raphael, PhD ²

Professor, School of Health Policy and Management, York University; Author of Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives and Poverty and Policy in Canada: Implications for Health and Quality of Life.

Has published prolifically on the health effects of income inequality, the quality of life of communities and individuals, and the impact of government decisions on Canadians' health and well-being.

<http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/draphael>
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Jeff Ritterman, MD

Chief, Division of Cardiology, Richmond Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group; Richmond City Councilmember

Medical professional and member of the county environmental health advisory board, with a strong understanding of the importance of community environments in maintaining individual and population health.

<http://www.permanente.net/doctor/jeffreyritterman>
Jeffrey.Ritterman@kp.org

Teresa Seeman, PhD

Professor, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, and Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles

Researches the positive and negative effects of social relationships on trajectories of aging, including on major outcomes such as morbidity, functional status and mortality.

<http://www.irsp.ucla.edu/Pages/Faculty/Seeman.html>
Contact: Maribel Garcia, maribelgarcia@mednet.ucla.edu

Brian Smedley, PhD ²

Director, Health Policy Institute, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Co-founder of Opportunity Agenda; Study director for the pioneering Institute of Medicine report "Unequal Treatment"

Leading authority on the impact of racism on health and advocate for understanding racial and economic justice policies as health policies.

<http://www.jointcenter.org>
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S. Leonard Syme, PhD ^{1,2}

Professor Emeritus, Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

One of the pioneers in understanding the social determinants of health. Currently principal investigator of the Youth Empowerment Strategies Project (YES!), which focuses on building youths' capacities and strengths as a means of ultimately decreasing rates of substance abuse and other risky behaviors.

<http://sph.berkeley.edu/faculty/syme.html>
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Makani Themba-Nixon ²

Executive Director, The Praxis Project, a national nonprofit supporting media and policy advocacy for health justice

Has published widely on issues of race, media, policy advocacy and public health, including her most recent book, *Making Policy, Making Change*.

<http://www.thepraxisproject.org/about/makani.html>
mthemba@thepraxisproject.org

Mildred Thompson

Senior Director, PolicyLink; Director, PolicyLink Center for Health and Place

With over 20 years experience in the health field, has conducted research, authored reports, and spearheaded initiatives seeking solutions to problems rooted in connections between health and neighborhood factors.

<http://www.policylink.org>

Contact: Imam Mills, iman@policylink.org

Adewale Troutman, MD, MPH ¹

Director, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness; Founder, Louisville Center for Health Equity

Distinguished record of achievement in public health education, leadership, research, and advocacy. Worked with Surgeon General David Satcher on influential study of racial inequities in mortality, "What If We Were Equal?"

<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/health/equity>

Adedrum@aol.com

Donald Warne, MD, MPH ¹

Executive Director, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board

An expert on American Indian health policy. From a long line of *Oglala Lakota* traditional healers, has worked for several years as a primary care and integrative medicine physician and developed diabetes prevention programs in partnership with tribes.

<http://www.law.asu.edu/files/Faculty/CVs/SharonKayLarson.pdf>

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David R. Williams, PhD ^{1,2}

Norman Professor of Public Health, Harvard University School of Public Health; Executive Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America

Top authority on social influences on health, whose research has focused on trends and determinants of socioeconomic and racial inequities, the health effects of racism, and how religious involvement can affect health.

<http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/faculty/williams/index.html>

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The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Research Network on Socioeconomic Status and Health

The MacArthur Network brings together many of the nation's top researchers to enhance understanding of how socioeconomic factors affect health of individuals and communities and to inform policy and practice. They are a great source for speakers and other resources.

<http://www.macses.ucsf.edu>