

# The Social (political and economic) Determination of Population Health

David Legge

IPHU Savar, November 2018

# Theories of causation

- The displeasure of the gods
- Hippocrates: airs, waters and places
  - heat, cold, dry, moist
- Traditional Chinese medicine
  - External factors (Yin vs Yang): wind, cold, damp, heat, summer heat, dryness
  - Internal causes: anger, joy, sadness, grief, pensiveness, fear, fright
- Modern Western medicine
  - Germs (Snow, Semmelweis, Pasteur)
  - Nutrition (Lind, Hetzel)
  - Surveillance (Graunt, Petty)

# Emergence of the social determinants / determination

- Determinants
  - Chadwick and poverty
  - McKeown vs Szreter
    - economic development
    - progressive suffrage
  - Preston and economic development
  - Caldwell and girl's education
  - Marmot and the Whitehall Studies
- Determination
  - Virchow, Bethune, Allende

# Alma-Ata Declaration

- [Here](#)\*
- Key ideas
  - health as a human right; health equity as a matter of social justice
  - central importance of a New International Economic Order (NIEO)
  - government responsibility
  - intersectoral collaboration
  - Primary Health Care principles as key to health system development *and* PHC as a strategy for health development

\* [http://www.who.int/publications/almaata\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/publications/almaata_declaration_en.pdf)

# The People's Charter for Health

- [Here](#)\*
- Key ideas
  - health as a human right; health equity as a matter of social justice
  - strong political economic analysis (including class, gender, race; including imperialism)
  - people's movement/s seen as primary agency of change
  - Primary Health Care principles as key to health system development *and* PHC as a strategy for health development

\* <https://phmovement.org/the-peoples-charter-for-health/>

# WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health (2005-08)

- **DAILY LIVING CONDITIONS**

- Equity from the start; towards a more equitable start in life
- Healthy places healthy people; build a flourishing living environment 63
- Fair employment and decent work
- Social protection across the lifecourse; universal social protection
- Universal health care

- **POWER, MONEY, AND RESOURCES**

- Health equity in all policies, systems, and programmes
- Fair financing
- Market responsibility
- Gender equity: improving gender equity for health
- Political empowerment – inclusion and voice
- Good global governance

- **KNOWLEDGE, MONITORING, AND SKILLS**

- Monitoring, research, and training

- **BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT**

- Sustaining action beyond the Commission on Social Determinants of Health

# Three key ideas

- *Determinants* (measurable ‘factors’) and/or *determination* (a social, economic and political process)
- *Policy solutions* (conceived within the framework of existing governance structure) and/or *structural analysis and political engagement* (aligning health activism with other movements for equity, sustainability, participation, justice)
- *Measurement, research and evaluation* are vital but must be subject to epistemological and methodological critique