

Economic Evaluations of Public Health Interventions: A Role for Sen's Capability Approach

Presented by

Dr Paula Lorgelly

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Time: 1:00 - 2:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75
Monash University, Clayton



Public health interventions do not readily lend themselves to the application of established economic evaluation techniques because their outcomes are complex and varied.

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's capability approach, however, has the potential to provide a framework within which to undertake such evaluations. The approach is based on the notion that it is the opportunities in life that are important for wellbeing: we should consider what people are able to do, not just what they choose to do.

This seminar will first introduce the issues facing economic evaluations of public health interventions, including an overview of a proposed evaluation in Glasgow, UK; it will then provide an introduction to the capability approach, both the theory and its application; and will then discuss a recent project which used the capabilities framework to develop a questionnaire to measure outcomes for use in the evaluation of public health interventions.

Presenter

Dr Paula Lorgelly is a Senior Lecturer in Health Economics in the Section of Public Health and Health Policy at the University of Glasgow. She is part of the Health Economics Appraisal Team (HEAT). She previously held lectureships at the Universities of East Anglia and Nottingham. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and it was there that she developed her interest in Health Economics.

Paula's research interests centre around methodological issues of economic evaluations alongside clinical trials and the analysis of large datasets using econometric techniques. Her current research includes: developing an instrument for outcome measurement in economic evaluations of public health interventions; an evaluation of post adoption support services; and RCTs of interventions for juvenile idiopathic arthritis, smoking cessation, and statins for heart failure.