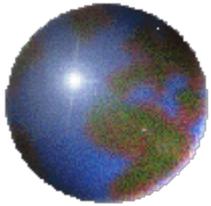


Values, Ethics, and Sustainability

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Lecture #6



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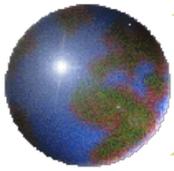
Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA)

--- Course Number EL 21 ---

University of Alberta, Education South 165, April 30-May 11, 2012

David Thompson will teach the last week (May 14-18, 2012)





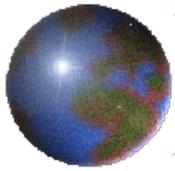
Reductionist vs. Systems Approaches

✚ **Reductionism:** Pursuit of single causes along linear paths to explain a phenomenon

- or -

✚ **Systems Approaches/Wholism:** Integrative, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to explaining a phenomenon; embraces complexity

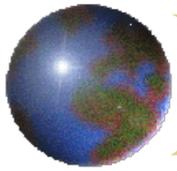




Transdisciplinarity

✚ *Transdisciplinary approaches to Human Health are approaches that integrate the natural, social and health sciences in a humanities context, and in so doing transcend each of their traditional boundaries. Emergent concepts and methods are the hallmark of the transdisciplinary effort.*

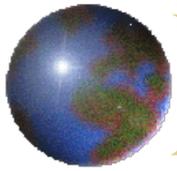




Eco-epidemiology

Eco-epidemiology is a sub-specialty of epidemiology, focusing on the relationships between *human health* and the *dynamics of global ecological change*.





Traditional Health Indicators

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- ✚ **Life Expectancy**

- ✚ **Percent Low Birth Weight Babies**

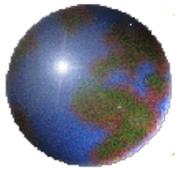
- ✚ **Infant Mortality**

- ▣ ***Intuitively linkable to measures of ecological degradation, but no association was found (Sieswerda et al., 2001)***

- ▣ ***Wealth is the buffer***

So, what happens to those who live in poverty without the buffer of wealth?





Neoliberal Globalization

A major force in the world that works against longevity and for widening disparities:

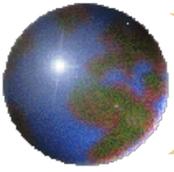
1. Neoliberal Globalization: Is There an Alternative to Plundering the Earth? - by Prof. Claudia von Werlhof

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=24403>

2. *Encirclement*: A 2 hr and 40 minute-long docu-drama about neo-liberalism, 2008. Learn about accessing the DVD at <http://encirclement.info/index2.html> The production arm is at: www.filmsdupasseur.com In French with some English (interviews with Noam Chomsky), but with excellent English sub-titles throughout.

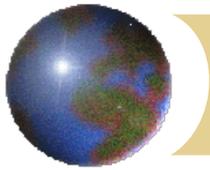
→ **Sociopaths as leaders of corporations & governments?**





On ethics ...





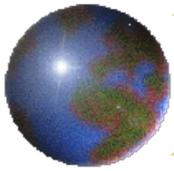
The Ethical Public Health Practitioner

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- ✿ **Brings ethics to the grass roots ...**
- ✿ **“Do unto others as you would have them do unto yourself or your loved ones”
(Golden Rule)**
 - ✿ *Do your level best in the public interest*
 - ✿ *Call people on it when you find them not performing in the public interest*
- ✿ **In accordance with **norms** of the field**
- ✿ **Transparency** of collective values
- ✿ **Solidarity** on global health threats
- ✿ **Accountability** for actions taken



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The FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES of BIOETHICS include:

RESPECT FOR AUTONOMY

- **Requires respect for individual rights and freedoms**
(voluntary vs. involuntary exposures)

BENEFICENCE

- **Requires doing good**

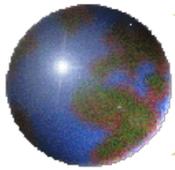
NON-MALEFICENCE

- **Requires doing no harm**

JUSTICE

- **Requires the fair and equitable allocation of resources to all without discrimination**



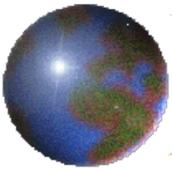


Other public health principles

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- ✚ Protect the most vulnerable in society
 - ✚ *Beneficence*
- ✚ Involve communities in our research
 - ✚ *Respect for autonomy*
- ✚ Serve the public health interest above any other interest
 - ✚ *Beneficence and non-maleficence*





The FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES of BIOETHICS include (under Justice):

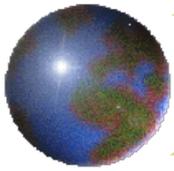
✚ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- ✚ *Who is taking the risks?*
- ✚ *Who is deriving the benefits?*

✚ THE POLLUTER PAYS

- ✚ *incentive to internalize costs*

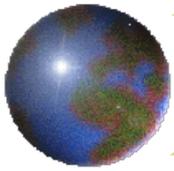




The principle of SOLIDARITY

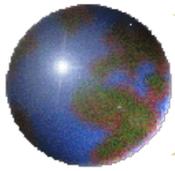
✚ **This requires concerted action, especially on matters of a global nature**





VIRTUES OF PROFESSIONALS

- **Humility** – Respect the input and opinions of others/Self-effacement
- **Fidelity** – Honour one's commitments/Promote trust
- **Justice** – Act fairly
- **Patience** – Take time to hear others' viewpoints
- **Industry** – Do your level best/Excel
- **Veracity** – Tell the truth/Be honest
- **Compassion** – Empathize
- **Integrity** – Demonstrate good moral character
- **Serve interest** – Protect the most vulnerable/Serve the public
- **Prudence judgment** – Err on the side of caution/Demonstrate good



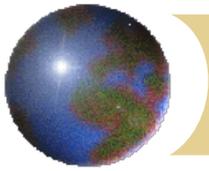
Hill (1965) concludes on causal inference

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✚ **"All Scientific work is incomplete – whether it be observational or experimental. All scientific work is liable to be upset or modified by advancing knowledge. *That does not confer upon us a freedom to ignore the knowledge we already have, or to postpone the action that it appears to demand at a given time.*"**

▶ **Distinguish between SCIENCE and POLICY**





Questions?

