

Socio-economic and Regional Inequality in Health

Summer term 2025

Overview

This course examines fundamental concepts of socio-economic inequality and inequity in health. Key topics include the theoretical and practical aspects of health disparities and the inequality of opportunity (IOp) in health. Students will also critically evaluate the impact of measurement error in health surveys and its implications for research on socio-economic inequalities in health. Moreover, the course investigates regional health disparities, focusing on the social and economic factors that contribute to inequalities both within and between countries. Through lectures and student presentations, participants will develop a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of health inequities at both the individual and societal levels.

Content

1. Theoretical and practical considerations on inequity and socio-economic inequality in health
2. Inequality of opportunity in health
3. Measurement error in self-reported health measures used in social science datasets
4. Implications of the measurement error in health in existing research in socio-economic inequality in health (and beyond)
5. The social and economic factors that drive the observed regional inequalities in health

Prerequisites: Solid knowledge of microeconometrics and regression analysis is required.

Registration

Please send an email to Prof. Daniel Kühnle daniel.kuehnle@uni-due.de to register.

Dates

Lectures take place on Thursdays, 14.15 – 15.45 (room tba). The introductory event takes place on April 17th 2025.

Degree program eligibility

Students from the following master degree programs can enroll in the seminar:
Gesundheitsökonomik, Märkte und Unternehmen, and Volkswirtschaftslehre.

Grading and ECTS

Course grades will be based on a term paper (max. 15 pages, 70% of grade) and a presentation (30 minutes, 30% of grade). Topics, content and submission date for the term paper and presentation will be announced during the module. 6 ECTS points are granted for this course, meaning you have to invest approximately 180 hours of workload into this course. A substantial part is for your individual reading of the required literature and for thoroughly preparing your term paper.