

Propositions accompanying the thesis:

INTRODUCING SYSTEMS APPROACHES IN HEALTH BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

- I. The spread of unhealthy behaviors shows similarities with the spread of infectious diseases. *THIS THESIS*
- II. The local presence of health behaviors and overweight is an often neglected but relevant determinant of changes in health behaviors and becoming overweight. *THIS THESIS*
- III. Smoking interventions should also consider household members and close friends. *THIS THESIS*
- IV. Agent-based modeling has much potential to study health behaviors in the context of a system and to analyze the population-level impact of various interventions aimed at promoting healthy behaviors and reducing health disparities. *THIS THESIS*
- V. Population-level effects of interventions promoting health behaviors slowly increase over time with discernable effects only becoming visible after five to ten years. *THIS THESIS*
- VI. Model development is an art more than a science. *Bonabeau (2002), Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
- VII. We are prone to overestimate how much we understand about the world and to underestimate the role of chance in events. *KAHNEMAN, THINKING, FAST AND SLOW*
- VIII. Although the need for systems approaches in public health has been recognized, its application is limited due to the lack of required skills among most public health researchers.
- IX. Ending transmission of leprosy will require many decades.
- X. The annual new case detection rate (NCDR) is a poor indicator of leprosy burden and the effect of interventions.
- XI. To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. *ECCLESIASTES 3:1*

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