

# The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Population Health and Health Systems

*Propositions accompanying the thesis*

- I. The choices governments made in responding to the financial crisis that began in 2008 had pronounced and unintended effects on public health. (*This dissertation*)
- II. In high income countries, health systems performance, as measured by amenable mortality, remained largely unaffected by the economic crisis in the short-term. (*This dissertation*)
- III. Greece has been an outlier among the EU countries, by suffering a very profound economic crisis, while experiencing the most pronounced effect on its health care system and population health. (*This dissertation*)
- IV. The financial crisis and subsequent austerity measures exacerbated existing inequalities in access to care in those countries most affected by the economic situation. (*This dissertation*)
- V. There is a range of options beyond cuts to health systems that policy makers can implement in response to economic shocks. (*This dissertation*)
- VI. The public health community plays a crucial role in confronting the current reality of post-truth politics (*M. McKee, IJHPM, 2017*)
- VII. "Over a long period of time, the main force in favour of greater equality has been the diffusion of knowledge and skills" (*T. Picketty, Capital in the Twenty-First Century, 2014, p.22*)
- VIII. Diverging trends in life expectancy in the late twentieth century across Europe mark a break with developments in recent decades and are the result of not just economic collapse but also a range of specific choices in health-related policies (*J.P. Mackenbach, Eur J Epidemiol, 2013*)
- IX. Economic theories often reflect a very limited understanding of human behaviour, ignoring the roles of values and commitments that influence people (*A. Sen, Collective Choice and social welfare, 2017, p.401*)
- X. "EU membership is not fundamentally about economics. It is about our way of life." (*W.Munchau, Financial Times, 19th June 2016*)
- XI. "But the Hebrew word, the word *timshel*—'Thou mayest'—that gives a choice. It might be the most important word in the world. That says the way is open." (*J. Steinbeck, East of Eden, 1952*)

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