Propositions belonging to the thesis

Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health
A Life-Course Perspective on Social Stratification, Cultural Capital and Health-Related Behaviors

1. A larger contribution of time-varying, compared to time-fixed, health-related behaviors to socioeconomic inequalities in mortality cannot solely be attributed to socially patterned behavioral changes. (This thesis)

2. Health effects of early-life place of residence depend on adult place of residence. (This thesis)

3. The association between education and health-related behaviors is partially driven by embodied cultural capital. (This thesis)

4. The need for more theoretical substance and better causal inference, both needed to make significant progress in explaining and reducing health inequalities, are in constant odds with each other. (This thesis)

5. The embodiment of reflexivity as a cultural signifier among higher educated groups contributes to socioeconomic inequalities in body weight. (This thesis)

6. Machine learning will lead to exponentially better predictions than researchers could previously make, which will require a drastic re-evaluation of the scientific profession.

7. Governments spend much more money on creating and sustaining jobs that are charged with regulating poverty, than they spend on those who actually are in poverty.

8. When biomedical knowledge and technology create the capacity for humans to avoid disease and circumvent early death, sociological factors become more, not less important for population health. (Bruce Link, J Health Soc Behav, 2008)

9. Most governments lack political courage to combat economic interests in favor of the health of the population.

10. If you want to minimize the possibility of unexpected breakthroughs, tell the scientific community they will receive no resources at all unless they spend the bulk of their time competing against each other to convince you they already know what they are going to discover. (David Graeber, The utopia of rules, 2015)

11. Eliminating all preventable deaths is a worthy endeavor to pursue on a societal level; on an individual level it sounds like we’re trying to take all the fun out of life.

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