

Propositions accompanying the thesis:

1. Stigma originates from public perceptions about persons whose acts or attributes are perceived as different from the norm (this thesis)
2. Knowledge about how perceptions can be changed is crucial to improve the lives of people who are perceived as different from the norm (this thesis)
3. Public perceptions of leprosy can have a negative impact on persons affected by leprosy (this thesis)
4. Resilience and leprosy-related disabilities are important factors that influence the impact perceptions of leprosy have on persons affected by leprosy, either positively or negatively (this thesis)
5. Education and counselling at diagnosis can help to prevent problems in marital and family life for persons affected by leprosy (this thesis)
6. Involvement and commitment of governmental health services is crucial for success and sustainability of public health interventions
7. Maintaining an individual's wellbeing in response to being diagnosed with a serious illness, is a public health priority (paraphrased from Praharso, Tear, & Cruwys, 2017)
8. Positive relationships and friendships are crucial for health and wellbeing. Cultivating compassion is a way to increase social connection (paraphrased from Seppala, Rossomando & Doty, 2013)
9. Health professionals need improved education to ensure quality, stigma-free care is provided to patients (paraphrased from de Rijk, 2021)
10. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world (United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals)
11. The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes (Marcel Proust)