



GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY UNIT (GHPU)
Social Policy, School of Social & Political Science
University of Edinburgh

Summer reading: Prospective GHPU students

In response to previous requests from prospective students, the following is a list of books, online resources and films that may be of interest ahead of your arrival in September.

Please note that this is very definitely not an official reading list! Rather, it's a diverse selection of material, fiction and non-fiction, academic and popular, that might be relevant in preparing for your time in Edinburgh. There is no expectation that you will have read any of this prior to arrival.

Introductory academic reading

For those of you wishing to undertake some preparatory work prior to arrival in Edinburgh, the following is a selection of introductory texts that will be relevant to a number of courses within the programme. Titles with an asterisk (*) are particularly recommended.

General public health / health policy / global health

Beaglehole R & Bonita R (2004). *Public Health at the Crossroads* (2nd ed). Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
Parker R, Sommer M (2011). *Routledge Handbook of Global Health*. Abingdon: Routledge.
*Buse K, Mays N and Walt G (2012). *Making Health Policy* (2nd ed). London; Open University Press.
Sim F and McKee M (eds) (2012). *Issues in Public Health* (2nd ed). Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Global health

Davies S (2010). *The Global Politics of Health* Cambridge: Polity Press.
Harman S (2012). *Global Health Governance (Global Institutions)* Abingdon: Routledge.
Farmer P, Kim JY, Kleinman A, Basilio M (2013). *Reimagining Global health: An introduction*. University of California Press. London.
People's Health Movement et al (2015). *Global Health Watch 4* <http://www.ghwatch.org/ghw4>. Other volumes of Global Health Watch 3 (2012), 2 (2008), 1 (2006).

Health systems

Green A & Bennett S (eds) (2007). *Sound Choices*. Enhancing Capacity for Evidence-Informed Health Policy. Geneva: Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research / WHO. Available at: http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/Alliance_BR.pdf
Green A (2007). *An Introduction to Health Planning for Developing Health Systems*. Oxford: OUP.
WHO (2000). *Health Systems: Improving Performance*. Geneva: WHO. Available at: http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/whr00_en.pdf

Health inequalities

*Graham H (2007). *Unequal Lives: Health and socioeconomic inequalities*. Maidenhead; Open University Press.
*Smith, K.E., Bambra, C. and Hill, S.E. (2016) *Health Inequalities: Critical Perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Marmot M, Wilkinson R (eds). *Social Determinants of Health*. Oxford: Oxford UP 2005.
Leon DA, Walt G (2001). *Poverty, Inequality and Health. An international perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Raphael D (ed.) (2012) *Tackling Health Inequalities: Lessons from International Experiences*. Toronto: CSPI

Economics

Folland, Goodman, and Stano (2016). *The Economics of Health and Health Care*. Routledge.
McPake B, Normand C and Smith S (2008). *Health Economics: An International Perspective* (2nd edition). Routledge.
*Morris S, Devlin N, Parkin D and Spencer A (2012). *Economic Analysis in Health Care*. Wiley.
Stiglitz, J (2000). *Economics of the Public Sector*, (3rd edition). W.W. Norton & Co.

Research methods

Aveyard H (2010). *Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care: A Practical Guide*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
Denscombe M (2007). *The Good Research Guide for Small-Scale Social Research Projects*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
Gliner JA, Morgan GA, Leech NL (2009). *Research Methods in Applied Settings: An Integrated Approach to Design and Analysis*, (Second Edition). Routledge.

Epidemiology & statistics

Bailey L, Vardulaki K, Langham J, Chandramohan D (2005). *Introduction to Epidemiology*. Berkshire: Open University Press.

Bonita R, Beaglehole R, Kjellstrom T (2006). *Basic Epidemiology* (2nd ed). Geneva: WHO.

Rowntree D (1991) *Statistics without Tears: an Introduction for Non-Mathematicians*. Penguin

Global health, health inequalities and health care: popular non-fiction

Angell M (2005). *The truth about the drug companies: how they deceive us and what to do about it*. London: Random House.

Atkinson, A (2015) *Inequality*. Harvard University Press.

Babor T *et al* (2010). *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity*. Oxford Scholarship Online.

Brandt A (2007) *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America*. Basic Books.

Brill S (2015) *America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Backroom Deals, and the Fight to Fix our Broken Healthcare System*. Random House.

Deaton A (2015) *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton University Press.

Ehrenreich B (2002). *Nickel and dimed: on (not) getting by in America*. Henry Holt.

Farmer, P. (2001). *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Goldacre B. (2009) *Bad Science*. London: Harper Perennial.

Goldacre B (2012) *Bad Pharma*. London: 4th Estate.

Kay J (2004). *The truth about markets: Why some nations are rich but most remain poor*. Penguin.

Kluger R (1997). *Ashes to Ashes: America's hundred-year cigarette war, the public health, and the unabashed triumph of Philip Morris* New York: Vintage.

Krimsky S (2003). *Science in the private interest: Has the lure of profits corrupted biomedical research?* New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Lang T Heasman, M (2015) *Food Wars*. Routledge.

Labonte R *et al* (2004) *Fatal Indifference: the G8, Africa and global health* Ottawa: IDRC.

Laurie Garrett (2001). *Betrayal of trust: The collapse of global public health*. Hyperion.

Moynihan R, Cassels A (2006). *Selling sickness: how drug companies are turning us all into patients*. London: Allen & Unwin.

Nestle M (2007). *Food Politics: how the food industry influences nutrition and health* (2nd ed). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Nestle M (2015). *Soda Politics: Taking on Big Soda (and Winning)*. Oxford University Press

Oshinsky DM (2006). *Polio: An American Story*. Oxford University Press.

Patel R (2007). *Stuffed and Starved*. London: Portobello Books.

Petryna A, Lakoff A, Kleinman A (2006). *Global pharmaceuticals: ethics, markets, practices*. Duke University Press.

Porter R (1999). *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity*. New York: WW Norton & Company

Rampton S & Stauber J (2002). *Trust Us, We're Experts: How industry manipulates science and gambles with your future* New York: Tarcher & Putnam.

- Reid TR (2010). *The Healing of America - A global quest for better, cheaper, and fairer health care*. New York: Penguin.
- Ryan-Collins J, Greenham T, Werner R (2011). *Where Does Money Come From? A Guide to the UK Monetary and Banking System*. London: New Economics Foundation
- Skloot R (2010). *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. New York: Crown Publishing Group
- Stiglitz J (2002). *Globalization and its discontents*. London: Penguin.
- Stuckler D & Basu S (2013) *The Body Economic: Why austerity kills*. London: Allen Lane.
- Wilkinson R & Pickett K (2018). *The Inner Level: How More Equal Societies Reduce Stress, Restore Sanity and Improve Everyone's Wellbeing*. London: Penguin Books.
- Wilkinson R & Pickett K (2010). *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*. London: Penguin Books.

Documentaries and videos available online

Park Avenue: How much inequality is too much? Documentary in the Why Poverty? Open University series. Available free online at: <http://www.whypoverty.net/en/videos/>

Fast Food, Fat Profits: Obesity in America. Documentary available online at: <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/fast-food-fat-profits-obesity-america/>

Four videos explaining health inequalities, commissioned by GHPU staff: <http://www.healthinequalities.net/understanding-health-inequalities>

Trailer for a film based on The Spirit Level (see above): <http://thespiritleveldocumentary.com/>

The Great Leveller: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmEt2WuMZ7E>

A series of video presentations by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health exploring Scotland's (and especially Glasgow's) excess mortality: <http://www.gcph.co.uk/events/132>

Health before the NHS – The Road to Recovery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1y7zeZPfD8k&feature=youtu.be>

Hans Rosling: Stats that reshape your world-view: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVimVzgtD6w>

Global Wealth Inequality: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSxzjyMNpU&feature=share>

Radio 4 Analysis - Social Epidemiology: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01mw15s>

Health-Related Blogs

Bad Science: <http://www.badscience.net/>

EpiAnalysis: <http://epianalysis.wordpress.com/>

The Equality Trust: <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/about-inequality>

Global health policy: www.globalhealthpolicy.net

Global Health Hub: <http://www.globalhealthhub.org/>

Health Affairs Blog: <http://healthaffairs.org/blog/>

Healthy Policies: <http://www.healthypolicies.com/>

The Incidental Economist: <http://theincidentaleconomist.com/>

The Inequalities Blog: <http://inequalitiesblog.wordpress.com/>

The Institute of Health Equity blog: <http://marmot-review.blogspot.co.uk/>

Pan American Health Organisation blog on the social determinants of health: <http://new.paho.org/blogs/dss/>

Global Health Check. Challenging the debate on health care financing and delivery. Oxfam blog. <http://www.globalhealthcheck.org/>

From Poverty to Power (Duncan Green, Oxfam): <http://www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/>

Raj Patel (food and politics): <http://rajpatel.org/blog>

Health on Twitter

The following people/organisations offer some interesting tweets on global health and health policy

@AJack
@andrew_harmer
@Atul_Gawande
@bmj_latest
@commonwealthfnd
@devisridhar
@EU_Health
@gateshealth
@GHPUEdinburgh
@glassmanamanda
@GlobalPHObserv
@Health_Affairs
@healthsys4all
@IlonaKickbusch
@jamieOpearce
@jmhealthnet
@KaiserFamFound
@KHNews
@laurie_garrett
@martinmckee
@merikoivusalo
@mmi_updates
@NPRHealth
@PLOSmedicine
@richardhorton1
@TheLancet
@viewfromthecave
@WHO

We're on twitter [PLEASE FOLLOW US]

Click below

GHPU
Professor Katherine Smith
Dr Mark Hellowell
Dr Emily Adrion
Dr Ellie Brooks
Alex Wright
Rob Ralston

Podcasts

Title	Comment
Harvard Kennedy School Policy Cast	Focus on non-health policy, but covers issues relevant to socio-economic and political determinants of health.
Lancet Global Health	Covers a wide range of topics, including non-communicable & communicable diseases, healthcare, health inequalities etc.
LSE lectures and events	This podcast covers a wide range of political and policy topics. In terms of health, it includes a series of lectures on the contemporary relevance of the 1942 Beveridge report and a lecture by the human geographer Danny Dorling on Grenfell.
Trust the Evidence	Podcast from the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine at the University of Oxford
Inside Health	BBC Radio 4 podcast on health. Relevant episodes on health inequalities, though focus predominately on “lifestyle” risk factors
The Rudd Report	Podcast from the Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity. Last updated in 2014, though a large back catalogue of episodes to work through.
The BMJ	Podcast covers wide range of health topics, though often focuses on the NHS.
Cochrane Library	4 min podcasts of Cochrane systematic reviews. Not going to win any awards for entertainment, but a very useful (if highly technical) resource
Harvard Chan School of Public Health	Semi-regular podcast that covers a range of public health issues, such as obesity, gun control, and climate change
Kaiser Health News “What the Health?”	Weekly podcast where top U.S. health journalists discuss the latest news and policy issues facing the U.S. healthcare system.

Fiction

Chinua Achebe (2007) *Things Fall Apart*. Penguin Classics (1st published 1971)
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche (2007) *Half of a Yellow Sun*. Anchor Books.
Christopher Buckley (1995) *Thank You for Smoking*. Harper Perennial.
JM Coetze (2004) *Waiting for the Barbarians*. Vintage. (1st published 1980)
Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*. Penguin Classics 2006 (1st published 1838)
Alex Haley (2007), *Roots*. Carousel Press (1st published 1978)
Helen Fielding (1994) *Cause Celeb*. Picador
John Le Carre (2001). *The Constant Gardener*. Coronet.
Rohinton Mistry (2007). *A Fine Balance*. Faber & Faber.
Zadie Smith (2001). *White Teeth*. Penguin
Jonny Steinberg (2009). *Three Letter Plague*. Vintage

Local interest: Edinburgh and Scotland

Kate Atkinson (2006), *One Good Turn*. Doubleday.
- murder mystery set during Edinburgh festival
Iain Banks (1986) *The Bridge*. London: Macmillan.
Christopher Brookmyre (1996), *Quite Ugly One Morning*. Grove
James Buchan (2004). *Capital of the Mind: How Edinburgh Changed the World*. John Murray.
Tom Devine (2006). *The Scottish Nation, 1700-2007* Penguin.
- recent history by the director of the University's Scottish Centre of Diaspora Studies
James Kelman (2008), *Kieran Smith, boy* Hamish Hamilton.
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped*
Alexander McCall Smith, Ian Rankin, & Irvine Welsh (2006), *One City*. Polygon
- three stories written for a local charity by 3 of Edinburgh's most prominent contemporary authors
Ian Rankin (2006). *The Naming of the Dead*. Orion.
- all of Rankin's *Inspector Rebus* novels are set in Edinburgh; this one occurs in 2005 amid the Gleneagles G8 summit, Edinburgh protests and the Make poverty history campaign
Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting*. Vintage.

A Movie-Lover's Guide to Global Health Policy

Topics/Themes	Movie	Comments	Related courses
Public health policy	Traffic (2000)	Riveting drama exploring 'the drug problem' from multiple angles, including all three strategies in the UK's national drug policy (reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery)	Population health and health policy (S1),
Public health policy (inequalities)	The Divide (2015)	Documentary film exploring how inequalities affect people's lives. Informed by the best-selling book, <i>The Spirit Level</i> .	Population health and health policy (S1), Social determinants of health (S2)
Public health policy (inequalities)	I, Daniel Blake (2016)	Fictional film exploring the struggles of a joiner living in the north east of England, who falls ill with heart disease but experiences multiple barriers in trying to access out-of-work sickness benefit he is supposed to be entitled to.	Population health and health policy (S1), Social determinants of health (S2)
Public health policy (local interest)	My name is Joe (1998)	Story about a recovering alcoholic in Glasgow, exploring both positive and negative sides of social capital.	Population health and health policy (S1), Social determinants of health (S2)
Public health policy (local interest)	Trainspotting (1995)	Drug use in Edinburgh. The by-line of this film was subsequently immortalised in the Scottish suicide prevention strategy <i>Choose Life</i> .	Population health and health policy (S1), Social determinants of health (S2)
Health systems	Sicko (2007)	Michael Moore documentary exploring the downside of the private health insurance industry via the plight of the "45 million people with no health care in the richest country on earth".	Health systems analysis (S1), Health systems: strengthening & reform (S2)
Health systems (UK/historical interest)	The Spirit of '45 (2013)	Documentary film exploring the origins of the welfare state and National Health Service (NHS) in Britain during a time of radical social change, in the aftermath of World War 2.	Health systems analysis (S1)
Health systems (local interest)	Quite ugly one morning (2004)	Adaptation of Christopher Brookmyer novel, providing a dramatic (and hopefully fictitious) exploration of the cut-throat tactics used by proponents of private finance initiatives in health care.	Health systems analysis (S1), Health systems: strengthening & reform (S2)
Health systems	Seducing Doctor Lewis (2003)	Community involvement in primary health care in a Canadian fishing village, illustrating the challenge of health care provision in rural areas and showing commendable commitment to the principles of Alma Ata.	Health systems analysis (S1)
Global health	Life and debt (2001)	Is Free Trade good for your health? Documentary exploring the impact of IMF policies on economic and social development in Kenya.	Global politics of public health (S2)
Global health	In this world (2002)	Migration: Documentary-style drama following the journey of two Pakistani refugees seeking a better life in the UK.	Global politics of public health (S2)
Global health	Dirty pretty things (2002)	After the migration: drama exploring the parlous status of illegal immigrants in London	Global politics of public health (S2)

Global health, health policy and corporations	The constant gardener (2005)	Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz explore the dark side of the pharmaceutical industry in Kenya. (Free vaccines, anyone?)	Population health and health policy (S1), Global politics of public health (S2)
Health policy, corporations and health	Thank you for smoking (2005)	Protagonist Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) demonstrates impressive flexibility of morals as a loveable tobacco lobbyist. Marlboro Man and Vermont cheese also feature.	Population health and health policy (S1), Global politics of public health (S2))
Health policy, corporations and health	Inside Job (2010)	Fictional film starring Matt Damon, inspired by real life events, exploring the factors underlying the 2008 financial crisis.	Population health and health policy (S1), Global politics of public health (S2)
Health policy, corporations and health	The Insider (1999)	Russell Crowe and Al Pacino join forces against Big Tobacco. Based on historic events contributing to release of the tobacco industry documents.	Population health and health policy (S1), Global politics of public health (S2)
Health policy, corporations and health	The Corporation (2003)	Canadian documentary providing a critical review of the role and impact of the corporation.	Population health and health policy (S1)
Health policy, corporations and health	Super Size Me (2003)	Documentary exploring the less palatable tactics of the fast food industry and what happens when you eat McDonalds... and more McDonalds... and more McDonalds.	Population health and health policy (S1)
Corporations and health, Environmental health	Erin Brockovich (2000)	Julia Roberts fights toxic water pollution and commercial callousness in heels and mini-skirt.	Population health and health policy (S1)
Indigenous and minority health	Crash (2004)	Exploring racial and social tensions in Los Angeles.	Social determinants of health and public policy (S2)
Indigenous and minority health	Rabbit Proof Fence (2002)	Colonisation in action in Western Australia.	Social determinants of health and public policy (S2)
Mental health / Anthropology & health	One flew over the cuckoo's nest (1975)	A young Jack Nicholson takes on the medical establishment in a 1960s mental hospital, raising questions about the definitions of normality/pathology and the relationships between professions, institutions and power.	Anthropology of health and healing
Sanitation/ Communicable Disease	The Painted Veil (2006)	Based on the 1925 novel by W. Somerset Maugham. Love in the midst of a cholera outbreak in rural China; what could be more romantic?	Infectious Disease and Global Governance (S1)
Epidemiology / Communicable diseases	And the band played on (1993)	Drama about the early days of HIV. Features bathhouses, Ebola, Alan Alda and a virologist who has an epiphany while playing Pac-Man.	Infectious Disease and Global Governance (S1)
Equality, capitalism and health	Requiem for the American dream (2015)	Documentary comprised of a series of interviews with academic and activist Noam Chomsky, describing the descent into financial inequality and its relation to inequality in power in the US. Kept from inducing irreversible despair by Noam's soothing, dulcet tones.	Population health and health policy (S1), Social determinants of health and public policy, Global politics of public health (S2)
Equality, capitalism,	The house I live in	Documentary about the 'war on drugs' by Eugene Jarecki, who brings	Population health and health policy (S1),

corporations, health	(2012)	his previous expertise on the military industrial complex to illustrate the role of corporations in perpetuating the incarceration of vast proportions of the US population.	Social determinants of health and public policy, Global politics of public health (S2)
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