

**Wednesday 14th October 2009, 10:15 –
12:00**

Košice, Šrobárova 2, Historical Hall at University Main Building

Prof. Bettina F. Piko

Explanation framework of health inequality

Throughout the world, a continuous attention has been paid to the relationship between social inequalities and health. Despite the dramatic increase in life expectancy, life prospects are significantly lower among persons with lower levels of education, income, and occupational prestige. There are a number of factors mediating between SES and health, among others, financial, psychosocial, or lifestyle. However, the relationship between SES and health is not consistent across the lifecycle. Social inequalities in health are highest among middle-aged persons, while there is a certain level of “equalization” in adolescence and elderly age. This relative “SES equality” might be explained by a dominance of biological explanations, as compared to social impacts. During adolescence, morbidity and mortality are relatively rare which might contribute to a relatively low level of social inequalities in health. In elderly age, biological selection is also a main issue due to highest levels of morbidity and mortality.

Watch online on <http://www.lf.upjs.sk/omek/lectures.html>

Assoc. prof. Bettina F. Piko (1966) graduated from medical school (M.D., 1991), studied sociology (M.A., 1996) and management (CertManag, 1997), received a Ph.D. in behavioral sciences at Semmelweis University, Budapest (Ph.D., 1998). She is currently an associate professor of behavioral sciences at the University of Szeged, Department of Psychology, Behavioral Sciences Group; in 2000, she worked as a visiting research professor at the Department of Sociology, UAB, Birmingham, AL, USA. She is also a Bolyai research fellow supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

