

# Analysis of social determinants of health and health inequities - a multicountry event on approaches and policy

October 12-17, 2009 Kosice, Slovak Republic



## Thursday 15th October 2009, 09:00 – 10:00

Košice, Šrobárova 2, Historical Hall at University Main Building

### Prof. Sijmen A. Reijneveld

## Ethnic differences in health and health behaviour

Differences in health, lifestyles and use of health care between groups of varying ethnic origin can have important implications for preventive and curative care. For a proper targeting of this care, information is needed on the health status of separate ethnic groups and on the mechanisms which lead to a poorer health status for them, if any. Such a poorer health status may firstly be due to an adverse social and economic position of immigrant and ethnic minority groups. Other explanations are poor living conditions, including discrimination, cultural factors like a different perception of health, and biological factors, especially a poorer health status at the moment of migration and racial differences. Especially racial differences are often chosen as an explanation for ethnic health differences without a proper accounting for socioeconomic and cultural differences.

In this lecture, first the concept of ethnicity as well as its measurement will be discussed. A next topic will be the mechanisms that lead to ethnic differences in health, among which socioeconomic differences. Finally, I will provide some examples of studies on ethnic differences from western and central Europe, including the analysis of contributing factors.

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

*Prof. dr. Sijmen A. Reijneveld (1960) is full professor at the University Medical Center Groningen and chair of Department of Health Sciences. Moreover, he is affiliated with TNO (Netherlands Organization of Applied Scientific Research) Quality of Life in Leiden. His research focuses on the mental health and development of children and adolescents, and the opportunities for prevention in this area as well as the contribution of deprivation. Previously, he headed the department of Quality of life, division of Child Health at TNO in Leiden, and co-ordinated the national monitoring of child and public health by public health services (GGD-en and Consultatiebureaus). He is associate editor of the European Journal of Public Health, past-president of the Netherlands Epidemiological Society, and referee of various journals in the domains of public health, paediatrics and psychiatry, and of various programs of ZonMw (Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development) and NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research).*



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