

A theoretical model of assets: the links between biology and the social structure.

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This chapter explores three problems in order to develop an account of health assets. First, it considers the epistemological problem of the way to cross disciplinary boundaries successfully and in ways which maintain disciplinary integrity, especially between biology, psychology, sociology and economics in order to construct meaningful accounts of the ways in which social structures determine health, positively and negatively. Second, it considers the ontological problem of linking subjectivity and the material world, in concepts such as the lifeworld and the life course, which it will be argued offer the bridge between the disciplines and the mechanism for the social determination of health. Third, the chapter considers the empirical problem of the link between community health assets and individual assets. A model of health assets will be developed using these three elements. The chapter will focus on the translation of complex philosophical and theoretical ideas into meaningful and usable indicators for health and disease.