



# Disease, disorder and dystopia: finding hope for health

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*'It is hard to think of anything more important than health for human wellbeing and quality of life.'*

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen in their book,  
India: An Uncertain Glory

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## What is the module about?

In this module we deep-dive into a series of health issues in order to learn about health as an area of many successes for development, but also as an area of new and evolving challenges.

The module complements the year two module *Health, Poverty and Inequality*, but HPI is not a requirement for taking this module.

# Indicative sessions

The module is broadly divided into two parts:

## Part one: public health

Week 1. Public health and development

Week 2. Infectious diseases past and present

Week 3. When pharmaceuticals go wrong

Week 4. Mission accomplished for tobacco control?

Week 5. Malnutrition, health and the climate crisis



## Part two: healthcare

Week 6. Healthcare in the sustainable development era

Week 7. Economic imperatives and the financialisation of healthcare

Week 8. Labour and migration in healthcare

Week 9. Digital technologies, data and healthcare

Week 10. Health and wellbeing in digital worlds

# Teaching format and assessment

The format for these classes will be a weekly 3-hour workshop. Each workshop will include:

- lecture segments that introduce students to new topics and concepts
- groupwork activities that analyse a range of resources on particular issues and policies

The assessment for the module is a 7,000-word learning diary (roughly corresponding to 500 words per week, plus an introduction and discussion). This will allow you to reflect on your learning each week.



# Learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate understanding of the role of development in shaping major health challenges
2. Critically analyse arguments and policy positions relating to these health challenges
3. Apply knowledge of key social science concepts to the study of contemporary health and development issues
4. Find and evaluate academic literature on contemporary health challenges in specific case study settings

# About the module convener



My teaching and research largely focuses on the relationships between health and development. I have been keen to experiment with new technologies to see how they can enhance learning.

In my research I take a particular interest in the causes and effects of contemporary transformations in healthcare. My current research projects examine:

- the expansion of corporate hospitals and healthcare chains
- global trading in healthcare services
- ways that people use online platforms to access healthcare

You can learn more about my research on: <https://unsettlinghealthcare.org/>