



## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEMINAR



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### Health Capital: Introducing an Evaluative Framework to Assess Social Policies

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#### Abstract

This paper outlines a novel framing on the value and normative significance of health, by considering these concepts through the idea of ‘health capital’. Health capital is a set of health-related assets of individuals that enable them to pursue their interests and to compete with others for scarce goods. The paper is a precursor to the overarching research question as to what is due to people as a matter of social justice to prevent vicious circles of health capital depletion. The specific contribution of this paper is to establish the notion of health capital beyond a metaphorical idea, and to initially explore the repercussions of this idea for theories of health justice.